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**DISCUSSING THE ISSUES:** Mayors from Dufferin County gathered at Westminster United Church in Orangeville on Jan. 28 for the Dufferin Board of Trade's Annual State of Business Breakfast. From left: Chris Gerrits (Amaranth), Lisa Post (Orangeville), John Creelman (Mono), Janet Horner (Dufferin County Warden and Mayor of Mulmur), Steve Soloman (Grand Valley), and Wade Mills (Shelburne) attended the breakfast. Darren White (Melancthon) and Guy Gardhouse (East Garafraxa) were unable to attend the event. See full story on Page 2.

## Big changes coming to the Shelburne Food Bank as it begins process of becoming registered charity

Written By **PAULA BROWN**  
 LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Shelburne Food Bank is bringing forward big changes for the organization's future as it continues to make efforts to address food insecurity in the community.

The local food bank told the Free Press on Monday (Jan. 27) that they have begun the steps in becoming an officially licensed charity and are in the process of rebranding.

"I am very excited and re-energized to undergo the steps to become a licensed charity, not only as it will allow us access to grants and more assistance to meet the growing needs of this community, but will hopefully provide more assurance and stability as we take all the necessary steps to help guarantee our continued ability to do so," said Ardith Dunlop, volunteer coordinator for the Shelburne Food Bank.

Originally known as the Shepherd's Cupboard, the local food bank was started in 1991 as a joint venture of the Shelburne Ministerial - all of the local churches - who recognized that there were residents struggling in the community from cuts to social programs and who needed help in getting enough food to eat.

"We're now ready to grow up from a small volunteer led-organization into a more mature charity that can continue to provide food for people in need in our community," said Ami Alexander, a member of the food bank's advisory board.

The Shelburne Food Bank has been work-

ing towards making changes to the organization for nearly a year after working with Good Roots Consulting to develop a three to five-year strategic plan. In November, the organization officially became incorporated and began the process of registering as a charity.

Part of the future evolution of the food bank will include a rebranding of its name and logo, obtaining charity status, finding a new and larger location, hiring staff to operate the facility and creating a Board of Governance.

The local food bank has already started rebranding with the development of a new logo and officially incorporating under the name Shelburne Food Bank.

"We've been known as Shepherd's Cupboard Food Bank, we've also been known as the Shelburne Food Bank, so we decided to amalgamate it," explained Alexander.

The Shelburne Food Bank will be looking to move from its location at the Mel Lloyd Centre to a bigger facility in the future in order to address the growing needs of the community.

"The space we have is really limited and our clients are outside," said Alexander. "Our goal is to eventually find a home, some space that would be large enough to access the needs of the growth we've experienced so we can not only store food in our space, but also have clients in the space."

Another step would be to eventually hire staff members to operate the Shelburne Food Bank with the support of the volunteers.

"We've gone from a small volunteer organization and part of our next step of growing up will be looking at staffing," said Alexander. "I think it would be unusual for a food bank of our size to be running as fully volunteer at this point; it takes great commitment. By hiring staff to coordinate, it doesn't mean we won't continue to need the volunteers, it just means they won't be over stretched and can enjoy their work."

One of the most significant factors in the changes coming to the food bank is the demand in the community and the rise in the number of clients accessing their services.

Alexander noted that 10 years ago, the food bank saw approximately 40 families on average per month and has since grown to see about 280 to 325 families per month.

"Every month we've got several new families, and so we're just growing and growing," she said.

Statistics from 2023 show the Shelburne Food Bank has around 400 files consisting of over 1,000 individuals from Shelburne, Melancthon, Mulmur and Amaranth. Of those clients, nearly 70 percent are from the Town of Shelburne.

"We've been forced to grow because people aren't going to stop coming. They're coming and we need to scale accordingly. We feel it's our responsibility to make sure that we are sustainable, so we can continue to meet the needs of the community."

A timeline of when the Shelburne Food Bank will begin introducing some of the larger changes has not yet been determined.

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# Shelburne council declares former public works yard surplus

Written By PAULA BROWN  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Shelburne Town Council has chosen to discontinue their efforts in “cleaning up” a surplus piece of Town property slated for rezoning and future sale.

During their meeting on Monday (Jan. 27), Shelburne Council received a report from Denyse Morrissey, chief administrative officer for the Town of Shelburne, regarding the rezoning of 420 Victoria Street.

The report recommended that the zoning of the property remain as Institutional/Commercial/Industrial (ICI) and that no further costs be allocated to cleaning up the space.

“It no longer makes financial or strategic

sense for the property to be rezoned by the Town to residential prior to selling,” wrote Morrissey in the report.

The Town of Shelburne purchased the property at 420 Victoria Street in 1975 from the County of Dufferin for \$58,000. The property had been used for public works by the County of Dufferin in the past, and the Town of Shelburne used the space as their public works yard until 2014.

Shelburne Town Council approved the site remediation of the property as part of their 2018 budget and initiated assessments to eventually rezone the property as residential. In 2022, Council approved declaring the property as surplus and proposed the future sale of land, once it was rezoned as residential.

“Our intent with respect to the remediation of this site has always been to utilize it as an end use for residential,” said Morrissey.

According to the report, the site remediation from 2018 to 2024 has cost a total of \$835,419, which has been funded from a capital reserve.

“We’ve done a little bit more work than we had originally anticipated because of the scope of remediation that needed to be done, and that we completed some secondary work to ensure that we would have a strong understanding of what our options were for the end use,” said Morrissey.

The report continued that the Town of Shelburne would be required to spend an additional \$1.8 million to \$1.9 million for site

cleanup to allow for the use of the property to be changed from commercial to residential. The overall cost of the total site remediation would be estimated between \$2.8 million and \$2.9 million.

With the decision to end remediation and rezoning efforts for the site, the Town of Shelburne is now looking to sell the property under its current zoning – commercial.

Morrissey noted to Council that while the Town of Shelburne would not be continuing with the site remediation and rezoning, any future purchasers of the property would have the choice to continue the remediation at their own cost.

Shelburne Town Council unanimously supported the motion.

# Amaranth deputy mayor elected as vice chair of the NVCA board

Written By PAULA BROWN  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Amaranth Deputy Mayor Gail Little has been elected to sit as Vice Chair of the 2025 Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) Board of Directors.

Little’s appointment as Vice Chair was announced in a press release from the public agency on Friday (Jan. 24). This marks the second time Little will serve as Vice Chair of the NVCA and previously she held the title of Chair in 2024 and 2023.

During her years of service, she has led NVCA through the changes to the Conservation Authorities Act and ensured the organization worked towards protecting and enhancing the Nottawasaga Watershed so communities, economies and wildlife can thrive.

“I’m proud to have served as Chair of NVCA over the last two years,” said Little. “In this role, I’ve witnessed the fantastic work that staff has done. I look forward to working with Chair Scott to guide NVCA to serve out communities in even more efficient, more innovative ways.”

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority also announced in the press release that Jonathan Scott, Councillor for the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury,

had been acclaimed as Chair of the NVCA Board of Directors.

“I want to thank Deputy Mayor Little for leading the organization,” he said. “I’ve learnt a lot from her, and I hope to carry those lessons forward in this new role.”

Scott added in the press release that he is looking forward to “leading the organization toward continuous improvement”.

“Our job as a conservation authority is to serve the public,” he continued. “Over the coming months, I’m eager to support staff efforts to make our processes more efficient and meet the high expectations of residents, businesses and municipal partners alike.”

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority is a public agency dedicated to the preservation of the environment through specialized programs to protect, conserve and enhance water, wetlands, forests and lands.

The Nottawasaga watershed is a large area with jurisdiction in 18 municipalities in Simcoe, Dufferin County and Grey County.

The NVCA’s Board of Directors consists of representatives appointed from each of their member municipalities. Each year, the Board of Directors elects a new Chair and Vice Chair from its members to serve a one-year term.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

APPOINTED: Gail Little, Deputy Mayor of Amaranth, and Jonathan Scott, Councillor for Bradford West Gwillimbury, have been elected to sit as the Vice Chair and Chair of the 2025 Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) Board of Directors.

# Dufferin Board of Trade holds State of Business Breakfast to discuss key issues

The Dufferin Board of Trade (DBOT) hosted its Annual State of Business Breakfast earlier this week on Tuesday, at West-

minster United Church, bringing together local leaders and businesses to address key issues impacting the community.

