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RECOGNIZING LOCAL SERVICE: The Shelburne Legion Executive Committee gathered for the Branch 220 Honours and Awards Banquet on Saturday, May 23. Numerous attendees received medals and pins recognizing their years of service to the Shelburne branch. Dufferin-Caledon MP Kyle Seebach attended and delivered remarks, in addition to Legion Zone E3 Commander Barry Kimber.

Young Shelburne author releases second book

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Amaya James is marking a new milestone in her young writing career at age 13 with the release of *Emmie's Next Chapter*, her second self-written and self-illustrated book.

Centred on the character Emmie, the story follows a journey that begins as a simple trip and grows into something far more challenging, forcing its protagonist to confront change, uncertainty and the search for a sense of home.

The book is rooted in James' own experience of transitioning from in-person school to online learning. That move, and the emotional upheaval around it, prompted her to explore change from a child's perspective.

"I wanted to write about change because I moved to online school, and that was a big step for me, a different environment, and so I really was inspired to write about change," she said. "I was trying to write a story like what I was going through at

the time, but kind of differently, because I know a lot of people go through change, and so this could be a book, not only about my story, but somebody else who's dealing with change."

Through travel, new environments, and shifting circumstances, Emmie learns that home is less about a fixed place and more about the people and connections that ground her.

While Emmie is not a direct stand-in for the author, the character carries elements of James' own life, allowing her to translate personal upheaval into a story that resonates with any young reader navigating their own transitions.

A key message in *Emmie's Next Chapter* is the inevitability of change and the importance of allowing change to occur, even when life feels comfortable as it is. James aims to reassure readers that difficult shifts are survivable, and that it is possible to adapt, grow and eventually find something that feels like home again.

Continued on Page 3



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Shelburne athlete heading to Special Olympics World Cup in Paris

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

Shelburne's Yazmine Wilson-Daponte is headed to Paris, France, this summer after earning a spot on Team Canada's roster for the 2026 Special Olympics Unified Football World Cup.

"I'm very excited for Paris," she said. "I'm excited to meet new friends there. I'm excited to have a good time."

Yazmine, 18, will join her 10 teammates from across the province for an international competition featuring teams from 24 countries. Team Canada will play matches against Egypt, Slovakia, and Hong Kong in group-stage play from July 6 to 11.

Unified sports teams, such as the one Yazmine is competing with in Paris, pair athletes with and without intellectual disabilities. This helps athletes with disabilities thrive alongside their teammates who can set them up for plays and mentor them off the field.

Yazmine, who has autism, is among six athletes with intellectual disabilities on Team Canada.

Her mother, Karrie Daponte, said while her daughter may not fully grasp the scale of the opportunity, she is elated in her own way, and the significance may catch up to her once

she's on the soccer field in Paris.

"She is so excited to be on the team and wear the uniform... but she doesn't really understand what an opportunity this is," said Daponte.

That opportunity began with a tryout. One where Yazmine had no idea she was being evaluated.

Daponte simply told her daughter they were going to play soccer with some women and learn new skills. They attended three sessions that way, with no pressure, no expectations.

"I never thought she would make it," Daponte said. "I personally think she was picked because of her enthusiasm... when she plays soccer she's always encouraging everybody, and all you hear is her."

Yazmine's enthusiasm and encouragement of teammates didn't go unnoticed.

Special Olympics Ontario said during tryouts, athletes were selected not only for their athletic ability but also their commitment to inclusion, teamwork and community leadership.

By that measure, Yazmine was a natural fit. Team Canada needs to raise \$1,500 per athlete (part of a \$25,000 goal). To help reach that goal, Yazmine is participating in a Celebrity Server Night at Orangeville Boston Pizza

on June 2 from 5 to 8 p.m., with a men's soccer jersey raffle.

She's also collecting Canadian-themed pins and maple leaf memorabilia to trade with athletes from other countries, and is encouraging donations. Those looking to donate can reach Daponte at kdaponte1975@hotmail.com.

For her, Yazmine's journey to Paris represents something much bigger than soccer.

"At one point, she was nonverbal, so you appreciate all the little things," Daponte said.

She has navigated the challenges of raising a child with autism largely out of public view — from meltdowns during drives to sports to uncertainty about the future

Daponte kept Yazmine involved in the community, not because it was easy, but because it was necessary. Yazmine thrives outside the home, and her mother recognized early that giving her every opportunity to be part of something, whether it was a team, a program, or a community, was the best thing she could do.

Those years of showing up, of pushing through, of appreciating every small step forward, led Yazmine here – a flight to Paris and a place on Team Canada.

"Those little successes may not mean anything to anybody else, but to her, to us, it's a big thing," she said.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PARIS BOUND: Shelburne's Yazmine Wilson-Daponte holds up a medal from a Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools competition ahead of representing Team Canada at the 2026 Special Olympics Unified Football World Cup in Paris this summer.

Town of Shelburne reviews first quarter report on bylaw activities

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Shelburne's Bylaw Department remained heavily focused on parking enforcement, proactive patrols and property standards during the first quarter of 2026.

A report presented to Shelburne council on Monday, May 25, shows Bylaw Enforcement responded to 38 service requests between January and March, while also completing 333 patrol and operational activities across the community.

Parking-related issues continued to generate the highest number of complaints, accounting for nine calls, or roughly 24 per cent of all service requests during the quarter. Another nine complaints were categorized as

"other," while clean yard complaints accounted for seven calls, and property standards issues accounted for five.

The report notes that complaints about clean yards and property standards together represented nearly one-third of all calls received by the department, highlighting what staff described as ongoing concerns about neighbourhood upkeep and maintenance standards. Animal-related complaints, including dog-at-large calls and one reported animal bite incident, made up about 11 per cent of service requests.

While complaint numbers remained relatively modest, enforcement staff carried out a far greater volume of proactive work throughout the quarter.

Parking patrols dominated operational ac-

tivity, with officers conducting 146 parking patrols – about 44 per cent of all Bylaw Enforcement activity recorded in the first three months of the year. Park patrols accounted for another 58 activities, while school zone patrols made up 45.

The report also highlighted 24 inspections and eight re-inspections related to ongoing compliance matters, alongside clean yard patrols, animal investigations, court appearances and sign removals.

