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Volume 151, No. 32

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CHANGES COMING: The latest update from the Town of Shelburne on the revitalization of Fiddle Park shows that construction is well underway with pathways being cleared and prepared for future landscaping. The tender for the project was announced in June and awarded to Mono-based company TDI Land Restoration/XGD for a total of \$2,399,645.82. Some of the work on the upgraded park includes a basic grass parking lot, pedestrian circulation, a multi-functional trail, amphitheatre and pavilion improvement, a basketball court, shade structure and tree planting.

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Four decades of serving the local community

Shelburne Home Hardware and Building Centre celebrates 40 years

Written By PAULA BROWN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Past and present staff members, local dignitaries and community members gathered at Shelburne Home Hardware, located at 725 Steeles St., last Thursday (Aug. 7) for a special event commemorating the 40-year anniversary.

"For 40 years, this store has been a staple and mainstay for a lot of people," said Bill Gilliam, owner of Shelburne Home Hardware. "In our store, we believe that customers are number one and that our purpose is that we're serving customer 100 per cent of the time. We do that, by leading by example and every single employee who has worked here, past and present, had done that."

Shelburne Home Hardware opened its doors to the community in 1985, led by Ian Thackwray, then owner of Orangeville Home Hardware.

In 1990 the home improvement retailer was sold to Shelburne residents Murray and Andrea Fines, who would go on to own and operate the store for more than 20 years. One of the biggest changes to happen under the Fines' tenure, came in 1995 when they chose to expand store space by building and moving to a new location in town. Shelburne



COMMUNITY CELEBRATION: Shelburne Home Hardware and Building Centre marked a significant milestone in their history as they celebrated 40 years of business in the community. The local business marked the occasion on Aug. 7 and was joined by past and present staff members, local dignitaries and community members at the store.

Home Hardware continues to operate out of this location 30 years later.

After two decades of ownership, the Fines put the store up for sale and Shelburne Home

Hardware was officially purchased by Bill and Carol Gilliam in 2012.

Continued on Page 7

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Dufferin County Culinary Collective launches Field Trip Series

Written By PAULA BROWN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Dufferin County is inviting the community to celebrate and learn about local food and farming culture through a new field trip series.

The Dufferin County Culinary Collective (DCCC) has launched a hands-on initiative known as the Field Trip Series. The goal of the initiative is to take a “field trip” every other month and introduce Dufferin County residents to different local farms or food production sites.

During these field trips, visitors have the chance to explore the stories, challenges, and innovations behind the region’s culinary and agri-food community.

“We figured it’s better to get out in the community and learn what’s happening instead of just sitting and talking in a room discussing the concerns and opportunities within the sector,” said Jasmine Panesar, economic development officer for the County of Dufferin.

The initiative was created by the Dufferin County Culinary Collective (DCCC), and is made up of businesses, farmers, food producers, restaurants, cafes, breweries, distillers, wineries and educators.

The idea for the field trips stemmed from a growing concern about the lack of knowledge and education around the agricultural sector. It’s also seen as a way to highlight Dufferin County as a culinary destination.

“This is a huge education piece to show who our farmers are, where our food comes from, how it gets out into the community,”

said Panesar. “It’s about focusing and promoting Dufferin County as a vibrant culinary destination.”

According to the Dufferin Federation of Agriculture (DFA), one of the most significant economic contributors in Dufferin County is agriculture, with over 700 farms in the community. The top five farm commodities in Dufferin County include cattle, dairy, potatoes, soybeans and corn.

The DCCC hosted its first field trip for the series back in June, with a visit to Lennox Farm in Melancthon.

The second stop of the Dufferin County Culinary Collective Field Trip Series will take place on Aug. 20 from 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Hereward Farms, a family-owned lavender farm in East Garafraxa.

During the field trip to Hereward Farms, visitors will have a chance to tour the lavender farm, learn about agricultural tourism as a business while also connecting with fellow culinary, agricultural and business leaders.

Panesar told the Free Press that each field trip will focus on a different topic that is specific to the featured farm, food producer, brewery or restaurant.

Attendees must arrive at Hereward Farms by 1:30 p.m., using their own mode of transportation. Transportation will not be provided.

Spots for the field trip are limited with only 40 spaces available.

Those interested in attending the tour of Hereward Farms can register for the field trip by visiting www.dufferincounty.ca. The event is free to attend.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FUN AT THE FARM: The Dufferin County Culinary Collective is hosting field trips to various farms throughout the region to help educate people about the agricultural sector and where their food comes from. The first field trip was held in June at Lennox Farm in Melancthon.

Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health Unit confirms first local case of bat rabies

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health Unit has confirmed the first case of rabies in a bat this year.

On Aug. 12, a bat tested positive for rabies in Centre Wellington and one person has begun a precautionary treatment protocol for potential exposure to the virus.

“Rabies is a virus that affects mammals and is spread by the saliva of infected animals most commonly through bites, but also through scratches, open wounds or mucous membranes of the mouth, nose and eyes,” reads a statement from the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health, issued Aug. 13. “In Ontario, the animals most commonly testing positive for rabies are bats, skunks, raccoons, coyotes and foxes. Rabies is near-

ly always fatal once symptoms develop, so treatment must be given as soon as possible if someone suspects exposure to a rabid animal.”

To protect against rabies, avoid contact with wild animals, ensure pets are vaccinated against the virus, supervise pets when outdoors and inform the authorities if an animal is suspected to have rabies.

“Although rabies is rare, it can be fatal when left untreated,” said Dr. Matthew Tenenbaum, associate medical officer of health for Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health.

“Anyone who has been bitten or scratched by an animal should wash the wound with soap and water for 15 minutes and seek immediate medical attention.”

For more information about rabies, visit wdgpublichealth.ca/rabies.



