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JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

EVERY CHILD MATTERS: Town of Shelburne staff, councillors, and community members joined Mayor Wade Mills for the official flag raising ceremony to mark Truth and Reconciliation Day in Shelburne. Mills reaffirmed the town's commitment to recognizing what reconciliation means and how the town can better reflect and learn from past mistakes. See full story on Page 5.

Dufferin County marks National Day for Truth and Reconciliation with Community Conversations event

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

Dufferin County residents gathered in Shelburne to reflect on Canada's colonial history and the continuing work of reconciliation through traditional music and the personal story of one northern Ontario Cree family.

The county hosted its latest Community Conversations event at Grace Tipling Hall on Sept. 24 in recognition of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, observed annually across Canada on Sept. 30.

The evening featured Jennifer David, a member of Chapleau Cree First Nation, who presented *13 Square Miles: My Cree Ancestors and How Colonization Still Shapes My Life — and Yours*. The Indigenous Cedar Drummers group also performed traditional music before and following David's presentation.

David used five generations of her own family history to examine the fur trade, construction of the railway, Treaty 9, the Indian Act and the century-long struggle of Chapleau Cree First Nation to receive land promised under the treaty.

"I'm not here to make anyone feel guilty about the past, something that you and your ancestors had nothing to do with," David said. "But how have you, and how have we collectively benefited from colonization? That's the uncomfortable question.



JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

HONOURING THEIR HISTORY: In recognition of Truth and Reconciliation Day across Canada, the County of Dufferin hosted an event in Grace Tipling Hall in Shelburne, inviting keynote speaker Jennifer David, a member of Chapleau Cree First Nation, to share her family's story and long road towards reconciliation and regaining traditional lands. The Cedar Drummers were also invited to the event and performed traditional music at the opening and closing of the community event. They are a family hand drum group of Mohawk/Ojibway ancestry and part of Akwesasne First Nation.

That's the truth we must all face, and truth comes before reconciliation."

The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation honours Indigenous children who never returned home from residential schools, survivors and their families and communities, while recognizing the lasting impacts of the residential school system.

Sept. 30 is also Orange Shirt Day, an Indigenous-led commemorative day intended

to raise awareness of the intergenerational impacts of residential schools and promote the message that "Every Child Matters."

While residential schools are an important part of that history, David's presentation explored reconciliation through the wider history of colonization and its continuing effects on Indigenous communities.

Continued on Page 3



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Shelburne to only accept votes by phone or online in upcoming election

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Municipal Election Day will be held on Monday, Oct. 26, with Shelburne voters electing one mayor, one deputy mayor and five councillors to serve on town council. Voters will also elect one trustee for the French public Conseil scolaire Viamonde. Other listed school board trustee positions have been acclaimed.

All voting in Shelburne will take place by telephone or online, with no traditional paper ballot voting locations for this election. Eligible voters are receiving voter instruction letters with information about voting in the municipal election. The letter will contain a Personal Identification Number (PIN),



along with the website and telephone number required to access the electronic voting system. The voting period opens at 10 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 16 and continues 24 hours a day until polls close at 8 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 26.

Residents who do not have access to a telephone or internet-connected device, or are requiring further assistance or accommodations to vote, can visit the Help Centre Kiosk at Shelburne Town Hall, located at 203 Main St. E. They can also contact the Clerk's

Office at 519-925-2600 Ext. 232 or abyl@shelburne.ca by Oct. 15 to receive support. The kiosk will be available during designated hours throughout the voting period and from 8:30 a.m. until polls close at 8 p.m. on Election Day. Voting proxies will not be granted for the election. Internet voting can be completed anywhere with internet access, while telephone voting can be completed from anywhere in Canada or the continental United States. Residents are also encouraged to contact or visit the Clerk's Office at Shelburne Town Hall to ensure they are on the voters' list and that their information is correct. For more information, go to: shelburne.ca/2026municipalelection

Melancthon council hopefuls weather environmental concerns at all-candidates meeting

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS

Melancthon residents had the chance to hear how council hopefuls would approach some of the issues that matter to the community.

As many as 70 people attended an all-candidates information night Sept. 16 at the Horning Mills Community Hall. Melancthon has 10 candidates running to fill three council seats.

The mayor's chair is vacant, one of the choices in the Oct. 26 municipal election. Karren Wallace, Wellington North's director of legislative services and clerk, was one of the organizers of the all-candidates information night. More than an opportunity to learn about planks in a candidate's election platform, the gathering enabled voters to directly ask about their own concerns. "There were questions on Strada's proposed below the water table gravel pit expansion but, surprisingly, that didn't dominate at the meeting," Wallace said. Much concern has been expressed over the last year about Strada's move to open for use material and water from the water table beneath Melancthon. There's worry the operation will compromise the integrity of Dufferin County's water resource.



Strada Aggregates has applied to start a pit and quarry in Melancthon. It's proposed to be located within the company's existing Pits 1 and 2 and its Melancthon Pit Extension. Those sites are three licences that are operated as a single pit. The existing pit licences allow extraction of sand and gravel above the water table. The proposed pit and quarry would allow extraction of sand, gravel, and bedrock above and below the water table. The area proposed to be licensed is the same 149 hectares that is currently licensed,

and the application does not propose to increase the existing approved extraction area. The new licence would permit a 123.7 hectare extraction area for the pit and a 65.7 hectare extraction area for the quarry. The company wants to take five million litres of water a day over 10 years. The company intends to take water from Wash Pond to be used to wash aggregate. Permits to take water are classified into three categories by the Ministry of Environment. Strada's permit would be of Category 3, which refers to water extractions anticipated to have the highest potential to cause

unacceptable environmental interference. Wallace said candidates fielded queries about Melancthon's growth and development, road infrastructure, and traffic. Residents asked about an application by developers Glen Schnarr and Associates Inc. and Sheldon Creek Homes to amend Dufferin County's Official Plan to allow for redevelopment at Melancthon's Chipwoods Park. They want to transform the trailer park and campground into permanent residential properties. The redevelopment plan outlines completely modernized servicing, including advanced stormwater, sanitary, and water infrastructure, an improved internal road network, dedicated private parks, and a refurbished community hall and recreation center. Opponents are concerned about the development's possible effects on the water table and nearby Boyne River and tributaries. "It was a well-rounded evening," Wallace said. "The attendees were respectful and thoughtful with their questions and the candidates were prepared. There were a couple of standout candidates, in my opinion, but the ballot box will be the judge of that. It was a good coming together of the community."

