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JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

FALL FUN: Drawing nearly 1,000 guests throughout the day, Shelburne's PumpkinFest had something for everyone, from kid-oriented sack races, pie-eating contests and bouncy castles to family-oriented games, music, and classic cars. The event was also the finale of the Thanksgiving Food Drive, bringing in over 2,200 pounds of food. Read a full story on PumpkinFest on Page 10.

Walter Benotto retires after 27 years in Shelburne politics

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

After 27 years of serving the Town of Shelburne in municipal politics, Coun. Walter Benotto is retiring from public office, bringing an end to one of the longest periods of continuous municipal service in the community.

Benotto was recognized during the final council meeting of the current term with the Province of Ontario's Long Service Award, presented to elected officials who have completed a minimum of 25 years of continuous service.

He was also presented with a Community Certificate of Recognition from the Town of Shelburne marking his 27 years of dedicated service.

Mayor Wade Mills noted that Benotto's 27 years in municipal office represented countless council meetings, difficult decisions, conversations with residents and hours spent working on behalf of Shelburne.

"Twenty-seven years is a pretty remarkable achievement and commitment because behind that number are countless meetings, difficult decisions, conversations with residents, and hours spent working on behalf of Shelburne," Mills said.

"Walter's contribution extends well beyond just what went on behind us here at



JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

LASTING LEGACY: Prior to Shelburne council's Oct. 5 meeting, council members and town staff surprised retiring Coun. Walter Benotto with a small party in the lobby just outside council chambers, where Benotto has worked for 27 years. Surrounded by colleagues and family, Benotto was praised for his decades of community service and a legacy that will last long after his retirement.

the council table. Over the years, he served on I think almost every single board and committee that the town is associated with, and that breadth of involvement reflects both his willingness to take on responsibility and his deep interest in the many different parts of community life."

His service also spanned a period of significant growth and change for the community, with Benotto bringing years

of institutional knowledge and historical perspective to the council table.

The town's certificate recognized his professionalism, integrity and dedication, noting that his contributions helped shape Shelburne's development, strengthen the community and improve the quality of life for residents.

Continued on Page 3



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Monday, October 13th

We will be back to regular hours on Tuesday, October 13th

COMMUNITY VOICES

Making room for young voices matters more than ever before

We are fresh off celebrating ten years of Streams, which means we have spent a lot of time lately looking back. At the stories, the milestones, the kids who grew up with us and the people who helped build this place.

And almost immediately after all that remembering, we find ourselves in Word of Mouth Monologue Competition season.

Which feels fitting. Because after ten years of trying to create space for young people to grow, express themselves and be seen, here we are again doing one of the simplest and most powerful things we know how to do: giving them the floor.

There is something particularly vulnerable about standing alone on a stage.

No chorus behind you. No castmate beside you. No one else to carry the silence if you forget the next line. Just you, your story, and a room full of people listening.

Every year, I am struck by the courage of the young people who choose to do exactly that.

We spend a lot of time teaching children how to speak. Use your words. Say thank you. Ask politely. Speak clearly.

But I wonder whether we spend enough time teaching ourselves how to listen.

Not just waiting for our turn to talk. Not listening long enough to correct, redirect, or offer advice. Actually listening.

Young people have full inner worlds. They are carrying questions, observations, humour, grief, imagination, anger, hope, and insight that adults do not always make enough room for. And sometimes, all they need is a

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creative hub

room that does. That is one of the things I love most about Word of Mouth.

Yes, it is a competition. There are categories, performances, judges and prizes. But beneath all of that is something more important. A young person stands up and says, in one way or another, Here is something I want you to hear. And for a few minutes, the room belongs to them.

As Thanksgiving approaches, I find myself thinking about the people who made that kind of room for me. The ones who lis-

tened before I had everything figured out. The ones who did not require polish before offering attention. The ones who took me seriously enough to hear me out. That is a gift. And maybe gratitude is not only about noticing what we have received. Maybe it is also about becoming the kind of person who passes the gift on.

So this Thanksgiving, perhaps one of the things we can be grateful for is anyone who ever made room for our voice. And perhaps one of the best ways to give thanks is to make that room for someone else. Especially a young person. Especially when they are still figuring out what they want to say. Especially when their voice shakes a little.

That is when listening matters most.

This week's Community Voice column was written by Juli-Anne James, executive director of Streams Community Hub.

Watershed Guardians of Dufferin County to host 'Ask the Candidates' meeting in Melancthon

Melancthon residents can pose questions directly to municipal election candidates at the Watershed Guardians of Dufferin County's "Ask the Candidates" meeting on Oct. 14.

The meeting runs from 7 to 9 p.m., with doors opening at 6:30 p.m. at the Horning's Mills Community Hall (14 Mill St., Melancthon).

The Watershed Guardians are hosting the meeting to give residents an opportunity to hear candidates outline their priorities, respond to questions and explain their positions on issues, especially those concerning the Strada Quarry Application and its repercussions.

All the candidates will get a chance to have a three-minute quick introduction. They will get to share their background and discuss the issues that are important to them.

Guests will have the opportunity to speak directly to candidates either by formal questions during the Q&A or informally before or after the meeting.

After the candidates introduce themselves, the meeting will then move into a short period of quarry questions followed by a period of question-and-answer session



with the audience.

Audience members posing questions are invited to address them to a particular candidate. Once that person has answered, all the other candidates are given the opportunity to answer the same question, so everyone is heard.

Candidates will generally have one to two minutes to answer each question before the meeting moves on.

Each candidate will have two minutes at the end of the meeting for closing remarks.

The Watershed Guardians are expecting 11 candidates to participate. Candidates who have been acclaimed have also been invited to this meeting.

This meeting is intended to give voters an

opportunity to hear from candidates in person and make their own decision about who they want representing their communities.

For residents, this event also provides an opportunity to raise questions about issues directly concerning the Strada Quarry Application and how it would affect day-to-day life in Melancthon and beyond.

