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ONE STEP AT A TIME: Individuals participating in Trainer Games' charity walk gathered in front of the fitness centre on Sunday, June 1. The walk challenges participants to walk a total of 100 kilometers throughout the month of June, which equates to about 3.4 kilometers per day. See a full story on Page 7.

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Shelburne Free Press

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United churches throughout Dufferin to mark 100th anniversary with community events

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

Three church congregations in Dufferin County will be coming together to celebrate the 100th year anniversary of the United Church of Canada.

Trinity Primrose United Church, Westminster United Church and High-Country United Church will be hosting four events over the span of a week to commemorate the centennial milestone. The ministers presiding over the celebrations will be Rev. Ann Harbridge, Rev. Janet Jones and student minister Aidan Legault.

"The world today has changed. A hundred years ago everybody went to church, even 50 years ago everybody went to church. Today that's not true. So, for us to still be here serving the community in this day and age, is a big deal and we need to celebrate it," said Rev. Ann Harbridge from Trinity Primrose United Church.

The festivities will kick off on June 7 at 11 a.m. at High Country United Church in Camilla, where the congregations will host an old-time gospel service. Westminster United Church in Orangeville will then host a traditional service on Sunday (June 8), where a joint choir from all three churches will perform.

On the day of the 100th anniversary (June

10), Trinity Primrose United Church in Shelburne will host a service with a musical element., starting at 7 p.m.

"We're going to be singing a couple hymns from each of the hymn books that have been a part of the United Church's tradition in those 100 years," said Rev. Harbridge. "Some of the hymns we still sing today, some of them we don't, but it'll be fun to sing those again."

The final event in the centennial celebration will be an old-fashioned barn dance featuring music from Greg Holmes. The dance will start at 7 p.m. on June 14 and will be held in High Country United Church's barn.

"Each of our churches, while doing our own thing, are part of a bigger organization. Part of this is to remind ourselves and our congregation that we are part of something much bigger than just our own churches. It's also something special about worshipping in a large community and we wanted to offer that experience to our congregations as part of the 100-year celebration," said Rev. Harbridge.

The United Church of Canada is the largest Protestant denomination in Canada — ministering to over 1 million people across roughly 2,500 congregations.

The United Church was founded in 1925 as a merger of four Protestant denominations: the Methodist Church (Canada), the Congregational Union of Ontario and Quebec, two-



CENTURY OF SERVICE: Trinity Primrose United Church in Shelburne will be holding a service with a musical element to mark the 100th anniversary of the United Church of Canada on June 10 at 7 p.m.

thirds of the congregations of the Presbyterian Church in Canada and the Association of Local Union Churches, a movement predominantly of the three prairie provinces.

Additional unions have joined the United Church of Canada over the years, including the Synod of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of Bermuda in 1930 and the Evangelical United Brethren Church in 1968.

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Canadian Blood Services seeking donors for upcoming clinic in Shelburne

Written By PAULA BROWN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Canadian Blood Services is calling on community members to help collect much-needed blood donations at an upcoming mobile clinic in Shelburne.

The clinic will be held at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex in Shelburne on June 13, by appointment only, between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

"We come to Shelburne every quarter because we have a really good donor base," said Courtney Thompson, Community Development Manager for Simcoe, Muskoka, Dufferin, Grey & York. "We have a few open appoint-

ments still left in Shelburne, but it has filled up quite quickly."

According to the Canadian Blood Services, there are fewer than 400,000 people who donate blood, plasma and stem cells to meet the needs of 40 million people in Canada. The Canadian Blood Service report an anticipated increase in demand for blood donations by 10 percent over the next five years with plasma growing about 50 percent.

"This is due to advancement in clinical care needed more frequently and an aging population as well," said Thompson.

To respond to the expected increase in demand, the Canadian Blood Services has set a recruitment goal of 1 million new donors over

the next five years.

To meet this goal, the Canadian Blood Services has launched a new brand campaign called 'Who's Saving Who?', which focuses on the benefits that donating blood, plasma, stem cells, organs and tissue has on the donor.

"It flips the script on how we typically think about the patient and the donor," explained Thompson. "[Who's Saving Who?] tells the untold story of what the donor gets when they give. It tells the stories that we don't often hear about the person who gives and then walks away with a profound feeling and sense of purpose for helping another person."

Thompson added that they hope the new

brand will help motivate a new generation of donors.

"You never know when you're going to need blood. You never know when a loved one's going to need blood," said Thompson. "It could be an accident, during childbirth, someone with cancer; there's a million reasons why someone could need blood. My biggest call to action is do it for you loved ones, do it for yourself and do it for your community."

Thompson said their goal at the June 13 donor clinic is to collect 77 units of blood through the upcoming clinic, which is equivalent to roughly 100 donors.

Appointments can be booked at www.blood.ca or by calling 1-888-2DONATE.