Community invited to participate in third annual Headwaters Hike to Fight Cancer next week

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Headwaters Hike to Fight Cancer returns to the Caledon Ski Club on Oct. 8, bringing the community together for an evening of hiking, fundraising, and supporting local cancer care. Now in its third year, the event is de-

signed as an accessible fundraising opportunity for people of all ages and abilities. Shauna Santarossa of the Headwaters Health Care Foundation, who also handles marketing for the organization, said that this year, participants can choose between one-kilometre and three-kilometre routes, following feedback that some of last year's routes were more challenging than expect-

ed. "The one-kilometre and three-kilometre options will be a little bit easier than what was hiked last year because we heard some feedback that the hike was a bit challenging," she said. "The five-kilometre [route] wasn't very popular, so this year we're doing a one-kilometre and a three-kilometre." Registration opens at 4 p.m., with the hike beginning at 5 p.m. Participants can register individually or as part of a team, with registration costing \$35 per person. The fee includes the hike, a T-shirt and dinner following the event. After completing the route, participants will gather at the Caledon Ski Club's Main Lodge for dinner, with salad, lasagna and a cookie for dessert. Games, a raffle table and silent auction will provide additional opportunities for participants to take part, while coffee and apple cider will be available following the hike. "The registration fee is \$35 a person, and you sign up online," Santarossa said. "You can create an online page where you can solicit friends, family, co-workers to donate to you directly. You can also sign up as a team, so you can do it with your co-workers or maybe your family, your siblings, your neighbours. We have a hockey team that's signed up already to participate this year." The event also features a peer-to-peer fundraising component. Participants who register can create an online fundraising page and ask friends, family members and co-workers to support their efforts. Prizes will be awarded to the individual and team that raise the most money. Funds raised through the event remain local and support cancer care at Headwaters Health Care Centre. The foundation directs the money toward equipment and programs supporting cancer services, including oncology clinics and diagnostic imaging. Previous fundraising efforts have supported equipment such as oncology treatment chairs and the hospital's MRI and diagnostic imaging capabilities, with this year's funds going toward the highest-priority needs related to cancer care. The Hike to Fight Cancer was created to complement the Headwaters Health Care Foundation's other signature fundraising events, including its annual golf tournament and gala, while providing a lower-cost way for the broader community to participate and fundraise. Santarossa said the event is also intended to provide a way for people to support local health care while enjoying the outdoors and spending time together as a community. "I personally think that the hike itself is actually beautiful," she said. "It's a great way to get outside, enjoy the fresh air, enjoy the beauty that nature in our region has to offer at this time of year, while making a huge difference to your local hospital." Organizers are encouraging families, friends, co-workers and community groups to take part. All ages are welcome, with hockey teams and other groups already registered. Registration remains open for those looking to participate, fundraise or support someone taking part in the Oct. 8 event. The evening offers an opportunity to enjoy the fall scenery at the Caledon Ski Club while helping support cancer care close to home. Go to hhcfoundation.akaraisin.com/ui/hike2026 to register.



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Shine Baking Co. opens first storefront after 12 years in business

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

After more than a decade of baking for customers throughout the region, Shine Baking Co. is preparing to open the doors to its first permanent storefront in Shelburne.

Owned by Rosie Cornelius, Shine Baking Co. has spent the past 12 years building a following around its allergy-conscious baked goods and meals. The business will officially open its new location to the public on Oct. 2, with a larger grand opening celebration tentatively planned for Halloween.

The move represents a long-awaited milestone for Cornelius, who said having a storefront had been part of her vision almost since the beginning of her baking journey.

“I’ve said from my second year that I was going to get a storefront, but it got so busy so fast that we just kept chugging along,” she said. “The minute that we walked in here, I think it was the first time I was like, ‘Oh, I can actually see something in here, like a little concept.’ And just all the doors opened, and it worked.”

Cornelius started the business in part because she has celiac disease and recognized how difficult it could be for people with allergies and food intolerances to find inclusive options. Over the years, Shine has adapted its recipes based on customer needs, developing products that accommodate a variety of dietary restrictions.

The bakery’s offerings include brownies, Nanaimo bars, blondies, cookies, cinnamon buns and custom cakes, alongside bread

products and savoury options.

The new storefront will also allow Shine Baking Co. to expand its grab-and-go selection and offer greater availability than was possible through markets and its previous kitchen arrangement.

According to Tyler Heron, Cornelius’ partner and business partner, the warm reception has been a major motivator to continue on with the business, seeing the happy faces of customers who travelled to buy from them.

“We’ve got people that drive hours to come and see us,” he said. “We’re very blessed. It’s been so fulfilling when I get to talk directly to the customers, and I get to make it with my own hands, and I get to see how happy they are. Some of them are crying because they’ve never had something so good [or] they haven’t had it in so many years.”

Heron initially joined Shine Baking Co. to help with social media before eventually learning to bake as the business grew.

The business also places an emphasis on sourcing local and seasonal ingredients wherever possible while limiting food waste.

Although Cornelius and Heron are at the centre of the operation, Shine Baking Co. is very much a family effort. Cornelius’ mother, Sherry Cornelius, a retired chef who helped teach her many of her foundational skills, prepares many of the meals customers have come to know. Sherry’s longtime friend Marie Evans, who also has extensive food industry experience, helps with the cooking and operation as well.

Together, the team has spent months transforming the small storefront into Shine’s dis-



JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

SHINE ON: After more than a decade in operation, Shine Baking finally has achieved what founder and owner Rosie Cornelius has dreamed of — a proper storefront. The baking company specializes in preparing food items specifically for those with allergies, dietary restrictions or other medical complications that can make finding safe desserts and snacks difficult. A soft launch is scheduled for Oct. 2, with a grand opening planned for Halloween.

“We’re always excited to do what we do,” she said. “So many people are so excited for us that we can’t not be excited. We’re happy to just have a door that people can walk into and get treats and feel like they belong.”

tinctive bright-yellow space.

For Cornelius, however, opening a permanent location is ultimately less about the building than creating a welcoming place for the community that supported Shine for more than a decade.

Dufferin County marks National Day for Truth and Reconciliation with event at Grace Tipling Hall

Continued from Front

Under Treaty 9, Chapleau Cree First Nation should have received close to 13 square miles of reserve land based on its population. Instead, the community received 267 acres, including approximately 90 acres of swamp.

“We never forgot, though, that we were owed land, and though it would be dormant for a generation, we knew there would come a time when we’d get our land back,” David said.

David also detailed how the Indian Act

affected generations of her family, including provisions that historically stripped some Indigenous women of status when they married non-status men. Following legislative changes in 1985, her father spent approximately a decade researching his family history and corresponding with archives and government departments before regaining his status in 1995.

Chapleau Cree eventually established a new reserve in the early 1990s. The First Nation continued pursuing its outstanding treaty land entitlement until a settlement was

reached in 2016, providing 9,884 acres and monetary compensation.

David connected that history directly to Dufferin County, encouraging residents to learn about Treaties 18 and 19 and consider their own responsibilities within the treaty relationship. She emphasized that reconciliation requires continued learning and action beyond commemorative events held each September.

“Reconciliation is not an annual emotion,” David said. “Maybe it’s a book by an Indigenous author that you read and pass on. Maybe

it’s the Indigenous caterer you hire for your next work function. Maybe it’s countering the stereotypes that your uncle tries to repeat at Thanksgiving dinner. Maybe it’s doing your homework instead of putting the burden on one of your Indigenous colleagues.”

With the Cedar Drummers returning to perform traditional music following the presentation, the evening concluded with David asking those in attendance to consider reconciliation not simply as looking backward, but as something that must be actively built in everyday life.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

FAMILY FUN: Families and community members take part in the 10th Annual Dufferin Autism Walk at Fendley Park in Orangeville on Sunday, Sept. 27. Orangeville councillors Joe Andrews and Debbie Sherwood, as well as MPP Sylvia Jones, were in attendance and met with the walk’s ambassadors Brooklyn and Brexton Higgins. Walk attendees met with unique characters like the Grinch, Stitch, Sparky the Fire Dog, the Orangeville Northmen mascot, a Disney princess and the Easter Bunny.



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OPINION

Campaign afoot to kick-start property assessments

Numbers. They're all around us. That's according to an advertisement I recently watched from the province's Municipal Property Assessment Corporation. That's the crowd that assesses what properties throughout Ontario are worth. Your home's monetary worth. Not its sentimental worth as the place where a family's memories, good and bad, have been made.

Images in the ad show numbers on a mailbox. The digits that make up a street address. A keypad as part of an alarm system presumably for a house. There are numbers on a sports jersey for some reason. The point is they're all around us, numbers.