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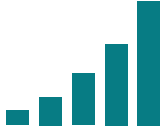


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COMMUNITY VOICES

Monthly Message: Where a whole new world becomes possible

When I think about what's happening at Streams this summer, I keep thinking about the voice kids carry in their heads—the one that whispers they're not good enough, not cool enough, not creative enough to belong. Most of us know that voice. We've had our own moments when something felt too big or we felt too small. And if we were lucky, we've also had someone who saw past our doubt, spoke louder than it, and gave us the courage to step forward. That's what we're building here: the space where doubt softens, courage rises, and a whole new world becomes possible. We don't always know which moment will be the one that changes something for a child. It could be a compliment, a role, a friend, a staff member or volunteer who remembers their name. But we build for the possibility, and we stay ready.

STREAMS
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And once that new world begins to open, it leads to the moment when a child steps forward not just to perform, but to be seen. You should come and see. Really. And you should cheer loudly too. Not because they are perfect, but because they are brave. After three weeks of dedicated work, our Centre Stage campers will perform Disney's Aladdin Jr. on Friday, August 15 at 2 PM, in the gym at Hyland Heights Elementary School. It's free. It's open to the public. And it's magic. So mark your calendar and reserve seats at streamshub.org/aladdin. Also, help us celebrate for a moment.

Thanks to The Commonwell Mutual Insurance Group and our friends at Crewson Insurance Brokers, we can now pick kids up from school in our very own transit van, Miles (yes, that's its name). For some families, this is a game-changer. A ride might not sound like much, but for a kid waiting out front, it's everything. It means the difference between missing out or joining in. Between going home to a quiet house or stepping into a space filled with colour, sound, and creativity. It means they're going somewhere that wants them. That expects them. That welcomes them. That's the thread running through all of it. We're determined to be a place where kids feel expected. Wanted. Not just accommodated, but anticipated. If you're still reading this, thank you. Truly. You're part of the circle. Whether you've do-

nated, enrolled, shared a post, or just rooted for us from the sidelines, we feel it. Right now, we're inviting more folks to become One of 1000—our year-long quest to find 1,000 monthly donors who believe in what we're building. We're nearly at our first 100. Every \$10 per month helps us keep showing up in practical, meaningful ways. So here's the invitation:

- Come see Aladdin Jr. (and cheer loudly).

It's free, but we need to know you're coming. RSVP at streamshub.org/aladdin

- Tell a friend or neighbour about our fall programs, now open for registration at streamshub.org/ourprograms
- Visit streamshub.org/oneof1000 to join the crew of 1,000

It doesn't take a genie to change a kid's world. Just a little consistency. And someone willing to hold the door open.

Off-duty nurse jumps into action to help man having medical emergency

Written By PAULA BROWN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A local woman is praising the quick actions of an off-duty nurse from Headwaters Health Care Centre (HHCC), who assisted a man experiencing a medical emergency at a Tim Hortons in Orangeville last month. Shelburne resident Bella Carter was sitting at a table in the Tim Hortons on the morning of July 18 when she watched off-duty nurse, Heather Swayze, step in to assist a man experiencing a medical emergency. "I had finished a meeting and I turned around to see a man on the ground and he's bleeding out of his head," recalled Carter. "She was in action right away helping him." Swayze was in the Tim Hortons waiting for the brakes on her vehicle to be changed when the medical emergency occurred. Speaking with the Free Press, Swayze said she was standing up to throw away her coffee cup when she was alerted to the medical emergency. "I heard a big thump and I looked over and a gentleman had collapsed at the front

counter." From there Swayze jumped into action and began administering first-aid to the man. "I checked his pulse and he was having a seizure so I put him into the recovery position. As I put him over, I found there was a big pool of blood under him because he had quite a big laceration on the back of his head," said Swayze. While yelling for someone to call 9-1-1, Swayze, who was wearing a shirt over a tank top, ended up using her own shirt to apply pressure to the wound and stem the bleeding. "I didn't know if he had a neck injury or any broken bones so I just stayed still until the ambulance came," she explained. Swayze has been a nurse at Headwaters Health Care Centre (HHCC) since April of 2023, where she works on the medicine and surgery floor. Swayze received her practical nursing diploma from Conestoga College in 2018. Her first job in nursing was in Dufferin County as a palliative and end-of-life nurse. She spent two years working at Matthews

House Hospice in Alliston before moving to Headwaters Hospital. Swayze is currently a part-time student at Toronto Metropolitan University, where she is completing a bachelor's degree in nursing to obtain her Registered Nurse (RN) license. Speaking with the Free Press, Carter recalled the emotions of witnessing the medical emergency. "I was paralyzed in my space and I think everyone was really scared, but the fact she sounded so confident and very calm I think not only comforted the patient, but all of us there," she said. Carter reached out to the Free Press to share with the community the action and initiative taken by Swayze to assist the man in distress. "She exemplified to me, what a good citizen should be and she didn't even think twice about acting," said Carter. Swayze humbly described her actions as simply part of her training as a nurse. "It's just my natural intuition because that's what I do for a living. I feel that the empathy and the compassion that I have is ingrained in me," said Swayze.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

IN THE NICK OF TIME: Shelburne resident Bella Carter (left) witnessed the quick actions of Melancthon resident and Headwaters Health Care Centre (HHCC) nurse, Heather Swayze, that helped a man experiencing a medical emergency in a Tim Hortons location in Orangeville on the morning on July 18.

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Commemorating 40 years of supporting the local community

Continued from Front

“I find it amazing that in this day and age we’re still around 40 years later, it’s be an amazing run,” said Ross Fines, general manager of Shelburne Home Hardware, who has been with the local store for 27 years. “It’s been an honour to be a part of the Home Hardware group; doing our best for our customers and to service our great contractors.”

According to Gilliam, the Shelburne Home Hardware has served and supported more than 5 million customers and contractors over its 40-year history.

During the celebratory event, Gilliam and Fines were joined by past and present Home Hardware employees for a special “lumber cutting” ceremony. The local store was also presented with a plaque from Dale MacPherson, director of Central Retail Operations for Home Hardware Stores Limited.