Shelburne council approves dissolution of fire board, moves to fee-for-service model

Written By PAULA BROWN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Shelburne Town Council is taking further steps to re-establish a fire department under the management of the municipality.

During their meeting on Monday (June 2), Shelburne Town Council unanimously passed a motion supporting the dissolution of the Shelburne and District Fire Board and re-establishing a fire department as part of the Town of Shelburne by the second quarter of 2026. The motion also looks to contract fire services to the surrounding municipalities based on a fee-for-service model.

"When you look at the current status the fire service doesn't change, what's changing is the management perspective," said Deputy Mayor Shane Hall, who is chair of the local Fire Board. "When we look at some of the things that are coming in the future, the legislation and requirements for these firefighters is only going to be increasing so it's certain that we need to get our heads wrapped around the fact that the management structure needs to change to match."

The Shelburne & District Fire Department, located at 114 O'Flynn Street, serves the communities of Amaranth, Melancthon, Mono, Mulmur and Shelburne. The department consists of one full-time fire chief, one volunteer deputy fire chief and 28 volunteer firefighters.

In its existing structure, the Shelburne & District Fire Department is operated by the Shelburne District Fire Board, which consists of two representatives from each of the five municipalities, and provides emergency services to the Town of Shelburne

and surrounding communities.

"The arrangement that was conceived in 1991 and is captured in this agreement made a lot of sense in 1991 and it served our five communities well over a number of years," said Mayor Wade Mills, who sits on the Fire Board. "Something doesn't necessarily have to be completely broke to recognize that there's a better way of doing it. We're not saying that this system is failing flatly, but there definitely is a better way of doing it and what we're proposing here tonight provides a pretty clear framework for a better path forward."

According to the report, the Town of Shelburne funds roughly 57 per cent of the operating and capital costs of the Shelburne & District Fire Department as of the 2025 budget for a total of \$903,535.35.

"Our relative share of the annual cost is increasing year-by-year as the town grows... we're close to 60 per cent now. Despite that fact we have two votes on the board, the same as the other four municipal partners. So, whether you're paying 60 per cent of the bill or 8 per cent of the bill, you have the same number of votes. From a structural point of view that's something which just isn't working any longer," said Mills.

In September of 2024, the County of Dufferin completed a Multi-Jurisdictional Fire Prevention and Protection Modernization Plan. Within it, four recommendations were approved by County Council.

The four options recommended for the Shelburne & District Fire Department (SDFD), included:

1. A single fire department operated by the County of Dufferin
2. A single fire department operated by

the Town of Orangeville

3. Governance of the various fire departments revert to municipal council with a contract for service model

4. "Status quo" with some enhanced administrative supports

Town of Shelburne staff recommended that Council choose option 3 and offer a fee-per-call service model for the surrounding municipalities. The report also notes the option of a one-time capital buy-out for the four municipalities, which would see the Town of Shelburne buy-out the capital, fleet and building expansion of the fire services.

While the Town of Shelburne looks to take over management of the local fire services, the report notes a plan to create an advisory committee with the surrounding communities, that are contracting fire services.

The suggested structure of the advisory group would consist of the mayors from each municipality purchasing services, who meet on a quarterly basis with the fire chief, the Town of Shelburne's chief administrative officer (CAO) and administrative staff.

"It would be based on a collaboration, consultation and regular engagement to en-

sure there's an understanding of the breadth of issues in the operations of the administration as well as the capital. It would not be simply a unilateral imposed outcome," said Denyse Morrissey, CAO of Shelburne.

"We need not compare a potential future Shelburne model to an Orangeville model, a Caledon model or to any other model that's currently in existence. We have the ability at this place in time to sort of be the masters of our own destiny and work with our other four municipal partners to make sure we shape something going forward that everybody's happy with," said Mills. "In my mind, this advisory group will be a meaningful tool in terms of providing input on the part of the other four municipal partners."

As part of the passed motion, the Town of Shelburne has requested the fire board suspend all spending related to the expansion or construction of a new fire hall, which is estimated at a future cost of \$15 million.

The Town of Shelburne has requested a response from each municipality by July 23, regarding the proposed 2026 one-time buy-out approach and the proposed fee for service costs for 2026 and 2027 under the contract fire service model.

Dufferin OPP investigating arson in Amaranth, seeking public's help locating suspects

Dufferin Provincial Police (OPP) officers are currently investigating a suspicious fire involving two residential structures in Amaranth.

Dufferin OPP officers, along with the Grand Valley Fire Department, responded to a fire at two homes under construction in an estate subdivision on Fennel Drive, just off the Ninth Line of Amaranth, on May 30, shortly after 1 a.m.

"The investigation has determined that the fire may have been deliberately set. Security footage shows two individuals, dressed in black, running toward the homes at approximately 12:40 a.m., shortly before the fire began," said Dufferin OPP in a press release.

No injuries were reported.

The fire is a total loss for both houses, while one structure is still standing, it is be-

yond repair.