Street address numbers don't change. And some athletes have been known, for superstitious and other reasons, to wear the same jersey number even though the jersey's colours and team logo change.

And that's fitting, given that MPAC's commercial and residential property assessments have been frozen for the last decade. Municipalities have been left to

maintain and improve infrastructure and balance budgets according to numbers from assessments last done in 2016.

And in that time, the costs to live have increased, as have prices for much of the materials used to keep towns, townships, and cities in good repair.

Letters have been sent to Ontario municipal councils by a tax policy group called Ryan Canada ULC as part of a campaign to “unfreeze Ontario.” Unfreeze Ontario is a lobby effort to get the province to reinstate regular property assessments, beginning with a province-wide reassessment in 2027. That would be handy next year. The opening year of the new term of municipal and county councils.

Part of the campaign is that letters be sent by municipal councils to Premier Doug Ford and Finance Minister Peter Bethlenfalvy calling on them to restore regular property assessments.

The letter has been sent to Mono’s elected officials and a number of Ontario municipal councils. Mono council decided to look further into the tax company

before hitching their wagon to the effort. But the letter campaign generated discussion amongst that Dufferin County town's councillors when they met Sept. 22.

In the decade since the last assessments, property values and economic conditions have changed significantly, yet those changes are not being reflected in the distribution of the property tax burden, Ryan Canada states in its letter.

"For municipalities, this is fundamentally an issue of fairness, predictability, and sound fiscal planning. Reassessment does not automatically mean higher property taxes. It simply ensures property values reflect today's market so the tax burden can be shared more fairly."

One of the trusses of Unfreeze Ontario is that this is fundamentally an issue of fairness, predictability, and sound fiscal planning, as reassessment ensures property values reflect today's market so the tax burden can be shared more fairly.

The freeze also makes it harder for municipalities to plan for growth, infrastructure, housing, and development using a tax base that no longer reflects

their communities' reality.

MPAC had a presence at the 2026 Association of Municipalities of Ontario conference in August, as you'd expect. According to Ryan Canada, the need for reassessments of Ontario's properties was a concern.

Municipal and county councils are not asking for reassessments to continue because they're trying to collect more property tax at a time when money is for all kinds of reasons tight for taxpayers. Rather, reassessments could make it financially easier for some property owners to live when money is tight today.

From Ryan Canada's website: "When assessments no longer reflect relative market values, some property owners can shoulder more than their fair share of the tax burden while others pay less. The longer assessments remain frozen, the greater those distortions may become."

Numbers are all around us. And some of them are incorrect numbers.



Brazilian election

“Flávio Bolsonaro is Trump’s candidate and what Trump wants is to colonise Brazil, take our riches, steal our future and leave us in the dust,” claims the latest video released by

President Luiz Inácio ‘Lula’ da Silva’s re-election campaign. The weird thing is about half of Brazil’s voters would be okay with Trump running the country (through Bolsonaro).

Nobody in Brazil thinks that Flávio Bolsonaro is his own man. He is the son of Jair Bolsonaro, the hard right ex-soldier and former president who tried a coup after he lost the 2022 election. It was even clumsier and more half-hearted than Trump’s brief excursion in sedition after he lost the US 2020 election – but Jair Bolsonaro went to jail for his attempt.

In a strange way Trump even recognises the parallel, showing special sympathy for his imprisoned fellow traveler. He claimed that the senior Bolsonaro was the victim of a “witch-hunt” by the Brazilian Supreme Court and slapped 50 per cent tariffs on the country. And next Sunday (4 October) the junior Bolsonaro faces Lula in another presidential elec-

tion.

We already know that there will be a second round of voting on 25 October, when the other three candidates have dropped out and it’s a straight race between Lula and Junior. We have no idea what that outcome will be, because the two men have been only one or two points apart (i.e. ‘within the margin of error’) in every opinion poll for months.

We know where that extraordinary stability come from, because it is the same in the United States and in many other democracies. Most Brazilians have abandoned ‘legacy media’ and get all their information from a vast network of alternative news sites, YouTube channels, social media influencers, Facebook pages, WhatsApp groups and legions of bots.

Or rather, from two vast and mutually exclusive networks of the same. Whatever your opinion is now, it will likely be the same next year because little else is getting through. Moreover, in the Brazilian case, there’s not really much to get excited about.

Inflation is low, unemployment is low,

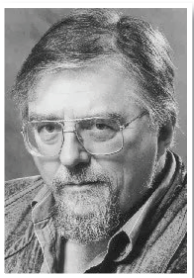
and the economy is growing faster in Brazil than in most other G20 countries. A big bank failed last year causing a long-running corruption scandal and the murder rate is preposterously high, but relatively speaking Brazilians should not have much to complain about, so in the end it will probably come down to 'sovereignty'.

Lula recently warned on 'X' that Flávio Bolsonaro will "hand our natural resources over to the United States...If it's up to him, Brazil will become a colony again." The president portrays that as a threat, and traditionally the vast majority of Brazilians would have agreed, but both Flávio and his imprisoned father Jair would see it almost as a happy ending.

Neither of them puts it exactly like that in public, but both men see the brutal military dictatorship of 1964-1985 as a lost golden age. Jair served it as an active-service officer and has praised its torturers ("The dictatorship's mistake was to torture but not kill"). His son says "there was security, there was quality health and education, there was respect."

No there wasn't. There was terror, lies and legalised looting, but we need not relitigate that here. The problem is how quickly people forget, and a softer, gentler version of those brutal regimes is taking over all across Latin America.

Keiko Fujimori, the old dictator's daughter,



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COMMUNITY VOICES

Shelburne Food Bank reaches a wonderful milestone for the community

We at the Shelburne Food Bank are thrilled to announce that we have officially received charitable status.

This is an exciting step forward in advancing our mission to support individuals and families in our community facing food insecurity, and a firm step toward ensuring we can continue that support in the years to come.

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who has supported us along the way in what we are building together.

Charitable status allows us to give tax receipts for financial donations, apply for grants to enhance our mission and accept stock transfers and with this, we can continue growing our impact and reaching even more people in need.

We are also on Canada Helps now, so dona-

tions by credit card can be accepted. Thank you for being part of this journey. Together, we are making a difference, one family, one meal and one act of kindness at a time.

Right now, we are continuing our appeal to local businesses to help us bring Thanksgiving to every table by sponsoring turkeys for our families in need.

Your generosity will help ensure more families can gather around a special Thanksgiving meal.

When many businesses contribute, even small donations can add up to significant sup-



port for local families. At Thanksgiving, when the focus is on gratitude and sharing, sponsoring turkeys is a practical way for businesses to turn those values into action.

This Thanksgiving, we are especially grateful for the incredible generosity, compassion and support of our community. Because of you, our donors, volunteers, partners and supporters, we are able to continue to provide food and hope to our neighbours who are facing difficult times.

Every donation, every volunteer hour and every act of kindness makes a meaningful dif-

ference.

This Saturday, the Rotary Club of Shelburne and Centre Dufferin District High School will take action by hosting a town-wide food drive.

They will be picking bags of donations up from porches all across Shelburne Saturday morning and bringing them to the food bank, where they will be gratefully received. Thank you all in advance for whatever you can give.

May this Thanksgiving be filled with gratitude, warmth, and time shared with the people who matter most. Thank you for helping us build a stronger, more caring community where no one has to face hunger alone.

From our food bank family to yours — Happy Thanksgiving!