Topics expected to come up include water supply and quality, protection of the rural environment, farmland, municipal roads, air quality, fly rock and setbacks.

With local government having a direct impact on many aspects of residents' lives, organizers of the candidates meeting say it's important for voters to learn about who's running and where they stand on key issues

issues before casting their ballots.

The newly elected council will play a significant role in shaping the future development of Melancthon. Its members will engage with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR), as well as other government agencies, on matters involving aggregate extraction and the long-term future of the region.

Watershed Guardians of Dufferin County is a small, grassroots organization.

The organization's goal is to keep residents informed about issues affecting our water, farmland, air, landscapes, traffic and the way of life that defines not only Melancthon Township, but Dufferin County and surrounding areas across Ontario.

"We have come to understand that these issues do not stop at municipal boundaries," said Watershed Guardians of Dufferin County in a press release. "Water flows. Air moves. And the impacts of development can ripple outward, affecting communities far beyond the immediate site."

The Watershed Guardians are encouraging residents to take advantage of the opportunity to meet the people seeking office and join the discussion ahead of the 2026 municipal election.

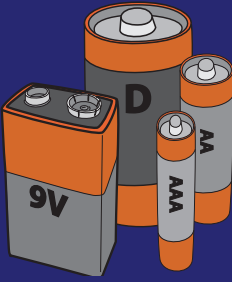
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Arts & Entertainment



LOCAL COMMUNITY EVENTS

Theatre Orangeville opens new season with pair of comedies

‘Love or Nothing: A Double Bill’ to run at the Opera House from Oct. 15 to Nov. 1, featuring two one-act plays

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Theatre Orangeville is opening its 33rd mainstage season with something audiences at the local theatre are not used to seeing — two distinct plays sharing the stage in a single evening.

Love or Nothing: A Double Bill runs from Oct. 15 to Nov. 1 and pairs two one-act comedies by Canadian playwright Stewart Lemoine.

Rather than following the traditional two-act format, the production will feature *Love is for Poor People*, starring Emma Grabinsky, followed by *Or You Could Do Nothing*, starring Ron Pederson.

Both are solo performances built around characters looking back on their lives, but each approaches that reflection from a different perspective.

Pederson said that the plays combine comedy, imagination and elements of absurdism while gradually revealing more about their central characters as their stories unfold.

“I think Stewart Lemoine’s plays are pretty singular,” he said. “They’re different from anybody else’s plays. They’re comedies - literate comedies. They’re sort of fantastical and absurdist. I mean that in the best way. Often absurdist theatre is kind of existential, but this is sort of more hopeful. It’s its own world. They’re solo pieces, one actor in each, and they’re tricky to talk about because they’re so full of mystery. The whole story is about the unfolding, and there’s lots of surprise and variety in both of them.”

Love is for Poor People follows a glamorous and outspoken woman reflecting on the trajectory of an eventful life, including her career, relationships and experiences.

Grabinsky prepared for the role partly by reading autobiographies from larger-than-life entertainers including Liza Minnelli, Tallulah Bankhead and Carrie Fisher as she developed the perspective of a similarly eccentric character.

The second half, *Or You Could Do Nothing*, introduces Owen Fyfe, a man with an unusually large home and an ability to recognize potential in people who may not see



JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

SEASON OPENER: Improv actors Emma Grabinsky (left) and Ron Pederson (right) stand with Theatre Orangeville’s artistic director Jennifer Stewart as they prepare for the first theatrical performance of the season, *Love or Nothing: A Double Bill*. The show features a pair of comedy plays by Stewart Lemoine.

it in themselves. He opens his home to a collection of people searching for direction, with those relationships eventually leading Owen toward discoveries about his own life and family.

While the stories and characters differ, the two plays are connected by their focus on positivity, imagination and human connection.

Music also runs through both stories, while the characters share an ability to reshape the way they understand their lives and the people around them. *Love is for Poor People* leans toward a faster and more eccentric comedy, while *Or You Could Do Nothing* takes a more reflective and philosophical approach.

Grabinsky said that these plays are designed to directly appeal to the audience and allow audience members to see themselves in the characters on stage.

“I think a big part of the plays is connecting with the audience and not being afraid

of the audience,” she said. “I think people who are watching this play are going to walk away feeling like they have been in a friend’s living room. It feels intimate. It feels really close in the way that I hope that we’re moving towards in theatre in Canada.”

“Sometimes you walk away from a play and think that was amazing, but I don’t really know who it’s for. This play, people are going to walk away and they’re going to go, ‘That’s for me. They said that to me. They were connecting with me,’ and personally, that makes working on these plays a joyful process,” Grabinsky added.

The double bill also marks a first for Theatre Orangeville.

Artistic director Jennifer Stewart was introduced to several of Lem-

oine’s works through Pederson and saw an opportunity to bring a Canadian playwright whose work has not been widely produced in Ontario in recent years back before audiences.

“I’d read a few Stewart Lemoine plays that Ron had given me, and I just thought it was a new, fresh voice that we haven’t seen in Ontario in a really long time,” she said. “He had some productions at Factory Theatre in Toronto, but that was in the ’80s. So I thought, here’s another untapped Canadian playwright, because that’s our mandate. I’m always trying to find new voices, or voices we haven’t heard in a while.”

Looking for a companion piece that could create a full evening, Stewart approached Lemoine, who provided several possibilities. *Love is for Poor People* was ultimately selected for the contrast between its central character and Owen while maintaining themes that allow the two stories to complement each other.

The unusual format has also created a different production process.

With only one performer on stage during each play, rehearsals have been divided between Grabinsky and Pederson. The two productions must also share a single set, designed by Theatre Orangeville production manager Becky Morris, that can serve both stories without requiring a major transformation during intermission.

Opening Theatre Orangeville’s “Season of Discovery,” the production centres on two characters discovering themselves through reflection and their relationships with others.

