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BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

FUNDING FIREFIGHTERS: The Shelburne Fire Department received a cheque for \$19,626 from the Ontario government on Jan. 8. Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones joined with Amaranth Deputy Mayor Gail Little, Shelburne Fire Chief Dave Pratt, and Nicole Hill at the local fire hall to celebrate the boost in funding. In Shelburne, the funds will be used to purchase a hose washer and 10 sets of flame-fighter turnout gear to support safer decontamination practices. See a full story on Page 6.

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Two Headwaters MCRT nurses awarded for exemplary service

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

The impact of community Mobile Crisis Response Teams (MCRTs) in only a few years of operation has already left a lasting effect on community response.

Responding to 911 calls involving mental health or emotional crises can be unpredictable and possibly dangerous, and special care is needed to make sure the right response is provided for the individuals who need it. MCRTs take those calls.

Two nurses from the Headwaters Health Care Center have been at the vanguard of that response, and have been recognized for their dedication with the Healthcare Rockstar Award presented by Bayshore Broadcasting. Michelle Marr and Angela Armbrister were both surprised and deeply moved by the award nominations.

"I had no idea I'd been nominated, so this recognition is incredibly meaningful," Armbrister said. "Mental health nursing is about compassion, patience, and showing up for people when they are most vulnerable. Our work isn't always seen or celebrated, so this acknowledgment means a great deal to us."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COMMUNITY SERVICE: Michelle Marr (left), Dufferin OPP Provincial Constable Giovannetti, and Angela Armbrister (right). Provincial Constable Giovannetti nominated Marr and Armbrister for the award for their outstanding service to the community. In 2025, they diverted 1,000 calls that would have gone to the emergency department at Headwaters, helping to reduce the backlog.

Continued on Page 3

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Local spa offers excellent service and inspiring story on the power of passion

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

A new local spa has opened up in town, bringing with it the passion and experience of two decades.

The Soul Heaven Spa, located in the heart of downtown Shelburne, is a new addition to the community, having just opened its doors two months ago. Devv's spa offers services such as facials, waxing, and massages. But the business and its owner, Sonica Devv, a professional cosmetologist, has been a pillar in Shelburne for nearly a decade.

"I've been working from home in Shelburne for the past eight years," Devv said. "At first, my son was too young for me to be away, but now he's turned 13, so I felt like now was the time to go out and get a proper location."

The journey for Devv has been nothing short of the biggest challenge of her life. She started her career over 20 years ago in India at the young age of 20, where she went to school and later had two locations to her name.

In 2011, she moved to Canada, and after a brief couple of years living in Brampton, moved to Shelburne. The transition to a small, quiet town was exactly what she was looking for, but rebuilding a client base from scratch was slow and at times, discouraging.

"It's a very slow process, I can tell you," she said. "I had to be very patient with myself. It took me 10 years just to get to where I am now. Coming into my own as a business owner was extremely challenging, and there were times where I felt like giving up, but I didn't. I took every challenge as a lesson, and every setback only made me stronger."

The key, she said, to winning over clients in Shelburne, was building trust. This effort took her nearly a decade, slowly building

"I am grateful for every client, every lesson, and every step on my journey. This was a dream for me."

Sonica Devv

community connections and friends, but the result, in her opinion, was absolutely worth the time and effort.

It paid off. With a growing client base, she was no longer able to accommodate all of them in her home-based business. With a son now old enough to be responsible, she jumped at the opportunity to secure a property in town for her own spa. She credits this opportunity to the people of Shelburne that she's come to know and work for.

"I can say Shelburne people are very nice and honest, and I absolutely love working here," she said. "They are very loving people, when they come by walking, they stop to say 'hi' to me, to congratulate me... I mean, what else do you need? I am grateful for every client, every lesson, and every step on my journey. This was a dream for me."

Her dedication to her craft has led her to adopt a deeply passionate approach to her work that has clearly resonated with her clients. Cosmetology, to her, isn't just skin deep; the energy involved is critically important.

"I truly believe that beauty is more than just appearances," she said. "It is absolutely about confidence, healing and self love."

As Soul Heaven Spa settles into its new home, she hopes her journey will encourage others to believe that with patience, community, and hard work, long-held dreams can eventually become reality.

Soul Haven Spa is located at 114 Main St. W., Shelburne.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SPA-PERFECT: Sylvia Jones, MPP for Dufferin-Caledon, presented Soul Haven Spa owner Sonica Devv with a congratulatory plaque, recognizing the opening of her new business, on Jan. 10. Devv said she was deeply humbled by the support from not just the community but also local leaders.

Moble Crisis Response Team diverts over 1,000 calls from emergency room last year

Continued from Front

Marr was likewise moved and said she's glad the program is gaining more community recognition.

"I was very humbled to receive the Healthcare Rockstar Award," she said. "It's meaningful to see the Mobile Crisis Response Team becoming more recognized in the community as a valued resource. We often meet people on the worst days of their lives, so knowing we can make a difference and be acknowledged for that is truly heartwarming."

The MCRT pairs a Headwaters mental health nurse with an Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officer to respond together to 911 mental health crisis calls.

Their primary role is to de-escalate situations on scene, conduct a clinical mental health assessment, and connect people to appropriate community resources such as the Canadian Mental Health Association, Dufferin Child and Family Services, Victim Services, Family Transition Place, and a developing centralized hub at the Edelbrock Centre.

If a situation can't be safely resolved in the community, they will apprehend the person and bring them to the emergency department for psychiatric assessment.

Tania Alexander, manager of ambulatory care at Headwaters and the MCRT nurses' supervisor, said she is exceptionally proud of the nurses and the positive impact they have made.

"I'm so proud of them, and they should be so proud of themselves," she said. "They are extraordinary people... they're just incredible supports to the community, and I'm so glad that they're out there supporting Dufferin County."

Alexander continued by highlighting the impact they have had in the community, helping reduce the hospital backlog by ad-

"It's meaningful to see the Mobile Crisis Response Team becoming more recognized in the community as a valued resource. We often meet people on the worst days of their lives, so knowing we can make a difference and be acknowledged for that is truly heartwarming."

Michelle Marr

dressing cases in the field.

"They've already diverted over 1,000 calls last year from our emergency room," she said. "That has enabled the emergency room to treat people for their injuries, for their illnesses, at a much quicker and more efficient kind of pace, and it's allowed the mental health patients in the community to receive their care right on scene and resources right on scene, which is safer for them. It's safer for their family, and it avoids unnecessary hospital time."

The nurses' counterparts at the OPP were likewise extremely proud and thankful for their experience in working with them.

Sergeant Terri-Ann Pencarinha of the Dufferin OPP praised their dedication and tireless commitment.

"I couldn't be prouder of the nurses in our Dufferin OPP MCRT program for winning the Healthcare Rockstar Award," she said. "Michelle and Angela pour their hearts into this work every single day, and it shows in everything they do. Their com-

passion, dedication, and genuine care for people have truly taken this program to the next level.”

"They are always willing to go above and beyond, staying flexible and stepping in wherever they're needed, no matter the situation. They also take such pride in training and mentoring new nurses, helping them grow while ensuring MCRT continues to thrive. We are so incredibly lucky

to have Michelle and Angela in Dufferin," Pencarinha added.

Currently, the pair of nurses are the only MCRT nurses in the community, but there is hope from both Headwaters and the OPP that the program can expand in the coming years with more funding.

For now, however, Dufferin is in the extremely capable hands of Marr and Armbrister.