The event began at 7:30 a.m. with breakfast and networking, followed by a panel discussion featuring the mayors of Dufferin County. This annual event serves as an opportunity to advocate for the local business community and launch the Dufferin Business Survey, designed to gather insights on challenges businesses are facing and what changes need to be made.

The panel discussion highlighted pressing topics, including the uncertainty surrounding tariffs and trade relations, which could have significant impacts on local businesses. The mayors emphasized the importance of standing together as a united community to navigate these challenges.

Audience questions brought attention to other critical issues, such as the need for increased support in the agriculture sector, the availability of affordable housing, and reducing red tape regulations. A standout moment from the discussion was Orangeville

being recognized as a Canada-wide leader in fare-free transit. Plans are underway to expand this success with a new inter-county transit system that will also remain fare-free, improving connectivity across Dufferin County.

The discussion concluded with a shared agreement among the panellists that municipalities must focus on keeping taxes low, cutting red tape, and fostering predictability to support the business community.

The Annual State of Business Breakfast is one of DBOT’s key initiatives to advocate for local businesses. DBOT is committed to supporting the community as it adapts, innovates, and grows stronger in the face of uncertainty.

The organization would like to thank everyone who attended and contributed to the event’s success. Together, we can ensure a resilient and thriving business community in Dufferin County, said DBOT.



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# Shelburne council advocates for bypass or truck route at ROMA

Written By PAULA BROWN  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Town of Shelburne has once again advocated to the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) regarding the community's need for a bypass or truck route.

Mayor Wade Mills and Town representatives made a presentation to the Assistant Deputy Minister of Transportation Eric Doidge on Jan. 20 at the annual Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) conference in Toronto.

Mayor Mills said the presentation "allowed this critical issue for the Town to be re-stated and provided a compelling presentation which included why the Town believes that a truck bypass/truck route is needed."

The Town of Shelburne has been asking the MTO for a solution regarding heavy truck traffic on Hwy. 10 and Hwy. 89 since 2003 when they requested the MTO initiate a needs assessment and review of existing municipal road systems and how they could be configured into a future bypass.

Representatives from the Town of Shelburne again advocated for the need during the ROMA conference in 2019.

In the presentation to the MTO, the Town of Shelburne provided a list of reasons why

they believe a bypass is needed for the community.

The list included:

- Support safe and timely movement of goods and services
- Limiting the impacts of truck traffic on the community such as safety, congestion, noise and air quality
- The vision of Shelburne's downtown and main street corridors as vibrant, mixed-use, pedestrian-oriented places
- Support the Town's commitment to building more homes for buyers who value a small town, but view truck-related impacts as a deterrent to choosing Shelburne
- Unlocking the intensification and redevelopment potential of Shelburne's core areas

According to data provided in the report, a 2008 study by MTO showed that 90 to 95 per cent of truck traffic is through traffic only, and Shelburne is not the final destination. The same study also indicated that the capacity of the highways through Shelburne is 800 vehicles per peak hour.

The Town of Shelburne noted that a 2015 traffic study completed by the Town showed the vehicle traffic is between 850-1200 per peak hour, with roughly 50 per cent being truck traffic.

"We feel it is imperative that the Town of Shelburne be considered as a transportation priority by MTO..."

Mayor Wade Mills and Town representatives

"This further illustrates that with truck traffic eliminated, the road would be back to operating capacity," reads the report.

The report also highlighted the Town of Shelburne's concerns with the amount of traffic making its way through the downtown core including pedestrian safety, safety of day-to-day traffic, and determinants from investing in the area.

"We feel it is imperative that the Town of Shelburne be considered as a transportation priority by MTO to ensure the Town can support building more homes that are desired in the market, support the overall local economy of the Town, provide options for local

car and pedestrian traffic, and minimize the inherent risk to pedestrian and car traffic on Highway 89 and Highway 10 which will only continue to grow as the large developments in the Town continue," reads the report.

As part of the presentation, staff also provided four potential route options for the MTO, including two from existing infrastructure and two requiring the construction of new roadways.

During Shelburne's Council meeting on Monday (Jan. 27), Mills addressed the topic of the Town having a preferred route for the potential bypass.

"One of the items that was up for discussion leading into this meeting was whether or not there was a need to identify a preferred route," he said. "It really doesn't make sense for the Town of Shelburne to be choosing a route and being a proponent in any sort of environmental assessment process because regardless of where this goes, it's ultimately going to be in other municipal jurisdictions outside of the Town of Shelburne."

He added, "I think the reception we got from MTO staff was positive. I think they understand that argument."

A timeline for a response from the MTO or the potential future of the truck route has not yet been released.

# Dufferin-Caledon Liberals gather in record numbers to nominate Malalai Halimi

The Dufferin-Caledon Federal Liberal Association is celebrating a historic milestone after hosting one of the best-attended nomination meetings in the riding association's history on Jan. 18.

The event brought together over 100 Liberals from across the community to show their support for Malalai Halimi, the Liberal candidate for the next federal election.

"The meeting, held at Hockley Valley Resort in Mono, drew an unprecedented crowd of supporters, volunteers, and local community leaders, reflecting the growing momentum of the Liberal movement in Dufferin-Caledon," said a press release from Malalai Halimi's campaign.

Brampton East MP Maninder Sidhu attended the nomination meeting and energized

those in attendance ahead of Malalai's acceptance speech.

"This turnout is a testament to the incredible work of our riding association and the strength of our Liberal values in this community," said Dmytro Basmat, Halimi's campaign manager. "We're building something truly special here, and it's clear that residents are energized and ready to have Halimi bring change to Dufferin-Caledon."

In addition to historic attendance, the event served as a rallying cry for local Liberals as the association looks ahead to a pivotal election year. The riding association's fundraising efforts have already reached new heights,

allowing Liberals in Dufferin-Caledon to connect with more residents across the community and share Halimi's vision for a brighter future.

Halimi, a business manager and entrepreneur, thanked attendees for their overwhelming support.

"Seeing so many passionate, like-minded Liberals coming together fills me with hope and excitement for what we can achieve together," Halimi said during her speech. "This is a pivotal moment for our community and our country. The stakes are high, but so is our potential. I am confident that we can turn Dufferin-Caledon red and make history together."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CAMPAIGN LAUNCH: Brampton East MP Maninder Sidhu (left) and Dufferin-Caledon Liberal candidate Malalai Halimi share some smiles after their speeches at the Dufferin-Caledon Liberal Nomination Meeting on Saturday, Jan. 18.

# OPINION

## Consumer debt

If you have been looking for a new car or truck lately, you will have noticed that new vehicles are getting quite pricey.

For that reason, the used car business has been very good over the past few years.

The average age of a car on North American streets and highways is now 9 years. Many people can't afford to buy something new and hang on to their current ride as long as they can.

Many new cars sell for more than the average annual income of a typical Canadian.

If you are working in a minimum wage job, and many people are, the price of a new car may seem out of reach.

Many, if not most, new car buyers finance the purchase, meaning in the end, you are paying a lot more for that car. The automotive dealers love it because, over time, they make a lot more money.

The thing is, most people need a car or truck to survive.

The Honda plant in Alliston produces some of the most popular vehicles in the country.

It is a huge plant on a huge property. The costs of running a plant that size must be enormous.

The electricity bill alone, to light a place

that big and run a lot of machines, must be astronomical. The property taxes owed on a building that size are huge.

There will be a lot of costs involved in designing a car in the first place.

Obtaining raw materials is a big task that supports other industries.

The manufacturing process means a lot of other companies are involved in producing parts. There are always full-size transport trucks going in and out of the Honda plant. Millions must be spent on transportation.

On top of all that, the plant employs more than 4,000 people, and they are all paid a good wage.

When you figure all that in, it is actually surprising that Honda can sell cars for the listed price.

When Henry Ford started making cars, he revolutionized not only the automotive industry but the entire manufacturing industry.

Ford said he wanted to make cars for a price that everyone could afford. History makes him sound like a nice guy, however, the truth is, it was just good business sense.

An affordable car that everyone could own meant more sales and Ford's fortune grew.

By 1925, through his assembly line process, he got the price down to \$260. That's equivalent to around \$4,500 in today's money.

If you had to pay that kind of money for a car, wouldn't you buy a brand new one?

Of course, you have to take into account that modern cars come with a lot more bells and whistles and outstanding technology so the cost will be higher.