“I have the pleasure of traveling across this great country visiting our great independent dealer owners, and I must say, Shelburne, over the last 40 years has done a tremendous job, and I’m just so excited to be part of this celebration,” said MacPherson.

While Shelburne Home Hardware focus as been on serving their customer and contractors, they’ve also used their prominence within the community to give back to those in need.

“Shelburne Home Hardware and Building Centre is a real staple in our community, not only as a business that provides services and goods to consumers, but as a backbone of our community in terms of donating and supporting local causes and events,” said Shelburne Mayor Wade Mills. “To everybody



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CELEBRATORY SLICE: Bill Gilliam and Ross Fines were joined by past and present Shelburne Home Hardware employees for a special lumber cutting ceremony on Aug. 7 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the local home improvement retailer.

who’s had a hand in the success of this company over the last 40 years, congratulations and I will Bill and Carol all the best for the next 40.”

Shelburne Home Hardware and Building Centre is located at 725 Steeles St and is open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

County of Dufferin administrative staff to relocate from Edelbrock Centre

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

Changes are coming to the Edelbrock Centre in Orangeville, where County of Dufferin staff work.

Dufferin County administrative staff at the Edelbrock Centre (30 Centre St.) will relocate to the Dufferin County Administration Office at 55 Zina Street in Orangeville by Sept. 2.

The changes are intended to provide better access to health and social services for the Dufferin County community.

Ontario Works, Housing, Early Years, and

Child Care will remain at the Edelbrock Centre.

Meanwhile, the County’s Waste and Building Services will also be moving to the Dufferin County Administration Office. As of Sept. 2, these services will be accessible at a service counter on the second floor of the building.

In-person waste services include green bin and kitchen container pick-ups and replacements, bulky item and garbage bag tag purchases.

For new or replacement blue box needs, please call GFL at 1-888-941-3345 ext. 1.

Other in-person Building Services include document requests and general information.

Services will remain open at the Edelbrock Centre for Waste and Building Services until Aug. 29.

These services will no longer be available at 30 Centre St. after this time.

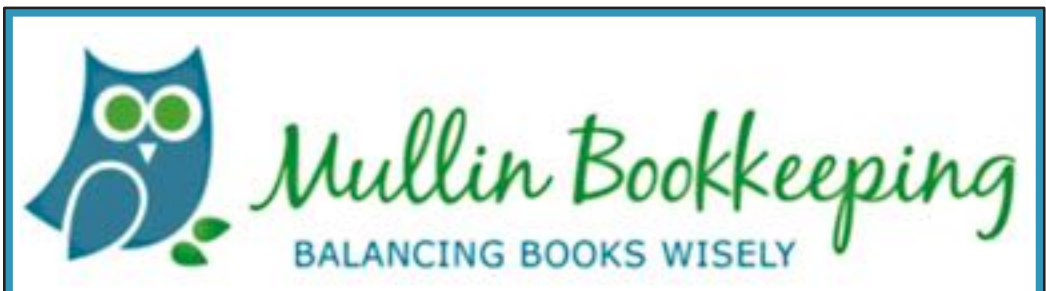
To accommodate the move, the County will be unable to accept in-person payment for services on Friday, Aug. 29. This is so the County can move its payment software.

The ability to make payments will resume on Tuesday, Sept. 2, at the Dufferin County

Administration Office.

Building Services customers will still be able to make payments on Aug. 29 through the County’s building portal at dufferin-county.ca/building-services/cityview-portal-information.

“Residents are invited to stay tuned for more information on the changes coming to the Edelbrock Centre and further updates to the County’s Zina Street location! The County looks forward to continuing to improve how it provides services to the community conveniently and accessibly,” reads a County of Dufferin press release.



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SPORTS

Shelburne Golf Club hosts junior qualifier for Ontario Championship

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

Junior golfers from around the province arrived at the Shelburne Golf & Country Club to play a qualifying round in a bid to make the cut to go to the Ontario U17 championships.

The qualifier took place on Thursday, Aug. 7, and it was a perfect day for golf, with bright sunny skies and a nice temperature for being out in the open.

The Shelburne Club has hosted a Junior qualifier for several years at its popular course.

Arriving from all over Ontario, 81 Junior golfers competed in the event.

“This is a Golf Ontario, under-17, boys and girls qualifier for the Ontario championship,” explained Shelburne Golf & Country Club general manager Megan Young. “We have golfers here from all over Ontario. There are some from Ottawa, Toronto, Mississauga, even Sudbury. We are one of five courses they qualify at. If the boys finish in the top eight here, they go on to the championship. The top five girls will also go on to the championship.”

These young people are talented golfers. The top players are expected to finish around par for the course.

“Today is a double tee start tournament, it’s a cross-over start,” Megan explained during the qualifier on Aug. 7. “They tee off at hole number 1 and hole number 10. We’ve done this for several years. We’ve always held a junior qualifier ever since I’ve been here.”

CPGA Golf Pro at the club, Jaymond Woods, works with a lot of junior golfers in the club’s junior program.

“Once the golfers are out there, the tournament kind of runs on its own,” Woods ex-



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

ON THE GREENS: Junior golfers finish on the green at the 9th hole at the Shelburne Golf & Country Club during a U17 Ontario Golf Championship qualifier at the Club on Thursday, Aug. 7. A total of 81 golfers, both boys and girls competed in the event with the top golfers qualifying to go to the Championship at Timber Ridge Golf Course in Brighton from Aug. 19 to 21.

plained. “We do a lot of prep work to make sure that the course is in top condition. We make sure the greens are running the way they should, the Tee blocks are cut properly, tree limbs are cut to make it look really good and the course is playing really nice. On the day of the tournament, we are ensuring the kids have a nice quiet round out there with no distractions.”

The Ontario U17 Championship will take place at Timber Ridge Golf Course in Brighton on Aug 19-21.

Warriors and Knights win in weekend cricket action at KTH Park

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

A weekend of thrilling cricket action saw standout performances as Shelburne Cricket Club’s teams battled at KTH Park in Shelburne on Aug. 9 and 10.