The minimalist nature of the solo performances also leaves space for audiences to use their own imagination to fill in the people, places and experiences described on stage.

Love or Nothing: A Double Bill runs at Theatre Orangeville from Oct. 15 to Nov. 1.

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October 4	October 5	October 6	October 7	October 8	October 9	October 10
October 11	THANKSGIVING	October 13	October 14	October 15	October 16	October 17
October 18	October 19	October 20	October 21	October 22	October 23	October 24

Monday ZONE

Tuesday ZONE

Wednesday ZONE

Thursday ZONE

Interruption no collections

Happy Thanksgiving!

Due to the holiday on Monday, October 12th, garbage, Blue Carts and Green Bins will be collected **one day later** that week. Regular collection will resume the following week.

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

This is the final event of the year.

See website for updates on events in 2027.

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

Dufferin county

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CDDHS field hockey team celebrates first win of the season

Written By CHRIS PERROTTE

Edin Prentice of the Centre Dufferin District High School (CDDHS) Royals field hockey team scored in the first half of a game against the Centennial Collegiate Vocational Institute Spartans on Monday, Oct. 5. Her goal gave the Royals a 1-0 lead and ended up being the game winner.

The goal was the Royals' first of the season.

"We really needed that goal. We've been trying so hard, and I'm so happy we finally got one," said Royals player Callie Reed.

The game against the Spartans was the Royals' second game of a doubleheader at Orangeville District Secondary School.

In the second half, CDDHS continued to pressure the Spartans offensively, creating good scoring chances but couldn't find the back of the net. The Royals also played a strong defensive game, limiting the Spartans' shots on goal.

Overall, the Royals played a well-rounded game to secure the victory.

"It felt amazing. We tried so hard in our practices. We've been working so hard for this, to get this goal, and we finally got it. We're all happy. It's a good win," Edin Prentice enthused.

Their strong play was a carryover from their game one performance against the Guelph Collegiate Vocational Institute Gaels earlier in the day. In that game, thanks to a good team defense, the Royals walked away with a 0-0 tie against the Gaels.

"Honestly, we played great defence, but took advantage of some great offensive pushes. Previously in the season, we have been on our heels every game, but this game

we were able to get the ball up the field and attack them in their end. This helped to control the play and gave us a chance to force the play instead of reacting to them," explained Drew Barfoot, head coach of the CDDHS Royals.

Going undefeated for the day helped to give the team a confidence boost heading into their future matches in the coming days and weeks.

"Basically, I think after this goal, it kind of got our energy up. We've been waiting for this goal for so long so now that we got a goal, I think it's just going to hype up the rest of the team and we're just gonna go forward from here and just get better," said Prentice.

The Royals now sit in seventh place with a record of 1-3-2 (one win, three losses and two ties).



CHRIS PERROTTE PHOTO

IN THE GAME: Royals players get ready to get back into the game. From left, Kenley McCallum, Emily Brown-Bos, Violet Niedzwiecki, Callie Reed, and Jasmin Stansfield.

CHRIS PERROTTE PHOTO

DEVELOPING GAME PLAN: Royals head coach Drew Barfoot encourages his team and goes over strategy during half-time of the Royals game against the Centennial Collegiate Vocational Institute Spartans on Monday, Oct. 5.



Spartans XI win NTCC–DCC Intercity Tournament Championship in close game

Written By CHRIS PERROTTE

The Spartans XI captured the NTCC-DCC Intercity Tournament Championship with a

narrow three-run win over defending champions Brampton Warriors at KTH Park in Shelburne on Oct. 4.

The Spartans XI batted first but got off to a difficult start by losing three wickets and only scoring 40 runs.

Batter Manjinder Singh came to the Spartans' rescue, scoring 48 runs off 58 balls. His play helped prevent his team from losing more wickets.

Captain Saurav Bedi chipped in 16 runs off 12 balls but fell for 80 to five. Needing a boost, Rohit Rocky gave his team the support they needed by scoring 30 off 16 balls, including three fours and a six.

Thanks to Manjinder Singh and Rohit Rocky, they combined for 65 runs, helping the Spartans reach a total of 145. The Brampton Warriors needed 146 to win and retain their championship.

With the Warriors up to bat, several of their batters contributed to the scoring. Pargat Singh scored 28, Sahil Kumar scored 23, Lovepreet Singh scored 17, and Yuvraj Singh scored 16.

It looked like returning to championship glory was in Brampton's grasp, scoring 93 runs and having only lost three wickets, but

suddenly, they collapsed.

Brampton lost four batters while only scoring six additional runs. This put the Spartans XI back in control. Karanbir Singh was the Spartans' best bowler, taking three wickets while allowing 23 runs. Rohit Rocky, who contributed as a bowler, also took two wickets.

Brampton batter helped his team with a chance to pull off the victory by scoring 18 runs from 12 balls towards the end, but that is as close as the Warriors got.

The final score was 145 to 142 for the Spartans XI, who dethroned the Brampton Warriors to become the new champions, winning the title for the first time.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CLOSE MATZCH: Spartans XI players celebrate after defeating the Brampton Warriors 145-142 to capture the NTCC-DCC Intercity Tournament Championship at KTH Park in Shelburne on Oct. 4. The Spartans XI won the championship for the first time.

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

CLAIRE DEAKEN

Claire Deaken currently plays field hockey as a defender for the Centre Dufferin District High School Royals.

"I like how it's all vibes and nothing too serious. We do take it seriously, but I feel like if you make a mistake... you don't have to punish yourself, and everyone is there for you," said Claire.

Her favourite sport is softball, where she plays the outfield position.

"My favorite part is hitting and I love the girls I play with. They're really supportive and probably like my best friends. I love the group of girls," Claire said.

She also plays hockey for the U18 BB Orangeville Tigers, where she plays defence.