Recent statistics about consumer debt have come out for the new year.

In Canada, household debt in the country is bigger than ever.

There seems to be no absolute data on household debt as different agencies report different numbers.

However, the low figure is just over \$45,000, and the high figure is closer to \$70,000 that the average Canadian household owes on non-mortgage related debt, as reported by financial institutions and media.

That's a huge number to be hanging over your head and may be causing many people to lose sleep.

And it's not like Canadians are reckless spenders.

When you need a new fridge and stove, you buy them, and that often means plac-

ing the purchase on a credit card because most people don't have that kind of disposable money lying around.

Now you have credit card debt, but since you don't have the money to pay it off, you start making minimum payments. Now you're in the trap.

Then your car starts making a squealing noise and you need new brakes. There's another draw on the credit card – and your monthly payments just went up. On top of that, you have to make huge monthly mortgage payments so your family has a place to live.

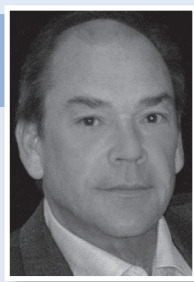
Our economy must revert back to a situation where rising costs and inflation don't force people to take on debt they can't afford.

It has created a dangerous situation. Some day, a mere blip on the radar could mean someone calling in a loan, which could create a domino effect and cripple the entire economy.

There's just too much money involved for this not to be a realistic concern.

Owning a car shouldn't mean eight years of payments on a depreciating asset.

**BRIAN LOCKHART**  
FROM THE SECOND ROW



## Slide back towards war

We seem to be drifting back into the world of 'Might Makes Right'. That would be a bad place to be.

Last June the president of Rwanda, Paul Kagame, said that he was ready to go to war with the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRCongo) if necessary. He still hasn't formally declared war, but 3,000-4,000 Rwandan troops are already across the DRCongo border and many more are just behind them.

When Donald Trump first broached the notion of acquiring Greenland in 2019, he called it "essentially a large real estate deal." Now he says that he won't rule out using military force to gain control of the vast territory, which is part of Denmark but free to leave if its people (mostly indigenous Inuit) wish to.

I know, you're saying to yourself that this is a ridiculous comparison. The two potential victims are completely different: the DRCongo is a poor tropical country

with more than 100 million people, while Greenland is a prosperous Arctic country with only 52,000 citizens and Denmark is a member of NATO and the European Union.

There's an equally huge disparity between the two potential aggressors. Rwanda is a heavily armed and militaristic country of 14 million people, sort of a big Sparta, while the United States is... well, it's a heavily armed and rather militaristic country of 341 million people. So kind of a gigantic Sparta, but with a more relaxed moral tone.

Nevertheless, it is fair to judge them by the same rules, for they are all sovereign states and have all signed the UN Charter. Article Two states clearly: "All Members shall settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice, are not endangered."

That means they have promised not

to settle their disputes by war – and the African pair, Rwanda and the DRC, also signed the Charter of the African Union, which requires the member states to respect the borders "existing on achievement of independence."

In other words, they agreed never to change or challenge the old colonial borders, however irrational they may seem in ethnic or historical terms. Otherwise, African countries would face generations of interstate wars as various countries tried to achieve more 'convenient' borders.

And amazingly, it worked, more or less. These rules have for the most part been obeyed for more than two generations. There have been many internal wars but few cross-border wars, and even those rarely result in border changes. Moreover, in the few cases where borders are changed by force, other countries do not recognize the changes as legitimate.

This remarkable turn towards peace and justice, which has seen deaths in the world's wars fall from a million a month in 1942-1945 to tens of thousands a year by 2020, was driven mostly by the fear of nuclear war.

The great powers did not dare fight each other directly because they would be destroyed by nuclear weapons. They also tried to damp down other, lesser wars because they worried about escalation, and most other countries were glad to have an excuse to stop. The period between 1950 and 2020 was probably the most peaceful in the history of civilization.

The new rules made sense in the circumstances, so people behaved accordingly. Indeed, after the Cold War I could

go into the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Moscow and get approximately the same lecture about the need to obey the rules that I would receive in the State Department in Washington.

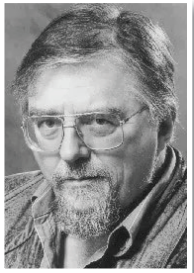
The worry is that the generations turn over and gradually the old lessons are forgotten. Vladimir Putin probably knew the rules once, but he doesn't think they matter any more. Donald Trump has probably never heard of them. They both think you can just grab some territory and get away with it, like you could in the 1600s or the 1800s.

They are wrong. Actions have consequences, and in the current era everything connects. Putin thought he could conquer Ukraine in a week, and next month will mark three years of war. Trump really could seize Greenland in a week, but the blowback from everywhere else would be hugely damaging and long-lasting.

As for Paul Kagame, he really should know better. This is the third time in the past 30 years that he has sent his troops (or Tutsi militants like the current M23 militia) into DRCongo to seize the north-east region's rich mineral resources. Twice the African Union has come up with enough forces to push him out, and it might yet manage it again.

So it's not over yet. The erosion of the post-1945 international rules is real and alarming, but so far, enough people still remember why we made them in the first place.

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# Family physicians to stay in Shelburne after finding new clinic location

Written By PAULA BROWN  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Local family physicians are prepared to stay in the community after finding a new location for the clinic.

The North Dufferin Wellness Centre Primary Care Clinic announced that they will be moving to a new location and will remain in the Shelburne community. The new location of the clinic will be within the Caravaggio IDA Pharmacy, located at 128 Main Street.

"It's a relief to know that we're going into a stable location. We've been in a bit of a drama situation for the past five years, in our current situation with multiple landlords; it's been pretty unstable," said Dr. Amy Catania, who provides health care in Shelburne. "It feels good to know that we're going into this new location."

In November 2024, Dr. Catania delegated to Shelburne Town Council outlining the issues and challenges they've faced since 2018 as tenants of their building, located at 712 Main Street. She also shared that the clinic had been informed their rent would be increasing from \$23.50 per square foot to \$34.80 per square foot for a total of \$3,138.58 per month.

In 2018, Dr. Catania and other healthcare

providers in the community came together to open the North Dufferin Wellness Centre, which operated as a "patient medical home" or a one-stop medical centre for patients.

The North Dufferin Wellness Centre Primary Care Clinic consists of Dr. Amy Catania, Dr. Natasha Gill and Dr. Sonya Caruso.

Dr. Catania detailed to Shelburne Council the number of issues and challenges they as tenants had experienced related to the three landlords, including bills not being paid, mould, leaks in the roof and basement, property disrepair, and animals.

At the end of the delegation, Dr. Catania made it clear – a solution had to be found or the clinic would be forced to leave the community.

"As physicians, we don't have the ability to just make more money. The government controls what it is that we are paid for our service, and there is no way of really increasing our revenue so we could not pay. We would have lost our business by having to pay that extra amount of money," said Catania.

Concern for the clinic and family physicians leaving the community was raised due to the shortage of family physicians province-wide.

The Ontario College of Family Physicians

reported in July of 2024 that there are about 2.5 million people in Ontario who do not have a family doctor.

According to the Hills of Headwaters Collaborative Ontario Health Team, the estimated number of local community members needing access to primary and team-based care was over 15,000 as of March 2022.

With the population of the area projected to increase 37 per cent by 2031, Dufferin County and Caledon will require 43 additional family physicians – 14 for Dufferin County and 29 for Caledon – in the next seven years to keep up with population growth.

The physicians remaining in Shelburne is highlighted even more in a report to Shelburne Council which indicated that the three physicians - Catania, Gill and Caruso - see 3,627 patients of which 1,035 or roughly 28 per cent are from Shelburne and 1,550 or 42 per cent are from Dufferin County.

Shelburne Town Council approved a motion to supplement the rental cost of the medical facility during a council meeting in December.

Following the meeting with the Town Council, Catania said they were contacted by the owners of Caravaggio I.D.A Drugs, who offered to provide them the needed space to stay within the community.

"At that point in time, we were trying to decide whether or not we needed to leave the community and find another place to go. Thankfully, the Caravaggio I.D.A owners came forward and offered us some space in their pharmacy in order to try and keep us in the community; which was amazing and wonderful," said Catania.