Town staff noted that proactive patrols in parks and school zones continued to form a significant part of enforcement efforts, which they said was part of an ongoing focus on community safety and visibility.

Bylaw Enforcement said it maintained a balance between responding to complaints

and carrying out proactive enforcement initiatives throughout the quarter.

According to the report, the most consistent enforcement priorities in early 2026 included parking compliance, traffic concerns, property maintenance, clean yard enforcement and compliance monitoring through follow-up inspections.

The continued concentration of parking complaints and patrol activity suggests that demand for bylaw presence remains high in busy, community-sensitive areas across Shelburne, particularly around schools, parks and high-traffic zones.

Upon the completion of the report from Bylaw Enforcement, council had no comments, and the document was received without further discussion.

Young Shelburne author pens second children's book, 'Emmie's Next Chapter'

Continued from Front

She uses humour and expressive illustration to make those ideas accessible, especially for younger children who may struggle with heavier or more serious narratives.

"Emmie has to learn wherever she is, she'll always find somewhere like home if she's with the people that feel like home," James said. "That's a really big lesson in this book. Another lesson is that we should let new chapters be written in our lives, because sometimes things feel good how it is, and you just want it to stay like that, but there's always going to be more change in life."

"I feel like when something is funny, you take it better, or at least that's true for me. I feel like that really helps younger kids, to kind of get the meaning of the book if there's humour in it," she added.

James' path into writing grew out of a long-standing love of art. As a kindergarten student, she was drawn first to drawing, later discovering a passion for reading and writ-

ing as classroom assignments became more complex.

"I remember in kindergarten, I would love to draw, and I loved art class, but I never liked writing or reading until I kind of grew," she said. "With the new grades that I took, we did more writing and reading exercises, and I started to really like writing and reading, and so I thought it would be really cool to write and illustrate my own stories."

The combination of illustration and storytelling offered a natural way to bring her own ideas to life. Her approach is informed by the work of authors known for blending humour and life lessons, whose stories showed her how serious themes can be delivered in playful, engaging ways.

Behind the scenes, James credits her family's steady encouragement.

Her parents and sisters have supported school visits, book talks and presentations, helping her share both her process and her stories with other students as she continues to develop the Emmie series.

Emmie's Next Chapter follows James' first book, *Afro, No!*, published in 2022 and later becoming an Amazon bestseller. The book explores embracing and celebrating natural hair, focusing on the joys and challenges young Black girls can experience through that relationship.

With two books now under her belt, James has no plans of stopping here. More books and more stories are likely to follow.

To buy *Emmie's Next Chapter*, go to :the-jameses.ca/amaya

JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

YOUNG AUTHOR'S NEXT CHAPTER: At only age 13, Amaya James has now written and illustrated two books, with her most recent, *Emmie's Next Chapter*, following a story of change. Based on her own experience switching to online schooling, James' book puts a humorous twist on adapting to and accepting change from a kid's perspective. With the support of her family, James plans to continue writing with more books yet to come.



Grand Valley and Shelburne residents charged with impaired driving in north Dufferin

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers have charged residents of Grand Valley and Shelburne with impaired driving-related offences following two separate calls for service.

On May 19, at approximately 7:20 p.m., officers were dispatched to a restaurant on Main Street in Shelburne for a report of a fight in progress. During the altercation, one of the involved individuals left the area in a vehicle. Moments later, as officers arrived on scene, the suspect had returned to the

restaurant. While speaking with the driver, officers initiated an impaired driving investigation.

As a result of the investigation, Dylan Parady, 23, from Grand Valley, has been charged with:

- Operation while impaired - alcohol and drugs
- Unauthorized Possession of Weapon
- Possess unmarked cigarettes
- Drive vehicle or boat with cannabis readily available

On May 20, at approximately 2:10 p.m., officers were dispatched to a motel on Highway 89 in Mulmur for a report of a possible impaired driver. Moments later, officers arrived on scene and spoke with the male driver. As a result of the interaction, officers initiated an impaired driving investigation.

- As a result of the investigation, Hartaj Singh, 45, from Shelburne, has been charged with:
- Operation while impaired - alcohol and drugs

- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)
- Being intoxicated in public place

The accused individuals are scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville at a later date to answer to the charges.

None of the listed charges have been proven in court.

In addition, the individuals' driver's licences were suspended, and the vehicles were impounded.

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OPINION

Time will tell

We were gathered around the television set, my dad, my brother and I, to watch heavyweight champion Joe Frazier defend his title against George Foreman in Kingston, Jamaica.

Frazier was the overall favourite, despite being several inches shorter than Foreman, who also had an 8-inch reach advantage.

We were expecting a long fight. Then, BAM! Around 1:45 into the first round, Foreman delivered a hard right that dropped Frazier to the canvas.

I still remember legendary sportscaster Howard Cosell yelling, “Down goes Frazier! Down goes Frazier! Down goes Frazier!”

Frazier staggered to the neutral corner to take the mandatory 8-count.

Everyone was shocked that Frazier was hurt so early in the fight.

As boxing matches go, this one is legendary.

Foreman knocked Frazier down two more times in the first round. Frazier was obviously in a lot of trouble.

By today’s standards, the ref would have stopped the fight after the second knockdown because clearly Frazier was hurt and not able to defend himself.

Maybe there was too much money involved to worry about a fighter’s physical condition after being knocked senseless.

When they came out for the second round, it was brutal to watch.

Foreman knocked Frazier to the canvas again. The second time Frazier hit the canvas, he was so disoriented that he swung, and his own momentum sent him down.

Foreman pinned Frazier on the ropes, and Cosell described the scenario as ‘target practice’ as Foreman pummeled a defenceless Frazier, until he again hit the canvas.

Finally, the ref waived his arms and stopped the fight.

This era and the several years previous are referred to as the ‘Golden Age’ of boxing.

It was a time when championship fights and even fights between top boxers were broadcast on prime-time television as special events.

It was a time when names like Joe Frazier, George Foreman, Muhammad Ali, Sonny Liston, Floyd Patterson, Jimmy Ellis, and Jerry Quarry were well known.

Now I couldn’t even tell you who the heavyweight champion is.