Both homes were unoccupied and days away from closing with a buyer.

The investigation remains ongoing and is being led by the Dufferin OPP Major Crime Unit, with assistance from the OPP Forensic Identification Services (FIS).

Grand Valley Fire Chief Justin Foreman is asking anyone with information to report it.

Witnesses of the incident or anyone with dashcam or security footage from the area are asked to contact the Dufferin OPP Major Crime Unit at 519-925-3838 or toll-free at 1-888-310-1122.

Tips can be provided anonymously through Crime Stoppers by calling 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at www.crimestoppersdm.com. Individual who submit tips are not required to testify in court and may be eligible for a cash reward.

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OPINION

It's a new record!

There's an old saying: Records are made to be broken.

This means that accomplishments and achievements that set the bar in a particular activity will eventually be surpassed by someone else.

There will always be someone who will come along, determined to do better than a previous record holder.

I have been following high school track and field closely this year and was impressed by the level of competition of some of our local athletes.

The Central Western Ontario Secondary Schools Association (CWOSSA) is a regional competition where district champions compete after winning at the District level. If you qualify at CWOSSA, you move on to the Western OFSAA, and then to the provincial OFSAA competition.

When I was going over this year's statistics, I was surprised to see the winning time in the senior men's 100-meter dash was 10.78. This time was posted by Kowen Moore, from Grand River Collegiate Institute in Kitchener.

The top four in the event finished only .16 seconds apart. That's a blistering fast time over 100 meters.

Moore's winning time is only 1.20 seconds off of Usain Bolt's world record of 9.58 seconds.

However, to put it into perspective, a person finishing the 100 meters with a time of 10.78, would still be around ten meters behind Usain Bolt at the finish line.

Some world records seem unbeatable, but there will always be someone who will try to get their name in the record books. In sports, physical conditioning is of course very important, but along with that, mental preparedness is equally important.

Prior to the 1950s, it was generally believed that running a mile in a time of under 4 minutes was just not attainable by a human being.

However, middle-distance runner Roger Bannister, believed it could be done. Other runners at the time were also making attempts to break that record.

On a blustery and windy day on May 6, 1954, Bannister ran the mile with a time of 3:59.4 seconds, to create a new era in track history.

Felix Baumgartner, the Austrian daredevil, set out to break a few records and he set the bar pretty high – literally.

On October 14, 2012, Baumgartner stepped out of his space capsule-like balloon gondola at an altitude of 127,852 feet.

He was free-falling for a record distance of

119,431 feet before deploying his parachute. His free fall lasted for 4 minutes and 19 seconds. Not only did he break the record for the highest altitude jump, he also became the first person to break the sound barrier outside of a vehicle as the limited air at that altitude provided little resistance as he fell.

I watched the entire event as it streamed live. It was quite a sight to see Baumgartner fall forward from the platform on his gondola and finally disappear as he plummeted toward Earth.

Baumgartner broke a 42-year-old altitude record held by Josep Kittenger, a U.S. Air Force officer who made a jump from 102,800 in 1960.

However, records were made to be broken, and Baumgartner's new outstanding record was broken just over two years later when Alan Eustace made a free fall from an altitude of 135,890 feet.

Oddly enough Eustace was not a known daredevil. He was a computer scientist, who for some reason, got it into his head that he could break this record – and he did.

Annie Edson Taylor set a record – sort of – when she became the first person to go over Niagara Falls in a barrel on October 24, 1901. Annie wasn't some young daredevil. She was 63 years old when she performed her stunt,

and it was her birthday. Apparently she had fallen on hard times, and she somehow came up with the idea of going over the falls in a barrel as a way to make money. No one had even considered the stunt before she decided to do it.

Annie's barrel was literally a barrel. It had wood staves and was held together by metal hoops.

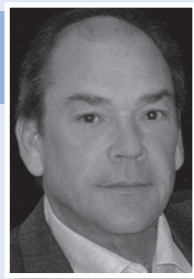
She had several delays when trying her stunt because no one wanted to be part of something they figured would result in her death.

Miraculously, Annie survived the plunge relatively unscathed. However, she didn't get rich from her efforts. She died penniless, and members of the public pitched in to pay for her funeral.

The plunge over the cataract did spur others to try a similar feat. Over the years different people have tried the Niagara plunge with different contraptions.

Some lived, some died. No matter what record or feat someone accomplishes, there will always be someone else who will come along and achieve the next level.

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



The mystique of monarchy takes another victim

On May 26 and 27, King Charles III and Queen Camilla made a two-day visit to Canada to open the 45th parliament of his Canadian domain. The trip was purely symbolic, but pundits far and wide pontificated about the profound significance of the event. That's their job, poor souls.

Later this year, probably in September, Donald Trump will travel to the United Kingdom for his second 'state visit', and King Charles will swallow his distaste and welcome him to the UK with a clenched smile. Another symbolic event bereft of visible consequences, but once again the pundits will have to analyze it in search of 'results' and 'meaning'.