The logo for Shelburne Town Pharmacy is located in the upper left quadrant of the advertisement. It features a green mortar and pestle with a large, stylized green 'S' behind it. To the right of the graphic, the text 'SHELBURNE TOWN PHARMACY' is written in a serif font, with 'SHELBURNE' on the top line and 'TOWN PHARMACY' on the bottom line. Below this, the phrase 'committed to care' is written in a smaller, italicized serif font.



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OPINION

Senior discount

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How many times have you seen admission prices to an event or festival that list their prices based on age? The above is a fairly typical admission pricing for many events.

I guess the idea is, if you are family, you get a break on the younger kids to make it affordable for two adults and two children.

If you're a 'youth,' you get a break of a couple of dollars because youth typically don't have a lot of money.

Children under five are usually free. I guess that's because kids under that age have no idea where they are or why they are even there, and will forget they were even there by the time they get home.

Seniors get a break on a couple of dollars because it is generally assumed they are no longer working and are on a fixed income.

The definition of 'senior' has changed over the years. At one time, you were considered a 'senior' if you were 65 years of age or older.

Over the years, the age at which some-

one is considered a 'senior' has dropped by quite a bit.

Some places have started offering discounts to seniors aged 55 and over.

Most people are still working at age 55. That may seem older to someone who is 18, but if you're 55 years old and already consider yourself a senior citizen, maybe you need to become more active or something.

The thing is, life is short. One day, you're driving around with your friends to local hot spots, hoping to meet some girls, and the next day, you're bouncing your grandson on your knee, and you wonder where the years went.

I used to work in an office environment that had a lot of young women employed. Most of them were in their early to mid 20s. Pretty much all of them still lived at home. Several were attending university or teachers' college at the time.

They were the 'hip' bunch – all good-looking. They were all friendly, but at the same time, they considered their supervisor, who was in her early 50s at the time, to be an old lady.

Now, occasionally, I'll run into one of them. They are all now in their mid 40's with grown children of their own. They have become the 'older' crowd to their children and children's friends.

How times change.

Seniors tend to get a break on many things – except taxes.

The county where I live has just announced age-friendly grants to help make homes for seniors more accessible and adaptable, so people can grow older in their own homes.

That's great, except they still have to pay the full amount of property tax, which leaves many people strapped for cash. In some cases, an age-friendly grant is useless because the home a person wants to grow old in is no longer affordable, having been taxed out of it.

Property taxes are the one tax you pay based on a perceived value.

If you make \$50,000 in a yearly salary, you are taxed on a percentage of that income.

If you make a purchase in a store, you are taxed at 13 per cent HST on the amount you paid.

However, when it comes to property taxes, you pay on what someone thinks your home is worth.

If you have lived in a home for 20 years, you haven't made a single cent from it. If you die while living there, you will never make a dollar from it.

Yet, you are given a tax bill based on the EXPECTED amount of money you will

make if you sell it.

What if there is a slump in the market, and you have to sell that home for \$50,000 less than it was judged to be worth? I've never heard of any municipality sending a homeowner a letter saying, "sorry, we overcharged you for the last 20 years, here's your refund."

I understand why property taxes are necessary – I don't understand why a person with a bigger house needs to pay more. Why should you be penalized for having a large family and needing a larger house?

Maybe that person worked harder and saved a bigger down payment than someone else who paid far less for a home, but still has the extra money in a bank account?

Property taxes are used to pave roads and maintain water treatment plants. Why should one homeowner pay more for what we all use?

The county has the right idea in trying to help seniors age at home, but wouldn't they be even better off if the senior discount applied to property taxes so they can actually live there?

After all, these are people who have paid a lifetime of taxes already.

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



Iran: Don't intervene

Any day now, the United States will "come to the rescue" of the protesters in the streets of Iran's cities and American bombers will unleash "hell" on the minions of the theocratic regime – or not, as the case may be.

It's been more than three weeks since the demos started (Dec. 29) and Trump's threats are getting old. His latest exhortation to the protesters, whose will to continue seems to be fraying a bit, told them once again that "Help is on the way!" But there is no useful way that he can keep his promise. Bombs alone won't work.

Trump's bombers cannot eliminate the elite Revolutionary Guard troops and Basij militiamen who are killing the protesters without flattening the cities they all live in together. His high-tech missiles can pick off the regime's political leadership in their homes, but others will simply replace

them.

We saw how smoothly President Ebrahim Raisolsadati was replaced by Masoud Pezeshkian when the former was killed in a helicopter crash in 2024. There are three designated successors to the 86-year-old Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. This is not a regime that will crumble because of a few deaths.

A full-scale invasion might do the trick, but Donald Trump couldn't put 'boots on the ground' even if he wanted to. Given his understandable reluctance to incur serious American military casualties, bombs are the only form of violence he can use against the regime of the ayatollahs. So where are they?

As usual with Trump, it was 'speak first and think later', but his long delay before acting suggests that he has finally grasped the nature of the difficulty. He will no doubt

bomb a bit in the end, but it won't help.

Non-violent protests of the sort that brought down the Shah 46 years ago are no longer reliable. Every tyrannical regime has studied the techniques and learned to counter them. The new wisdom is that if you control the streets (kill as many protesters as necessary), take over the mass media, and shut down the internet, you can probably smother the protests eventually.

The revolution of 1979 that brought the current regime to power was a classic early example of non-violent revolution, rendered even more effective by the reverence for martyrdom that is very strong in the Shia branch of Islam.

Day after day the protesters came out on the streets, willing martyrs for the cause, and eventually the army refused to shoot them any more so the revolution won. Iran's current constitution talks about "60,000 martyrs", but subsequent research suggests that the real death toll was between 2,000 and 3,000. It was still enough to overthrow the king.

The killing got off to a much slower start in the protests that were triggered by a collapse of Iran's currency last month, but they have accelerated dramatically in the past few days. The latest figures for the dead range between 2,000 and 2,400, so why are we not seeing the same demoralization in the ranks of the oppressors as in 1979 – and what does this portend?

In general, it confirms the conclusion that non-violent revolution is no longer the sure-fire proposition that many people

imagined it was 40 years ago. (New tactics always elicit new counter-tactics.)

For Iran in particular, it means that this attempt to overthrow the country's theocratic regime, despite the courage and determination of the people in the streets, could go either way. Indeed, some protesters are so frustrated that they are resorting to violence themselves: about 10 per cent of the reported fatalities are officials and soldiers of the regime.

It's doubtful that Trump has bothered to learn much about either Iran or the history of revolutions, but his political instincts are good. A quick hit-and-run on Venezuela can be effective and perhaps even profitable; attacking a very large country in the Middle East in support of a revolution that may fail is not a great plan.

One might add that even a successful intervention that brings the tyrants down may turn out to be counter-productive. It is possible to imagine successor regimes that are even worse than the current one. It's more than four decades since Iranians had a real choice, and nobody knows what will come out of the box if it is opened now.

What we do know is that regime change imposed by the West on countries in the Middle East – e.g. Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya – has an almost perfect record of catastrophic failure. Trump has promised too much already to do absolutely nothing about the massacre of protesters in Iran, but he should do the absolute minimum he thinks he can get away with.

GWYNNE DYER
OUR WORLD TODAY



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COMMUNITY VOICES

Monthly Message: The peaceful January slowdown, happy New Year

Welcome to 2026! As the holiday decorations come down and routines settle back into place, many businesses experience a familiar January slowdown. After the rush of end-of-year shopping and celebrations, the New Year often brings a time of quiet and peace, one that can feel challenging, but also full of opportunity and new hope.