“I want to be alone,” uttered Greta Garbo in her slight Swedish accent in the 1932 film, Grand Hotel.

Garbo is considered by many to be the greatest movie star of all time.

I have a DVD copy of her 1939 film, Ninotchka, which was famously touted as

the film where ‘Garbo laughs.’ Although she didn’t laugh very convincingly.

She had a rather serious persona.

Garbo was on screen during a period called the ‘Golden Age of Hollywood,’ which ran from around 1930 to 1960. At the time, five major studios ran Hollywood, and stars like Humphrey Bogart, Cary Grant, Grace Kelly, Marilyn Monroe, and Rita Hayworth were the big draws at the box office.

It was a time of Mid-Atlantic accents from actors who were trained on the stage, spoke clearly, and you heard every word they said.

The Golden Age of Hollywood came to a close with a combination of things, including the introduction of television, the blacklisting of communists, and anti-trust legislation that attacked the five main studios.

Films and the star system changed after that era.

However, some of the greatest films of all time were made after the Golden Age, and Hollywood continues to produce great movies.

Typically, a period in history is referred to as a Golden Age when certain events create a special era that defines a culture or series of events.

It could be a time when culture is flourishing, there are breakthroughs in sci-

ence and technology, a time of economic prosperity, or political stability and good governance.

By those definitions, the 1950s were probably the last great decade that could be called a Golden Age, where all those things seemed to be in place.

So, what is happening right now that will define this era we are currently living in?

I can’t really think of anything that will define this era – but I think an era is usually defined when it’s over, not currently happening.

Science, technology, and communications have made great leaps forward over the past two decades. Maybe that will figure into the history books in the future.

I have friends, and I’ve heard some sports commentators say we are currently living in the Golden Age of NFL football. I don’t watch the sport, so I have no idea about that.

I would love to read the history books 100 years from now and see how they reflect on the first few decades of the 21st century.

Maybe we are experiencing the highest level of some achievement right now, and we just don’t know it.

Time will tell.



BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW

Iran: The curious absence of nuclear weapons

Tulsi Gabbard, the recently resigned/retired/fired US Director of National Intelligence, told Congress just two months ago that U.S. intelligence agencies had concluded Iran was not building nuclear weapons. Indeed, she added, experts also determined Iran had not resumed its suspended 2003 nuclear weapons program.

However, Donald Trump said she was “wrong” His claim that “Iran would have had a nuclear weapon within two weeks to four weeks” had been his justification, however improbable, for attacking Iran on 28 February. Gabbard went silent.

When Trump started up again last week, saying that Iran has a “maximum” of two weeks to sign a deal on its nuclear activities or else he restarts his war, Gabbard backed his lies. Iran is “at the point that it can produce a nuclear weapon within weeks to months.” she said. She’s loyal to the end, but this is so stupid that it’s insulting.

How can Iran have no active nuclear weapons program in March of 2026, but be within “two to four weeks” of nuclear weapons only a couple of months later? Almost all the ‘evidence’ about Iranian nuclear weapons is about as reliable as Donald Trump himself.

You will encounter references to this ‘nuclear weapons program’ literally every day in the media, as though it were a universally acknowledged fact, but it’s not a fact at all. It’s an allegation that feels like a fact because it has been said so many times, so loudly, by so many people. However, the ‘evidence’ is purely circumstantial, and quite possibly wrong.

Iran’s late Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, published a fatwa (religious ruling) in 2004 forbidding Muslims to use nuclear weapons: “We consider the use of these weapons to be haram (forbidden),

and the effort to protect mankind from this great disaster is everyone’s duty.” This is a lot stricter than declared US military doctrine on the same issue.

We should take supreme religious leaders seriously when they speak on matters of faith and morals, and Khamenei clearly believed in the sinfulness of killing millions of people. However, he was quite vague when he discussed building nuclear weapons for deterrence only. In fact, he made a distinction between “our religious fatwa and our rational fatwa.”

The ‘rational fatwa’ says that Iran must never start a nuclear war because it would not survive it. Israel alone has 300 nuclear warheads and the United States has thousands, whereas Iran has none now and could never match those numbers. Nor, given recent performance, could Iran count on any of its (putative) nuclear-armed missiles getting through to their targets.

But if just one or two of Iran’s hypothetical nuclear missiles could strike back at Israel or the US – “revenge from the grave” – the mere knowledge of that capability could deter Iran’s enemies from attacking it at all. The ‘rational fatwa’ can therefore include building a few nuclear weapons for deterrence purposes only (provided Iran never actually uses them.)

This has led Iran to a stop-go pattern of nuclear weapons research, like this:

Iraq invades Iran (1980), old nuclear research from the Shah’s time is dusted off.

War ends (1988), research shuts down.

Pakistan tests nuclear weapons near Iran’s border (1998), Iranian nuclear research restarts.

Leak of information about the research; operation shut down (2002).

And it stayed shut down well past 2015, when all the great powers signed a deal with Iran. ‘Obama’s deal’, if you like. It guaranteed that for 15 years Iran would not enrich uranium beyond 3.67%, and Iran obeyed it to the letter until Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu persuaded Trump to tear it up in 2018.

The Iranians did nothing for a couple of years, hoping that the other signatories to the treaty could talk sense into Trump – and then they did something stupid. They started enriching uranium fuel beyond the treaty limit, though very slowly and still far short of weapons grade.

It took them four years to go from 20% to 60%, and they announced every step in advance. They weren’t trying to ‘break out’ of the treaty; they were trying to make the other countries return to it. But it certainly allowed hostile governments to claim that Iran is now actively seeking nuclear weapons.

It isn’t. Not even now. Even before the United States and Israel attacked Iran 10 weeks ago, it was at least two years of hard work away from a working nuclear weapon. Indeed, it had not even begun working on it.

One big reason that everybody else stands by and let the U.S. and Israel pound Iran into the ground is that the regime is revolting: murderous, tyrannical and corrupt. But Donald Trump and Binyamin Netanyahu are vigilantes, not policemen, and their war is illegal. They are war criminals.



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COMMUNITY VOICES

Monthly Message: Dufferin Board of Trade celebrates local business at annual gala

The Dufferin Board of Trade (DBOT) welcomed business and community leaders from across the region for an evening of celebration, connection, and recognition at the 2026 Business Excellence Awards Gala and Annual General Meeting.