Town hosts Truth and Reconciliation Day flag raising

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Town of Shelburne raised the Every Child Matters flag on Wednesday morning, Sept. 30.

Following a proclamation at a recent council meeting, the Town of Shelburne made the decision official with a flag raising held in Jack Downing Park, across the street from town hall.

Attended by members of town council, Constable Andrew Fines of the Ontario Provincial Police, and various members of the public, Mayor Wade Mills welcomed all guests to the flag raising before reading off the proclamation once more.

“In June of 2021, the federal government passed new legislation marking Sept. 30 as a national statutory holiday to commemorate the tragic legacy of residential schools in Canada,” he read from the proclamation. “The establishment of a national holiday is in response to the 80th call to action within the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.”

Truth and Reconciliation Day also aligns with Orange Shirt Day, which began in 2013. The day spawned a campaign of remembrance to honour Indigenous children forced to leave their families for residential

schools.

The orange shirt is based on the personal experience of Phyllis Webstad of the Stswecem’c Xgat’tem First Nation, whose new orange shirt was seized from her on her first day at St. Joseph Mission Residential School.

Following the proclamation, Mills handed off the flag to town staff, who raised it together with other guests in attendance, officially marking Truth and Reconciliation Day in the Town of Shelburne.

“Much like the rest of the country, I think it’s an opportunity for us, as a community, to pause and think about the history as it relates to residential schools and the survivors in particular, and then consider what real reconciliation is all about,” Mills said. “I think one of the keys to that is that it’s an ongoing process. Today, in particular, but also throughout the rest of the year.”

As the ceremony concluded, Mills highlighted that reconciliation isn’t a holiday or a once-a-year affair, but a constant effort and commitment.

“It’s not just about today,” he said. “It’s not just about this week. It’s about the work that we do throughout the year, and trying to be mindful of our past and learning from those lessons and doing better as a community as we go forward.”

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU



Passionate about an issue you’ve read about within the pages of the Shelburne Free Press?

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Raceway ESSO	87 First St.	Orangeville
Hillsburgh Foodland	102 Trafalgar Rd.	Hillsburgh
Grand Valley Clover Farm	5 Main St. S.	Grand Valley
Marc's Your Independent Grocer	134 Main St.	Erin
Erin Rexall Drugstore	123 Main St.	Erin
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Food Basics – Bolton	301 Queen St. S	Bolton
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with all of the details.

CDDHS field hockey team still searching for a win after four games

Written By CHRIS PERROTTE

The Centre Dufferin District High School (CDDHS) Royals fell to 0-3-1 on the season after losing game two of a doubleheader to the Orangeville District Secondary School Scarlet Bears on Sept. 28 at the Wellington Heights Secondary School Field.

Following a Game One loss of 2-0 to West-side Secondary School Thunder earlier in the day, the CDDHS Royals looked to win their first game of the season against Orangeville, who are the top team in the league.

The Royals played a good game defensive-

ly, limiting the Scarlet Bears' scoring chances. Sophie Ferris made some key stops, keeping the game scoreless. Orangeville finally scored to make it one to nothing towards the end of the first half.

"We keep getting better every game. We are a team that has no club players; we have a lot of athletic girls but none that play this sport. We got a lot of hockey players," said Monica Keller, assistant coach of the Royals. "I think this is the first place team and they're only up on us one after half so that's pretty good."

During the second half of the game, both teams continued to play a tight game defen-

sively. They went back and forth on the field, attempting to create scoring opportunities. The Scarlet Bears managed to break through the defence to score, giving them a 2-0 advantage. The game ended with Orangeville walking away with the victory.

"We have a really good group of rookies that have learned the game really fast, and we have a good group of veterans that have played for four years. That really makes a difference," said Jen Coleman, head coach of the Scarlet Bears, who improved to a 4-0 record to start the season.

Despite the loss, the Royals showed im-

provements in their overall game.

"We did good actually. We're getting better every game. The season starts really quick at the start of the year. We usually get about one practice in before we have to play our first game. Our first game was a little rough last week, and we've been getting better and better every game. We can't figure out how to score yet, so hopefully that comes next week," shared Drew Barfoot, head coach of the Royals.

The next game for the Royals will be on Oct. 5, held at the Orangeville District Secondary School versus Guelph Collegiate.



CHRIS PERROTTE PHOTOS

LEADING THE TEAM: Top photo: Assistant coach Monica Keller (left) and head coach Drew Barfoot (right) look out onto the field during the second half of play. Left photo: Peyton Price from ODSS and Erika Janisse from CDDHS look to take control of the play.

Headwaters among five Ontario hospitals affected by alleged theft, fraud: OPP

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

Sixty-five charges have been laid against a 34-year-old Burlington woman after Ontario Provincial Police officers from the Orillia Detachment investigated hospital theft and fraud.

Headwaters Health Care Centre (HHCC) is among the hospitals impacted in the region, with the alleged theft and fraud occurring between August and September.

The accused, Nassim Eronn, has been charged with 34 counts of fraud under \$5,000, 13 counts of theft under \$5,000, seven counts of disobeying a court order, four counts of criminal breach of trust, two counts of fraud over \$5,000, two counts of possession of property obtained by crime over \$5,000, one count of theft over \$5,000

and one count of personation with intent.

"Headwaters Health Care Centre is cooperating with the Orillia detachment of the OPP in its ongoing investigation into alleged theft and fraud involving several hospitals across Ontario, including Headwaters," said Kim Dealhunt, HHCC CEO and president.

"As this is an active investigation, we are unable to comment further on the details of the matter."

Other hospitals affected include Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital between April 2025 and March 2026; Trillium Health Partners between August 2025 and July 2026; St. Joseph's Health Centre from July 2024 to January 2025; and West Park Health Care Centre from February 2024 to April 2024.

The OPP's investigation began after receiving several complaints of theft and fraud

from patients and staff within the hospital.

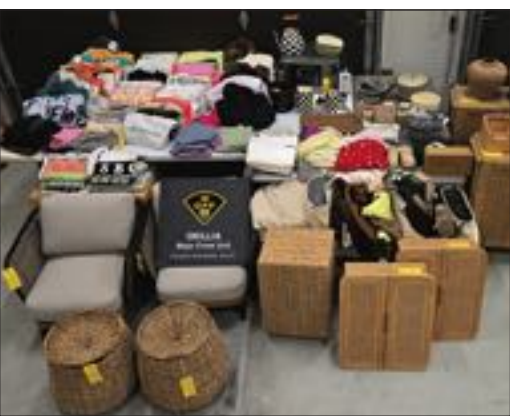
Police executed multiple search warrants and seized significant amounts of property.

The investigation remains ongoing and is being carried out by the Orillia OPP Major Crime Unit.

Police believe there may be additional victims who were patients, visitors and staff members in various units of the affected hospitals.

Investigators are asking anyone who attended these medical facilities during the above timeframes to check their financial records for unauthorized transactions and report any fraudulent transactions or cash thefts to the Orillia OPP Major Crime Unit.

The crime unit can be reached by phone at 1-888-310-1122 with occurrence number E250834926.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SEIZED PROPERTY: Clothing, furniture and home décor were among the items seized by Ontario Provincial Police during an investigation into alleged theft and fraud at five Ontario hospitals.

Two Dufferin County residents charged in Shelburne shoplifting investigation

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

EDIN PRENTICE

Edin currently plays field hockey for the Centre Dufferin District High School Royals as a midfielder.

In the second semester, she looks forward to playing rugby for school at the 10 position, also known as the fly-half.

During the past summer, Edin played pick-up rep ball hockey in Dundalk, where she plays forward.