This seasonal pause offers businesses a chance to reset. January is an ideal time to review what worked, refine strategies, and plan thoughtfully for the months ahead. With Valentine's Day just around the corner, this slower period allows owners to prepare

promotions, refresh offerings, and reconnect with customers in meaningful ways before activity picks up again. For our food service businesses in the community, that may mean finding yourself surrounded by tiny pink and white hearts on the menu items, while others may find themselves eating those candy hearts we all say we can't stand (as our hand reaches for another in the bowl).

The New Year also arrives after what has



been, for many, a year marked by uncertainty and rapid change. That businesses are still standing, and have adapted so well, is no small achievement. Resilience has become more than a buzzword — it is a defining strength. Adapting to shifting conditions, supporting staff, and continuing to serve communities have required creativity, endurance, and optimism.

Adding to that sense of renewal, the year ahead is celebrated as the Year of the Horse.

Traditionally associated with success, determination, and forward momentum, the Horse symbolizes progress through perseverance and hard work. For businesses, it's a fitting reminder that steady effort and bold movement can carry them toward growth, even when the path is unpredictable.

While January may be quieter, it is far from unimportant. It is time to regroup, refocus, and move forward with confidence. As businesses look ahead to Valentine's Day and beyond, the New Year offers not just a fresh calendar but a renewed chance to build, strengthen, and thrive.

Alzheimer Society's new lead challenges Dufferin to become a dementia-friendly community

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Alzheimer Society of Dufferin County is a local nonprofit organization that supports people living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, as well as their families and caregivers. They now have a new executive director, Teresa Waldner.

Waldner is bringing deep not-for-profit and healthcare experience to the Alzheimer Society of Dufferin County, returning to work in her home community.

"I feel very grateful to be able to land back in my community and bring anything I may have learned throughout my career with me," she said. "I'm looking forward to engaging with anyone and everyone within the community that has an interest in Alzheimer's."

Waldner's career began in marketing for the arts, but was reshaped by personal loss and exposure to hospice and palliative care, leading her to pursue roles across the not-for-profit healthcare sector.

She has held leadership positions with organizations such as Bethel Hospice and Community Living, steadily building expertise in community care and organizational leadership.

In her new role, Waldner said that she has identified three key priorities.

"It's still early days for me, but there are three pillars of our work that I really

want to focus on," she said. "The first is programming — making sure we have enough programs, and the right programs, for the people we serve. The second is partnerships, strengthening the relationships we already have and forging new ones. The third is awareness and education, ensuring people can access the information they need and really pushing the idea of a dementia-friendly community."

She is particularly focused on advancing the vision of Orangeville and Dufferin County becoming a dementia-friendly community, where businesses, emergency services, and citizens are trained to recognize and support people living with dementia.

"I'd like to challenge Orangeville to become a dementia friendly community," Waldner said. "Orangeville and Dufferin County and businesses can do that by reaching out and asking for training."

"We can train their staff, whether it's not for profit, for profit, and then we can all work together to ensure our residents who are or will have dementia in the future have a safe place to live with access to all of the services that they should have," she added.

Underlying her approach is a belief in connection, compassion, and collaboration as the foundation of both individual well-being and a healthier, more supportive community.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NEW LEAD: The Alzheimer Society of Dufferin County's new executive director, Teresa Waldner, has identified three key objectives she wants to focus on as she takes the helm: programming, partnerships and awareness. They are the cornerstones of her mission to create a truly dementia-friendly community.

Waldner's priorities and goals are the cornerstones that define the Alzheimer Society of Dufferin County.

Their goals and work aim to ensure that no one faces dementia alone by providing

education, emotional support, practical guidance, and advocacy, while also building a more informed and dementia-friendly community.

There are more than 1,500 people living with dementia in Dufferin County, and the society supports hundreds of residents each year through education programs, caregiver support groups, one-on-one counselling, and safety and care-planning initiatives.

To support this work, Waldner said community support is crucial, from donations to volunteering to simply helping spread awareness.

"We're always fundraising, and we're always encouraging people," she said. "Our big fundraiser is the walk in May. Besides that, we're always encouraging people to volunteer, with a number of different roles, and we provide training within those roles. We always appreciate monetary support, too, of course, but the awareness is what truly brings us to our goal of having a dementia-friendly community."

With a dedicated team behind her that made settling in easy, Waldner said the Alzheimer Society of Dufferin County will continue to forge ahead with its mission and will continue providing the high-quality care and support it has become known for.

For more information on the Alzheimer Society of Dufferin County, go to: alzheimers.ca/dufferincounty

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Application to Amend County of Dufferin Official Plan

TAKE NOTICE that the County of Dufferin will hold a Public Meeting pursuant to subsection 22 of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.P13, as amended, regarding a County Official Plan Amendment for the lands municipally known as 514504 2nd Line, Amaranth (File #: COPA 1-25).

PUBLIC MEETING

The public meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 12, 2026 at 6:30 pm.

Location: Dufferin County Administration Office, Atrium, 55 Zina Street, Orangeville ON, L9W 1E5

Any person or public body wishing to participate in the meeting may attend in-person or virtually. To join the meeting virtually on Zoom, please use the following link:
<https://dufferincounty-ca.zoom.us/j/85246647171>
Password: 076890073

Written comments can be sent to the attention of the County Clerk by email or via regular mail to the address listed at the end of this notice.

The meeting will be livestreamed and will be available on the County's website: <https://www.dufferincounty.ca/council/meeting-agendas-minutes/>

THE PURPOSE AND EFFECT OF THE OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT

The proposed County Official Plan Amendment application seeks to redesignate the lands municipally known as 514504 2nd Line, Amaranth from Prime Agricultural to Community Settlement Area to permit the development of a nineteen (19) unit residential subdivision.

LOCATION

Municipal Address: 514504 2nd Line, Amaranth ON
Legal Description: Part of Lot 19, Concession 2 being Parts 2, 5, and 8 of Plan 7R-6546.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

A copy of the proposed official plan amendment and additional information is available at <https://www.dufferincounty.ca/planning-development/application-process-fees/>

OTHER RELATED APPLICATIONS

N/A

NOTIFICATION OF ADOPTION

If you wish to be notified of the adoption of the proposed official plan amendment, you must make a written request to the County Clerk at the address listed below. Such requests must include the name and mailing address/email address to which such notice should be sent.

NOTE: The approval authority for adopted County of Dufferin Official Plan Amendments is the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. If a person or public body would otherwise have an ability to appeal the decision of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to the Ontario Land Tribunal but the person or public body does not make oral submissions of the public meeting or make written submissions to the County of Dufferin before the proposed official plan amendment is adopted the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the County of Dufferin before the proposed official plan amendment is adopted the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Land Tribunal unless in the opinion of the Tribunal there are reasonable grounds to add the person or public body as a party.

NOTICE OF COLLECTION, USE, AND DISCLOSURE

All personal information collected will be used to support Council in their deliberations and decision making, in accordance with Section 22 of the Planning Act and disclosed in full, including names, opinions, addresses and email, to any other persons requesting access to these records, or published as part of a public agenda. All information submitted to the County is subject to the Municipal Freedom of Information Act and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA). Questions about this notice of collection should be directed to the County Clerk.

DATED at Orangeville this 22nd day of January, 2026.