Held in front of a packed room of local entrepreneurs, nonprofit leaders, elected officials, and community supporters, the evening celebrated the individuals and organizations helping to make Dufferin County a vibrant and thriving place to live, work, and do business.

The evening began with the Dufferin Board of Trade's Annual General Meeting, where members reflected on the organization's work over the past year, including the continued growth of its social enterprise initiatives through the Dufferin Biz Hub. Through the Biz Hub, DBOT provides flexible workspaces, meeting rooms, business and creative services, and recently expanded into engraving and signage services — all designed to help local businesses and non-profits access affordable supports, strengthen their operations, and thrive within the community.

MPP Sylvia Jones attended the event and officially swore in the Dufferin Board of Trade's 2026 Board of Directors.

The 2026 Executive includes:

- Lisa Thompson – Chair of the Board
- Doug Harkness – Past Chair
- Rob Koekoek – Secretary-Treasurer

Returning Directors:

- Brandi Neil
- Sarah Sawchyn
- Bill McCutcheon
- Miranda O'Connor
- Paul Janssen
- Gail Little (currently on a temporary
ave of absence)

New Directors joining the Board in 2026:

- AJ Cappuccitti
- Carmine Domanico

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the 2026 Business Excellence Awards, recognizing businesses and individuals for their leadership, innovation, community impact, and commitment to excellence.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BUSINESS LEADERS RECOGNIZED: The Dufferin Board of Trade held its 2026 Business Excellence Awards Gala and Annual General Meeting on May 21 at Best Western Plus Orangeville Inn & Suites. The award winners, from left, were Tony Fenech, Sandy Brown, Jaime Edge, Jenny Jelen, Stephanie Lavoie, Jessica Stirk, and Amanda McCallum.

This year's award recipients included:

- Business of the Year – Shelburne Home Hardware Building Centre
- Small Business of the Year – DSE Automotive
- Businessperson of the Year – Stephanie Lavoie
- New Business of the Year – Make it Sweet
- Nonprofit of the Year – Choices Shelter & Support Services
- Local Impact Award – Fenech Designs
- Chair's Award – Sandy Brown

"We were honoured to celebrate the incredible businesses, organizations, and individuals who help make Dufferin County such a strong and resilient community," said Diana Morris, Executive Director of the Duffer-

in Board of Trade. “The energy in the room was a reminder of the passion, innovation, and community spirit that exists throughout our local business sector.”

The Dufferin Board of Trade also extended congratulations to all nominees, noting that being recognized by peers and the community is an achievement in itself.

The organization thanked the many sponsors and partners whose support helped make the evening possible, including award sponsors Carters Law Firm, The Chambers Plan Insurance, The Town of Orangeville, RLB, Shelburne Golf & Country Club, and JDC Commot Homes / Janssen Design.

Additional support was provided by community partner Dufferin Community

Foundation; casino table sponsors Dufferin Federation of Agriculture, Hill N Dale Landscaping, Indie FM 101, Country 105, and Orangeville Precast Concrete; event supporters Georgian College, MNP LLP, FloorPlus, and Wightman; and catering partner Gourmandissimo Catering.

Photos from this year's event are available online at: bookevrafter.lightfolio.com/gallery/business-excellence-awards-2026

The Dufferin Board of Trade is a nonprofit chamber of commerce serving businesses and organizations across Dufferin County through advocacy, connections, and innovative social enterprise initiatives that help strengthen and support the local business community.

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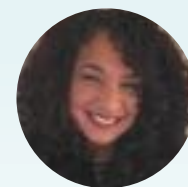
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Arts & Entertainment



LOCAL COMMUNITY EVENTS

Streams Month to be marked with second music theatre production, ‘Finding Nemo Jr.’

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Young performers are preparing to take audiences on an underwater adventure next weekend as Streams Community Hub presents its second full-scale youth musical production, Disney’s Finding Nemo Jr.

Running June 5 to 7 at Grace Tipling Hall in Shelburne, the production will feature a cast of 23 children and youth, ages 5 to 15. They will be bringing the beloved Pixar story to life on stage through music, choreography and colourful set design. Tickets for the production are available online for \$12, with proceeds supporting future arts programming at Streams Hub.

Organizers Noni Thomas and Robyn Menard said the show will build on the success of last year’s *Seussical Jr.*, which marked the organization’s first major theatrical production and drew strong community support.

“This is our second year doing a full-scale production as part of Stream Month,” Thomas said. “It went really well, and a lot of those kids have come back and brought friends, and we’ve also gotten some new kids to join us as well, and new families are coming into the fold.”

This year’s production continues the work of Streams’ Centre Stage program, which began rehearsals in January after months of planning behind the scenes.

Beyond the performances themselves, the

production has become a large-scale community project involving young people both on and off the stage. Alongside the cast, Streams’ “Prop Masters” program has students helping behind the scenes, giving participants hands-on experience in every aspect of theatre production.

“We actually have another program running at Streams called Prop Masters,” Menard said. “There’s a couple of kids who aren’t actually in the cast in that program, and they were the ones who design all our set pieces and our props and help with costumes and things like that as well. So, it’s all hands on deck.”

Organizers say the program is designed to help youth develop confidence, teamwork and communication skills through the arts.

Throughout months of rehearsals, participants have been learning choreography, music, acting fundamentals and stage presence while also building friendships and collaborative skills.

Rehearsals have been held twice a week over several months, balancing the demands of a full theatrical production with school schedules and family commitments. Despite the limited rehearsal hours each week, organizers say the cast has made significant progress, with several returning performers stepping into larger and more challenging roles this year.

The junior adaptation of Finding Nemo condenses the popular Disney and Pixar film

into an approximately hour-long stage musical featuring many of the movie’s best-known moments and songs, including the fan-favourite “Just Keep Swimming.”

The production is based on the hit animated film and adapted for younger performers through Disney’s theatrical licensing program.

Streams Community Hub, based in Shelburne, is a youth-focused arts charity that offers creative programming and year-round camps. Organizers said the success of the theatre program has already inspired many participants to plan on returning for future productions and summer arts camps.