When asked what she enjoys most about playing field hockey with the Royals, she said, "All of us as a team, laughing, hugging at times. We all get along."

When it comes to motivating her team, she tells them, "Not to give up! Everyone makes mistakes no matter how good you are. Don't put yourself down!"

TEAM: CENTRE DUFFERIN DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL ROYALS

POSITION: MIDFIELDER

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers charged two individuals with theft-related offences following an investigation at a grocery store in Shelburne.

On Sept. 22, at approximately 5:58 p.m., officers were dispatched to a grocery store located on Ojibway Road in Shelburne regarding a theft in progress.

Police were advised that two individuals had pushed a loaded grocery cart out of the store without making any attempt to pay for the merchandise.

Officers attended the area and located two individuals walking in the area of Highway 89 and the Mulmur-Melancthon Townline, carrying multiple bags.

During their interaction with the individuals, officers initiated a theft investigation.

As a result of the investigation, James Boisse-White, 39, from Orangeville, has been charged with theft Under \$5000 (shoplifting).

Boisse-White was also charged in connection with a separate theft-from-vehicle investigation stemming from a call for service on Aug. 23, on Gilmour Street in Shelburne. He was charged with one count of theft under \$5,000 from a motor vehicle and seven counts of use of credit card.

Boisse-White was held for a bail hearing in relation to a previous warrant.

The second individual arrested in connection to the Sept. 22 shoplifting incident was Kelsey Bourque-Luck, 31, from Shelburne, has been charged with theft under \$5000 (shoplifting).

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

None of the charges have been proven in court.

Anyone with information regarding this investigation is asked to contact the Dufferin OPP at 1-888-310-1122.

Those wishing to remain anonymous can contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or submit information online through Crime Stoppers Simcoe Dufferin Muskoka.

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SHELburne VOTES

2026 MUNICIPAL ELECTION CANDIDATE PROFILES



With the upcoming municipal election on Oct. 26, we invited each candidate to respond to the same three questions about their reason for running, priorities and vision for the municipality and qualifications. Their responses are published below as submitted, subject only to length and standard copy editing for style, grammar and clarity. Candidates were asked to keep their responses focused on their own qualifications, priorities and vision for the municipality. Note — Candidates are listed alphabetically within each position they are running for.

Watch for ongoing Shelburne candidate coverage in the weeks leading up to the Oct. 26 municipal election as part of our Shelburne Votes coverage. We'll continue providing voters with information about the candidates, their priorities and their vision for the community.

Wade Mills (incumbent) — Running for Mayor

1. What made you want to run for municipal office?

I first ran for municipal office in 2014 because I believed I could make a meaningful contribution to the community that I have called home for most of my life. I have always cared deeply about Shelburne and wanted to play a constructive role in shaping its future.

Municipal government appealed to me because its decisions have a direct and tangible impact on people's everyday lives — from the roads they travel and the parks they enjoy to the services they rely upon. I felt that my professional and community experience had equipped me to listen carefully, understand complex issues, bring people together, and make thoughtful decisions.

For me, running was never about holding a title. It was about serving the community, helping solve problems, and leaving Shelburne stronger for the next generation. That sense of purpose has only deepened during my time in office. Serving as Mayor has been one of the greatest honours of my life, and I remain as committed to Shelburne's future today as I was when I first put my name on the ballot.

2. What do you see as the biggest issues facing the municipality?

The greatest challenge facing Shelburne is managing continued growth while protecting our financial stability, quality of life, and small-town character.

Growth brings opportunities, but it also places significant pressure on roads, water and wastewater systems, parks, emergency services, and other municipal infrastructure. We must ensure that new development pays its fair share and that limited servicing capacity is allocated strategically — not simply used to support more residential growth, but also to attract commercial, industrial, and employment opportunities that can help broaden our tax base.

We must continue investing in critical infrastructure, including the wastewater treatment plant expansion, roads, storm sewers, and better sidewalk connections, while maintaining responsible



budgets and avoiding unsustainable tax increases.

Just as importantly, we need to strengthen the connections that make Shelburne a community rather than simply a collection of houses. That means supporting community safety, neighbourhood connections, volunteering, local businesses, recreation, cultural institutions such as our library, and opportunities for residents to participate in civic life.

The central task is to manage change thoughtfully so that Shelburne remains affordable, connected, and a great place to call home.

3. What makes you best suited for the role?

I offer a combination of proven municipal experience, deep community roots, and a record of delivering results.

The mayor's role should not be treated as an entry-level position. It requires experience, sound judgment, an understanding of municipal government, and the ability to lead effectively from day one. I have served eight years as mayor, following a term as a councillor, and twice served as warden of Dufferin County. That experience matters.

Municipal government is complex, and effective leadership requires a command of the facts, an understanding of what municipalities can realistically do, and the ability to build consensus among Council, staff, residents, and other levels of government.

Over the past eight years, Shelburne has secured more than \$40 million in provincial funding for our wastewater treatment plant expansion, made record investments in infrastructure, paid down long-term debt, increased reserves, improved parks and trails, and expanded commercial and retail opportunities. Those results were achieved through careful planning, strong relationships, and persistent advocacy.

I also know this community well. I grew up here, built my legal practice here, and have spent much of my life serving Shelburne and Dufferin County.

I bring experience, steady temperament, and a clear plan for the next four years. I can continue the work on day one without losing momentum — and keep moving Shelburne forward together.

on the planet, affordability.

There's only so much we can do on the municipal level to address the meteoric rise of the cost of living. Many would like to see their local taxes reduced, which would, of course, slightly ease the financial challenges they face.

Yet, unless we also want to see a significant reduction in local services, cutting taxes isn't a practical or logical solution. Nor is finding so-called efficiencies.

Just looking at the budget shows there really is no waste to eliminate.

So, how do we find a solution to the affordability crisis? We work with our provincial and federal partners to buffer against the worst consequences of Trump's tariff war against us.

We diversify and expand our local economy, while ensuring affordable housing is built.

3. What makes you best suited for the role?

The first is my propensity for challenging the

status quo — particularly when it leaves out the voices of our marginalized communities. I consistently advocate for the increased inclusion and representation of the various cultures that make up Shelburne's community.

The second is my determination to find permanent solutions for those facing poverty in our town. I've consistently called for the building of badly needed subsidized and affordable housing, the creation of better-paying jobs, and better services for those on social assistance.

Lastly, is my desire to live up to the legacy of those who founded our town, particularly John Jelly (William Jelly's younger brother). He was forward-thinking, incredibly ambitious, and tenacious.

These are qualities our town needs if we're going to be more than just another bedroom community. These are the qualities I'll bring as your deputy mayor.

Len Guchardi — Running for Deputy Mayor

1. What made you want to run for municipal office?

In short, I love this town and am passionate about seeing it succeed.

I was born and raised here and have lived in the community for over 60 years. I've spent my life contributing to our community.

I currently serve on Shelburne town council, and semi-retirement allows me more time to focus on town concerns.

I've led as DEI chairperson and actively served with the BIA, Canada Day, and the Centre Dufferin Recreation Centre committees.

My volunteer work with the Shelburne Food Bank, Special Olympics, and other community and county events keeps me connected. I'm proud to be a 2024 Rotary Community Hero and 2025 Melvin Jones Humanitarian.

2. What do you see as the biggest issues facing the municipality?

Shelburne is growing faster than ever before. While this incredible growth brings new neighbours, businesses, and vibrant opportunities, it also



presents important challenges that require thoughtful, forward-looking management.