Yet most of the pundits are not idiots, and neither is the general public. There is clearly a strategy behind these events, and it's safe to discuss it here because Trump will never read this. The whole show is designed to exploit Trump's fascination with the British monarchy.

Charles's sole purpose in Canada was to emphasize the sovereignty and separateness of Canada in the face of Donald Trump's insistent claims that it should become part of the United States – the '51st state'.

Canadians, lulled into complacency by the fact that the United States last invaded Canada (unsuccessfully) in 1812, awoke to the harsh reality that the current US president regards the border as an 'artificial line'. "Somebody did it a long time ago, many, many decades ago," he said, "and [it] makes no sense."

So Trump wants to correct this mistake by absorbing Canada, although so far he has only talked about crushing Canada's economy to extract the consent of its citizens, not about resorting to physical violence (as he has threatened to do in his other territorial claims against Greenland and Panama).

But why bring in the King of Canada, a title even Charles himself rarely uses? Indeed,

why does Canada even have a king? Every country needs a head of state, and most democracies prefer not to have a practicing politician in the role. Whether president or monarch, the head of state needs to be above the day-to-day political struggle.

Kings, emperors, and other tyrants used to rule everywhere, of course. They came into vogue when mass societies emerged some five thousand years ago, and continued in most places until the 18th century or later because democracy was impossible until the advent of mass communications (initially in the form of printing and mass literacy).

Countries that won their democracies by revolution, like the United States, replaced their monarch with a 'president' (the word dates to the American Revolution) who served as both head of state and executive head of government. Some presidents in other republics were later tempted to use this position to seek absolute power, although the US has avoided that problem until recently.

Countries that achieved their democracy later and more peacefully, however, often found it simpler just to transform their former monarchs into non-political and impartial heads of state. 'Kings' and 'queens' fill that role in former British-ruled democracies like Canada and Australia and in many other countries from Spain and Sweden to Thailand and Japan.

And the funny thing is that many people in the countries that swapped their kings for presidents long ago still feel a strange attraction to the mystique of the monar-

chies. The French popular media, for example, follow the doings of the British royal family at least as closely as the British do.

The mystique of monarchy is as false and deliberately fabricated as an advertising campaign for beauty products. King Charles III is an intelligent and well-intentioned man working hard for Canada even while under treatment for cancer, but he is not the incarnation of an ancient and sacred past.

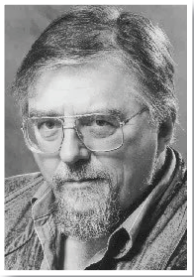
In fact, when it comes to heredity even I am probably more closely related to King Charles I than King Charles III is. (My ancestors were mostly English and Irish; his, at least on the male line, are mostly German.)

Yet the phony mystique of the British royal family has captivated Donald Trump, so it made perfectly good sense for Prime Minister Mark Carney and King Charles III to conspire in reminding Trump that Canada has a strong royal connection (even if most Canadians don't feel it).

And it will make equally good sense for Charles to welcome Trump to the United Kingdom in the autumn for an unprecedented second state visit. Trump is a sucker for real power (e.g. his fanboy admiration for Vladimir Putin), but he is just as much a sucker for the ceremonies, rituals and trappings of fake power (Charles).

Playing the monarchy card might protect both countries from worse treatment at the hands of Donald Trump. After all, this is a man who loves parades in his own honour.

GWYNNE DYER
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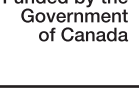
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COMMUNITY VOICES

Monthly message: Summer donations needed at the Shelburne Food Bank

This coming summer, the Shelburne Food Bank needs you!

Summer is approaching, and with it comes feelings of joy for many adults and children.

The school year is almost done, and children look forward to the more unstructured days of the summer, as families begin to make plans to enjoy the warmer weather together.

However, summertime is often a critical time at the food bank.

Donations typically decrease during summer and usage often increases as many clients struggle to feed their families without the support of the breakfast and lunch programs offered at schools. In fact, according to Feed Ontario, 69 per cent of Ontario Food Banks are concerned about having enough food to adequately provide support to those in need this year.

The Shelburne Food Bank struggles each summer to ensure client needs are met.

We are often asked what we need in terms of donations. Money is always the most useful as we can buy in bulk when prices are lower and make better purchases of necessary items



for the hampers. Non-perishable items are always needed, in the quantity of 300 or more for each month.

Some of the items that go into hampers include:

- Canned goods – vegetables, fruit, pasta sauce, soup, beans, fish, ham, pasta.
- Boxed items – pancake mix, cereal, crackers, Kraft dinner, Jello, toilet paper, hamburger helper, cookies, instant potatoes and cake mix.
- Condiments – pancake syrup, peanut butter, mayonnaise, ketchup, jam, salad dressing, barbecue sauce, Nutella and honey

We also do hygiene months where we give out laundry and dish detergent, toothpaste, deodorant, toothbrushes, body wash. The Shelburne Food Bank also does special months where it focuses on certain items like cooking

oil, taco kits, etc.