On Saturday (Aug. 9), the Shelburne Gladiators were up against the Shelburne Warriors.

In a clash of heavyweights, the Warriors won the toss and elected to bat first.

Samir Saif’s fluent 57 and Deep Singh’s aggressive 48 set a strong start with the Gladiators conceding several extras to aid the total.

The Warriors posted 173 on the board, with Hisaan claiming four wickets. Gurpreet and Ashlin chipped in with two each.

The Gladiators’ chase faltered early, as

their batting lineup collapsed under disciplined bowling. Ashlin top-scored with 29, but they were bowled out for 111, falling short by 62 runs.

Moin Sheikh was the pick of the bowlers for the Warriors, taking four wickets, while Deep Singh’s three wickets completed an all-round performance that earned him Man of the Match honours.

On Sunday (Aug. 10), the Shelburne Knights took on the Shelburne Samurais

The Samurais won the toss and opted to bat, with Abdul Rashid (20) and Ravi Gill (27) giving the innings early momentum.

They managed a competitive 136, thanks to the Knights’ disciplined bowling.

Tabish Taufiq bagged four wickets, while

Unike Patel took three.

In response, the Knights chased steadily.

Aditya contributed 28, while Unike Patel’s composed 56 steered them home with five wickets in hand. Rick Ramchand’s three key wickets kept the Samurais in contention, but the Knights held their nerve to seal the victory.

With strong performances across all teams, Shelburne Cricket Club continues to deliver exciting cricket for local fans, promising another action-packed weekend ahead.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

WINNING WEEKEND: Shelburne Knights player Unike Patel celebrates his maiden 50 at the match on Aug. 10.



North Dufferin Baseball League’s Senior Division teams battle in first round of playoffs

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

Playoff action is underway across the region as the North Dufferin Baseball League wraps up the season with playoffs in the Senior Division and the championship series in the Junior Division.

The Senior Division of the NBDL has entered the first round of the 2025 playoffs for the Strother Cup championship.

The top eight teams in the regular season entered the playoffs on Aug. 5, with a best-of-five series format.

After the weekend, the series between the Owen Sound Baysox and the Midland Mariners is tied at one.

Midland won Game One by a score of 5-2. The Baysox came out on top in Game Two, winning 4-3.

The New Lowell Knights are up against the Creemore Padres in their first-round series.

After three games, New Lowell is leading the series.

Creemore won the first game 4-2. New Lowell responded with a 13-2 win in Game Two of the series.

The Knights took the lead after a 7-1 win in Game Three on their home diamond in New Lowell.

In the Ivy Rangers and Barrie Angels series, the teams have completed three games.

Ivy won 4-2 in Game One.

Game Two resulted in a 1-1 tie.

The Angels won Game Three, 7-0.

As a tie gives one point to each squad, both teams have three points. In the event of a tie game, the first team to get six points wins the series.

The Bolton Brewers and Lisle Astros’ first-round series has Bolton in the lead after three games.

Bolton won Game One, 15-5. Lisle won the second game, 4-1, to even things up.

Game Three got underway in Bolton on Aug. 11 and ended with an 11-1 win for the Brewers.

The Senior Division’s first round of playoffs will wrap up no later than Aug. 15.

Junior Division

The Creemore Padres will face the Innisfil Cardinals 1 team in the NBDL Junior Championship Final series this year.

Creemore is going to the final after eliminating the Orillia Royals in the second round of playoffs.

The Padres won that best-of-three series with a 15-9 win in Game Three on July 30.

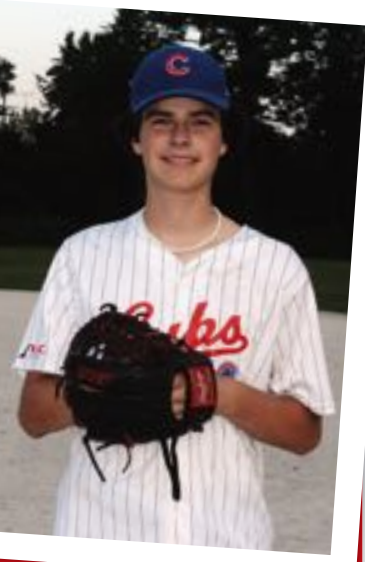
The Cardinals 1 team eliminated the Cardinals 2 team in the second round, winning the two opening games to take the series.

The Junior Championship series is scheduled to get underway on Wednesday, Aug. 13, in Creemore. If the series goes the full distance, which is unlikely, the championship team will claim the title no later than Aug. 20.

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

RYAN KEB

I like hitting baseballs, and playing with the team and my friends,” said Mansfield Cubs second baseman/outfielder Ryan Keba of why he likes playing baseball. “Everyone has their own part in the game, and they have to do it.”

Ryan has been playing baseball since the T-ball level and brings a lot of experience to the team.

The Cubs U15 AA are having a successful season this year.

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Dufferin OPP investigating daytime bank robbery on Broadway

A bank on Broadway in Orangeville was the recent target of a robbery.

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers are investigating a robbery that occurred at a financial institution on Broadway in Orangeville and are appealing to the public for any witnesses or information related to the incident.

On August 5, 2025, at approximately 4:15 p.m., Dufferin OPP responded to a report of a robbery at a financial institution on Broadway in the Town of Orangeville. Officers arrived shortly after the incident and spoke with key witnesses to gather information.

According to reports, three male suspects entered the financial institution while a fourth individual remained in a small black vehicle nearby. The suspects are described as Black males, all wearing black clothing, masks, glasses, and gloves.

Victims were restrained as the suspects stole a cash box and multiple phones. The suspects fled the scene prior to police arrival.

The investigation is ongoing and is being conducted by the Dufferin OPP Major Crime Unit, with assistance from the OPP Forensic Identification Services (FIS).