My vision is for sustainable growth, fiscal transparency, and accessible trails, parks, and recreation in Shelburne. I understand our unique challenges and opportunities, and I'm dedicated to making Shelburne a vibrant, inclusive, and welcoming home for every family.

3. What makes you best suited for the role?

For the first time in eight years, voters in Shelburne have the opportunity to elect a full-time, experienced deputy mayor who will show up, put in the work, and advocate for our town at both the local and county levels.

My goal is simple: balance smart, sustainable growth with fiscal responsibility, all while building a brighter long-term future for everyone in our community.

For more information, please visit my website at: www.lenforshelburne.ca

**Deputy Mayor candidate Andrea Knight did not respond by press time to the Shelburne Free Press profile questionnaire.*

Pratheeb Uthayakumar — Running for Mayor

1. What made you want to run for municipal office?

I decided to run for mayor because I believe Shelburne is at an important point in its growth, and the decisions we make now will shape our community for years to come. As a resident, parent, local business owner and lawyer, I see both the opportunities in our town and the pressures residents are experiencing.

I am not running simply to maintain the status quo. I am running because I believe municipal leadership should be proactive, accountable and focused on practical solutions. Residents deserve to feel heard, understand how decisions are being made and have confidence that their tax dollars are being managed responsibly.

My involvement with the Shelburne Rotary Club has also reinforced how much can be accomplished when people come together with a genuine commitment to service. I want to bring that same collaborative approach to municipal leadership and help build a Shelburne that remains affordable, safe, welcoming and prepared for the future.

2. What do you see as the biggest issues facing the municipality?

One of Shelburne's greatest challenges is managing growth responsibly while protecting affordability and quality of life for existing residents. Growth brings opportunities, but it also increases pressure on roads, infrastructure, recreation, municipal services, public safety and access to health-related services.

We need stronger long-term planning so that infrastructure and services keep pace with development rather than reacting after problems arise. Affordability must also remain central to municipal decision-making.

Residents are already facing increasing household costs, and council has a responsibility to scrutinize



spending, pursue outside funding opportunities and ensure taxpayers receive value for every municipal dollar.

I also believe residents want better communication and greater transparency from their municipality. People should understand what is being considered, why decisions are being made and how those decisions affect them.

Shelburne has tremendous potential. The challenge is ensuring that as we grow, we remain a community where families, seniors, businesses and future generations can thrive.

3. What makes you best suited for the role?

I would bring a combination of professional experience, business experience, community involvement and practical problem-solving to the role of mayor. As the Principal Lawyer of PK Law & Associates Professional Corporation, my work requires me to listen carefully, understand complex issues, consider competing perspectives, negotiate effectively and find workable solutions. Those are skills that translate directly into municipal leadership.

As a local business owner, I also understand the importance of fiscal responsibility, accountability and making decisions with both immediate needs and long-term consequences in mind. As a member of the Shelburne Rotary Club, I value community service, collaboration and giving back to the town we call home.

Most importantly, I am prepared to listen. A mayor should not assume they have every answer. Strong leadership means bringing people together, asking difficult questions, being transparent about decisions and remaining focused on results.

I am offering residents an accountable, solutions-focused approach to leadership and a commitment to moving Shelburne forward — because I believe nothing is impossible.

Mike Green — Running for Deputy Mayor

1. What made you want to run for municipal office?

It was during a conversation with Walter Benotto earlier this year, when he suggested I run for council. Although, he advised I run to become a councillor before seeking a position with more responsibility.

This wasn't the first time one of our elected leaders had made the suggestion, though, as others had brought up the subject back in



2022.

Four years later, I finally feel that I've become the kind of person who will represent the best of new Shelburne. The kind of person who can help lead us to a bolder, brighter future.

2. What do you see as the biggest issues facing the municipality?

The biggest challenge facing Shelburne is, like everywhere else



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TOWN OF SHELburne Notice of Election Information Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (s. 40)

Municipal Elections in the Town of Shelburne will be held on Monday October 26, 2026:

Municipal Council Offices

Mayor	one (1) to be elected
Deputy Mayor	one (1) to be elected
Councillor	five (5) to be elected

School Board Trustees

English Public – Upper Grand District School Board	Acclaimed
English Separate – Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board	Acclaimed
French Public – Conseil Scolaire Viamond	one (1) to be elected
French Separate – Conseil Scolaire catholique MonAvenir	Acclaimed

ALL VOTING IN THE TOWN OF SHELburne MUNICIPAL ELECTION WILL TAKE PLACE BY TELEPHONE OR INTERNET VOTING

Eligible voters will receive a voter instruction letter by mail outlining details on how to vote. This letter will provide voters with their Personal Identification Number (PIN) for access to the electronic voting system. The letter will also provide voters with the website to vote by internet and the phone number to vote by telephone. Check your mail in late September / early October.

Voting Period: Telephone and internet voting is available 24 hours a day from: **Friday, October 16, 2026, at 10 a.m. to Monday, October 26, 2026 at 8 p.m.**

A **Help Centre Kiosk** will be available to the public at the Shelburne Town Hall, 203 Main Street East, Shelburne for your voting convenience or if you require assistance to vote:

Friday, October 16, 10 a.m. to Friday, October 23 at 4:30 p.m. (Monday to Friday) Tuesday, October 20 and Thursday, October 22 from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday October 24 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and on Monday, October 26 (Voting Day) from 8:30 a.m. until 8 p.m.

Accessibility: It is the goal of the Town of Shelburne to ensure that all Electors who have a disability or have accessibility concerns are provided with the best opportunity to vote as independently as possible in the 2022 Municipal Election. Residents requiring assistance and/or accommodations to vote are encouraged to contact the Clerk's Office (519) 925- 2600 Ext. 232 or abyl@shelburne.ca by October 15, 2026.

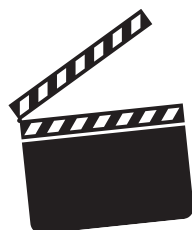
Voting Proxies: Voting proxies will not be granted for this election. Voters can vote by internet anywhere there is internet access, using a computer or device that is capable of connecting to the internet, or by telephone from anywhere in Canada or the continental United States using either a home phone or mobile phone.

Please visit shelburne.ca/2026municipalelection for further information.

Call or visit the Clerk's Office at Shelburne Town Hall to ensure you are on the voters' list and your information is correct.

Dated this 25th day of September 2026.

Alice Byl
Deputy Clerk / Returning Officer
203 Main Street East, Shelburne ON L9V 3K7
Phone: 519-925-2600 Ext. 232
abyl@shelburne.ca
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Arts & Entertainment



LOCAL COMMUNITY EVENTS

Review: How We Got to Jersey is a heartwarming and hilarious story of how two small-town Canadians captured Frankie Valli

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Theatre Orangeville continues to outdo itself in every season I catch, and recently, this has not been more accurate.

Coming in like a blast from the past, How We Got To Jersey is a musical about how actors Jeff Madden and Adrian Marchuk got into one of the biggest musicals of the late 2000s — Jersey Boys.

Throughout the story, Madden and Marchuk dive into their personal journeys and how they landed the role of Frankie Valli — both of them — in the same production, and their views of the production differed from their perspectives.

Starting out as awkward acquaintances in the industry, to rivals and now good friends; the duo met again at auditions in the United States, realizing they both were after the same part.

As fate would have it, two Frankie Valli’s were needed; the production was so demanding one actor couldn’t handle it, and it had already claimed victims in the attempt. Madden landed lead Frankie, Marchuk landed the alternate Frankie.