TEAM: CENTRE DUFFERIN DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL ROYALS

POSITION: DEFENDER

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SHELBURNE VOTES

2026 MUNICIPAL ELECTION COUNCILLOR CANDIDATE PROFILES - PART 1



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.

Jim Bates — Running for councillor

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

I'm running because I care about Shelburne and want to play a role in shaping its future.

I've lived here, worked here and seen firsthand what makes this community such a great place to call home. I want to listen to residents, bring a practical and common-sense approach to council, and help make decisions that benefit Shelburne today while preparing us for tomorrow.

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

One of Shelburne's biggest challenges is managing growth responsibly.

Our community is growing, and that brings opportunities, but it also puts pressure on roads, infrastructure, services and taxpayers.

We need to make sure growth is planned prop-



erly and that our services keep pace.

At the same time, we have to be responsible with residents' tax dollars and make sure we're getting good value for every dollar spent. Growth should strengthen Shelburne, not change what makes it special.

3. What makes you best suited for the role?

I bring practical leadership experience, sound judgment and a willingness to listen.

I'm not someone who pretends to have all the answers, but I am someone who will ask the right questions, do the work and make decisions based on what's best for Shelburne.

I believe in being approachable, accountable and willing to hear different perspectives.

Most importantly, I'll put the community first and work hard to help move Shelburne forward in a thoughtful and responsible way.

Lynda Buffett — Running for councillor

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

Prior to moving to Shelburne, my previous experience was as a local municipal council member in the Town of Whitby, a community experiencing rapid growth with 10 times the population of Shelburne.

This experience provided me with a very comprehensive understanding of the workings of municipal government and included significantly more experience in land use planning issues. Since Shelburne's growth will continue, I believe my experience can help to guide us in future planning and developments.

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

Land use. As the town continues to grow, how we deal with future land planning should be a major priority, as we need to focus on making



more land available for industrial development to help offset residential tax increases.

This can be successfully achieved by annexing portions of other rural municipalities surrounding us into our "built boundary" so that we have a balanced community that can support more local jobs for residents while helping the town to be financially stronger by diversifying and expanding our industrial tax base.

3) What makes you best suited for the role?

I feel that, as a former municipal politician both in Shelburne and previously in the Town of Whitby, this experience will be a benefit going forward.

I spent several years attending council meetings regularly for two years before I ran, and I believe that anyone today running for office needs to have done this to fully understand and grasp the responsibilities entailed.

Alethia O'Hara-Stephenson — Running for councillor

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

Shelburne is home. It is where I have raised my family, built relationships, served our community and seen firsthand both the opportunities before us and the challenges that come with a growing town.

I am running for council because I believe the decisions we make today will shape the Shelburne we become tomorrow.

Our community is at an important point in its growth. I want that growth to strengthen Shelburne, not simply make it bigger. That means thinking carefully about how housing, infrastructure, affordability, roads, recreation and municipal services fit together — and, most importantly, how those decisions affect people.

My professional career, public service and community leadership have taught me to look beyond the immediate issue, ask thoughtful questions, listen to different perspectives and consider the long-term consequences of decisions.

I want to bring that approach to council: see the whole picture, think beyond today and keep people at the centre.

I care deeply about this community and believe I can make a meaningful contribution to its next chapter. That is why I am asking Shelburne residents for the opportunity to serve.

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

I believe Shelburne's biggest challenge is managing growth in a way that is responsible, affordable and sustainable.

Housing and growth are important, but we cannot look at them in isolation. New housing affects water and wastewater capacity, roads and traffic, recreation, municipal services and the tax base. Infrastructure investments have both immediate costs and long-term operating costs. As our population grows, residents rightly expect services and amenities to keep pace.

Affordability must also remain part of that conversation. Council has a responsibility to carefully consider how today's spending and infrastructure decisions affect taxpayers now and in the future.

Another important issue is ensuring residents feel informed, heard and able to participate in deci-



sions affecting their community.

For me, these are not six separate problems. Everything is connected.

That is the foundation of my One Shelburne approach: understand the relationships between housing and growth, infrastructure and utilities, finances and affordability, services and recreation, roads and mobility, and people and participation.

Good municipal leadership means seeing those connections before decisions are made — not after the consequences arrive.

3. What makes you best suited for the role?

I bring a combination of professional leadership, public governance and community experience that I believe is well suited to the work ahead for Shelburne.

I have more than 20 years of experience in financial services, with leadership responsibilities in business continuity and third-party disaster readiness. My work requires me to understand risk, budgets and dependencies, ask what happens when one part of a system changes, and plan beyond the immediate issue.

I also serve as an Upper Grand District School Board trustee and have been selected by my fellow trustees to serve as vice-chair. That experience has strengthened my understanding of public governance, policy, budgets, accountability and working collaboratively around a decision-making table.

Locally, I founded the Dufferin County Canadian Black Association and chaired Shelburne's Anti-Black Racism, Racism and Discrimination Task Force, which delivered 34 recommendations to council. I have also been a member of several committees, including the Fiddle Parade Committee before it was discontinued, Dufferin's Joint Accessibility Committee, Hills of Headwaters Collaborative, and Dufferin County's Climate Action Committee, among others.

I don't believe effective leadership means having all the answers. It means listening, asking the right questions, understanding the evidence, bringing people together and having the courage to make thoughtful decisions.

That is the experience and leadership I would bring to Shelburne council.

Sohayla Smith — Running for councillor

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

I am not a politician. First and foremost, I am a resident who has lived and worked in Shelburne for 17 years and considers it my forever home.

For years, people have encouraged me to consider running for council. This year, I decided to seriously explore how I could serve the community in a new way. Much of my life here has already been rooted in service — from working with local children, adults and families to running Soup Haus, serving on the Heritage Committee, singing at Remembrance Day ceremonies and providing harp therapy in long-term-care homes.

These experiences have allowed me to hear the concerns of residents from many different walks of life. I am running because I want to bring that resident-focused perspective to the council table.