Anyone with information related to this incident is asked to contact the Dufferin OPP Major Crime Unit at 1-888-310-1122. To remain anonymous, you can contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or visit www.crimestoppersdm.com. You will not be asked to identify yourself, and you will never be required to testify in court.

The effects of crime can be emotionally and physically devastating. If you or someone you know need support, Caledon/Dufferin Victim Services can be reached at 905-951-3838.

S&S Transport fundraises for 22-year-old recovering from serious workplace accident

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

A remarkable display of support unfolded in Dufferin County over the weekend, as the community rallied to aid a young man's recovery.

S&S Transport in East Garafraxa held an inaugural S&S Truck Rodeo on Saturday, Aug. 9, and raised \$6,500 in support of a 22-year-old Nobelton resident who was seriously injured in a workplace accident.

Joshua Cristao suffered life-altering injuries at a construction site on April 25, but his resilience has been miraculous, as he continues to recover after seven brain surgeries, several complications, and a serious blood staph infection.

Despite medical professionals initially giving Cristao a one per cent chance of survival, he has slowly been making progress in regaining consciousness and relearning basic motor skills.

A GoFundMe created on June 26 has raised over \$343,000 for Cristao as of press time, with funds raised going towards costs related to his future medical treatments, rehabilitation, specialized therapies, and therapeutic equipment.

In addition to a thrilling truck rodeo with lots of fun challenges, S&S Transport's inaugural event featured a DJ to keep attendees entertained, along with free refreshments.

The event was made possible thanks to many different sponsors in the community. They include Res Group, JTM Cranes, IDriver, J&L Concepts, Gabrielli Crane Erectors, Capital Crane, Arthurs Fuel, BW Automotive, Hooligan Hurricanes, Melhorn Sales, Service & Trucking, Steer Enterprises, Freightliner Tires, and Deckers Tires.

S&S Transport would like to thank all the patrons who came to the truck rodeo to support Cristao and his family.

To support Cristao's GoFundMe, please visit: gofundme.com/f/support-for-joshua-cristao-the-miracle-man

PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY SAMANTHA B. AND BROOKLYN WILLCOCKS

TRUCK RODEO: S&S Transport fundraised \$6,500 in support of Joshua Cristao, who suffered life-altering injuries from a workplace accident at a construction site on April 25. Against all odds, he has been slowly recovering and starting to regain consciousness. S&S Transport held a Truck Rodeo on Saturday, Aug 9, to fundraise for Cristao, and the community showed its support.

Discovering nature’s beauty with new with woman-only SHE Ventures

Written By PAULA BROWN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Have you ever wanted to go backcountry hiking, but found yourself held back due to a lack of confidence or not wanting to go solo? Shelburne-native Lauri Corlett has launched a women-only backcountry adventure business called SHE Ventures with the goal of fostering opportunities to build confidence, resilience, and community through outdoor adventure.

“This is really a platform for women who don’t have experience in the back country to have the opportunity to get out and learn how to do these things. I think one of the major barriers for women going into the back-country is they’re scared of doing it alone, especially if it’s for the first time. SHE Ventures gives women a group of people to go out with for safety purposes, and then also gives them guidance and instruction while out there,” explained Corlett.

Corlett’s love for backcountry hiking began at the age of 13, when she completed a four-day trek in the Adirondack Mountains in Northeastern New York. Since then, she has hiked thousands of kilometers on long-distance trails, including a thru-hike of New Zealand’s South Island on the Te Araroa Trail.

Her first backcountry canoe trip was in 2009 at Killarney Provincial Park, and over the last 16 years, she has completed over 20 multi-day trips across Ontario.

“I really grew to love it, especially in this day and age where we’re always logged in and technology is such a huge part of our life,” said Corlett. “It’s really nice to be able to reset and disconnect from everything for a couple of days and reconnect with yourself or with family and friends.”

For two years, she lived and travelled in her 2001 Dodge Ram 3500 Leisure Way camper van, touring through dozens of Canada’s provincial and national parks. To date, she has visited more than 25 countries.

Corlett has extensive outdoor training, having completed a two-day Wilderness Survival Skills Course and an 80-hour Wilderness First Responder Course through Get Outdoors Training. She also completed a two-day Whitewater Tandem Canoe Course through Paddler Co-op.

Corlett will be completing her Basic Lake Tandem Canoe Instructor course through Naturally Superior Ventures by the end of August.

In addition to extensive outdoor training, Corlett also holds a degree in environmental science and is currently completing a master’s in environment and geography.

Speaking with the Free Press, Corlett said she was inspired to create SHE Ventures as a result of her own hesitation to solo backcountry hiking due to safety concerns, while also hearing about other women’s interests on her social media posts.

She realized that she must not be the only woman feeling this way, where being single can act as a barrier to adventure.

“I thought there’s definitely an interest out there because people are reaching out to me about it, and there must be other people that are in the same position as me,” said Corlett. “It was a really good opportunity to teach the people expressing interest, and to give myself and others a group to do it with.”

Corlett noted the lack of women-only hiking trip programs in Ontario and the importance of providing this service.

“As far as I’m aware, I’m the only one in Ontario who is offering women-only backcountry hiking trips. It’s needed because it doesn’t exist and there’s interest there,” said Corlett.

She has planned a number of upcoming adventures, including tackling the 35-kilometre Highland Backpacking Trail in Algonquin Provincial Park over three days and two nights from Aug. 30 to Sept. 1. She will be hosting a full-day trip to Georgian Bay Islands National Park, Canada’s smallest National Park that is only accessible by boat, on Sept. 7.

Corlett will also be hosting a Wellness in the Wild workshop at Vicki Tree Wellness in Horseshoe Valley on Nov. 8.

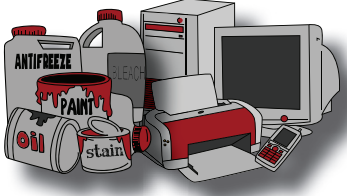
To learn more about the upcoming trips and stay in the loop with future programming, visit www.sheventuresoutdoors.com or follow SHE Ventures on Instagram @sheventuresoutdoors.