We welcome sports teams, activity groups, families or individuals that collect donations to drop them off at the food bank so that they can see what it all entails. Other collection points are the Shelburne Public Library, No Frills, Foodland and Marg McCarthy Realty.

The Shelburne Food Bank also does Food Rescue or Food Reclamation from the grocery stores in town and collects food that has been frozen or donated before the best-before date, each week. This food goes into the food bank's freezers and is given out on the days the food bank is open. Weekly collections occur at Jimmy & Stef's No Frills, Foodland, Cobs Bread, Mary Browns Chicken and Starbucks.

The Shelburne Food Bank is also very lucky to be partnering with the Shelburne Horticultural Society again this year. Three years ago the town built us a large garden at Fiddle Park and they have taken the lead on planting, sowing and reaping the bounty that comes weekly from there in the summer.

Several members also bring in produce from their farms. The Shelburne Food Bank does

accept fresh produce grown in your garden so if you're wondering what to do with your extra vegetables, please do consider donating them!

Donations can be made directly to the food bank at shelburnefoodbank@gmail.com or by cheque to either Compass Community Church or Trinity Primrose Church and writing Shelburne Food Bank in the memo line.

Food donations can be dropped off at the food bank on Wednesdays from 9 to 1 p.m. or Thursdays from 5:30 to 8 p.m. or you can call 519-925-2600 ext. 350 to make arrangements for an alternate time.

According to Food Banks Canada, it took about 25 years before food bank visits surpassed 1 million visits in a month. We should have all responded to that sombre milestone.

We did not. The need for food banks continues to spiral. Let's get behind our local food bank as the generous and supportive community we are. Let's make sure all our neighbours can enjoy the summer without worrying about food.

Please donate to the food bank today.

New dental office in Shelburne looks to serve growing community

Written By PAULA BROWN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Say cheese.

A dental clinic new to the Town of Shelburne is hoping to bring brighter smiles to the community.

Shelburne Downtown Dental, located at 125 Main St W, opened its clinic doors in December 2024 and is continuing to welcome new patients.

"It's been great to meet the patients and to work in Shelburne. I think a lot of people are looking for a new dentist and we try to treat each patient like we would our own family and friends," said Leza Morphy, practice lead for Shelburne Downtown Dental. "We've gotten a lot of referrals by word of mouth because our patients are happy here, and that means a lot to us."

The team at Shelburne Downtown Dental consists of dentists Dr. Jass Grewal and Dr.

Louay Al Hares, dental hygienist Ararvind Heer, assistant Danielle Jenner, and practice lead Leza Morphy.

Some of the services the dental clinic provides includes emergency appointments, whitening, night guards, preventative hygiene, implants, crown and bridges, root canals, cosmetic dentistry, and veneers.

Speaking with the Free Press, Morphy noted the demand for more dentist clinics that has become apparent since the opening of the practice.

"Shelburne is a growing community and I definitely think there is a need for more good dentists in the area," said Morphy. "We've got patients coming from Dundalk, Priceville, Procton Station, and Mount Forest. There's a need, this is a growing community even in the outskirts."

While addressing the demand for more dental services in the community, the new clinic is also making a point of tackling the

cost barriers surrounding dental care.

Shelburne Downtown Dental accepts the Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP), the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) and other government benefit plans as well as providing the option to apply for financing payments.

"This has been a big thing for a lot of people who have no benefits, to be able to come in and get the services they need and the treatment taken care of," said Morphy.

Shelburne Downtown Dental is currently offering a special promotion for new patients to receive a general cleaning examination, including polishing, fluoride and x-rays valued at roughly \$480, but available for \$199.

Those interested in booking an appointment with Shelburne Downtown Dental can contact the office by phone at 226-615-2072 or can book online through their website – www.shelburnedowntowndental.com.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BRIGHT SMILES: Dr. Jass Grewal and the team at Shelburne Downtown Dental, located at 125 Main Street in Shelburne, are hoping to bring bigger and brighter smiles to the community.

Hi Neighbour,

My name is Annmarrie Salmon, and I'm excited to introduce myself not only as your local real estate professional but also as a proud fellow resident of the Shelburne area, a wife, and a mom of three who truly loves this wonderful community we call home.

For me, real estate is about so much more than buying or selling a house it's about new beginnings, smart decisions, and helping families find that special place that feels just right. That's what inspires me every single day.

With a strong background in customer service and a genuine passion for helping people, I bring a caring, personalized approach to every real estate journey. Whether you're curious about your home's current value, considering a move, or exploring your first investment, I'd be honoured to serve as your trusted resource and guide.