From there, the story diverges between the two somewhat. Madden experiences the full chaos and insanity that entails being the poster Frankie, essentially having no life for a good part of the run of the show. Rehearsals, media events, performances. Marchuk settles into the role of simply being invisible. No press, less rehearsals, less performances.

This is where How We Got To Jersey really starts to shine for me. We see two identical roles, but two very different lives that play out at the same time. Madden, being a married man, realizes just how little free time he will have to see his family, experience life or even breathe throughout the run of the

production. The same could not be said for Marchuk, who has extra time between sets to live a life, to explore Toronto, but isn’t married at the time.

There is a poignant dichotomy at play here.

Despite getting everything he wanted from this role, Madden was taken away from the things he cared about the most — his married life and family. His life at that point was put on hold for his dream, his passion, and he owned it, delivering show after show for the duration of the run of Jersey Boys.

For Marchuk, he got the opposite experience. He had the time, but he didn’t have the same dynamic at home. But that didn’t last. By random chance, he reconnected with someone he once harboured feelings for, and this time, he didn’t let it pass. He met his future wife.

Both stories are contrasted beautifully on stage with jokes, songs and dance, and tell a beautiful story of how two people with the same role can lead two very different lives at the same time. One experiences everything he wanted but loses what he really cared about, while the other finds everything he could ever need.

The story, which built this musical up as this monolithic opportunity that was capable of defining lives, was systematically deconstructed as we got to experience the toll it had on the performers, and what they sacrificed to stay on the stage.

In the end, they didn’t even choose Frankie Valli; they both walked away from all of it to go back home. There is a beautiful simplicity in that conclusion. Taking huge leaps, sacrificing everything, and then realizing what really mattered most.

Madden and Marchuk are simply excellent on stage. With a live band, some lights and two microphones, they take you back in time to the height of the Jersey Boys with



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TALE OF TWO FRANKIES: (Left to right) Adrian Marchuk, Jennifer Stewart, Jeff McFadden. Artistic Director Jennifer Stewart poses with How We Got to Jersey co-stars Adrian Marchuk and Jeff McFadden following the finale of their weekend show at Theatre Orangeville. The story follows the pair and their journeys getting the role of Frankie Valli in Jersey Boys. The production was warmly received at Theatre Orangeville, drawing full houses throughout the weekend run.

some absolutely phenomenal singing and dancing.

The music is incredibly well performed, and Madden and Marchuk demonstrated that Frankie doesn’t leave you — especially after the hellish rehearsal cycles they contended with during the production. The pair performed classic hits with a very catchy flair that was very well received by the audience. At points, it sounded like the theatre was singing along in unison.

The accompanying band was equally im-

pressive and delivered an unforgettable performance that left the crowd in a standing ovation for almost 5 minutes through the last song. Each musical track fits perfectly into the stages of the story, from the beginning, middle and sweet ending.

With a captivating, endearing story and catchy, unforgettable musical classics, How We Got to Jersey is an unforgettable road trip down memory lane for fans of Frankie Valli, fans of musical theatre, and, of course, Madden and Marchuk themselves.

Headwaters Arts celebrates 30th anniversary with annual Fall Festival

Written By KATHRYN FRASER
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

On Sept. 17, Headwater Arts celebrated its 30th anniversary with its Annual Fall Festival and the Opening Night Soiree of the Open Juried Art Show Sale at the Alton Mill Arts Centre.

This event featured more than 70 creations with a wide variety of mediums used, celebrating art, artists and creativity.

This year, organizers received over 200 submissions from 117 different artists.

Deb Menken is one of the artists that was selected to have not one, but two pieces of her work displayed in this year’s show.

Menken has been in nine Headwaters Arts shows so far and inspiration for her piece, Placed Upon the Rock, came when she was working on another landscape while in Newfoundland in 2024.

“I did a two-week artist retreat, and I was at the bottom of Conception Bay where there’s a highway that goes up and a highway that goes on to St. John’s. It was at that cross section where the landscape just looked a little bit creepy, because you don’t see a soul and there’s just this sort of really barren landscape, gray with this little covering of green on everything,” says Menken. “It just really felt like the green cheese moon.”

The evening also served as Headwaters Arts’ flagship fundraising event of the year.

During the celebration, many members of the community came out in support of the artists.

Pat Hertzberg is another artist who has work featured in the show. Her piece, titled Joy, was used fibre as its medium and had small lines and loops flying all over the piece as those in attendance took a closer look.

For Hertzberg, this piece was special to her as it came after getting good news from a test result, but it also served as a way for the people who viewed it to take them away from all of the anger and angst that the world is dealing with and to be able to see some joy.

“I wanted to create an art piece that really helped to take them away from that, that when you look at it, you just get lost and feel joy,” says Hertzberg. “I started out with fabrics, a number of different fabrics, dozens and dozens of different fabrics, then I dyed some more to make sure that I had the full spectrum of what I wanted to create. Then I cut them up into all different sizes of pieces so that they wouldn’t fit together like a typical quilt. I didn’t want it to be a quilt. I wanted it to be far more abstract.”

Hertzberg added she had lot of fun playing with different colours and putting the brightness of the colours into the piece.

“I wanted to then play with juxtaposing the colours, putting them beside each other,

and creating that excitement that you get from putting pink and orange beside each other, different shades beside each other,” says Hertzberg. “Juxtaposing the colours was a big part of the joy I had in creating it, and then, when all the composition is done, I then put the stitching on top of it. The stitching is also a joyful sort of thing because I did it in a very whimsical way.”

All pieces in the show are sale and attendees had the opportunity to participate in a silent auction where they were able to bid on a wide variety of items, including various bottles of wine and several rounds of golf at TPC Toronto at Osprey Valley.

Various refreshments were offered throughout the evening for those in attendance.

After a few hours of guests viewing the artwork, attendees were led outside to an open building where members of Headwaters Arts thanked everyone for attending and supporting the event.

Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones also attended the event and presented Headwaters Arts with a special plaque to commemorate 30 years.

In addition to the speeches, several awards, including Headwaters Arts 2026 Student Scholarship Award and Juror’s Awards for prize-winning artists, were presented.

First to third place and honorable men-

tions were awarded to artists at the event and were given ribbons that were then attached to their pieces.

Local art lovers will also have the chance to participate in the People’s Choice Awards by filling out a ballot. These ballots will be accepted through October 4.

Valeria Kouznetsova’s The Blue Kingdom received an Honourable Mention ribbon, Courtney Chard’s Ringmaster received Top Honour 3rd Award, and Haley Marfleet’s A Box From Crumbl was selected for the Curators Choice Award.

Nancy Lennon’s Blue Silhouette Reeds placed Third, Patricia MacDonald’s What the World Needs Now is Love placed Second, and Iris Ranieri’s Forest River was awarded First and a Best in Show ribbon.

This was Ranieri’s second time submitting a piece of her art to Headwaters Arts and said she was very excited to be given the Best in Show award for the night and said her inspiration for Forest River was inspired by her travels.

“A lot of my most recent work is based on nature, but especially BC, Colorado, sort of like rocky, rugged landscapes, just speak to me and then, most recently, incorporated in some of waterfalls and rushing water and that type of things. Inspiration comes just basically being in nature,” says Ranieri.