Speaking about why the North Dufferin Wellness Centre Primary Care Clinic chose to move to the pharmacy rather than accept the subsidy from the Town of Shelburne and remain in the same location, Catania said, "We were tired of dealing with short term solutions and while it would have been nice to be able to use, between not being able to negotiate a lease with the landlord and not having it be a long term solution, we felt that this was the better option."

At the time of print, the clinic and pharmacy are waiting for building permits from the Town of Shelburne and the County of Dufferin, but hope to open the new location by March.

The North Dufferin Wellness Centre Primary Care Clinic has temporarily moved its location to the Orangeville Family Medicine Centre (OFMC), located at 1 Elizabeth Street in Orangeville while they wait for confirmation of the new location.

# Ontarians set to go to the polls Feb. 27 following snap election call by Ford

Written By BROCK WEIR

Ontarians are set to go to the polls on Feb. 27 following a snap election call from Progressive Conservative Premier Doug Ford.

Lieutenant-Governor Edith Dumont, the King's representative in Ontario, made things official on Wednesday morning, issuing the traditional writ that kicks off the campaign.

Ford made his intentions to call an election more than a year ahead of schedule last week in Brampton, citing a need for a renewed mandate from Ontarians amid looming tariff threats from US President Donald Trump.

"We're entering a period of unprecedented economic risk and lengthy negotiations – against President Trump and with the federal government and other provinces," said Ford in a social media post on Tuesday, ahead of his formal campaign launch in Windsor, ON, Wednesday morning. "Responding to this challenge will demand extraordinary action: the need to invest tens of billions of dollars in unplanned spending and tough choices about making Ontario's economy the most

competitive place to invest, create jobs and do business. To protect Ontario, I'm asking the people for a strong mandate — a strong, stable, four-year mandate that will outlive and outlast the Trump administration.

"During this time, I will never stop working for you. I will remain chair of the Council of the Federation and will join my fellow premiers and the prime minister for weekly meetings. I will travel to Washington to make Canada's case against tariffs. I will fight to protect Ontario: for our families, for our workers, for our businesses, for all of us."

Ford seeks a third term as Ontario Premier against Ontario NDP leader Marit Stiles and Ontario Liberal leader – and former Mississauga mayor – Bonnie Crombie.

Both party leaders said a new mandate wasn't needed at this time – particularly in light of the Progressive Conservatives' clear majority at Queen's Park.

"While the people of Ontario are anxious about the grave threat of tariffs, Doug Ford is pursuing his own political gain," said Stiles in a statement. "People need a Premier who will fight like hell for every single job that's

**"We're entering a period of unprecedented economic risk and lengthy negotiations – against President Trump and with the federal government and other provinces"**

Doug Ford, Progressive Conservative Premier

at risk, not run to the polls over a year early. Doug Ford thinks that he can call an early election to escape his record of failure on housing, health care, education and affordability. We won't let him.

"In the coming weeks, we have the power to choose a better future for our province. We have the power to fight back against Donald Trump and turn the page on Doug Ford. Together, we can win an NDP government that's on your side."

In a campaign message, Crombie said the

cost of an election is wasteful.

"Doug Ford's Ontario has failed you," said Crombie in a statement. "He's wasting \$175 million on an early election instead of using it to fix our broken healthcare system and make your life more affordable. As Premier, I'll deliver more for you by guaranteeing you'll have a family doctor, cutting taxes on your paycheque and home heating, and building homes you can afford."

In Dufferin Caledon, the PC banner will once again be carried by Sylvia Jones, who has most recently served as Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. She will be challenged by former Orangeville mayor Sandy Brown, who will be carrying the Green Party of Ontario banner.

At press time this week, no candidates had been formally confirmed for the NDP or the Liberals.

Orangeville Councillor Tess Prendergast was previously confirmed as the Ontario Liberal candidate for Dufferin-Caledon but pulled out of the race earlier this month following the death of her father. She committed to supporting the party and the new candidate once they are confirmed.



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Canada





# Dufferin OPP investigating 'distraction fraud' at Orangeville bank

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

Local police are warning the public about a "distraction fraud" that took place in Orangeville. The incident is believed to be part of a larger, ongoing scam targeting bank institutions across Ontario.

Dufferin Ontario Police officers are currently investigating the "distraction fraud" and requesting the public's help in identifying two people of interest related to the incident.

The investigation stems from an occurrence at a banking institution on Broadway in Orangeville on Dec. 19, 2024. An elderly male attempted to use the ATM at the bank and at the time, the victim encountered an obstruction in the card slot. A male suspect, speaking a foreign language (possibly Spanish), approached him offering assistance.

At this time, the victim's card was stolen, and a replacement card was provided in exchange.

change.

"Bank surveillance footage shows a female suspect inserting paper into the ATM, while the male suspect removes the victim's card and hands it to the female," said Dufferin OPP in a press release.

"This same scam has been reported at other banks across Ontario, and the OPP are urging anyone with information to come forward."

The male suspect has dark curly hair and was wearing a black jacket and black hat at the time of the fraud incident. The female suspect has long dark hair and was wearing a pink jacket and hat at the time of the crime.

Anyone with information about this theft is encouraged to contact the Dufferin OPP at 1-888-310-1122, or to remain anonymous, call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or visit [www.ontariocrimestoppers.ca](http://www.ontariocrimestoppers.ca). The investigation is ongoing.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

**WANTED BY POLICE:** Surveillance images depict a male and female suspect who are wanted by Dufferin Ontario Police in relation to a "distraction fraud" incident at a banking institution on Broadway in Orangeville. The male suspect has dark curly hair and was wearing a black jacket and black hat at the time of the fraud incident. The female suspect has long dark hair and was wearing a pink jacket and hat at the time of the incident.

# Dufferin County facing numerous road hazards due to abandoned vehicles

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers are concerned about an increasing number of vehicles abandoned on local roads during adverse winter conditions.

"As we navigate the challenges of this winter season, we wish to highlight an ongoing safety concern. A significant number of vehicles that have become stuck in snowdrifts are preventing local road crews

from effectively clearing these areas," said Dufferin OPP in a press release on Jan. 29. "This obstruction not only disrupts traffic flow but also creates serious safety hazards for both motorists and emergency vehicles."

"We have also seen vehicles following GPS directions onto OFSC trails or other roads that are not safe in winter, leading to

vehicles getting stuck. GPS can sometimes send you down the wrong path, so be careful and check your route," the press release added.

Abandoned vehicles in snowdrifts hinder the ability of road crews to maintain safe and passable roads for all.

"In emergency situations, these blockages can delay response times, putting lives

at risk," said Dufferin OPP's press release.

"We urge residents to plan ahead during inclement weather. Ensure that your vehicle is properly equipped for winter conditions and, when possible, avoid unnecessary travel during severe weather. Together, we can help ensure our roads remain safe for everyone. Thank you for your cooperation and stay safe this winter season."

# Police issue warning regarding fraud trends impacting Dufferin County

The Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is issuing a warning to residents about ongoing fraudulent activities in Dufferin County.

"Fraudulent schemes are becoming more prevalent, and it is important to remain vigilant," said Dufferin OPP in a press release.

If you suspect you have been a victim of fraud, please contact the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501 or the Ontario Provincial Police at 1-888-310-1122.

Here are some common fraud types currently circulating in the area:

**Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) Scams/Fraud:**

- The caller claims to be a CRA agent.
- You may be told that you have outstanding balances or owe taxes from previous years, or that there is an issue with your social insurance number.
- The caller will request your personal information and may threaten arrest if you don't comply immediately.

**Bank Scams/Fraud:**

- The caller pretends to be a bank official.
- You may be asked to help with a local bank investigation.
- The caller will request that you withdraw money from your personal account to assist in the so-called investigation.
- The caller may ask to meet in a private location to obtain the cash.

**Emergency Scams/Fraud:**

- The caller impersonates a loved one claiming to be in an emergency.
- The caller may pose as a police officer or lawyer representing your loved one and urgently requests financial help.

**Romance Scams/Fraud:**

- Suspects use social media or dating platforms to create fake profiles and establish quick, emotional connections.
- They work hard to gain your trust, ultimately asking for money with broken promises in return.

**Contractor Scams/Fraud:**

- The contractor requests large deposits upfront and may promise the world while refusing to pull the necessary permits.
- The contractor may claim that additional funds are required to start or complete the job.
- The contractor may offer "great deals" on leftover materials from another job, pressuring you to pay more.