You might see me around the neighbourhood maybe stopping by to say hello, sharing helpful information, or chatting about your real estate goals. No pressure, just friendly conversation.

So whether you're ready to make a move or simply have a few questions, I'm here to listen, offer guidance, and support you in any way I can. To me, real estate is about building relationships, not just transactions and earning your trust within our community means everything.

If you or someone you know is thinking about buying, selling, or investing, I would be truly honoured to help.

Warmly,

Annmarrie Salmon
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Trainer Games Fitness Centre hosts charity walk for cancer research

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES

In an uncharacteristically cold June breeze, trainers, guests, and community members gathered at TG Fitness to launch a cross-town walk in support of cancer awareness and fundraising.

The walk's launch, which took place in Sunday, June 1, marked the beginning of a month-long campaign, organized by local personal trainers Parvez Chowdhury and Terra Oragunye, to raise funds for the Canadian Cancer Society.

Standing outside the fitness center, Chowdhury welcomed participants and thanked them for showing up despite the chilly weather. He then handed the microphone over to Shelburne Town Councillor Len Guchardi, who arrived not only to support the cause but also to take part in the walk himself.

"It's always great to have community-minded people doing community-minded things to help our community, and Parvez is no exception," Guchardi said. "We really appreciate his efforts and his involvement in this event, which is to walk 100 kilometers."

Guchardi praised the simple approach to the initiative and said the goal of walking 100 kilometers is obtainable by almost anyone.

"If you do the math, 100 kilometers in a month is roughly 3.4 kilometers a day, which comes out to about 4,800 steps," he said. "I don't know anybody that doesn't do that in a day, so this is achievable, and we hope everyone will keep that in mind."

He encouraged others to take part, even informally, noting that small daily goals add up quickly, and when paired with a good cause, they can have an even greater impact.

Returning to the microphone, Chowdhury spoke about his motivations for organizing

the fundraiser and walk, sharing why the campaign meant so much to him personally.

"I want to welcome everyone today to the start of our campaign to walk 100 kilometers in the month of June for the Canadian Cancer Society," he said. "Cancer is near and dear to my heart. My mom was diagnosed with cancer a couple of years ago, and thanks to early detection and chemotherapy, and radiation, she beat it."

Chowdhury continued by reminding everyone what they are up against, as cancer has the potential to affect nearly every Canadian family in some way.

"In Canada, two in five people will be diagnosed with cancer on a yearly basis. Every little bit of awareness counts."

This is one part of a month-long fundraising campaign for the Canadian Cancer Society. Chowdhury said he hopes to continue raising money throughout the month to a total of \$1,000 or more, if possible.

Before the walk even got started, Chowdhury said donations were already rolling in.

"We've actually already gotten a few donations, we were at around 150 dollars," he said. "And we've also gotten another donation right away, so I think we're around two or three hundred now."

The walk began at TG Fitness, also known as Trainer Games, on the east side of Shelburne. Participants followed a straightforward route down Highway 10 toward downtown, with the final destination being Jack Downing Park at the corner of Highway 10 and Victoria Street.

"We're starting right here at Trainer Games," Chowdhury said. "Then we'll be walking towards town, ending at Jack Downing Park. It's going to be an approximately three-kilometer walk, and then we'll finish up at the park."



JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTOS

A COMMUNITY THAT CARES: Participants of Trainer Games' fundraiser for the Canadian Cancer Society walk through Shelburne on Sunday, June 1, to kick off the month-long campaign.

At approximately 3:30 p.m., the walk got underway. Roughly two dozen people joined.

Chowdhury, Guchardi and the group moved down Highway 10 toward downtown. The group reached Jack Downing Park after roughly 25 minutes, where they gathered for photos and conversation.

Kim, who joined the walk and led the way for a portion of the trip, said that while she wasn't walking for one specific goal, she believes that spreading the word is helpful.

"I'm just out here today to spread the word and support the cause," she said. "Anything that we can do, on an individual basis or as a group is a great thing."

As June unfolds, the team at TG Fitness hopes their steps inspire people across Shelburne, causing others to walk, donate, or sim-



ply start a conversation about cancer. With each kilometre logged, the campaign is more than just distance, it's determination, awareness, and a commitment to making a difference in the lives of those affected by cancer.

Celebrate the unsung heroes: Nominations open for SPCA's Veterinary Appreciation Contest

Written By PAULA BROWN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Pet owners have the opportunity to say thank you to the veterinary professionals who help take care of the animals they love by nominating them in the Ontario SPCA and Humane Society's Veterinary Appreciation Contest.

"Veterinary professionals play a vital role in the health and well-being of our pets, and we're excited to celebrate their dedication through this contest," said Shannon Bury, community outreach coordinator at the Ontario SPCA Orangeville & District Animal

Centre. "It's our way of recognizing their incredible compassion, expertise, and commitment — and we invite everyone to nominate their pet's clinic as a heartfelt way to say thanks."