To find out more information about Headwaters Arts, visit: headwatersarts.org

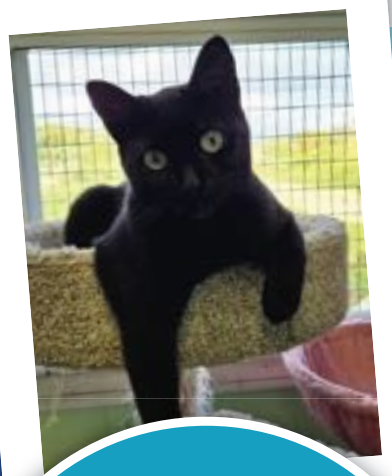
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Food bank tells County council about donation struggles, rising need

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS

The world is generally a good place. People generally have good intention to do well when they can. People from Dufferin County put themselves up for seats on municipal and county councils, despite the slings and arrows that responsibility can draw.

“And the community cares about its neighbours or we wouldn’t exist,” said Heather Hayes, Orangeville Food Bank’s executive director.

Hayes is a 12-year veteran helping keep the food bank shelves stocked for anybody who needs respite from food insecurity, and she said it never gets easier for her to update councils.

“Generally, I’m an optimistic person,” she said. “But after this many years giving this presentation, I feel like I’m only leaving you with negatives when I come out of a presentation like this.”

She gives presentations to municipal councils and the County of Dufferin. They’re updates on how the need for the food bank has grown since the previous presentation

and ideas on how that need may be met.

Most recently, she even provided feedback to provincial Finance Minister Peter Bethlenfalvy as part of pre-budget consultations. That was something she wanted to include when she spoke to county council on Sept. 24.

She said she started to write that she was optimistic that her three-minute colloquy with Bethlenfalvy moved the needle.

“What I meant to write was I believe my three minutes did not move the needle,” Hayes said.

She began tapping the Delete button on her presentation.

But then she stopped.

“And I thought, No, my three minutes did matter,” she said. “Like all our three minutes in this world regarding any issue we may have.”

Her issue is food insecurity.

“And I will always be a voice for food insecurity,” she said.

The numbers will show that she and the many volunteers at the food banks are moving the needle.

To wit: In 2025-26, the food bank distrib-

uted 697,000 pounds of food to clients and community partners. Of that, 235,000 pounds was purchased. Seventy-two per cent of what the food bank distributes is perishable, such as milk, eggs, produce, and proteins.

And there’s been a drop in donated food of 11 per cent, so that meant food had to be purchased.

There were 25,535 visits last year at the food bank in Orangeville and the Dufferin Food Share in nearby Grand Valley.

Of those visits, 33 per cent are children, 32 per cent of visitors are working people, and 45 per cent of the households were of single adults.

Oh, and there’s been a 20 per cent increase in seniors who used the service because pensions don’t keep up with the rate of inflation.

“You’re doing the absolute best that you can with what you have,” Hayes said. “And often the issues that you face, often the issues that I face are not always in our purview to be able to change.”

Speaking out and trying to find ways to address the issue is important, she said and thanked all the people involved with the

food bank for using their voices to make the world a better place.

With an annual operating budget of \$1.8 million, the Orangeville Food Bank is a significant community operation requiring people, facilities, transportation, warehousing, and infrastructure to safely and reliably serve the community, she said.

Every client visit is supported by much more than the food on the shelf. There’s the receiving and sorting of food, storage, transportation, food safety, volunteer coordination and client support.

“Food security is a community issue,” Hayes said.

Councillor James McLean, Melancthon’s deputy mayor, said Hayes doesn’t have to apologize that the information in her presentations isn’t all rosy.

“I think hearing the raw truth is incredibly helpful and we need to hear this from time to time,” he said.

Food security isn’t limited to the responsibilities of a single government portfolio, and no single level of government owns it, he said. It’s a disservice that nobody is accountable for funding food security.

Shelburne Public Library encourages advocacy in upcoming municipal election

In an earlier column this summer we highlighted the importance of public libraries and promised to share the Shelburne Public Library’s results from completing the Valuing Ontario Library Tool Kit (VOLT): a step-by-step guide that helps public libraries measure and share their community impact.

Using data the library already collects everyday like visitor counts, circulation, and program attendance, VOLT calculates how much economic value a library gives back to its community for every dollar it receives by comparing our free services with the private market’s price for the same service.

The toolkit calculates an economic value across seven domains and calculates a Social Return on Investment (SROI).

Drum roll please... the Shelburne Public Library (SPL) provided over \$2.8 million in economic benefit in 2025 with a SROI of \$12. Yes, for every dollar invested in the library in 2025, \$12 was reinvested back into the community (see diagram).

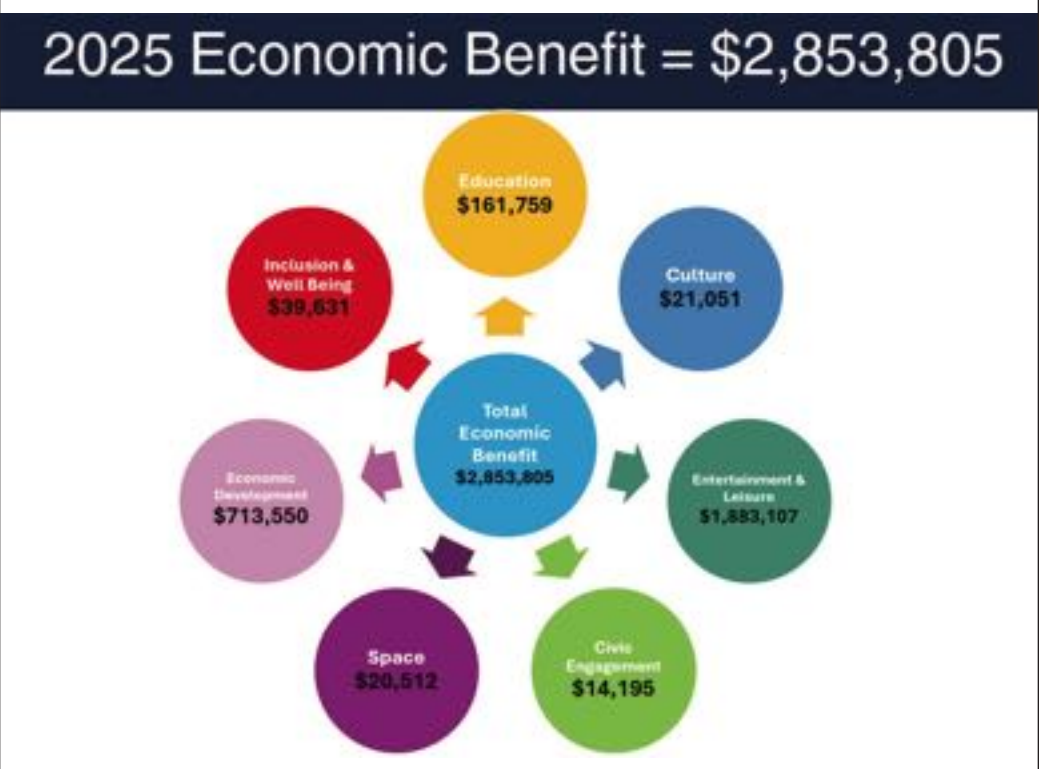
Although public libraries are legislated by the province, provincial funding has not

increased since 1998 resulting in municipalities having to fund the majority of library services. As you prepare to vote, consider how local candidates plan to support your local library (or libraries).

The Ontario Library Association, in partnership with the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries, have provided the following sample questions that you can use when speaking with candidates.

1. Public libraries are essential community hubs that support social connection, civic participation, and lifelong learning. How will you ensure residents of all ages continue to have access to public libraries and the services they provide?
2. Libraries rely on stable municipal investment to deliver essential services. In the face of competing municipal budget priorities, how will you ensure that libraries are protected? Will you commit to maintaining or strengthening funding for public libraries?

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