I care deeply about Shelburne's future and want to help ensure that decisions are practical, thoughtful and grounded in how they will affect the people who live here.

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

Safety is my greatest concern. Shelburne no longer has its own municipal police department; policing transitioned to the OPP in 2021. Residents have raised concerns about crime, police visibility and whether our community is receiving the local presence and responsiveness it needs.

Council cannot direct individual police operations, but it should be a strong advocate for residents. It must work through the OPP Detachment Board and directly with the OPP to communicate local priorities, examine crime and response data, ask difficult questions and pursue practical ways



to improve visibility, prevention and public confidence.

Growth and infrastructure are inseparable from safety. As Shelburne's population grows, policing needs, roads, traffic management, pedestrian protections and municipal services must keep pace. As Shelburne grows, planning for the effects on safety, infrastructure and municipal services must remain a priority.

Clear, ongoing communication can help residents understand safety trends and the actions available to council. My priority would be to listen to residents, understand the evidence and advocate persistently for a safer Shelburne.

3) What makes you best suited for the role?

My strength is the breadth and depth of my connection to this community. During my 17 years in Shelburne, I have worked with children, families, seniors, business owners, volunteers and residents from many different circumstances.

For nine years, I have run Soup Haus, providing complimentary weekly suppers to anyone in the community. I have also served on the Heritage Committee and contributed through education, music, community programming, Remembrance Day ceremonies and harp therapy in long-term-care homes.

As an educator, coach, musician, local business owner and TEDx speaker, I know how to listen, communicate clearly, ask difficult questions and turn concerns into practical, creative solutions. I also understand that good leadership is not about pretending to have every answer.

I would bring an independent, resident-focused voice to council. I am prepared to do my homework, understand the scope and responsibilities of municipal government, consider different perspectives and build support for practical solutions.

Lindsay Wegener — Running for councillor

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

I initially ran for council in my first term because Fiddle Park was on the agenda to possibly be sold to developers. I couldn't let that happen.

I attended that council meeting, stood up and spoke for the community, asking the council of the day to imagine if Brampton sold the land Chinguacousy Park is on. What a shame that would have been, as it's the community hub offering so much.

I had a vision then of what that space could be. Fast forward to my second term and final year, and we have that very park for the community!

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

The biggest issue facing Shelburne today is growth versus infrastructure. As we have seen such rapid growth in the town, we are working to keep up with infrastructure.



This isn't just roads, sidewalks, and underground pipes. It's also services like recreation and health-care. We need to continue to move towards better programming at our CDRC, library, and town events, and we need to advocate for better diagnostic services like extended hours at Life Labs with discussions of expansion.

3. What makes you best suited for the role?

With my over a decade and a half of community engagement through volunteering and event planning, I have had the hard conversations with my fellow Shelburnites. I know their wants and needs. I have worked to bring their voice to council, asking questions and requesting action.

I reply to everyone who connects with me to ensure they know they matter. I may not always have the answer they want, but I will always answer with truth and transparency.

Donald Williams — Running for councillor

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

I have called Shelburne home since 2013, and over the years I have built my life around service, as a paralegal helping residents navigate the Landlord and Tenant Board and Small Claims Court, and as a taekwondo instructor mentoring young people at my Dojang.

Running for council is a natural extension of that. Early in my career, I represented Air Traffic Controllers to government as president of the Jamaican Air Traffic Controllers Association, achieving a threefold improvement in recognition and compensation for the people I represented.

More recently, due to my advocacy for my community, a system was implemented in our school board to help ensure fairness in how students are treated. Both experiences taught me that real change comes from listening carefully, staying persistent, and following through, not from empty promises.

I decided to run because I believe Shelburne deserves a councillor who brings that same discipline: someone who will listen to residents, be honest even when it's difficult, and work hard to get results. I'm not a career politician. I'm a neighbour who wants to put that same track record of advocacy to work for this town.

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

First, community safety. Like many towns our size, Shelburne has seen a recent rise in car break-ins and petty theft, and residents deserve to feel secure in their own neighbourhoods.

I would support stronger coordination between council and local policing, along with practical steps like improved lighting in vulnerable areas.

Second, safer streets more broadly, including basic accessibility gaps like missing curb cuts and ramps that make it difficult for residents using wheelchairs or scooters to get around town safely.



Third, youth and recreation programming. Right now, options for young people outside of hockey and skating are limited, especially through the winter months, and I would like to see us make better use of resources we already have, like school gyms, for indoor drop-in programming.

Fourth, transparency between council and residents, so people understand what's being decided and why, and have a real voice before decisions are finalized. Shelburne is growing, and growth should never come at the cost of residents feeling heard, safe, or included.

3. What makes you best suited for the role?

Council work isn't about a title. It's about judgment, fairness, and follow-through, and that's what I bring. As a licensed paralegal focused on Landlord and Tenant Board matters and Small Claims Court, I work daily within rules, procedure, and disputes that require patience and impartiality.

As a retired Air Canada manager, I bring operational and budget experience at scale. As a 2nd-degree black belt and taekwondo instructor at my Dojang, I have spent years mentoring young people and building discipline and accountability in others. And through leading advocacy efforts, from representing Air Traffic Controllers to government early in my career, to advocacy that led to a fairness system being implemented in our school board.

I have shown I can turn concerns into concrete outcomes, not just talking points.

What ties this together is a consistent approach: listen carefully, be truthful even when it's uncomfortable, solve problems fairly, and treat people with respect regardless of where they stand.

I haven't sat on this council before, but I have spent my career doing the work council members are asked to do. I'm asking Shelburne residents for the chance to bring that same commitment to the council table.



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JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

PICKING PUMPKINS: Shelburne's fourth annual PumpkinFest brought families and residents together for a day of fall activities, entertainment and community fun at Natasha Paterson Memorial Park on Oct. 3.