**Residence Location Scams/Fraud:**

- The scammer may contact you with photos of your residence, stating that they know where you live and can see your property.
- This tactic is designed to intimidate and manipulate you into responding or taking action.
- Important: Do not click on any links in unsolicited emails or messages, especially if you are not 100 per cent certain that they are legitimate.

Residents are urged to be cautious and skeptical of unsolicited calls, messages, or requests for money," said Dufferin OPP's press release. "Always verify the legitimacy of any individual or company before making

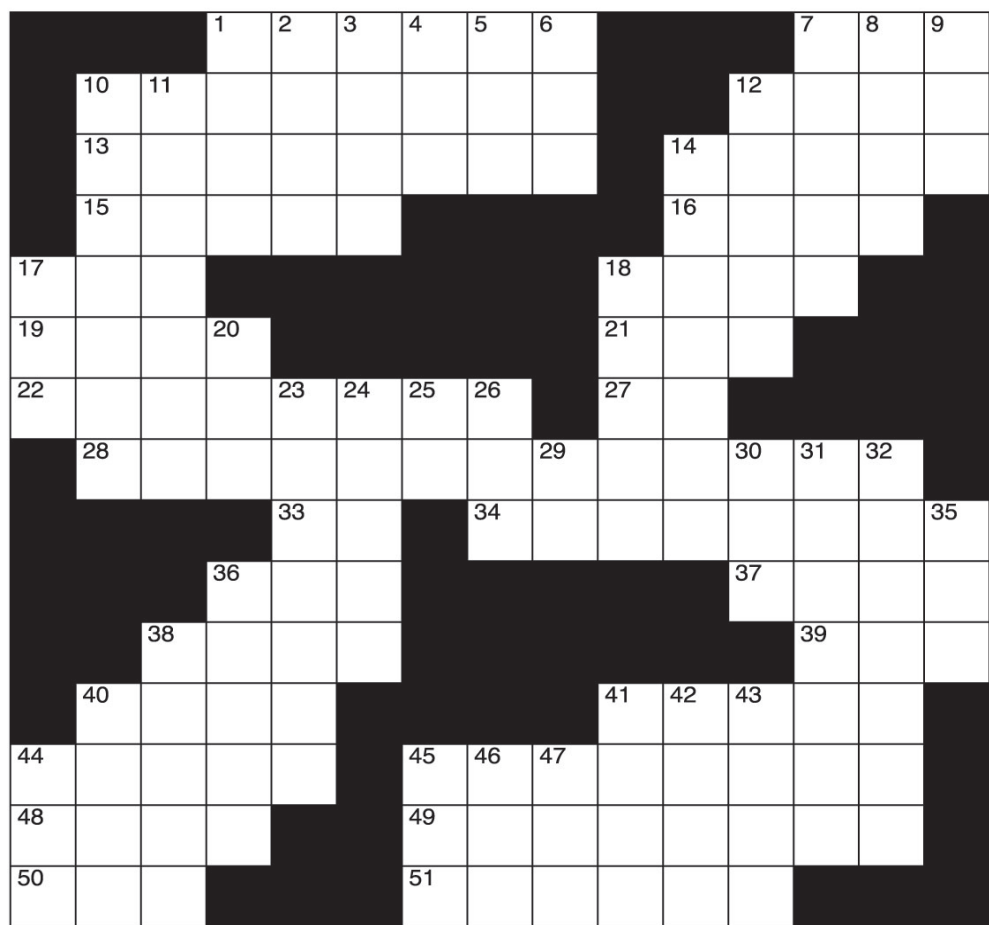
financial commitments." For more information or to report suspicious activity, contact the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre or the Ontario Provincial Police.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**TIPPED OVER TRANSIT:** Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers responded to a bus in the ditch on Concession Road 12-13 at 24-25 Sideroad on Jan. 21. Police say high winds and snow squalls heavily impeded visibility at the time. The bus's driver and passengers were all safe without injury.

## CROSSWORD



### CLUES ACROSS

- Where entertainers perform
- Miller beer variety
- Ageless
- River in SE Europe
- Able to be repaired
- Type of wrap
- Atomic #54
- Type of tent
- U.S. Treasury position
- Opposed to
- Protective covering
- Bridge building degree
- Clouding of the lens
- Priestess of Hera loved by Zeus
- Unacceptable
- Mr. T's "The A-Team" character
- American national

- Supreme god of ancient Egyptians
- Nevada city
- Energy, style and enthusiasm
- Bird's beak
- Language
- Midway between south and southeast
- Punjab village
- Small biting flies
- Sportscaster Patrick
- A way to get around
- Repeat
- A way to cook with fat
- Temporary loss of consciousness
- Reciprocal of a sine
- Fir tree genus
- "Transformers" director Michael
- Criminals who steal
- Genus of leaf-footed bug

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### CLUES DOWN

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*No one has more self-confidence than the person who does a crossword puzzle with a pen.*

# Orangeville SPCA looking to find 'forever' home for 10-month-old black cat

Written By PAULA BROWN  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Ontario SPCA Orangeville & District Animal Centre is hoping to find a forever home for a long-term resident.

Pepper is a 10-month-old black domestic short-haired cat who has been with the local animal centre for almost 180 days. She arrived at the Orangeville SPCA from another rescue centre when she was roughly four months old. Pepper is described as being shy and has been diagnosed with a manageable, but chronic upper respiratory condition.

"Finding her perfect match has been a bit more challenging because of her needs, but we're determined to help her find the loving home she deserves," said Shannon Bury, the local SPCA's community outreach coordinator. "This sweet and affectionate girl has faced some challenges early in life, leaving her a little shy. However, with each passing day, Pepper continues to blossom in our care."

Pepper's chronic upper respiratory condition has been a contributing factor in her long wait for adoption from the local SPCA, as they work to find a home best suits her needs. The chronic condition makes it essential for her to live in a calm, patient, stress-free home as the only cat.

"We would prefer that she doesn't go to a home with another cat, and I think that's really been our stumbling block," said Dawn Lyons, manager of Orangeville SPCA. "Finding the right home can present a challenge, especially when they do have medical conditions. We do our best to make sure we treat those conditions to the best of our ability, however sometimes our friends are going to have these for a lifetime, and we're looking for the special person that is willing to give that care and time to our furry friends."

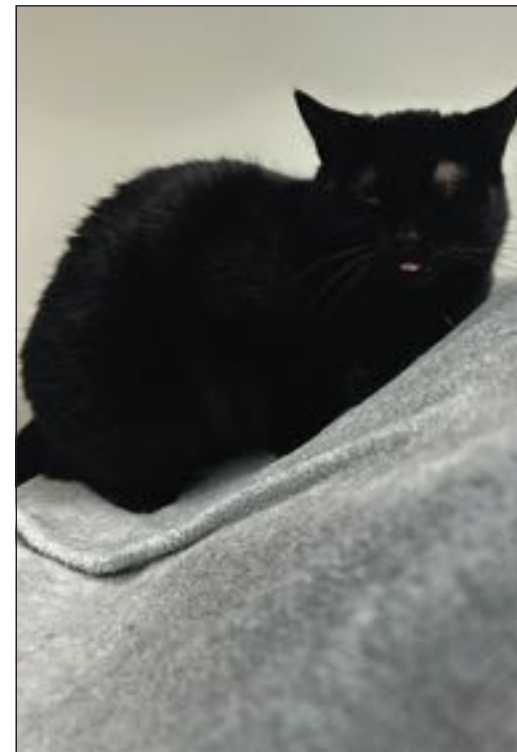
To give Pepper a better chance at finding her forever home sooner, the Orangeville SPCA has chosen to waive the \$260 fee they have for cat adoptions.

"Waiving that fee will hopefully help find

a family who is able to take on the challenges that Pepper might have when she gets into her home," said Lyons. "It's our way of hoping to get Pepper into a home a little bit sooner so that she can continue with her recovery."

Those interested in potentially adopting Pepper are encouraged to contact the Ontario SPCA Orangeville & District Animal Centre.

"We truly believe there's someone out there who can provide the quiet, nurturing environment Pepper needs to come out of her shell and thrive," said Bury.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**FUREVER HOME:** The Ontario SPCA Orangeville & District Animal Centre is looking to find the forever home for 10-month-old Pepper, who has been at the facility for nearly 180 days, and has struggled to find her forever home following a diagnosis with a chronic upper respiratory condition.