Michelle Dunne, County Clerk
55 Zina Street, Orangeville, ON L9W 1E5
Phone: 519-941-2816 ext. 2504
Email: clerk@dufferincounty.ca

A photograph showing Sylvia Jones, a woman with blonde hair wearing a light-colored blazer, presenting a large ceremonial cheque to a man in a dark fire department uniform. The cheque is from the Province of Ontario, dated January 13, 2026, payable to Rosemont District Fire Department for \$16,000.00. The cheque is for Fire Safety and is issued by the Ministry of the Solicitor General. They are standing in front of a red fire truck with the Rosemont District Fire Department logo.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

UPGRADES INCOMING: Dufferin–Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones presents a cheque for \$16,000 to the Rosemont Fire Department on Jan. 13. The funds will be used on a Circul-Air Toro-Decon SCBA, personal protective equipment and Hardgoods decontamination unit to reduce carcinogen exposure

Provincial funding for fire departments in Dufferin–Caledon doubles to \$20 million

Ontario’s Fire Protection Grant is providing twice as much money to the five departments across Dufferin–Caledon this year.

The grant has doubled from \$10 million to \$20 million this year. It will be used to enhance cancer prevention measures for firefighters and improve emergency-response capabilities for lithium-ion battery related incidents.

“Our firefighters face new and evolving risks, and our government is committed to giving them the tools they need to stay safe,” said Dufferin–Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones. “This expanded funding ensures fire departments across Dufferin-Caledon are better protected, prepared and equipped to respond to emergencies.”

This year, several fire departments across Dufferin-Caledon will receive targeted investments, including:

- Town of Caledon – Purchasing and installing a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) air compressor and filling station to support clean-air operations.
- Rosemont District Fire Department – Installing a Circul-Air Toro-Decon SCBA, personal protective equipment (PPE) and Hardgoods decontamination unit to reduce carcinogen exposure.
- Orangeville Fire Services – Purchas-

ing 40 sets of extrication coats, pants, and belts for use during technical rescue operations, reducing reliance on heavier gear and lowering contamination risks.

- Shelburne Fire Department – Purchasing a hose washer and 10 sets of flame-fighter turnout gear to support safer decontamination practices.

- Mulmur/Melancthon Fire Department – Purchasing 30 new SCBA facepieces and storage bags and completing minor hall renovations to install a dedicated cleaning station to improve decontamination procedures.

- Grand Valley Fire Department – Relocating existing and new PPE extractors to a suitable location in the fire hall, with required structural, plumbing and electrical work, followed by the installation of a new extraction unit to enhance cancer-prevention protocols.

“Dufferin-Caledon’s fire services play a vital role in protecting our communities,” reads a press release from Jones, announcing the funding.

“This investment ensures local departments can upgrade critical equipment and infrastructure and respond safely to emerging hazards, reducing long-term health risks for firefighters.”

A photograph showing four people standing behind a table in front of a red fire truck. On the table are various firefighting equipment items like a SCBA tank, a hose, and a fire extinguisher. A large ceremonial cheque is being presented. The table has a red banner that says "GRAND VALLEY FIRE DEPT. AND DISTRICT".

A photograph showing Sylvia Jones presenting a large ceremonial cheque to a man in a fire department uniform. The cheque is from the Province of Ontario, dated January 13, 2026, payable to Mulmur-Melancthon Fire Department for \$18,686.00. The cheque is for Fire Safety and is issued by the Ministry of the Solicitor General. They are standing in front of a red fire truck.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

FUNDING BOOST: Left photo: The Grand Valley and District Fire Department received a cheque for \$19,626 from Dufferin–Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones on Jan. 8, which will be spent on relocating existing and new PPE extractors to a suitable location in the fire hall. The funding also enables required structural, plumbing and electrical work at the Grand Valley Fire Hall, followed by the installation of a new extraction unit to enhance cancer-prevention protocols. Right photo: Jones presents a cheque for \$18,686 to the Mulmur-Melancthon Fire Department, covering the purchase of 30 new SCBA facepieces and completing minor hall renovations to install a dedicated cleaning station to improve decontamination procedures.

Shelburne Library offers free passes to the ROM

Are you looking for an indoor activity this winter? Why not visit the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) for free?

Patrons of the Shelburne Public Library can now borrow passes to the ROM. One pass allows a group of up to four people entrance and is valid for general museum admission and special exhibitions.

Featured exhibitions include:

- Sharks - this family-friendly exhibition invites you to uncover fresh perspectives, groundbreaking research, and the astounding diversity of this ancient group of fishes.
- Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2025 - Powerful, inspiring, and enlightening, the annual Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition invites viewers into a world of extraordinary images and visual storytelling.

Visit the Shelburne Public Library today to borrow a pass, then head out for some educational fun with family and friends. Please note that you will need to bring the pass, your physical library card, the checkout receipt, and proof of ID to the ROM.

Books are just the beginning of the resources we provide at Shelburne Public Library, and all you need is a library card.

Staff Pick of the Week: Go As A River by Shelley Read

In this Goodreads nominee for Favourite Historical Fiction 2023, 17-year-old Victoria Nash runs the household on her family’s peach farm in the small ranch town of Iola, Colorado — the sole surviving female in a family of troubled men. Wilson Moon is a young drifter with a mysterious past, displaced from his tribal land but determined to live as he chooses.

Victoria’s chance encounter with Wil on a street corner profoundly alters both of their young lives, igniting as much passion as danger. When tragedy strikes, Victoria leaves

the only life she has ever known, fleeing into the nearby mountains. Taking shelter in a small hut, she struggles to survive in the wilderness, with no clear notion of what her future will be. As the seasons change, she also charts the changes in herself, finding in the natural world the strength and meaning that set her on a quest to regain all that she has lost, even as the Gunnison River rises to submerge her homeland—its ranches, farms, and the beloved peach orchard that has been in her family for generations.

Inspired by true events surrounding the destruction of the town of Iola in the 1960s, Go as a River is a story of deeply held love in the midst of hardship and loss, but also of finding courage, resilience, friendship, and finally, home—where least expected. This stunning debut explores what it means to lead your life as if it were a river—gathering and flowing, finding a way forward even when the river is dammed.

Why Shannon recommends it: “Strength, I had learned, was like this littered forest floor, built of small triumphs and infinite blunders, sunny hours followed by sudden storms that tore it all down. We are one and all alike if for no other reason than the excruciating and beautiful way we grow piece by unpredictable piece, falling, pushing from the debris, rising again, and hoping for the best,” writes Shelley Read in Go As A River.

After describing my reading tastes to the staff at Cedar Canoe Books in Huntsville, they recommended this book, and they nailed it! The lyrical writing, compassionate storytelling, female resilience and courage, all set amid the beauty and wilderness of the Colorado mountains, had me completely engrossed. I am always delighted to discover that the book that just swept me away was a debut novel, and I look forward to reading more of Shelley Read’s work.



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ONTARIO, CANADA

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TOWN PAGE

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COUNCIL 2026 DATES January 26, February 9 & 23, March 9 & 23, April 13 & 27 (Virtual), May 11 & 25, June 1 (virtual) & 22 (Virtual), July 13 & 27, August 24, September 14 & 28, October 5, December 14



FROZEN PIPES
Frozen pipes can be a serious inconvenience and may even stop water from flowing into your home. If you suspect a frozen pipe, the first step is to locate the frozen section.

PREVENTING FROZEN PIPES

- Keep indoor temperature above 8°C near pipes.
- Seal leaks and keep garage doors closed.
- Insulate exposed pipes and drain outdoor faucets

THAWING A FROZEN PIPE
If a pipe freezes inside your home:

- Turn on the nearest tap
- Warm the pipe starting near the tap.
- Use safe methods like warm towels or a space heater (to heat the room, not the pipe directly)



2026 PROPERTY TAX
Payment Dealine: February 19, 2026

 Shelburne.ca

BE A HYDRANT HERO

Keep hydrants clear of snow







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WORKING TOGETHER

Help keep our community safe this winter by clearing snow from fire hydrants and catch basins.