Shelburne PumpkinFest draws Nearly 1,000 people for fall fun

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Shelburne's fourth annual PumpkinFest drew close to 1,000 people to Natasha Paterson Memorial Park on Oct. 3, as families from across Dufferin County and beyond gathered for a day of fall activities, entertainment and community fun.

Hosted by the Shelburne Rotary Club, this year's event built on the success of its first three years while introducing several changes based on feedback from previous attendees.

The sunny fall day featured a wide range of activities for visitors of different ages, including games, inflatable attractions, bumper cars, photo opportunities, music, a magician, dance presentations, food and a vendor market.

Among the additions this year were inflatable bumper cars and performances by Lio and the Strays, providing more activities geared toward older children and adults while helping make PumpkinFest a more well-rounded, multigenerational event.

The event has continued to grow over the years into a popular annual gathering

for the Shelburne community, bringing together families and residents for an afternoon of entertainment and activities in the park.

PumpkinFest was held alongside the Rotary Club's annual fall food drive, which took place earlier in the day. The food drive is jointly organized by the Shelburne Rotary Club and students at Centre Dufferin District High School, with students distributing collection bags to households throughout town earlier in the week.

Rotarians and volunteers collected the filled bags from residents' porches on the morning of Oct. 3, with additional donations collected at PumpkinFest later in the day.

In total, more than 2,200 pounds of food and household necessities were collected for the Shelburne Food Bank.

The Rotary Club credited the event's success to the work of its many sponsors, donors, supporters and volunteers, as well as the residents who attended and contributed to the day.

With this year's event now wrapped up, the Rotary Club is already looking ahead to the return of both PumpkinFest and the fall food drive in 2027.

Dufferin Hi-Land Bruce Trail Day draws crowd of hundreds to celebrate conservation and biodiversity

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Dufferin Hi-Land Bruce Trail Club's 2026 Bruce Trail Day brought people to Splitrock Narrows Nature Reserve on Oct. 4, giving families, hikers and community members an opportunity to explore the local trail and learn more about the natural environment.

Vice President and event coordinator Lorraine Campbell said that the club was pleased with the turnout, despite the rainy conditions that started the day.

"We had about 300 people come out, and they were fantastic," she said. "They were such a diverse group of people. We had families, we had seniors, we had young people. We had lots and lots of great representation from the community."

The weather quickly cleared, allowing visitors to take advantage of the activities throughout the day. The turnout included families, seniors and young people, with organizers pleased by the diversity of visitors who came out to experience Splitrock Narrows.

A major goal of this year's event was to introduce more people to the Bruce Trail and encourage new visitors to explore the area. The approximately 2.5-kilometre loop through Splitrock Narrows provided an accessible route showcasing the area's varied landscape, including forests, open fields, cliffs and natural crevices.

Music was a major part of the day, with visitors able to hear local musicians as they travelled along the trail.

A variety of musical performances provided entertainment throughout the property. Families also took part in a children's music circle, which featured singing and

rhythm instruments.

Campbell said the music and kids event were very well received by guests, who were extra appreciative of the diverse music lineup.

"The children's music circle was a lot of fun," she said. "I think they had about 15 kids in the children's music circle, and both adults and kids loved the rhythm instruments and loved singing along. We tried to have a lot of different types of music, like we had the Celtic Orchestra and the clarinetist and more, and the people seem to really appreciate that diversity."

Other activities highlighted the conservation work connected to the Bruce Trail.

A biodiversity hike introduced participants to the natural features and species found throughout the property, while a demonstration at the club's seed orchard highlighted efforts to regenerate native species. The orchard is being used to help establish species such as American chestnut and milkweed for future planting.

"The other element that was successful was the biodiversity aspect," Campbell said. "There was an organized biodiversity hike that went through, and we had I think 10 people on that, and then there was also the seed orchard presentation. We got a bunch of new memberships."

The free barbecue was also well attended, while the event resulted in new club memberships and strong merchandise sales.

For many visitors, the day offered more than simply a hike, combining recreation, music, family activities and conservation education while showcasing one of the Dufferin Hi-Land Bruce Trail Club's key properties.

For more information about upcoming events, go to: dufferinbruceclub.org



JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

TRAIL TUNES: With musicians scattered throughout Splitrock Narrows, guests of Bruce Trail Day 2026 could enjoy a short, simple hike around the nature reserve, one of the Dufferin Hi-Land Bruce Trail Club's best properties, featuring fields, dense forests, cliffs, natural crevices and more. A wide variety of music offered a unique taste for everyone, whether hiking solo or in groups. Educational presentations also taught guests about the conservancy's goals.

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Tractor: JD 3720, 2013yr, 300CX loader, cab, 1331hrs. Well looked after. JD front mount blower & other acc (to be listed later-sold separately); JD 2130 Tractor 2WD with 146 loader & 6ft material bucket; TAFE 450 with 6010 Frey loader & material bucket; 1953 Int Super C tractor; MF 235 tractor, 2WD, no cab; MF 1450 garden tractor; MF 10 garden tractor-not running.

Side-by-Side & ATV: JD 825i Gator-very good; front mount plow for gator. JD broadcast seeder for gator; 1999 Polaris Sportsman ATV, runs good.