Performances of *Finding Nemo Jr.* run June 5 through 7, with organizers encouraging families and community members to come out and support local youth arts.

“You should come out and see the show, it’s running next weekend from June 5 to 7,” Thomas said. “Just know, all proceeds go to Streams, so that we can continue with the arts programming for next year and more.”

“Don’t forget about the arts and what the arts can do for your child, and for you,” Menard said. “I say, don’t underestimate it. I think it’s such a valuable thing that you can take with you wherever, forever, and its transferable skills, it’s not just for the stage, it’s for your life.”

For more information and to get tickets, go to: zeffy.com/en-CA/ticketing/centre-stage-presents-disneys-finding-nemo-jr



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TAKING THE STAGE: Elianah Brook Abel has been working behind the scenes to support the 23-person cast of Finding Nemo Jr. at Streams Community Hub. She is a co-op student from Centre Dufferin District High School and is helping kids collaborate, build skills and develop confidence in a safe, supportive environment. The play is running from June 5 to 7 at Grace Tipling Hall in Shelburne.

Find your new best friend during the Ontario SPCA’s Spring Adoption Days hapening May 29 and 30

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

The Ontario SPCA Orangeville and District Animal Centre is hoping to find forever homes for animals in its care during Spring Adoption Days on May 29 and 30.

The two-day event runs across 13 animal centres in Ontario, with a special focus on adopting out large-breed dogs.

“These big dogs often wait longer for adoption due to their size, but they have just as much love to give. To help them on their journey home, adoption fees for dogs over 65 lbs have been reduced by 50 per cent during the

event,” reads a press release from the SPCA.

“At the Orangeville and District Animal Centre, Peanut is one of the animals waiting for a loving home. Thought to be just over a year old, Peanut is a resilient and affectionate Rottweiler who has come a long way since arriving at the Ontario SPCA as a stray in March.”

After receiving the care she needed to regain her health and strength, Peanut is now ready to find a forever home.

“This sweet girl enjoys car rides and spending time with her people. Peanut would thrive as the only pet in an adult home where she

can soak up all the love and attention for herself. Her adoption fee has been reduced by 50 per cent during the two-day event,” reads the SPCA’s press release.

Julie Woods, manager of Ontario SPCA Orangeville and District Animal Centre, noted the timing of the two-day adoption event is no coincidence.

“Spring is one of our busiest times of year, with more animals coming into our care,” said Woods.

“Spring Adoption Days give these animals a chance to find loving families while also opening space for others who urgently need

us. We’re especially focused on helping our large breed dogs find the homes they’ve been waiting for.”

Animals adopted from the Ontario SPCA are spayed or neutered, vaccinated and microchipped before going home. Each adoption also includes Royal Canin food, a free 24/7 virtual veterinary appointment through Vetster, a pheromone diffuser and a Pet Valu coupon book valued at \$300.

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SPORTS

Varsity girls rugby team competes for District 4/10 championship

Written By **BRIAN LOCKHART**

The Centre Dufferin District High School Royals girls varsity rugby team competed for the District 4/10 championship with a final game against the John F. Ross CVI Royals from Guelph on Ross home turf on Thursday, May 21.

The CDDHS team had a stellar season, finishing in second place with a 5-1 record. They proved to be a very strong team, talented and skilled, with a good work ethic on the field.

They were also well coached by a team that put a lot of effort into shaping the team this season.

Going into the playoffs, the Royals faced Guelph Collegiate in the semi-final on Tuesday, May 19.

The semi-final was a good game between two skilled squads.

When the Guelph team scored to come within two points of Centre Dufferin's lead, the Royals responded by putting out a strong effort to score two more times to win the game 35-19.

"I think everyone came out and just played their hardest," said Royals team member Jillian Brooks after the semi-final game. "We played hard and our drive was good It was a fast paced game."

Teammate Brook Baird said she thought the Royals put out a good effort.

"I think it was a good game, we tried hard," Brook said. "It was a close game. I think we all were a little shocked when they came at us so hard, but we came back. They're a very strong team. I think we spread out on the field very well and got the ball to the outside. Our forwards did an amazing job with the ball."

The final game against John F. Ross turned out to be a really tough battle. Ross finished the regular season in first place with an undefeated 6-0 record.

The Ross team averaged just over 58



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

SEMI FINAL PLAY: The Centre Dufferin District High School Royals girls varsity rugby team had a successful season and went to the District 4/10 championship. Centre Dufferin's Kaylah Blumetti takes the ball into the Guelph Collegiate zone during their semi-final game on Tuesday, May 19, on the pitch at Centre Dufferin.

points per game this season.

In the final game, the Centre Team just couldn't get past the Ross defence and had

to settle for a 31-0 loss.

The Centre Dufferin team had many younger players this year who gained valuable experience.

Those players can bring that experience back to the field next season.

Lisle Astros win their Victoria Day weekend tournament with several teams competing

Written By **BRIAN LOCKHART**

It was a good weekend for baseball when the Lisle Astros hosted their annual Victoria Day weekend senior baseball tournament on May 17-18, on the diamond in Lisle.

In addition to Lisle, teams included the New Lowell Knights, Orillia Majors, Creemore Padres, and the Caledon Cardinals.

The tournament opened on Saturday with New Lowell winning 8-0 over the Caledon Cardinals, and an Orillia Majors 8-0 win over the Creemore Padres.

The New Lowell Knights lost their first game against the Astros 9-7.

A consolation game took place on Sunday morning, with the Creemore Padres facing

the Caledon Cardinals.

The Caledon team took an early 4-0 lead. The Padres scored five runs in the fifth inning to make it a 6-4 game.

Caledon responded with two runs in the sixth to tie it up.

The Padres scored the winning run on an errant throw into the dugout that allowed the runner to score from third base.

In the championship game, the Lisle Astros and Orillia Majors met to vie for the tournament title.