The Ontario SPCA and Humane Society has opened up the nomination period for the contest, which runs until June 8. Family and friends then have the chance to rally for the nominated veterinary clinic by voting between June 9 and June 15 as a show of support.

The clinic with the most votes will be awarded with a plaque and treated to a complimentary lunch for their staff as a small

but meaningful way to show how much their dedication and compassion are valued.

"Veterinary professionals go above and beyond every day to keep our pets happy and healthy. Now it's your turn to celebrate them," wrote the Ontario SPCA in a press release.

To learn more about the contest, nominate your veterinary clinic, or see the clinics that have been nominated in Dufferin County, visit vetappreciation.ca.



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SPORTS

Cubs 15U AA team start new season with winning record

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

The Mansfield Cubs 15U AA team started the season with two wins before taking their first loss to the Innisfil Cardinals on the diamond in Mansfield on Tuesday, May 27.

Innisfil opened the scoring in the Tuesday game with a run scored with bases loaded, then a gutsy steal at home plate to lead 2-0.

The Cardinals were ahead 4-0 in the third on a couple of deep hits to the field.

Mansfield was on the scoreboard in the fourth inning when they got men on base with a double then brought in a run on a hit to deep centre field.

The Cubs closed the score in the sixth inning when they got the bats moving and brought in two runs, both on big hits to left field to make it a 4-3 game.

It was the seventh inning that gave Innisfil the win. An RBI brought in two runs, followed by another run on a walk with the bases loaded.

They followed up with two more runs in the inning.

The Cubs couldn't score in their final at-bat and had to settle for a 10-3 loss.

The Mansfield team played a good game with very few errors and some good hitting for the night.

"I think it was an overall decent game," said Cubs first baseman Logan Senay. "Our hitting was tight for the whole game. Our fielding was pretty good. We slacked off in that one inning."

Mason Fogal who played shortstop, said he thought the team played a good game.

"I thought it was a good game all around," Mason said. "Our hitting was good, a few guys struck out but other than that, we hit the ball pretty good."

The Cubs U15 AA team was entered in a tournament in Barrie over the weekend.

They will return to their home diamond in Mansfield on Tuesday, June 17, to host the Barrie Baycats.

Game time is 6:30 p.m.



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

MADE IT: A Mansfield Cubs U15 AA player makes it safe to third base during the Cubs' game against the Innisfil Cardinals on the diamond in Mansfield on Tuesday, May 27. The Cubs took a 10-3 loss in this game. It was their first loss of the season after winning their first two games.

Centre Dufferin District high school track and field athletes compete at CWOSSA

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

Centre Dufferin District High School athletes competed at the regional Central Western Ontario Secondary Schools (CWOSSA) track and field meet, which was held at Jacob Hespeler Secondary School in Cambridge on Friday, May 23, and Saturday, May 24.

The athletes had to qualify for the meet at the District 4/10 track and field championships, which were held in Guelph on May 6 and May 13.

The top five finishers in events at CWOSSA will go on to compete at OFSAA West Regional, with the top finishers in that event going to the provincial OFSAA track and field championship at the Track and Field Centre at York University in Toronto on June 5-7.

None of the CDDHS athletes qualified for OFSAA West, however, they all performed well at the CWOSSA meet.

In the senior women's 100-meter dash, Peris Hackshaw placed 7th with a time of

13.21.

The team of Jeremiah Anokye, Corey Sterling, Titans Enow, and Keymar Lewis, finished 14th in the senior men's 4x100-meter relay with a time of 47.07.

In the novice men's shot put, Nathaniel Nelson placed 15th with a distance of 9.10 meters.

Jared Bouchard placed 17th in senior men's javelin with a distance of 31.66 meters.

In the novice men's long jump, Brayden Newhook placed 18th with a distance of 4.31 meters.

Zac Thompson finished 14th in novice men's javelin with a distance of 23.87 meters.

In the senior women's 800-meter run, Gabrielle Daly placed 9th with a time of 2:28.14.

Karah Graham placed 7th in the junior women's high jump with a jump of 1.30 meters.

Junior Emmery Haigh competed in three events after qualifying at the District 4/10

championships.

In the junior women's 1,500-meter race, Emmery placed 10th with a time of 5:30.13.

In the junior women's 800-meter run, Emmery placed 9th with a time of 2:44.08.

Emmery also placed 8th in the junior women's triple jump, posting a distance of 9.48 meters.

These athletes should be proud of their accomplishments this season and making it as far as they did in competition.



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

TOP SPOT: Centre Dufferin District High School athlete Emmery Haigh competed in three events at the CWOSSA regional track and field meet held in Cambridge on May 23 and 24. Emmery was the school's top qualifier this year, after doing well in the District 4/10 track and field championships.

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

LOGAN SENAY

A long time ball player, Logan Senay brings a lot of experience to his Mansfield Clubs U15 AA team.