Equip/Mach: 2810 JD 5 furrow semi-mount vari-width plow; Kvernland 4 furrow 3pth plow; LandPride 8ft 3pth disc; NI 3632 manure spreader, 2 beaters, older floor; (2)gravity wagons (1-Bruns 10 ton, 1-Kilbros); Kraus 24ft cultivator, Morris harrows; MF 10ft chisel plow; 3pth snowblower, hydr chute, 2 augers, 7 ft; 1100 gal stainless steel water tank on undercarriage; Int 4500, 16ft cultivator; 510 Int Seed Drill; (2) gravity wagons; Frontier RC2084 mower; Agrotrend snowblower; Western plow; Farm King 655 finishing mower; 8 inch Int seed drill; ATV trailer frame; 2002 GMC 8500 sm dump truck, runs, no ownership; NH Hayliner 311 sq baler, with thrower; (2)20ft thrower wagons, wood floor, steel cage; (2)wagon undercarriages; NH 3pth PTO hay tedder; Industries America 9ft SP09 snow pusher; TMG Industrial RT185 PTO 6ft rotary tiller; IH-80 8ft, 2 auger, Dosko chipper/shredder; snowblower; Int 6 row corn planter; 12ft disc; **Sheep Equip:** (8)sheep panels; (1)sheep head gate panel; (5)long creep feed panels; sheep chute with sorting tub; bucket of sheep related accs; (5) wood sheep gates.

Farm Rel/Shop: (A)Antique. Winco WG270 generator/welder combo, Kubota diesel motor; tractor tires; qty hydr cylinders; sheep/hog scale; 400+lb farmer made, rotary feed mixer for dump to feed cart; 7.5hp horiz air compressor; 10in split roll grain roller, 3hp; (2)sm metal cutting horiz band saws; 16x69x36 in HD work bench with cupboards & #986 big metal vise; (2)8in bench grinders; Splitfire double-action log splitter, gas powered hydr power pack; qty hydr cylinders; Pallet forks; HD winch; steel wheels(A); hay grapple(A); poly water trough; (2)skids plastic storage bins; 1.5 in gas water pump; tree dolly mover; sm pto pump & hydr cylinders; trailer hitch, sway bars; sm Quebec heater wood stove; (4) old porcelain gas station lights; (3) old milk cans; (3) tractor seats(A); push lawnmower; 3pth woodsplitter; Champion 11250 generator, GerLink & plug in - very good; Rigid table saw; MTD 28in walk-behind snowblower - like new; (2)rolls wood snow fence; Creekbank Welding 15100 cart to move lg sq bales; market garden trailer; landscape trailer-homemade; Honda 3500 generator; and much much more!

Accepting: Tractors, Machinery, Equipment, Farm Rel/Shop

Note: Please contact auctioneer if you are wanting to consign any equipment/items

****Watch the website as items will be added regularly****

Auctioneers: Kevin McArthur (519) 942-0264 Scott Bessey (519) 843-5083
Email: mcarthurbessey@gmail.com

www.theauctionadvertiser.com/KMcArthur - full listing & photos

COMING EVENTS



**Monticello United Church
BBQ Chicken Dinner**

**Save the Date:
Monday, Oct. 19th**

**Take-Out: 4:00 PM - 4:15 PM
Dine-In: 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM**

Tickets: Adults: \$25

Kids 6–12: \$15

Children 5 & Under: Dine Free

Reserve your spot before Oct. 17th

Call: Dianne at 519-216-1879 or
Johanna at 519-939-2744

CLEAR THE CLUTTER

Call Debbie at 519-925-2832 to
book your Classified ad and clear
out the clutter for good!

Shelburne Public Library celebrates Library Month with several events

Did you know October is Canadian Library Month and October 18-24 is Ontario Public Library Week? If you love your library and want to support Shelburne's cultural and civic hub, get a library card. Although you don't need a card to attend any of the above events, use our public computers, or our space, the number of library cards we have directly impacts the amount of municipal funding we receive. If you are a resident of Shelburne, Mulmur, Mono, Melancthon, or Amaranth, drop on in to sign up for a library card and learn about all of the great resources you will gain access to including passes to places like museums and parks, our digital collection, online resources and more!

The Shelburne Public Library isn't just a place to visit, it's an investment in our shared future.

There are several great events happening at the Shelburne Library this month

Thursday, October 15 at 5 p.m.: Author Talk - Brought to you with funding from The Writers' Union of Canada and

the Canadian Council for the Arts, travel writers Josephine Matyas and Craig Jones will discuss their journey of traveling thousands of kilometers to visit over 150 music museums and historic sites to get the stories behind the music we listen to every day. Registration required.

Wednesday, October 21 at 7 p.m.: Author Talk - Brought to you with funding from The Writers' Union of Canada and the Canadian Council for the Arts, travel writers Josephine Matyas and Craig Jones will discuss their journey of traveling thousands of kilometers to visit over 150 music museums and historic sites to get the stories behind the music we listen to every day. Registration required.

Thursday, October 22 at 6 p.m.: The Adventures of Winter Birding with David T. Chapman

This eye popping presentation on backyard songbirds, waterfowl and birds of prey will set you off on a lifelong journey of bird watching. Registration required.

Thursday, October 22 at 12 p.m. Mulmur Township Office: The Book Cafe at the Township of Mulmur for Adults 55+ Join us for a cozy afternoon of books, conversation and connection! Author Alex Lam will join us for an engaging discussion on longevity and personal wellness. Registration required.

Saturday, October 24 at 10 a.m. at Splitrock: Guided Community Hike through Splitrock Narrows Nature Reserve Rain Date - Sunday, October 25 at 10 a.m. Registration required.

Tuesday, October 27 at 2 p.m.: Talk Books with Bev - Read a great book recently? Come chat about it and learn about more great books to add to your TBR list.

Thursday, October 29 at 7 p.m.: Recognize Remembrance Day with a special presentation by Lieutenant-Colonel Ron Alkema, CD. See you at the library.



In Loving Memory of
JOHN KUP

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved father, John Kup, who passed away peacefully on Tuesday afternoon, September 29, 2026, in his 95th year, at his home in the Village of Tansley Woods retirement home in Burlington, Ontario.