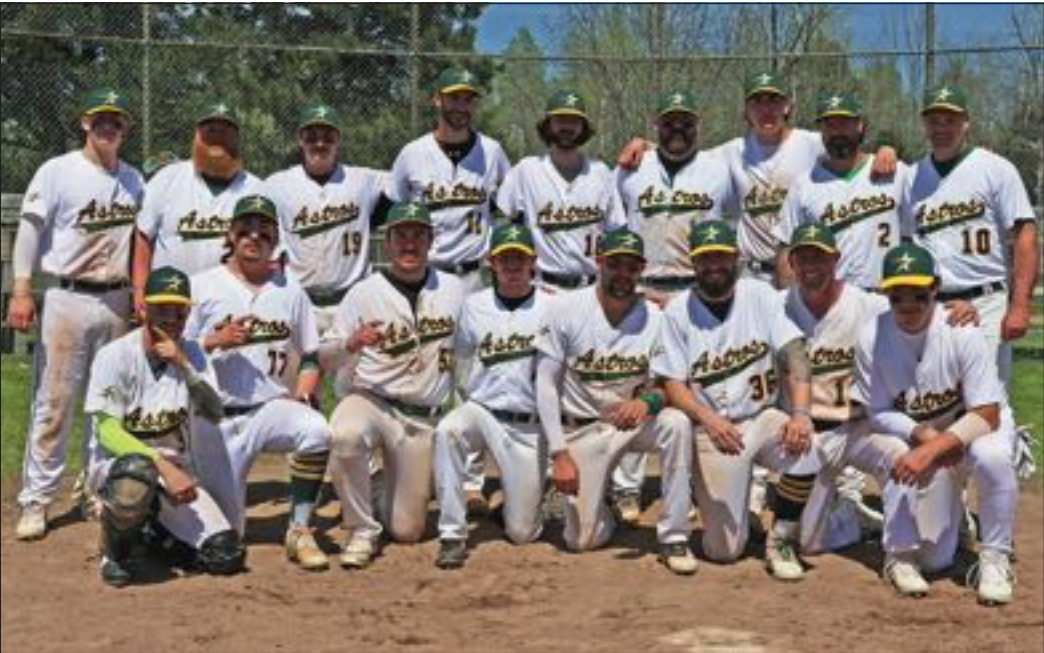
The two teams traded runs early before a decisive 11-run third inning gave Lisle a 16-4 lead.

The Astros added another run in the fourth. The Majors attempted a comeback with three

runs in the top of the fifth. The rally ended on a line-drive catch by Lisle first baseman Kris Allary to give the Astros a 17-7 win.

The Lisle team last won its tournament in 2024.

No tournament was held in 2025.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TOP TEAM: The Lisle Astros from the North Dufferin Baseball League won their own Victoria Day weekend senior baseball tournament, held on the diamond in Lisle on May 17 and 18. The Astros left the diamond with a 17-7 win over the Orillia Majors in the final game.

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

JAYCEE AIKINS

Playing her fourth year on the Centre Dufferin District High School Royals girls' varsity rugby team, Jaycee Aikins brings a lot of skill and talent to her team.

"I love going out to hit," Jaycee said of why she likes playing rugby. "That's why they put me on flank, that's all you do. Everybody on our team is very inclusive. We have such a good bond, I feel like it makes every play much better."

A well rounded athlete, Jaycee also plays field hockey, baseball, and hockey on both the high school teams as well as with the New Tecumseth IceCats.

TEAM: CENTRE DUFFERIN DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL ROYALS GIRLS' VARSITY RUGBY

POSITION: FLANK



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

ROYAL WIN: The Centre Dufferin District High School Royals varsity boys' field lacrosse team take on the squad from Wellington Heights Secondary School during a tournament day held at Orangeville District Secondary School in Orangeville on Tuesday, May 19. Nine high school teams are entered in District 4/10 field lacrosse this year. The Royals won this game 7-6.

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Dufferin County appoints Antonietta Minichillo as Chief Administrative Officer

Some changes are being made to the leadership structure for County of Dufferin staff.

On May 26, the county announced the appointment of Antonietta Minichillo as its new Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), starting July 6.

Minichillo brings 20 years of progressive municipal leadership experience and a strong record of supporting good governance, financial sustainability, service modernization, responsible growth, community engagement, and organizational improvement.

“Antonietta brings the breadth of municipal experience, collaborative leadership style, and practical understanding of local government that Dufferin County needs at this important time. Her experience across corporate services, growth management, governance, financial planning, and organizational improvement will be a strong asset as council continues to support our communities, strengthen services, and plan responsibly for the future,” said Dufferin County Warden Lisa Post, who also serves as Orangeville’s mayor.

Most recently, Minichillo served as general manager of corporate services with the Town of Orangeville, where she was a member of the senior leadership team and provided enterprise-wide leadership across finance and treasury services, human resources, information technology, communications, clerks, and by-law enforcement. In this role, she helped advance many significant corporate initiatives, including long-term financial planning, asset management, policy governance, project management, internal communications, organizational capacity planning, service modernization, and continuous improvement.

Minichillo’s career also includes senior leadership roles with the Town of Caledon, Town of Grimsby, and City of Brampton. Across these municipalities, she has supported strategic planning, responsible growth management, community engagement, governance modernization, organizational change, and practical improvements to how municipal services are planned, delivered, and supported.

Known for her collaborative and people-centred leadership style, Minichillo has a strong ability to build trust, bring people together, and help organizations move from strategy to action. She brings a balanced understanding of the pressures facing municipalities today, including growth, affordability, infrastructure needs, service expectations, fiscal responsibility, organizational capacity, and the importance of strong relationships with council, staff, local municipalities, community partners, and residents.

As CAO, Minichillo will lead Dufferin County’s administration and support council in advancing its priorities, strengthening partnerships, and delivering effective, responsive, and financially responsible services for residents across Dufferin County.

“I am honoured to join Dufferin County and grateful for the opportunity to work with council, staff, local municipalities, and community partners. Dufferin County has strong communities, dedicated public servants, and important opportunities ahead. I look forward to building relationships, supporting thoughtful decision-making, and helping deliver meaningful results for residents,” said Antonietta Minichillo, incoming CAO of Dufferin County.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NEW LEAD: Antonietta Minichillo is the County of Dufferin’s incoming Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), starting July 6.

Theatre Orangeville and Community Living Dufferin set to present Creative Partners on Stage festival

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The stage at Theatre Orangeville will once again become a celebration of creativity, inclusion and community connection as Community Living Dufferin (CLD) and Theatre Orangeville prepare to host its annual Creative Partners on Stage (CPOS) Festival this weekend.