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Time: 3pm-8pm

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Limitations	No waste from industrial, commercial, or institutional sources. No white goods/large appliances (including any appliances with freon). No garbage, or recycling. No unidentified/unknown materials. No drums of materials.

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

Future events: September 20, October 25.

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

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



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New record: Over 100 babies born at Headwaters last month

Written By PAULA BROWN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A baby boom has come to Headwaters Health Care Centre (HHCC). The local hospital announced in a social media post on July 31 that they'd reached a new record for the number of babies born in one month, with more than 100 babies delivered in July.

"This milestone is a proud moment for Headwaters and a reflection of the remarkable growth in our community. Every baby born at Headwaters is special to us, and we're so grateful our outstanding Obstetrics team was able to mark the occasion with this wonderful family," said Kate Kobbes, director of surgery, obstetrics, and ambulatory care at Headwaters Health Care Centre.

Statistics from the hospital show that a total of 106 babies were delivered in July, of which 52 were girls and 54 were boys.

According to Headwaters, the local hospital helps over 850 families welcome newborns each year.

"Our team is made up of dedicated, compassionate, and highly skilled professionals who take great pride in caring for and supporting our community," said Kobbes.

To learn more about the obstetrics department at Headwaters Health Care Centre, visit www.headwatershealth.ca.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

RECORD SET: Headwaters Health Care Centre (HHCC) reached a new record for the number of birth in a single month, with more than 100 babies delivered in July. Of the 106 total babies delivered at the local hospital in July, 52 were girls and 54 were boys.



Over 40 firefighters extinguish large field fire in Mono amid dry, windy conditions

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

A fast-moving field fire in Mono scorched five acres of land by the time Orangeville Fire Service arrived at the scene to extinguish the blaze on Aug. 7.

The fire broke out on a property along 1st Line EHS, Mono, and spread rapidly due to dry and windy conditions. The Orangeville Fire Service called in mutual aid, and roughly 40 firefighters from Caledon, Shelburne, Rosemont, and Grand Valley Fire joined in to stamp out the fire before it reached a nearby farm building, agricultural equipment or adjacent field.

Orangeville Fire's response began shortly after 3:30 p.m., and the blaze was extinguished in under one hour. Firefighters remained on the scene for an additional hour to ensure the fire didn't re-ignite.

"Due to the intense heat and physical demands, we established work cycles to rotate fire crews, ensuring adequate rehabilitation and hydration. There were no injuries reported among the firefighters," said Orangeville Fire Chief John Snider.

"This incident highlights the strength of our collaborative partnership and robust mutual aid plan with neighboring fire departments in Dufferin County and Caledon. Our seamless coordination was crucial in managing this challenging fire."

The fire appears to have started accidentally by farm equipment operating in the field.

Chief Snider said it's important to note that a fire ban is currently in place across Dufferin County, including the communities of Mono, East Garafraxa, Shelburne, and Amaranth. While Orangeville is not currently included in the fire ban, residents are urged to exercise caution if they do light a recreational fire.

"While this [field] fire was accidental, it underscores how quickly fires can spread in dry conditions. The burn ban will remain until significant rain or cooler weather occurs," said Chief Snider.

The ban covers all open-air burning, which includes bonfires, recreational fires, construction burns or any type of outdoor fire.

Approved gas-fired and charcoal barbecues are still permitted for use at this time.



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Royal LePage RCR Realty, 126 Main Street East, Shelburne

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Hornings Mills (by the Community Centre)

Dean Road, Mulmur (by news boxes)

Shelburne Canadian Legion (front entrance on 2nd Ave.)

Superburger, 506269 ON-89, Shelburne (Corner of Hwy 89 and 10)

Town Hall, 203 Main St E, Shelburne (inside Town Hall)

Trillium Ford, 506168 ON-89, Mono

CDRC, 200 Fiddle Park Lane, Shelburne (Box inside lobby)

Foodland, 824 Ojibway Rd, Shelburne

Caravaggio, 128 Main St E, Shelburne

Autocare Plus, 710C Industrial Rd, Shelburne

Roy's Service, 635202 ON-10, Mono

Dynes Senior Building, 301 First Ave E, Shelburne

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SPREADING FAST: A field fire at a rural property on 1st Line EHS, Mono, on Aug. 7, was extinguished by the Orangeville Fire Service, with help from neighbouring fire departments – Caledon, Shelburne, Rosemont, and Grand Valley. About five acres of field was already burnt by the time Orangeville Fire arrived at the blaze.

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Building permits required for most construction projects in Dufferin County

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

The County of Dufferin issued a statement on Aug. 13, reminding the public that they must secure building permits for most construction projects.

County residents who plan to renovate or build a new structure on their property must obtain a building permit.

Building permits help to ensure construction projects meet minimum safety standards. Permits also ensure compliance with building codes and zoning regulations.

They can help provide a framework for safe construction practices, while protecting homeowners and the wider community.

“Dufferin County’s Building Services Division is dedicated to providing good customer service and helping contractors and residents every step of the way during the permit ap-

plication process,” said Becky MacNaughtan, the County of Dufferin’s chief building official. “We want to keep our community safe and ensure construction follows all building codes and zoning requirements. That’s where building permits come in. Together, we can ensure local construction is legal and that all building is completed in a safe manner.”

The Building Code Act states that a building permit must be obtained for the construction of any structure taking up an area greater than 10 square meters, consisting of a wall, roof, and floor. This also includes a structural system for plumbing, works, fixtures, or service systems

A permit is also needed for the installation of plumbing not located in a structure, a sewage disposal system, and structures designated in the building code.

Other projects that require building permits

include any addition to an existing building, any structural alterations (new windows or doors), finishing a basement, adding a basement entrance or building a new deck or porch.

A full list of projects that require building permits can be found at the County of Dufferin’s website: dufferincounty.ca/building-services/frequently-asked-questions.