Born in Curacao, he was the lovingly devoted husband of Mary Kup (deceased 2012) for almost 60 years. Proud & loving father of son Mike (Kim Ramsay) of Burlington, and daughter Marilyn (Gregg Little) of Oakville. Lovingly remembered by his grandchildren, Aaron Little (Jaclyn Smith), and Leigh Little (Imad Shubassi), along with his great-grandchildren, Owen, Ryen, and Noah. Predeceased by brothers Ernst and Fred, and sister Anne Campbell. He will be sadly missed and remembered by sister-in-law Mabel MacIntyre (Larry), and brother-in-law Ken Merkley (Jo Ann), George Poulton (Susan) who's always viewed John as his "big brother", and his many nieces and nephews.

John was a voracious reader across an extensively broad spectrum of interests, and had a lifelong and highly rewarding career holding several uppermost level positions with the Department of Defense both in Toronto and Ottawa until his retirement in 1984. After that he and Mary enjoyed 28 wonderful years together at a new Haliburton home they built beside the same lake where they spent their honeymoon. After leaving there in 2019, he then comfortably resided in Burlington where he was much closer to his family during his remaining years, despite his health steadily declining during the last several of them. He was very active in his community, his church, and dedicated in volunteering his time and talents to local baseball and figure skating associations, for which he was also President of both during his 18 years in Brampton. He was also an avid ham radio enthusiast, and had passions and skills in many other areas including electronics, curling, and for a number of years, was also a licensed airplane pilot. John's biggest enjoyment was, and continued to be, spending as much time as possible with family and friends right up until his passing. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him...

Visitation & Funeral Service: Friends were received at JACK and THOMPSON Funeral Home, 318 Main St E, Shelburne, Ontario, L9V 2Y9, on Friday, October 2nd from 11 a.m. – noon, followed by a remembrance service at noon, and then interment at Shelburne Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Heart & Stroke Foundation in his memory would be much appreciated by the family. Online condolences and donations may be placed at www.jackandthompsonfuneralhome.com

OBITUARIES

FOREVER IN OUR *Hearts*

Remembering your loved one

Placing an obituary in one of our newspapers is a meaningful way to honour the life of your loved one and share their story with the community that helped shape them — including friends, neighbours, and colleagues from every chapter of their life. An obituary becomes a lasting tribute, preserving memories, values, and accomplishments for future generations. It offers a moment to reflect on a life well lived and the love left behind. Most of all, it invites a community to remember together, to grieve, and to offer comfort and connection during a time of loss.

If you would like to place an obituary in the Shelburne Free press, or one of our affiliate newspapers, contact
Debbie at debbie@lpcmedia.ca or 519-925-2832

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10:45am Family Bible Hour, Sunday School
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Pastor; Rev. Gord Horsley
Come and be Blessed

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SERVING UP THANKSGIVING SAVINGS

Slow Cooked
Beef Pot Roast

907 g

22⁹⁹

SAVE
\$10



INCREDIBLE
PRICE

Seniors Day
Every Tuesday
10% off
Regular Priced
Items!

From our Family and Team
to your Family,
Happy Thanksgiving!



24⁹⁹

SAVE
\$5

Turkey Breast
Roast 875 g



14⁹⁹ Supreme Scalloped
Potatoes 907 g



4⁹⁹ Bistro-style
Green Beans 300 g



French Onion Soup



Wonton Soup



Asian Party Pack
38-46 PIECES 632 g



Nannaimo Bars
850 g



Shrimp Ring
42-48 SHRIMPS 454 g



Sirloin Beef Meatballs
60-70 PIECES 907 g



Mozzarella Sticks
15-21 PIECES 454 g



Jumbo Coconut Shrimp
16-19 SHRIMPS 340 g

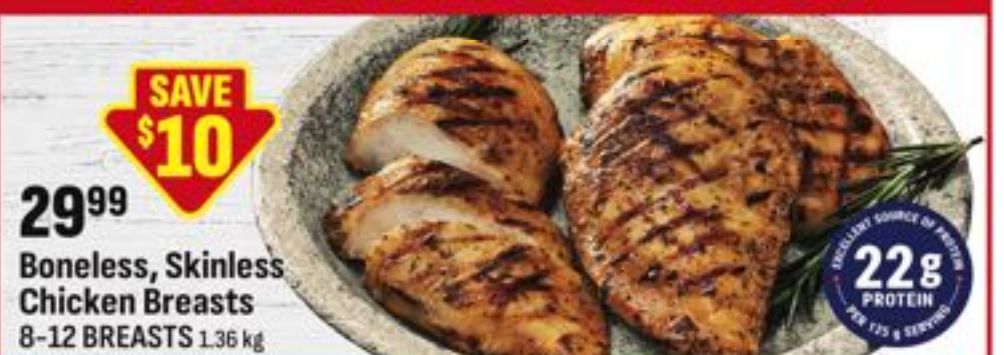


Mini Quiche
16 PIECES 340 g



Sausage Rolls
26-28 PIECES 500 g

INCREDIBLE PRICE



29⁹⁹

Boneless, Skinless
Chicken Breasts
8-12 BREASTS 1.36 kg

22g
PROTEIN



ONLY 3⁹⁹ each
Bistro Chicken®
114 g
Choose from:
• Ricotta & Spinach • Swiss



ONLY 3⁹⁹ each
Stuffed, Breaded Chicken
142 g
Choose from: • Kiev • Parmesan
• Swiss • Broccoli and Cheese

FEED THE CROWD FOR LESS



26⁹⁹ Cabbage Rolls
1.81 kg

26⁹⁹ Deluxe Meat
Lasagna
1.81 kg

26⁹⁹ Homestyle
Shepherd's Pie
1.81 kg

35+ GLUTEN-FREE OPTIONS



24⁹⁹ Beef and Bacon Skewers
15 SKEWERS 360 g

17⁹⁹ Dessert Bar Variety Pack
675 g

17⁹⁹ Seasoned Breaded Cod
4-5 PIECES 400 g

17⁹⁹ Panko Shrimp
454 g

SAVINGS FOR ONE SINGLE SERVES



Homestyle Shepherd's Pie

Lasagna

Cabbage Rolls

Fettuccine Alfredo



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