# Carnegie libraries in Ontario still play a vital role in communities to this day

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

Not all very wealthy people light cigars with \$20 bills and bathe in gold-plated bathtubs.

Sometimes that's the perception of the public when individuals have achieved great success and along with that, a lot of money.

Many local libraries across the country, and especially in Ontario, were built due to the generosity of a single man.

Andrew Carnegie was born in Scotland in relatively modest surroundings.

After moving to the U.S. in 1848, Carnegie took on several rather menial jobs.

A local man in Pennsylvania opened his library every Saturday night to local working boys so they could self-educate.

Carnegie took full advantage of the opportunity and used the library to learn as much as he could. He realized how important books were, and resolved that 'If ever wealth came to me, that other poor boys might receive opportunities similar to those for which we were indebted to that nobleman.'

A self-made man, Carnegie had a keen nat-

ural business sense. He slowly started building his wealth through wise investments.

As he became wealthier, Carnegie was still a young man when he decided that he would only accept a salary and use the extra money for benevolent purposes.

Between 1875 and 1900, Carnegie made a vast fortune in the steel industry.

In 1901, Carnegie was 65 years old and one of the richest men in the U.S. He had already made sizable donations to several institutions.

Beginning in 1901, Carnegie turned his attention to philanthropic activities.

One of his most notable contributions was the establishment of public libraries – thus fulfilling his early promise.

He created 3,000 public libraries in the U.S., Canada, Britain, Australia, New Zealand, and other English-speaking countries.

The libraries weren't just given to different towns. Each town had to have a vested interest in providing the land and ensuring the buildings would be maintained and follow codes of conduct.

The libraries were also designed and built to be a showcase building in the town. Carnegie libraries are all well-designed and impressive buildings and easily recognizable.

Carnegie built a total of 125 libraries in Canada. Fifty-three of those libraries are still in use, including the libraries in Shelburne and Orangeville.

The other libraries have been reused and are still standing and some have received special 'heritage designations' due to their impressive designs.

Over 125 years after his death, Carnegie's legacy lives on whenever someone enters a Carnegie library to read or borrow a book.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**LIBRARY LEGACY:** Industrialist Andrew Carnegie spent a considerable amount of his fortune building libraries in several countries including 125 in Canada. They were all well designed and built to be a showcase buildings in the town. The Orangeville Public Library building is still in use and is an example of the type of architecture that created these impressive buildings.



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# SPORTS

## Conditions perfect for annual Mono Nordic Ski Club race day

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

It has been a good season for winter sports and all the snow meant a perfect, although blustery day, for the Mono Nordic Ski Club's annual race day.

Skiers from around the province arrived at the club on Saturday, Jan 25, to compete on the trails at Monora Park in Mono.

Shelburne and area residents enjoy Nordic and cross-country skiing at the popular local track and were represented on race day.

Nordic and cross-country ski clubs and school groups competed in several categories on trails ranging from 1.5 km, up to 6.5 km in length.

"Today is our annual Mono Nordic Ski race. We have over 170 racers here today," explained race day organizer Rene Beukeboom. "We have skiers from all over. The Mono Nordic Ski Club is hosting, and we have ski clubs from Huntsville, Arrow Head, Collingwood, Georgian Bay, and Waterloo Ski Club. We also have some high school groups - ODSS is here and so is Mayfield. We also have the University of Guelph and the University of Waterloo. We have racers from the U8 division up to the open category and masters. Cross country is a sport for life. We have a great day for the race and great conditions. The snow today is great for the race."

The youngest competitors have a 1.5 km race. U12 competitors race on a 2 km course, U16 run a 5 km race. The U18 up to open masters compete on a 6.5 km course.

"It's very challenging, we have a very hilly course," Beukeboom explained. "It's one unique loop so there's no laps. It's an excellent workout. This is our big race for the Mono Nordic Club. The racers will go on to race at other clubs."



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

**RACE DAY:** Two Mono Nordic Ski Club members cross the finish line during the club's annual race day. Over 170 competitors took part and raced the trails at Monora Park. Skiers from clubs and schools across the province arrived to take part in the event.

The trails at Mono Park provide varied terrain as skiers go through the circuit. Some of the trails have hills which provide a challenge. As skiers reached the final stretch, they

were cheered on by spectators who encouraged them to give it their all when approached the finish line.

Several local businesses donated door prizes,

including Moguls in Mocean, Global Pet Foods, Bodyworks Massage, Kelseys, Booklore, The Mad Hatter and Dave's Butcher Shop.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

**STAYING ON TOP:** The Provincial Junior Hockey League is moving into the final stretch of the regular season, with the final games of the North Carruthers scheduled for Feb. 17, before moving into the playoffs. The Allison Hornets continue to lead the division. The Hornets take on the Innisfil Spartans at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre on Friday, Jan. 26. The Hornets left the ice with a 4-3 win.



## Centre Dufferin girls' varsity hockey team leads District 4 going into final day

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

The Centre Dufferin District High School

Royals girl's varsity hockey team is having a good season. The team is in first place in the District 4 standings.

The Royals have a 6-2-1 record after nine times on the ice. That gives the squad 13 points.

With good offensive play this season the Royals have managed to score 33 goals over nine games while allowing only 15 against.

District 4 girls' hockey is played in a series of all-day tournaments with each school hosting one tournament.

In the first tournament of the season, the Royals won two out of three games on the opening day.

The second tournament was held on Dec. 5, and the CDDHS team won all three games and moved into first place in the standings.

The third tournament on Jan. 9, resulted in the Royals winning their first game, losing the second game, and tying the third.

The final regular season tournament will take place in Erin on Feb. 13.

As a team, the Royals have worked well together.

"It's been a pretty good season, all the girls are bonding really well so we're playing really good," said Royals centre, Lauren Smith. "It's a good feeling to be in first place - obviously teams are coming and gunning for us."

Norwell District Secondary School is in second place in the District with a 4-3-2 record.

They are followed by Erin District High School with a 3-2-1 record.

In the fourth spot, Wellington Heights Secondary School has a 2-3-1 record.

Westside Secondary School has yet to win a game this year.

The final District 4 tournament day will take place in Erin on Feb. 13, with each team playing three games throughout the day to finish the regular season schedule.

The District playoffs are scheduled to get underway on Feb. 18, with locations not yet announced.

The season will wrap up with the final championship game on Feb. 27.

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### i'm lovin' it



## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

### TRISTAN PARK

As a first year basketball player, Grade 11 student, Tristan Park was asked to try out for the CDDHS team after coaches noticed his height and ability on the court, and he hasn't disappointed his team,

"I like playing with the team," Tristan said. "They're all good guys and they're fun to be around. It's fun to be out there on the court and having a good time."

When he's not on the basketball court, Tristan plays baseball both with the school and with the Mansfield Junior Cubs.

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19+

# County seeks submissions for 2025 Dufferin Explore Guide

Written By PAULA BROWN  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Dufferin County is preparing for another year of welcoming and sharing local tourism with visitors and residents.

The County of Dufferin announced in a press release on Jan. 16 that they are starting the curation process of the 2025 Explore Dufferin Guide and are looking for submissions.

"Bolstered by the incredible response to the Explore Dufferin Guide locally and internationally our development and tourism team has begun work on our 2025 edition," said Dufferin County Warden Janet Horner. "Building on last year's successes, we are excited to continue to highlight the events, community and culture of our unique towns, and to connect residents and visitors alike with even more of the best of Dufferin County."

The Dufferin Explore Guide is an annual print and online resource created by the County of Dufferin, which highlights events, resources and tourism itineraries to help visitors and residents explore and discover more in Amaranth, East Garafraxa, Grand Valley, Melancthon, Mono, Mulmur, Shelburne and Orangeville.

The County of Dufferin is bringing forward new additions to the Explore Guide for 2025 and is accepting submissions in three key areas: events, advertising and agri-tourism.

### Submitting Events:

The County of Dufferin is accepting events that will be held between May 2025 and April 2026 for inclusion in the Explore Dufferin Guide and the events calendar. Stipulations for consideration include: a tourism-related event, open to the public, located within the

geographical boundaries of Dufferin County and, if a ticket event, the necessary information for costs and booking links is provided.