In an emergency, every second counts. By keeping fire hydrants visible and accessible, you ensure that emergency services can respond quickly.

Clearing snow from catch basins helps prevent street flooding and icy road conditions, making our roads safer for everyone.

Let's work together to keep our neighborhood safe and sound!

For more information or visit shelburne.ca

WINTER PARKING

Changes to Winter on Street Parking Restrictions

New Dates
• Dec. 1, 2025 to Apr. 15, 2026

Holiday Exemptions
• 12:01am Dec. 24 to 11:59 pm Dec. 27 2025
• 12:01am Dec. 31, 2025 to 11:59 pm Jan 1, 2026

Please note: these exemptions may be suspended if significant snowfall or a declared weather event requires uninterrupted plowing operations



shelburne.ca

2026 Council Meeting Dates

						
• January 12 & 26 • February 9 & 23 • March 9 & 23	• April 13 & 27 (Virtual) • May 11 & 25 • June 1 (virtual) & 22 (Virtual)	• July 13 & 27 • August 24 • September 14 & 28	• October 5 • December 14			



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HOW TO PARK



Do not impede neighbour's sight lines and ability to drive in and out



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WINTER REMINDERS

WINTER MAINTENANCE	BY-LAW REMINDERS	DAMAGED GRASS
<p>Winter maintenance is performed under a priority system. Primary roads such as Greenwood St, Fiddle Park Lane, Simon St and Victoria St will be cleared first, followed by residential streets, crescents and courts. Please allow 24 hours after a snowfall before requesting service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do not push snow onto the road.• Place bins on your property, not on roads, sidewalks, or snowbanks.• Clear hydrants and drains <p>For questions or concerns: jkaske@shelburne.ca 519-925-2600 ext. 261</p>	<p>NOISE #52 - 2022</p> <p>Noise is managed at the municipal, provincial and federal level</p> <p>This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Animal noise• Amplified sound (such as music)• Construction noise (out side of hours 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.) <p>ANIMAL CONTROL #15 - 2018</p> <p>Pet owners are reminded that they must pick up after their dogs and keep them on a leash at all times unless they are in a designated leash-free zone.</p>	<p>Grass near the sidewalk and along the boulevard can become damaged during winter maintenance efforts.</p> <p>Damage to Town grass will be inspected and repaired in the Spring. Please report damage to the Town's Operations, Parks and Facilities Clerk with your address and details to ensure it is logged for repair.</p> <p>Please remember that boulevards are owned by the Town and should not have any permanent landscape features.</p> <p>Report damage to the Town online. Visit shelburne.ca/Concern/</p>

DO YOU HAVE A CONCERN?
REPORT YOUR CONCERN ONLINE AT SHELBURNE.CA/CONCERN/

RCMP National High Risk Child Sex Offender Database officially launches online

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The public now has access to a centralized, accessible database on child sex offenders nationwide for the first time, as part of a bill passed through parliament.

This bill, the High Risk Child Sex Offender Database Act, was brought into force on Dec. 31, 2024. This bill outlined a requirement to establish a publicly accessible database of people convicted of sexual offenses against children and who pose a high risk of committing similar crimes again.

The online database officially launched on Thursday, Jan. 15.

The database was described by Gary Anandasangaree, Minister of Public Safety, as an important move to protect children

across Canada.

“Children are amongst the most vulnerable members in our society, and our government is committed to keeping them safe,” he said. “The High Risk Child Sex Offender Database will help to protect children and their communities from harm by providing law enforcement agencies with an additional tool to ensure appropriate monitoring of high-risk offenders as well as providing the public with verified information to support their personal safety.”

This database is the first of its kind in Canada, as the previous database, the National Sex Offender Registry, is reserved for access by law enforcement only. This new database provides the public with up-to-date, accurate information on high-risk, convicted child sex offenders who officials believe may be at

risk of repeat offenses.

Each offender profile may include names, date of birth, gender, a physical description, including any distinguishing marks, a photograph, description of offenses committed, any conditions related, and the city, town, municipality, or other district where they currently reside

It will also provide local police with an easy-to-access, centralized service to present information to the community and other services in a timely fashion, according to RCMP Commissioner Mike Duheme, thereby streamlining the flow of information.

“Protecting children from sexual offenses and exploitation is a responsibility we all share and is a priority for the RCMP,” he said. “The importance of centralizing public notifications of high-risk child sex offend-

ers is two-fold: it now provides Canadians with a tool to get informed and take appropriate precautions and, it also helps the law enforcement community share information more seamlessly on offenders amongst themselves.”

“The RCMP is proud to have worked with Public Safety and the provinces and territories to ensure the Database provides value to communities across Canada.”

This database, while activated by the RCMP, will primarily be expanded and edited by provincial and local police, who will be responsible for identifying and submitting offenders for inclusion in the database, as well as ensuring the accuracy of the information provided.

For more information, go to: rcmp.ca/en/high-risk-child-sex-offender-database.

Over \$2,500 in prizes up for grabs at Island Lake’s Annual Ice Fishing Derby next month

Winter anglers, get ready to drop a line at the Annual Island Lake Ice Fishing Derby, running Feb. 7 to 16, at Island Lake Conservation Area in Orangeville.

Hosted in partnership with Credit Valley Conservation (CVC), Credit Valley Conservation Foundation (CVCF) and the Friends of Island Lake (FOIL), this winter tradition is open to participants of all ages.

The fishing derby provides an opportunity to experience the best of Ontario’s winter outdoor activities, without travelling too far from home.

The Ice Fishing Derby offers anglers a chance to win cash prizes totalling more than \$2,500 across several big catch categories. Adults can compete for prizes awarded to the top three Northern pike and the largest yellow perch and black crappie.

Island Lake Conservation Area hosts two popular fishing derbies each year, one in winter and one in summer. These events help connect people with nature while raising funds to support ongoing conservation efforts that protect, restore and enhance the natural environment.

Young anglers can compete in the youth

category, where awards go to contestants with the three longest fish of any species. This event brings families together, encouraging parents and children to fish side by side while enjoying time outdoors.

Anglers can sign up online or by phone until Feb. 15, or in person at the park’s Rental Shop until noon on Feb. 16. Registration fees are \$35 for adults (13 years old and up) and \$10 for youth (12 years old and under). Daily park admission applies.

Participants who register before noon on Feb. 6 will be entered into a draw for a chance to win a Credit Valley Parks Annual Family Pass, valued at \$158.

A valid Ontario Fishing Licence is required except during Ontario Family Fishing Weekend, running Feb. 14 to 16, when anyone can fish licence free. Island Lake’s Rental Shop offers ice rod rentals, ice hut rentals and minnows, making it easy for new anglers to join the fun.

For full event details or to register, visit IslandLakeDerby.ca.

If you can’t participate but still want to support FOIL and local conservation efforts, visit cvcfoundation.ca/donate/island-lake.



FILE PHOTO

FISHING FRENZY: The Island Lake Ice Fishing Derby returns from Feb. 7 to 16 at the Island Lake Conservation Area, with more than \$2,500 in cash prizes available across several categories.

Dufferin OPP responds to two separate copper theft incidents on same street in Melancthon

Written By SAM ODROWSKI
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Copper theft continues to be an issue in the region, particularly impacting communities in northern Dufferin, as the price of copper hit a new all-time high earlier this month.

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are now investigating two separate incidents of copper theft, both occurring along River Road in Melancthon between Jan. 14 and 15. Both incidents are suspected to have taken place during early morning hours.