When buying a recently renovated home or a property with new additions, the purchaser is required to ensure a permit will be or was obtained for those projects.

Anyone who builds without a permit when it is required is in violation of the Building Code Act and may be on the receiving end of enforcement actions.

Orders may be issued until compliance is achieved, and non-compliance may lead to court proceedings. Fines ranging from \$500 to

\$50,000 can be issued, and corporations may be fined larger amounts.

When compliance is not achieved, work may have to be undone and removed altogether.

To legalize any unpermitted work, a building permit must be obtained through the County of Dufferin’s building department. A permit can be obtained online at dufferincounty.ca.

Anyone who needs support in obtaining a permit can reach out to Dufferin County’s building team at building@dufferincounty.ca or 519 941-2816 ext. 2700.

“Help keep our community safe. Get a permit for all renovations and building and check the history of a property you might purchase or have already purchased,” reads a statement from the County of Dufferin. “The County’s Building Services Division is here to assist you, every step of the way.”

Fiddle Park Redevelopment

Fiddle Park Phase 1 – October 2024



- PARK IMPROVEMENTS**
- 1 WALKING/RUNNING LOOP
 - 2 PAVILION IMPROVEMENTS
 - PAVED SURFACE (COMPLETE)
 - VEHICULAR ACCESS
 - COLUMN REDUCTION
 - ELECTRICAL & WATER CONNECTIONS
 - 3 AMPHITHEATRE / OUTDOOR CLASSROOM
 - PAVED LOWER BOWL SEATING
 - ACCESSIBLE ACCESS
 - TIERED SEATING
 - 4 NEW & IMPROVED PATHWAY NETWORK
 - 5 DUMP STATION TO BE RELOCATED TO WASTE TREATMENT PLANT SPRING/SUMMER 2025
 - 6 PLAZA & ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS AT CONCESSION BUILDING
 - 7 OPEN LAWN FOR PARKING
 - 8 PLAYGROUND
 - 9 BASKETBALL COURT
 - 10 SHADE STRUCTURE
 - 11 MINI PUTT
 - 12 PLANTED SWALE

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MAPPING OUT THE PROJECT: The map of the completed revitalization project at Fiddle Park shows the new layout, featuring a walking/running loop, basic grass parking lot, a multi-functional trail, amphitheatre and pavilion improvement, a basketball court, shade structure and tree planting. The dump station is also being relocated to Shelburne’s waste treatment plant. A playground is also being constructed and mini putt is being considered. The estimated cost of the project is nearly \$2.4 million.

Share moments, not measles.

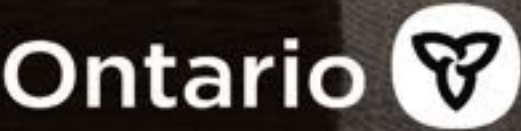
Measles is a contagious virus and it’s spreading.

But there’s good news, the measles vaccine is safe, highly effective and can provide life-long protection from measles.

Vaccination doesn't just protect you, it also protects your family and your community, especially at-risk groups like babies or people with weakened immune systems.

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ontario.ca/measles
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Email, or call us for pricing. Classified cut-off time is 12 pm Tuesday

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

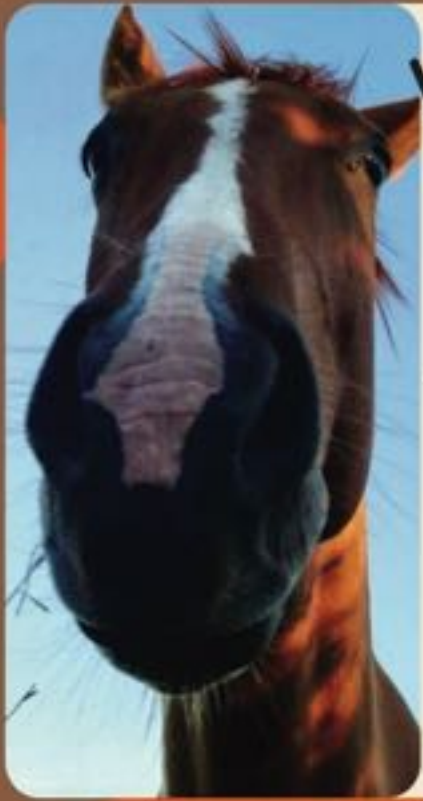
ALBERT “BRUCE” HORNER
The family of Albert “Bruce” Horner would like to announce his peaceful passing on Wednesday, October 16, 2024, at Bethesda Regional Health Centre in Steinbach, Manitoba.
Bruce will be deeply missed by his Children, Grandchildren, Sisters, Nieces, Nephews and many Friends.
As per Bruce’s wishes, cremation has taken place.
Bruce always lived life to the fullest and was always ready for the next adventure.
Celebration of life to be at the Shelburne Legion, William Street. Saturday, August 2. 2025 - 1:00 to 4:00pm



EVENTS

**Annual Pork BBQ**
Trinity Centennial United Church
4903 2nd Concession, Toronto, Rosemont at Hwy 89
Saturday, July 19, 2025
from 4:00 to 6:30 pm
Delicious smoked pork chop, apple sauce, baked potato, baked beans, coleslaw and choice of pie for dessert.
Adults \$25; Children 6-12 years \$15; Under 6 - free
Take out available.
(Bring your own container or \$1 for a take out container)

HELP WANTED



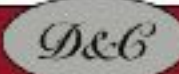
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OBITUARY

SHARON ANN BROWN (NEE LAROCQUE)
APRIL 28, 1944 – JULY 16, 2025
Peacefully, surrounded by the love of her family, Sharon passed away at Headwaters Health Care Centre at the age of 81, on July 16, 2025. Loving wife of Harvey Brown for 60 years. Devoted mother of Nicole, Michael, Anissa and Jason. Sharon will be dearly missed by her grandchildren Jacob, Jessi, Karlee, Nusarah and Taitan. Great grandmother to Hudson. She will be missed by many friends and extended family.
A Memorial Service is to be held on Thursday July 24, 2025, starting at 6:00pm at St. Mark's Anglican Church (5 First Avenue, Orangeville, ON) with a reception to follow in the church's hall.
In lieu of flowers, donations to the Alzheimer's Society of Dufferin County would be appreciated by the family.
Online condolences can be made at www.imfunerals.com
In Memoriam Funeral Services Inc. has been given the honour of serving the Brown Family.