### Agri-tourism Map

The County of Dufferin is teaming up with the Headwaters Farm Fresh Guide to spotlight the best of Dufferin's agri-tourism. The guide acts as a resource for locals and visitors seeking fresh, authentic farm experiences.

Agri-tourism business in Dufferin County will also be featured on the new Explore Dufferin Agric-tourism Map.

In 2024, the Explore Dufferin Guide received two awards for excellence: a first gold designation in the Economic Development Awards from the International Economic Development Council, and a second from the MarCom Awards, administered by the Association of Marketing and Communi-

cation Professionals.

"These two awards brought Dufferin County to the international stage and highlighted, like the Guide does, the thriving community and culture that make Dufferin a wonderful place to live, work and visit," said Sonya Pritchard, Chief Administrative Officer for the County of Dufferin. "As we work towards the release of the 2025/2026 edition of the Guide, we look forward to another year of community events, connections, and exploration for visitors, investors and residents."

The 2025 Explore Dufferin Guide will be distributed to households in Dufferin County, as well as to neighbouring municipalities and Tourism Visitor Centres across Ontario.

The deadline to submit an event for the Explore Dufferin Guide is Feb. 28.

For more information or to submit your event, visit [www.dufferincounty.ca](http://www.dufferincounty.ca).

# Peavey Mart closing stores across Canada including Orangeville location

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

Canada's largest farm retail chain, Peavey Mart, is closing all its stores.

Prospect Media Group Ltd. (PMG) Suppliers said in a letter on Jan. 27 that they were notified that Peavey Mart (Peavey Industries) is closing all stores, effective immediately.

On Jan. 21, the retailer announced plans to close 22 Peavey Mart locations in Ontario and Nova Scotia. Now, the remaining 90 Peavey Mart and six Mainstreet Hardware locations in Canada will be shutting down.

Peavey Mart confirmed on Jan. 27 that it had begun closure and liquidation efforts.

The company has also sought creditor protection and noted in a press release that the Canadian retail industry is "experiencing unprecedented challenges." These include "record-low consumer confidence, inflationary pressures, rising operating costs, and ongoing supply disruptions, along with a difficult regulatory environment."

In a statement, President and CEO of Peavey Industries Doug Anderson said closing all stores was a "profoundly difficult decision, but one that allows us to explore the best possible alternatives for the future of the company."

"For nearly six decades, our customers' loyalty, employees' dedication, and the resilience of the communities we serve have been the cornerstone of our business. We remain focused on working with our partners and stakeholders to preserve the Peavey brand and the value it represents," Anderson added.

Peavey Mart's nearest locations are 207311 Highway 9, Orangeville and 4874 Concession Road 7, Alliston.

JANINE TAYLOR PHOTO

**FINAL DAYS:** Over the next few months, Peavey Marts across Canada will be closing their doors permanently.



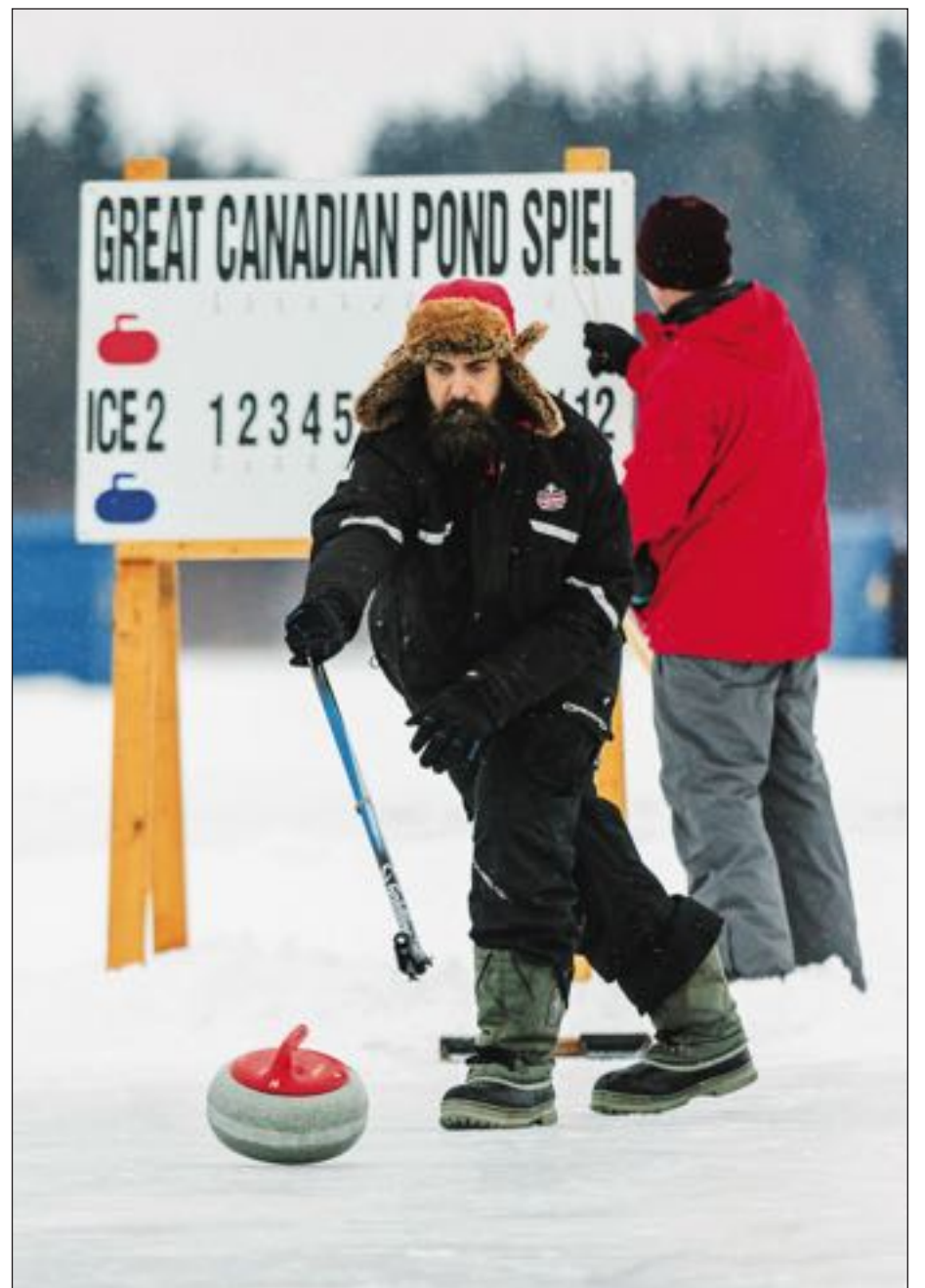
JOEL KRAHN PHOTOS

**SWEEPING SUCCESS:** It was a blustery day on the lake at the Island Lake Conservation Area which made it all that much more fun and challenging for curlers during the Great Canadian Pondspiel hosted by the Orangeville Curling Club on Jan. 25. Curling Clubs from around the province arrived to try outdoor curling on the lake ice - the way it was done before modern ice plants allowed for indoor curling fun.

Above: Piper Don Rea leads teams down to the ice at Island Lake for draw two of the Great Canadian Pondspiel.

Far right: Corbin Smith hurls a rock down the ice during draw one of the Great Canadian Pondspiel at Island Lake on Saturday, Jan. 25.

Middle: Graham McLellan of Team Girvan launches a shot during draw one.