Running May 29 to 31 at the Opera House, the festival brings together theatre, music, art and storytelling while spotlighting neurodiverse performers, artists and entrepreneurs

from across the community. CLD said in a statement that everyone is welcome to attend to help support the performers.

“This festival is an incredible opportunity to celebrate inclusion, creativity, and the amazing accomplishments of the CPOS program participants. We encourage staff, families, friends, and community supporters to attend and help us fill the theatre with encouragement and support.”

This year’s festival will feature two original productions, *Life OFF Mars* and *Picture This*, each exploring themes of belonging, family, and identity through humour and heart.

Life OFF Mars tells the story of a group of stranded aliens who crash-land on Earth and must find a new place to call home while being pursued by the mysterious “Men in Beige.” The production is a mix of comedy with deeper messages about acceptance and finding community in unfamiliar places.

Following the end of the first performance, audience members can move down to the Lower Atrium for an artisan market showcasing neurodiverse-led businesses and artists.

The market will also include concessions and interactive art activities, giving guests the chance to meet local creators, purchase handmade works and participate in their own artistic experiences.

Following this extended intermission is the second production, *Picture This*.

This story centres around a family gathering for a grandfather’s 70th birthday celebration. As an old photo album comes to life, younger versions of family members come to life right from the pages, revisiting memories, milestones and dreams from across generations.

CLD describes the show as a reminder that every family story continues to evolve.

Organizers said that the festival is about more than just the performances themselves. The weekend is intended to celebrate the accomplishments of CPOS participants while encouraging inclusion, visibility and support for neurodiverse artists throughout Dufferin County.

Performances begin Friday evening with *Life OFF Mars* at 6:30 p.m., followed by the artisan market at 7:30 p.m. and *Picture This* at 8:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday both share the same schedule with afternoon performances beginning at 1 p.m.

Individual show tickets are \$25, while double-feature festival passes are \$40.

To purchase tickets, call the Box Office at 519-942-3423.



THEATRE ORANGEVILLE PHOTO

INCLUSIVE THEATRE IN ACTION: The Community Partners on Stage (CPOS) Festival is a collaborative project run jointly by Theatre Orangeville and Community Living Dufferin. The theatrical performances are built from scratch to support and feature neurodiverse community members, amplify their voices, and showcase their skills. Alongside the performances, neuro-diverse artists and vendors will also be on scene at the festival. Pictured here is CPOS’s performance of their latest production, *Life OFF Mars*.

NEED A

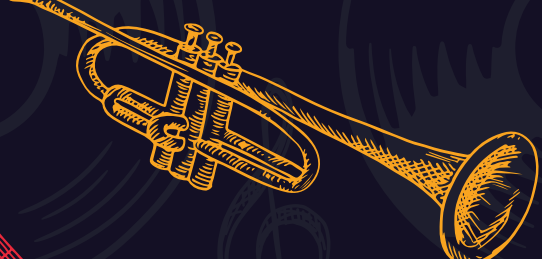
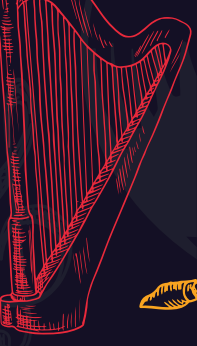
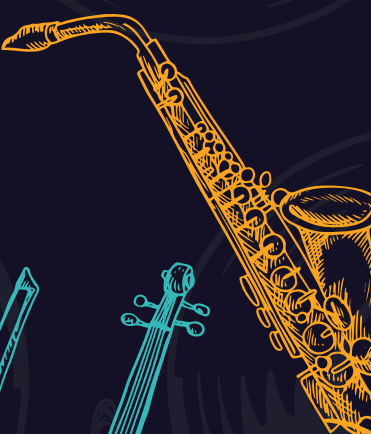


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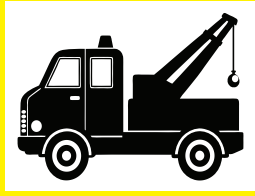
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NOW HIRING

Ice River is currently looking for ten (10) Process Control & Machine Operator(s), Beverage Processing (NOC 94140) to join our team. You will be working at our Shelburne facility, located at 108 Prentice Drive, Shelburne, ON, L9V 3N5.

Position Summary
The Process Control & Machine Operator plays a critical role in our manufacturing process, responsible for ensuring the efficient and safe operation of bottling processing equipment. This role involves operating and maintaining specialized multi-function process control bottling machinery, monitoring production processes, and adhering to quality standards to ensure the consistent bottling of beverages. This position requires a strong focus on safety, attention to detail, ability to interpret technical instructions to operate sophisticated equipment and the ability to work effectively in a fast-paced environment.

- This is a full-time position, based on 88 hours of work per 2-week cycle, with occasional overtime. At this time, we are only looking for individuals who can work a 12-hour rotating continental shift, including nights and weekends.
- Salary \$23.00 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.
- Some post-secondary education required as the position requires the ability to read and understand technical instructions and sophisticated Husky equipment user manuals.
- Two years plastics injection or bottling line experience required.
- Previous heavy equipment experience preferred.
- Youth applicants are welcome to apply.

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

Interested candidates please send a copy of your resume and cover letter referencing Req#317 to recruiting@iceriversprings.com or write to:

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L9V 3N5



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SCOTT MARTIN PHOTOS

BIG SPLASH: The Grand Valley Lions Annual Duck Race came to Hereward Park on Saturday, May 23, with 4,000 ducks dropping from a crane into the Grand River. Early estimates indicate the event raised about \$35,000 for the Grand Valley Lions, who will use those funds to support local not-for-profits, community projects, and initiatives. In total, 86 people had winning ducks and received a total of \$32,520.14, with the top prize of \$2,700 going to Ken Foster. The event had a solid turnout despite torrential downpours throughout the day.

Shelburne Public Library to host Bruce Trail expert for discussion and guided walk

Do you enjoy hiking and being in nature? Are you looking to connect with other active outdoorsy folks? Join library staff and Carl, a Bruce Trail expert, for a guided walk in the woods on Sunday, June 14, at 10 a.m.

Carl will lead us through a section of the Dufferin Hi-Land Bruce Trail, with the hike taking about an hour.