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• Salary \$22.84-29.87 per hour, with possibility of bonus; 10 days vacation plus extended medical, dental, and long-term disability insurance & participation in our retirement savings plan.
• Inbound transportation costs for out of province applicants.
• Completion of high school required with some post secondary education as this position requires the ability to read and understand technical instructions.
• 3 years of previous manufacturing experience as a press operator in plastics film production is required.
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• Monitor and optimize production efficiency and reduce waste.
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PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER!



Shelburne Public Library shares upcoming events, recommended read

UPCOMING EVENTS

Another outstanding turnout for Authors in the Hills of Mulmur last weekend, supported by your local library. It was a great afternoon full of conversation and treats.

We still have two weeks left in the Adult and Teen Summer Reading Challenges, so keep up the great momentum by logging your reading and earning badges. Don't forget, you will be entered into a draw for a personal pan pizza

each week you log a book! Questions on how to get in on the fun? Give us a call at 519-925-2168 or email frontdesk@shelburnelibrary.ca.

RECOMMENDED READ

She Didn't See It Coming by Shari Lapena: When a beloved wife and mother disappears, a luxurious condo building transforms into a potential crime scene, and the investi-

gation begins. Can the detectives find her before it's too late?

Why Jade Recommends it: The last couple of Lapena books didn't hold my attention like I've come to expect, so I went into this one hesitantly. I was pleasantly surprised to be immediately drawn into this disappearance case.

With no shortage of suspects, I asked myself: Was it the "chance" encounter with a stranger or his sociopathic wife that resulted in her disappearance? Is her suddenly weak husband putting on a show for the police? What is the deal with her sister's wildly strange online true crime sleuth persona? Everyone in Bryden's seemingly perfect life has a dark side, and none of them should be trusted. This is domestic thriller fiction in its truest form, and makes for a solid dark summer read.

Dufferin OPP lay charges from spot checks, trafficking incident, and investigate stolen vehicle

Over 160 traffic related charges laid by Dufferin OPP over Victoria Day long weekend

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers laid 163 traffic related charges while patrolling the region's roadways over the Civic Holiday weekend.

Between Aug. 1 to Aug. 4, 2025, officers conducted several RIDE spot checks as well as traffic enforcement with a focus on the "Big Four" – impaired driving, distracted driving, speeding, and lack of seatbelt use.

The following charges were laid by Dufferin OPP:

- Speeding charges - 93
- Stunt/Racing - 1
- Move over for emergency vehicles - 2
- Impaired driving charges - 3
- Seatbelt charges - 19
- Total charges - 163

"Dufferin OPP would like to thank the majority of road users that obey laws and assist in keeping our roads safe. Thank you as well to our hard-working officers last weekend for their efforts and dedication in keeping our communities safe," reads a press release from Dufferin OPP.

"If you suspect that someone is operating a motor vehicle, boat or off-road vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, do not hesitate to call 9-1-1. Highway, trail, and waterway safety is a shared responsibility. By working together, the OPP and members of the public can ensure everyone's safety."

Dufferin OPP charge Alliston and Mulmur residents charged with trafficking cocaine

Officers from the Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) executed search warrants at residences in Alliston and Fergus, as well as on two vehicles, one in Orangeville and one in Alliston.

During the operation, police seized a quantity of drugs, including cocaine, cash, cell phones, and a vehicle. Two individuals were arrested in connection with the investigation.

In the spring, Dufferin OPP launched a drug trafficking investigation targeting Orangeville and Shelburne, based on information received by police.

On Aug. 6, members of the Dufferin OPP Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU), with assistance from the Collingwood CSCU, Not-

tawasaga CSCU, and Huronia West CSCU, executed several search warrants.

The operation led to the arrest of two individuals.

Cory Stoneham, 31, from Alliston, has been charged with:

- Traffick in Schedule I substance - Cocaine
- Possession of a Schedule I substance for the purpose of Trafficking - Cocaine
- Possession of proceeds of property obtained by crime over \$5000 - in Canada

Sharle Milks, 57, from Mulmur, has been charged with:

- Traffick in Schedule I substance - Cocaine
- Possession of a Schedule I substance for the purpose of Trafficking - Cocaine
- Possession of proceeds of property obtained by crime over \$5000 - in Canada

The following items were seized during the investigation:

- 61 grams of cocaine
- Large quantity of Canadian currency
- Debt list
- Three cell phones
- Scales
- Food mixers containing cocaine residue

The investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information is urged to contact the Dufferin

OPP.

Information can also be anonymously reported to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-822-8477 (TIPS) or crimestoppersdm.com.

White 2024 Toyota stolen from residence in Orangeville

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers are investigating a motor vehicle theft in Orangeville.

On Aug. 11, 2025, just after 7 a.m., the Dufferin County OPP were called to a residence on Biscayne Crescent.

Upon arrival, it was learned that a motor vehicle was stolen from the driveway of a residence at approximately 3:30 a.m., as seen on video surveillance.

The stolen vehicle is a 2024 white Toyota Tundra bearing Ontario marker BR67152.

If you have any information or video surveillance footage in relation to this theft, please call the Dufferin OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers to remain anonymous at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

You can also submit your information online at ontariocrimestoppers.ca.

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Sauce included

SOUPS 255 g - 400 mL

SALE
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Tomato and Grilled Cheese
Broccoli Cheddar

SALE
4⁹⁹ each

Quiche 170 g
Classic French Style
Florentine
Three Cheese
Creamy Chicken
Beef and Mushroom
Pot Pies 225 g - 250 g



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