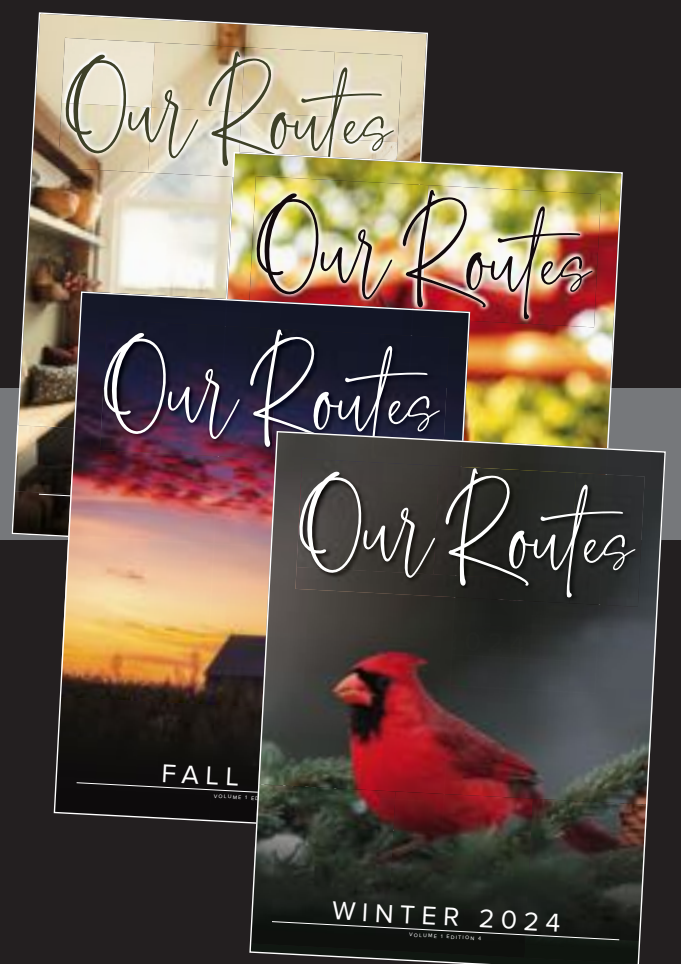
Interested in being part of the roots of our community? The Orangeville Citizen has brought to life a seasonal glossy lifestyle magazine showcasing the Headwaters Region and surrounding areas. We believe every community has unique and interesting stories to tell. And we've made it our job to find them and share them with you.

To advertise in the next issue of Our Routes magazine, email us at: [contactus@ourroutes.com](mailto:contactus@ourroutes.com)

# Our Routes

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Booking deadline February 28, 2025



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**OBITUARIES**

### WILLOUGHBY (BILL) TOM BENTLEY

DECEMBER 17, 1930- JANUARY 26, 2025

Bill passed away peacefully at Headwater Health Care Centre in his 95th year. Beloved husband of Shirley. Loving father of Michael (Anita), Darryl (Rhonda) and Patricia. Proud Grandfather of William (Ainsley), Thomas (Jamie), Johnathan (Stephanie), Christianna, Mitchell, Allie (Chris), Samantha, Mary (Mateo) and Adam. Great Grandpa to Everleigh, and Hudson.



Bill operated a dairy farm in Amaranth until selling in 1989 (Shirwill Farms). He worked at Honda Canada Alliston for 6 years until the age of 65. He also worked for Carmen Doney Construction. He worked on the ski hills in Mansfield and on the potato fields in Melancthon.

Farming and family were his passion. Bill will be surely missed.

The family would like to thank the staff at the Avalon, Shelburne Residents, and Headwaters Health Care Centre- E Wing, for their amazing care and compassion over the years.

A Celebration of Life will take place in the spring. Please check www.imfunerals.com for updates.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Bill's memory can be made to the Headwater Health Care Foundation-Highest Priority Equipment and Projects.

Online condolences can be made at [www.imfunerals.com](http://www.imfunerals.com)

In Memoriam Funeral Services Inc has been given the honour of serving the Bentley Family.

**OBITUARIES**

### ANN MARIE JACKLIN (NEE GALLAUGHER)

Peacefully with family by her side at Springdale Country Manor on Monday, January 20, 2025 in her 80th year. Ann, beloved wife of sixty years to Bill Jacklin. Loving and devoted mother of Lisa Jacklin Bolger and her husband Grant, and Sara Jacklin LeFave and her husband Tim. Cherished Grandma/ Mama of Liam, Aidan, Keira; Gavin, Nick, Hannah, Kylan, Mitchell, and Connor. Dear sister of Margaret Staveley (Jack, predeceased), and the late Helen Grainger (Alex, predeceased). Dear sister in law of RuthAnne Ruhl (Bev), Jim Jacklin (Trudy), and Lois Downey (Ed). Remembered lovingly by her many nieces and nephews. Daughter of the late Jason Gallagher and Isobel Brayford. Ann will be greatly missed by her many friends, neighbours and the tea ladies. The family would like to express their deepest gratitude to all of the staff at Springdale Country Manor for the warm and personal care they showed "sweet Ann". Relatives and friends are invited to a Celebration of Ann's Life in Highland Park Funeral Centre, 2510 Bensfort Road, on Saturday, February 1, 2025 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm with Words of Remembrance at 3:00pm. In her memory, and in lieu of flowers, donations to Springdale Country Manor, Alzheimer Society of Peterborough, or a charity of your choice would be appreciated by her family. Online condolences may be expressed at [www.highlandparkfuneralcentre.com](http://www.highlandparkfuneralcentre.com)



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- Completion of high school required.
- Utilize analytical skills to interpret production data, identifying patterns, inefficiencies, and potential improvements. Make data-driven recommendations to enhance the efficiency of sorting, increase output quality, and reduce waste. Collaborate with team leaders to implement optimized workflows.
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- Previous heavy equipment experience preferred.

To view a comprehensive overview of the position, please go to <https://jobs.dayforcehcm.com/en-US/irs/CANDIDATEPORTAL/jobs/1755>. Interested candidates please send a copy of your resume and cover letter to [cstewart@iceriversprings.com](mailto:cstewart@iceriversprings.com) or write to:

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**NOTICE**



### Shelburne Fair Board AGM

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PETER RICHARDSON PHOTOS

**FIRE AND ICE FESTIVAL RETURNS:** A massive crowd gathered for the Big Burn, where a fire sculpture is set ablaze with special sound effects and lighting, at the 14th Annual Fire and Ice Festival at the Alton Mill Arts Centre on the evening of Saturday Jan. 25. The event continued on Jan. 26 with lots to do and see over the two days, such as live demonstrations of ice carving, skating on a pond, snow-lantern building, live music performances, tobogganing and crafts. The festival is held on a pay-what-you-can basis and all proceeds go to Headwaters Arts, a non-profit that promotes art and supports artists in our region.



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**Shelburne Public Library shares weekly news**

**What's happening**  
Our Seed Library is seeking donations. Help our seed library grow by donating spare, viable seed! Seed donations can be dropped off at the Main Circulation desk during open hours. Please label your seeds with the variety, date it was harvested, and the location it was grown (ex- Snow Peas, harvested Fall 2024, Shelburne)  
Our Seniors Tech Tutoring appointments are available on Tuesdays and Thursdays (5 p.m. to 7 p.m.). It's the perfect opportunity to ask your tech questions in a non-judgmental environment. Call 519-925-2168 to book an appointment.

**Recommended read**  
**The Bitter Past by Bruce Borgos:** Sheriff Porter Beck's life in the high desert of Nevada is relatively quiet until an

old retired FBI agent is found tortured and murdered. Clues at the scene point to a mystery dating back to the early days of the nuclear age.  
**Why Trudy recommends it:** I enjoy books with character appeal. This author reminds me of Craig Johnson and his Walt Longmire series. Both main characters are courageous and often self-sacrificing with strong convictions. Nevada Sheriff Porter Beck was forced to retire from the army after 20 years for an obscure medical condition. The story has two timelines, which I usually find distracting in other books, but the flashbacks to 1955 held my interest. The mood was suspenseful and fast paced. It was intricately plotted with elements of cold war espionage. His team consists of three deputies and also includes his father, who is suffering from early dementia, and a highly skilled but unusual stepsister.

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**SAVE \$3**

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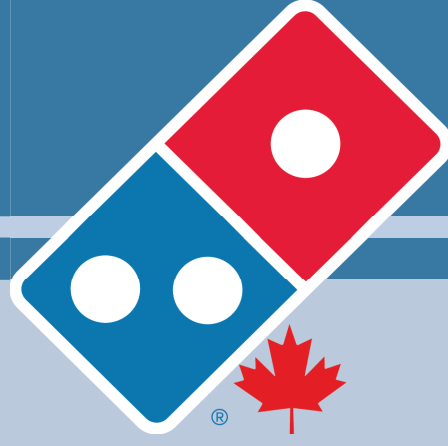
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**Domino's**

\*Extra large may be available at select locations for an additional charge. Pricing may vary by location. An additional charge may apply for premium toppings, sauces, extra cheese, and special pizza types including: Handmade Pan Pizzas, Thin Crust Pizzas, Gluten Free Pizzas and Feast Pizzas. Please refer to offer when ordering. Limited time. Prices, participation, delivery area & delivery fee may apply. Terms and charges may vary.