A 30-minute extension will be offered for those interested in extending the hike. Call the library or visit our website to learn more and to register.

We look forward to spending time in nature with you!

Recommended Read

Careless People: A Cautionary Tale of Power, Greed, and Lost Idealism by Sarah Wynn-Williams is the Shelburne Library's staff pick of the week.

In this memoir, Sarah Wynn-Williams provides a front-row seat to the inner workings of one of the most powerful tech companies of our time: Facebook (Meta). And as you might expect, the revelations are dark and deeply troubling.

As a young diplomat working for the United Nations, Wynn-Williams recognized, in its early years, the growing potential of Facebook to be a force for posi-

tive global change. So she pitched her way into her "dream job" at the company, believing her public policy expertise would be leveraged for good. But as she rose through the ranks, becoming a key advisor to Sheryl Sandberg and Mark Zuckerberg, she found herself entrenched in a toxic culture and a network of unchecked power and greed. Most unsettling was the way in which major decisions were being made with blatant disregard for the harmful consequences to people's lives.

Wynn-Williams' writing is darkly comedic and entertaining while also providing insight into the true power of tech com-

panies as global decision-makers. Stories include exploitative schemes to gain more users and political control around the world; lower-level employees being forced to serve prison time in foreign countries on behalf of the company; and Wynn-Williams receiving a negative performance evaluation while recovering from nearly losing her life during childbirth. I recommend this book to anyone who wants to know more about how tech platforms are shaping our world and the political climate around us.

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

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SAVE \$5
14⁹⁹
**Chicken
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**BUY 1,
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Mozzarella Sticks
15-21 PIECES 454 g

**SAVE
\$7.50**
when you buy 2

**MIX
AND
MATCH**
**Jalapeño
Cheese Sticks**
13-16 PIECES 454 g

FAMILY SIZE MEALS
907 g

SALE
13⁹⁹ each

**Cabbage
Rolls**
**NEW
RECIPE!**
**Creamy Chicken
Lasagna**
CHOOSE FROM 14 VARIETIES.
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17⁹⁹
Panko Shrimp
454 g

SAVE \$3
29⁹⁹
**Country Style
Chicken Breasts**
6-10 PIECES 907 g

SALE
11⁹⁹
**Cauliflower
Bites** 450 g

14⁹⁹
**Seasoned
Breaded Cod**
4-5 PIECES 400 g

9⁹⁹ each
**Cookie Ice Cream
Sandwiches**
6 SANDWICHES 600 mL

SAVE \$2
18⁹⁹
**Sirloin Beef
Meatballs**
60-70 PIECES 907 g

SIGNATURE SINGLE SERVES
SALE
8⁹⁹ each

Chicken Carbonara
400 g

**Chicken Dumplings
and Noodles** 400 g

**Italian Style Sausage
and Penne** 400 g

**Korean Style
Beef Noodles** 400 g

 Also available: • Mediterranean Style Chicken & Rice 400 g • Chicken Burrito Bowl 400 g \$8.99 each **SALE**
CLASSIC BBQ FAVOURITES
Burgers
6 BURGERS x 142 g/5 oz

**Gourmet
Chicken**
SAVE \$2
17⁹⁹ each

**SmashHouse
Angus Beef Burgers**
8 BURGERS x 113 g/4 oz

12⁹⁹
**Boneless Rib Style
Pork Cutlettes**
6 PIECES 680 g

SAVE \$2
11⁹⁹
Maple Butter Pork Chops
4 PIECES 500 g

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8-12 PIECES 454 g

12⁹⁹ each

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Chicken Pie** 907 g

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Deep Dish Beef & Vegetable Pie 800 g
\$12.99 **SAVE \$5**
SAVE \$5
24⁹⁹
**Fully Cooked
Tasty Burgers™**
16 BURGERS x 80 g/2.82 oz

SAVE \$4
17⁹⁹
**Boneless, Skinless
Chicken Breasts**
4-6 BREASTS 680 g

NEW FLAVOURS FOR THE SEASON
NEW!
NEW!
NEW!
11⁹⁹ **SALE**
**Bacon Double
Cheeseburger
Flatbread**
470 g

SAVE \$2
17⁹⁹
**Veggie
Burgers** 8 PIECES 907 g

NEW!
LIMITED TIME ONLY
SALE
7⁹⁹
**Lime Splash
Fruit Bars** 6 BARS 534 mL

NEW!
LIMITED TIME ONLY
9⁹⁹ **SAVE \$2**
**Cinnamon Twist Cookie
Ice Cream Sandwiches**
6 SANDWICHES 600 mL

LIMITED TIME ONLY
SAVE \$3
19⁹⁹
**Teriyaki Style
Bavette Steaks**
2 STEAKS x 170 g/6 oz

NEW!
TASTING
SALE
5⁹⁹ each

**French
Onion**
Soups
255 g - 400 mL

Wonton
**Broccoli
Cheddar**
**Loaded
Potato**
**Tomato and
Grilled Cheese**
SKEWERS FOR EVERYONE
SAVE \$2 each
24⁹⁹
**Beef and Bacon
Skewers**
15 SKEWERS 360 g

17⁹⁹
**Chicken and Pineapple
Mini-Skewers**
20 SKEWERS 500 g

17⁹⁹
**Herb and Garlic
Shrimp Skewers**
4 SKEWERS 365 g

17⁹⁹ **TASTING**
**Chicken Satay
with Peanut
Sauce**
20 SKEWERS 500 g

27⁹⁹ **TASTING**
Lobster Tail Skewers
4 PIECES 200 g

SATISFY YOUR SWEET TOOTH
7⁹⁹
**Mini Chocolate
Torte Duo**
2 CAKES 160 g

SAVE \$2 each
17⁹⁹
**Dessert Bar
Variety Pack** 675 g

SALE
8⁹⁹
Cake Pops
6 PIECES 216 g

2 Varieties
Apple Crisps
2 PORTIONS 228 g

SALE
4⁴⁹ each

Blossoms
2 PORTIONS 230 g

3 Varieties
**Caramel
Apple**
SALE
7⁹⁹
Fruit Bars
6 BARS 534 mL

2 Varieties
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Lasagna
907 g

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