“These thefts commonly involve telephone lines, utility wiring, and cable infrastructure and are often reported in rural, poorly lit, or isolated areas,” reads a press release from Dufferin OPP. “These thefts typically occur during the early morning hours but may happen at any time. In many cases, wires are cut from utility poles, dragged to nearby roadways, and collected later to avoid detection.”

Perpetrators of copper wire theft have, in the past, used reflective clothing or safety gear to appear as legitimate utility or road workers when committing theft to reduce

suspicion among passing motorists and nearby residents.

“Copper theft is not only a criminal offence but also presents a serious public safety concern. Damage to critical infrastructure can result in service disruptions, including impacts to telephone and internet services and, in some cases, emergency services such as 9-1-1. These disruptions can delay emergency response and place the public at risk,” reads Dufferin OPP’s press release.

“These thefts can also affect residents in other ways. Repairing damaged infrastructure can take time and resources, which may

influence service availability or cause temporary interruptions in affected areas.”

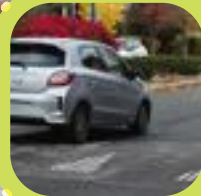
Dufferin OPP is requesting the public’s help in reporting suspicious activity to apprehend individuals who commit copper theft.

“Residents are encouraged to remain vigilant and report individuals cutting or handling utility lines, tampering with infrastructure, or vehicles parked on road shoulders without an apparent purpose. If you observe suspicious activity in progress, contact police immediately by calling 9-1-1,” reads Dufferin OPP’s press release.

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Credit Valley Conservation encourages nominations for Environmental Awards

Written By SAM ODROWSKI
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Nominations for the 40th annual Friends of the Credit Conservation Awards are officially open.

Through the awards program, Credit Valley Conservation celebrates people and groups who have made a lasting impact on the local environment.

Now in its 40th year, the CVC is encouraging the community to submit nominations so it can shine a spotlight on the many residents who protect, restore, and enhance natural spaces.

“Do you know someone whose dedication is creating a healthier, more sustainable environment? Nominate them today and join CVC in recognizing the champions who are caring for the Credit River Watershed,” reads a press release from the CVC.

Holly Nadalin, the CVC’s manager of community outreach and education, noted the importance of ensuring the work of people and organizations to improve the local environment doesn’t go unnoticed.

“CVC’s Board of Directors and staff proudly celebrate the incredible people who help our watershed thrive,” said Nadalin. “This milestone year is a tribute to the passion and dedication of our communities. For 40 years, we have achieved so much together, and we will continue celebrating the environmental champions who protect and enhance our community.”

Landowners, community groups, schools, municipalities, and businesses

that take on a leadership role to ensure a green future are eligible to receive nominations.

An example of this would be a landowner who takes action to protect and restore nature on their property. Local businesses, municipalities, or regional governments could be nominated for adopting innovative or environmentally-friendly approaches to infrastructure.

There can also be nominations for individuals or businesses that donate or purchase land to ensure its long-term protection.

As well, youth or individuals who have taken action to protect and improve the natural environment in their community are suitable for nomination.

Another area of focus is leadership and initiatives that advance diversity, equity, and inclusion, engaging people from diverse backgrounds and cultures to support a sustainable future.

There are eight categories open for nominations: Youth Achievement, Outstanding Volunteer, Environmental Awareness, Landowner Stewardship, Corporate Leadership, Green Cities, Watershed Excellence and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Leadership.

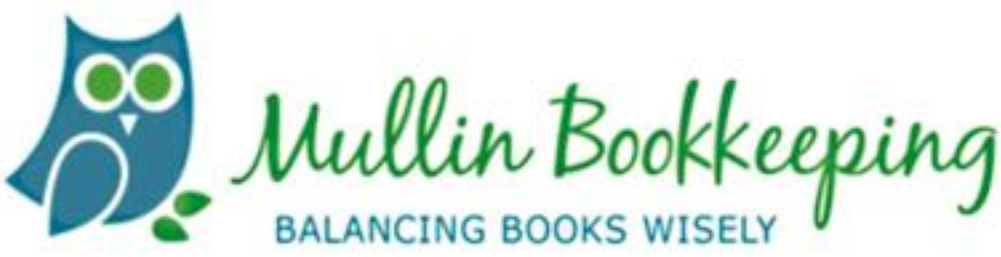
Nominations are currently open on the CVC’s website and will close on Feb. 20. The nominations will be reviewed by the CVC Board of Directors, who will select the winners for each category.

To learn more, visit cvc.ca/ConservationAwards.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

RECOGNIZING ECO-HEROES: Recipients of the Friends of the Credit Conservation Awards last year share some smiles after being recognized at the annual awards night. Nominations for this year’s awards are now being accepted and will remain open until Feb. 20. Nominations can be made on Credit Valley Conservation’s website.



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SPORTS

Shelburne Muskies draw large crowd to Face-Off for Cancer fundraiser

Written By **BRIAN LOCKHART**

The stands at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex were packed in support of the Shelburne Muskies in their game against the Lucknow Lancers for the Face-Off for Cancer fundraising game on Friday, Jan. 16.

The special night raised funds for the oncology department at Headwaters Health Care Centre (HHCC).

In addition to an exciting hockey game, the night featured a silent auction, a Muskies special jersey auction, a fish toss, and lots of fun at the Booster Club, serving beverages.

Between periods, the Shelburne Wolves U8 division played a mini game and showed off their skills.

The event was sponsored by Crewson Insurance Brokers and Dufferin Mutual.

“Tonight is called Face-Off for Cancer. It is a charity hockey game where the proceeds go to the Headwaters Health Care Centre oncology department,” explained Jennifer Crewson from Crewson Insurance Brokers. “This is a regular-season game. Crewson Insurance and Dufferin Mutual are the presenting sponsors tonight.”

Hospitals in Ontario rely on donations to fund capital equipment, and events like this are important to their fundraising efforts.

“Events like this are the only way we can get the equipment to give to our doctors and nurses to provide care. Every piece of equipment in the hospital is funded through donors,” explained HHCC CEO K.C. Carruthers. “Tonight in particular is helping our oncology department. We do screening, testing, diagnosis, chemotherapy, and surgery, and all of the equipment for that care comes through donations from events like this. We couldn’t do what we do without community events. We raise between \$1 and \$2 million a year from community events like [this one] here in Shelburne and throughout Dufferin County.”

The Muskies won Friday night’s game 5-1. They took an early 2-0 first-period lead on two goals from Keith Palmer.

Lucknow’s only goal of the game came midway through the second period.

Shelburne’s Cart Leroux scored with 3:49 left on the clock in the second frame, making it 3-1.

The Muskies wrapped up the game with two third-period goals from Didier Koenigs and Sean Caruso, who scored unassisted with 54 seconds remaining on the clock. The final score was 5-1.

Shelburne goalie Dominic Marquis played the full 60 minutes in net for the Muskies.



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

PUCK DROP: Headwaters Health Care Centre Foundation CEO KC Carruthers drops the puck during the ceremonial face-off to start the Shelburne Muskies Face-Off for Cancer fundraising game against the Lucknow Lancers at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex on Friday, Jan.16. Muskies captain Corey Allen and Lancers captain Chase Chapman represent their teams at the face-off.

Centre Dufferin District High School’s basketball teams take first place in District 4 standings

Written By **BRIAN LOCKHART**

Centre Dufferin District High School basketball teams are having a stellar season, with both the junior and senior teams in first place in the District 4 standings.

Senior

The Royals senior squad has moved into first place with a 62-51 win over Westside Secondary School on Wednesday, Jan. 14.

The two teams were evenly matched and now have identical records after six games. Both squads have won four and lost two.

Centre Dufferin has averaged just over 55 points per game this season while averaging 47 points against.

There are five teams in the District 4 senior competition this year.

Westside is in second place in the District 4 standings with a 4-2 record.

In third place, Erin District High School has a 3-2 record.

Norwell District Secondary School has a 2-4 record and is in fourth place.

Emmanuel Christian High School is in the number five spot with a 1-4 record.

The Royals will be back on home court

at Centre Dufferin on Wednesday, Feb. 4, when they will host Emmanuel Christian High School.

Game time is 4 p.m.

Junior

The Royals junior team is in first place in the District 4 standings with a 5-1 record.

They won their most recent game 73-40 over Westside Secondary School in Orangeville on Wednesday, Jan. 14.

The Centre Dufferin team has averaged just over 63 points per game this season while allowing just over 31 points against.

There are five teams in the District 4 junior competition this season.

Erin District High School is in second place with a 4-1 record.

In the number three spot, Westside has a 2-4 record.

Wellington Heights Secondary School is in fourth place with a 2-3 record.

Emmanuel Christian High School is in fifth place with a 0-4 record.

The Royals will be back on home court at Centre Dufferin on Wednesday, Feb. 4, when they will host Emmanuel Christian High School.

Game time is 2:30 p.m.



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTOS

ROYALS WIN: The Centre Dufferin District High School Royals boys basketball teams are having a good season, with both the Junior and Senior teams in first place in the District 4 standings. Junior Royals forward Troy Carter Abankwah does a layup during a game against the Westside Secondary School Thunder in Orangeville on Wednesday, Jan. 14. The Royals won this game 73-40.



THUNDER BOOMS: The Centre Dufferin District High School Royals senior basketball team takes on the Westside Secondary School Thunder in the gym at Westside on Wednesday, Jan. 14. The Royals won the game 62-51 and are in first place in the District 4 standings. Royals player Gage Bourque brings the ball into the Westside zone during the first quarter of play.

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i'm lovin' it



ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

CATELYN CLARK

An experienced hockey player, CDDHS defence player Catelyn Clark brings a lot of experience to the ice.

“I like the competition level and being out there with my best friends,” Catelyn said of why she likes playing the sport. “Playing as a team takes a lot of pressure off of everyone and we are just out there playing together.”

Outside of school, Catelyn plays hockey with the Centre York Junior U22 team in Aurora.

TEAM: CENTRE DUFFERIN DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' VARSITY HOCKEY

POSITION: DEFENCE

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JAN 30TH – Antiques, Collectibles & Quality Household Items - Features: an assortment of antique wood furniture incl Barrister Bookcase; Federal Style Cherry Storage Chest; Duncan Phyfe Mahogany Drop Leaf Table; Teak Furniture including Side Tables; Credenzas & Chairs; Icebox; Wrought Iron Patio Set w/ Umbrella; Pair of Wrought Iron Laneway Gates; 8 Gal Robinson Ransbottom Stoneware Crock; Victorian Pickle Castors; Weller Majolica Jardiniere Planter; Pyrex Mixing & Nesting Bowls; Anchor Hocking Fire King Mugs; Jannette Poinsettia Uranium Depression Glassware; Lantern Cooker; RD Toby Mugs; Carousel Horse; Swiss Cow Bell; 1950's First Edition Dr. Seuss Books; "All in The Family" Set Prop - Oak Hall-Tree; Razor E200 Rechargeable Scooter; Witney 4 Point Pure Wool Blanket; Turkmen & Persian Rugs; crates; magazine publications; tins; unique light fixtures; collectible fishing reels; bear-paw snowshoes; cameras; quilts; apothecary bottles; stoneware & ginger bottles; tobacco pipes; carved walking sticks & decorative canes; and more.



FEB 6TH – Canvas, Carvings & Keepsakes / Art & Jewelry & Gems

FEB 17-21ST – Straight Shooter Sale

MAR 5TH & 6TH – Sports Memorabilia / Trains & Toys / Advertising Collectibles

MAR 25-27TH – The Roger Hadfield Estate Auction for Militaria and Firearms

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CELEBRATION OF LIFE

EVELYN MAE PELL

Celebration of Life for
Our Beloved Wife, Mom,
Grandma, and Great
Grandma Evelyn Pell



We invite you to join us as we
gather to celebrate the life of
the best woman we were ever
blessed to know- Evelyn Pell

A woman whose love
wrapped around her grandchildren and great-
grandchildren like the quilts she so carefully stitched,
she shared her heart in every seam, every laugh, and
every quiet moment of care. Her passion for sewing
wasn't just a craft-it was her way of giving warmth,
beauty, and pieces of herself to all of us.

Please come share stories, memories, and the love
she poured into her family and everyone lucky
enough to know her.

Date: January 24th

Time: 1:00pm- 4:00pm

Location: Shelburne Legion (back hall)

Your presence would mean so much as we honour
her remarkable life and the legacy of love she leaves
behind.

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ELIZABETH'S HOME CHILDCARE Unlicensed & Private
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FOR RENT. Ground floor 2 bed apt for rent., on quiet street
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Shelburne Public Library

SUMMER STUDENT JOB POSTING

Are you a student enrolled in college or university looking for summer employment? Do you believe in the magic of stories? Do you have experience planning and facilitating engaging and educational programs for children?

The Opportunity:

Shelburne Public Library is seeking a Children's Library Assistant to join our small but mighty team from June to August 2026. Under the direction of the Children's Librarian, the Children's Library Assistant will foster a love of literacy and life-long learning by assisting with our award-winning TD Summer Reading Program.

Duties include:

- assisting with the planning, development, implementation and the evaluation of programs that are accessible to all children and promote equity, diversity and inclusion.
- program and event set-up and take down.
- responding to patron inquiries and concerns and referring to senior staff when necessary.
- other duties as assigned.

Normal hours of work for this position will be up to thirty (30) hours per week. There may be a requirement to work various shifts, including some evenings and weekends.

Qualifications

- Full-time enrollment in a post-secondary education program, preferably in a library, creative, educational, or child-related field.
- Previous experience in program planning, event planning, working with children, and leadership would be an asset.
- Proficiency with Microsoft Office and familiarity with video/digital technology, editing software, and social media platforms.

Hourly Rate: \$18.00

Please note:

- The successful candidate will be required to complete a Criminal Record Check, including a Vulnerable Sector Screening. Criminal record checks must be dated within three (3) months of the employment offer to be considered valid.
- Virtual interview formats are available upon request.
- This position is subject to budget and grant approval and thus may be subject to change.

Qualified candidates are invited to apply no later than **12 p.m. on February 20, 2026**. Please email your resume and cover letter to Shannon McGrady, CEO, at smcgrady@shelburnelibrary.ca . Please note that only those who are selected for an interview will be contacted.

The Shelburne Public Library is an equal opportunity employer. Accommodations are available for all parts of the recruitment process, and applicants are asked to make their needs known in advance.

By submitting your personal information to the Shelburne Public Library, you consent to the collection, use and disclosure of that information in connection with our recruitment, hiring and/or employment processes. Personal information is collected under the authority of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c.25, as amended, and will be used to determine the qualifications for employment.

OBITUARIES

RONALD ARMSTRONG

Passed away peacefully with
his daughters by his side on
Saturday January 17, 2026
at Stevenson Memorial
Hospital, Alliston.



Beloved husband of the late
Joyce Armstrong. Loved
father of Diane (Warren),
Shelly (Darryl). Loving
grandfather of Ty, Tori
(Kevin), Wade, Mackenzie
(Evan) and great-grandfather of Kaysen and Myles.
Dear brother of Austin (Bev) and brother-in-law
of Murray (Sandra), Shirley, Glenn, Debbie (Jim).
Ron will be fondly remembered by his nieces and
nephews, "Auction Buddies" John Leighton and Alf
Lunaitis and his many friends.

A Celebration of Life for Ron and Joyce will be held
at Drury Funeral Centre 519 Victoria St. E., Alliston
on Saturday January 31, 2026 from
1 to 4 p.m. In lieu of flowers memorial
donations to Matthews House Hospice
would be appreciated.



OBITUARIES

BRUCE WALLACE CAMERON

Peacefully with family by
his side at Dufferin Oaks
on Friday, January 16, 2026
in his 97th year. Beloved
husband of 67 years to Jean
(Alexander). Devoted father
of Don and the late Paul.
Loving grandfather of Haley
and Bryce. Dear brother of
Dwight (Carol) Cameron.
Predeceased by his siblings
Ruth Riddell and Bob Cameron. Brother-in-law of
Ivan Alexander and Carl (Linda) Alexander. He will
be sadly missed by his many nieces and nephews.



Friends and family will be received at the Jack &
Thompson Funeral Home, Shelburne on Saturday,
January 24, 2026 from 10:15-11:15 a.m. The funeral
service will follow in the funeral home chapel at 11:30
a.m. Spring interment at Shelburne Cemetery. If
desired, donations to the Heart & Stroke Foundation,
Dufferin Oaks Auxiliary or the charity of your choice
would be appreciated.

Online condolences may be placed at
www.jackandthompsonfuneralhome.com



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Annual Fire and Ice Festival to return with ice carving, fire dancers

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The vibrant Fire and Ice Festival will return on Jan. 31 and will run through Feb. 1 at the Alton Mill Arts Centre.

The festival has been held annually for more than 15 years and was developed to bring people to the historic mill during the winter months while highlighting local artists and outdoor recreation.

Sarah Sansom, the special events and marketing manager for the Alton Mill Arts Centre, said that the event has never sat still, always evolving and growing from its roots as a small hockey tournament.

“This is our 16th annual Fire and Ice Festival, but it originated as a sort of hockey tournament,” she said. “Originally, it was a fundraiser for the Mill Pond rehabilitation. So it was called The Mill Pond classic, and they’d get together, just a bunch of hockey teams, some ex-NHL veterans, and some local families and local people, and they would do it as a hockey tournament. That’s sort of where it got its roots, and it kind of continued to grow from there.”

The event is now spread across the mill property and the surrounding grounds. Outdoor events are plentiful and promise something for everyone, according to Sansom.

“You’ve got the skating and the sledding and the s’mores and the ice carving, and we have a big activation event happening out-

side,” Sansom said. “So there’s some great large-scale family games, some hockey shooting accuracy challenges, giant chess games, and all sorts of things set up outside. There’s also food trucks, fire dancers, you name it.”

“All the fun things that you would want at a festival are happening here,” she added.

There’s just as much happening inside as outside as well. For those who might get too cold or would rather stay warm throughout the evening, Sansom said that you’re covered.

“Inside, we have art vendors set up throughout the building,” she said. “All the artists that have studios at the Alton Mill are on site. You get to see the artists, meet them, talk to them. We also have live music happening indoors, including a drumming circle.”

Sansom continued, “We also have art shows, a hot stove lounge, where you can get something nice and warm to warm you up, and there’s complimentary kids’ craft there all day.

In addition to indoor and outdoor activities, there will be plenty of performers on site, offering live music and entertainment.

The festival’s lineup also features a range of performers and community partners both inside and out. Indoors, guests can take in live music from Larry Kurtz on Saturday and Musical Munchkins, alongside family-friendly activities hosted by Theatre

Orangeville.

The Stoney Lonesome bluegrass band performance and a roster of six stand-up comedians anchor the 19-plus Hot Mic comedy and concert night, while Sleeman & Sons of Guelph will be on site offering whiskey tastings.

The biggest event of the weekend is the dramatically titled “The Big Burn!” and it will be taking ice sculpting to the next level.

“The big burn is a sculptural piece,” Sansom said. “We have a couple of artists that come together, and they build this sculptural piece, and they create a show that goes with it, so an audio and a light show that kind of goes around this piece, and it all tells a story. At 6:30 p.m., it gets lit, and there’s this evolution of the sculpture that happens with the burn... It’s more than a big bonfire, it’s so much more. It’s a spectacle.”

In the past, the burn has featured sculptures such as a dragon whose wings spread as the ice melts, among other incredible works by local artists. The project for 2026 is a secret and will be revealed only on the

day of the festival, when the fires are lit.

To make such incredible work possible, Sansom said the festival relies on local volunteers and sponsors, with more needed at all times.

“We want to give a huge thank you to the Town of Caledon and to all of the sponsors that help make this event possible; we could not do it without them,” she said. “To anyone who is interested in participating in the event, we are still accepting volunteers.”

“For businesses that are wondering about how they might be able to get involved, even if it’s not for this year, but for next, we are always open to working with new partners and offering new elements.”

With so many events loaded into one weekend, the Alton Mill Fire and Ice Festival promises to light the fires of excitement, bringing local vendors, food, and entertainment to the small community, with only bigger plans for next year.

For more information, including ticket prices and volunteering, visit altonmill.ca/fire-and-ice.



MARK NIXON PHOTO

SUMMER FUN: Last year’s Burn art piece was designed and built by Brian Oats, and is seen here being carved into shape by Cam Menken. Combining artistry and some engineering, the Burn art carvings combine lights, sounds and fire to tell a dynamic and visually striking story.

Amaranth man charged with impaired driving

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers charged an Amaranth resident with impaired operation-related offences. The OPP reminds the public that impaired driving is unacceptable and poses a serious risk to everyone on the road.

On Jan. 17, just before 8:30 p.m., Dufferin OPP received a traffic complaint regarding a possible impaired driver. Officers located the individual on Station Street in the Township of Amaranth, conducted a traffic stop, and initiated an impaired driving investigation.

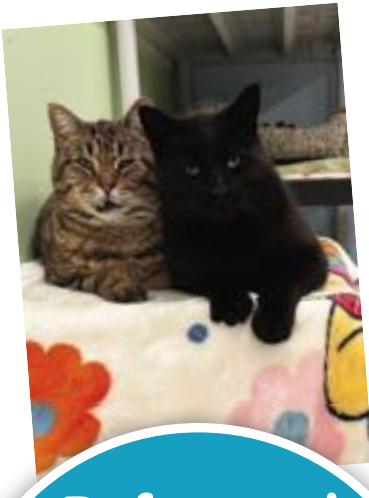
Tyler Murdoch, a 48-year-old male from Amaranth, has been charged with:

- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)
- Operation while impaired - alcohol and drugs

The accused individual is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville. Their driver’s licence was suspended for 90 days, and their vehicle was impounded for seven days.

The listed charges have not been proven in court.

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Both are neutered, microchipped, dewormed, vaccinated, flea treated.

Adoption fee is \$275 each or \$400 for the pair.

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

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SAVE \$5
14⁹⁹ each

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680 g

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Parmesan

Cauliflower Bites
450 g

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Spanakopita
12 PIECES 340 g

Fried Battered Pickles
10-12 PIECES 390 g

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15 PIECES 279 g

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2 Varieties

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20 PIECES 500 g

Bacon Wrapped Scallop Medallions
9-13 PIECES 300 g

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20 SKEWERS 500 g

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17-19 PIECES 300 g

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1.81 kg

SERVES 6-8

MULTI-SERVE MEALS 850 g - 907 g

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12⁹⁹

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