"I like the game play, it's completely different than other sports," Logan said of why he likes playing baseball. "It's a mental game - it's totally in your head."

Logan rotates between first base, catcher, and pitcher, on the team.

During the winter, Logan plays hockey with the Barrie Colts AAA team.

TEAM: MANSFIELD CUBS U15 AA
SPORT: FIRST BASE/PITCHER/CATCHER



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

GOING FOR GOLD: Special Olympics athletes and Unified athletes, along with their coaches, departed from Centre Dufferin District High School (CDDHS) in Shelburne for the Special Olympics Ontario School Championships in Ottawa on Monday, June 2. The student-athletes come from both Robert F. Hall and CDDHS. Their coach bus was escorted out of town by Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), Shelburne Council and Mayor Wade Mills.





PETER RICHARDSON PHOTOS
SEEDS OF SUPPORT: The 2025 Perennial Sale at Headwaters Health Care's Friendship Gardens was held on Saturday, May 31. Funds raised from the sale directly support the maintenance of the hospital's gardens. The sale had over 2,600 plants for patrons to choose from, including perennials, natives, geraniums and eight varieties of Dahlia tubers. Floral greeting cards were also available for purchase.

Dufferin Board of Trade celebrates local businesses at annual Business Excellence Awards Gala

The Dufferin Board of Trade (DBOT) proudly hosted its annual Business Excellence Awards Gala on May 29, at the Best Western Plus Inn & Suites in Orangeville.

This long-standing tradition celebrates the strength and resilience of the Dufferin business community.

This year's event embraced the theme "Proudly Canadian, Proudly Dufferin", with red and white décor and a wonderful display of Canadian patriotism from our attendees. The 2025 Gala honoured 73 outstanding nominees across seven award categories.

The evening began with a cocktail reception and DBOT's 2025 Annual General Meeting, along with a red carpet-style photo opportunity for attending nominees.

"We would like to thank our Drink Spon-

sor, Stephanie Adams Designs, for providing complimentary drink tickets for all guests," reads a press release from DBOT.

During the AGM, DBOT re-elected Doug Harkness as chair, Sandy Brown as vice-chair, Rob Koekkoek as treasurer, and the Board of Directors: Brandi Neil, Sarah Sawchyn, Bill McCutcheon, Paul Janssen, Gail Little, Jason McKittrick, Sherry-Anne Bedminster, Miranda O'Connor and Lisa Thompson.

The Awards Ceremony was hosted by Miranda O'Connor, DBOT Board Director and CEO of Art of Storytelling. We were also honoured to welcome Shelly Anwyll from the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, who shared thoughtful remarks with our guests.

During the ceremony, award sponsors introduced the nominees in each category.

Each category featured three exceptional finalists, showcasing the talent and diversity of our local business community. To meet our finalists, engaging videos were displayed before presenting the award to the winner. In our effort to celebrate being proudly Canadian and proudly Dufferin, this year's trophies are custom-designed, hand-crafted works of art by local artist Tony Fenech of Fenech Designs.

2025 Business Excellence Award Winners:

- Business of the Year – GEON Performance Solutions (Sponsored by: RLB)
- Small Business of the Year – The Dufferin Group (Sponsored by: Wightman)
- New Business of the Year – The Nest Boutique Suites (Sponsored by: Shelburne Golf & Country Club)
- Businessperson of the Year – Carly Ferris (Sponsored by: Town of Orangeville)

- Nonprofit of the Year – Pine River Institute (Sponsored by: Carters Law Firm)
- Local Impact Award – Brighter Future Homes (Sponsored by: Georgian Career & Employment Community Services)
- Chairman's Award – Gerry Holden (Sponsored by: JDC Custom Homes / Janssen Design)

"This incredible evening would not have been possible without the support of our sponsors, volunteer committee, and the Dufferin business community. DBOT extends heartfelt congratulations to all of our nominees, finalists, and award winners for the incredible impact they make across our county," reads DBOT's press release.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BEST IN BUSINESS: Winners of the Dufferin Board of Trade's annual Business Excellence Award Gala, held at the Orangeville Best Western on May 29, hold up the awards they received. This year's winners include GEON Performance Solutions, The Dufferin Group, The Nest Boutique Suites, Carly Ferris, Pine River Institute, Brighter Future Homes and Gerry Holden. The 2025 Business Excellence Awards trophies were custom-designed and hand-crafted by local artist Tony Fenech of Fenech Designs.

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A day of unity and acceptance: Celebrate Your Awesome to return to Alexandra Park

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

Celebrate Your Awesome's 8th Annual Pride & Diversity Event is returning to Alexandra Park in Orangeville on June 21.

The event has an earlier start and end time this year, running from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., and will feature drag shows, a story time hosted by the library, live music, a vendor's market and an atmosphere that celebrates Pride and diversity.

Celebrate Your Awesome (CYA) founder Jim Waddington noted that it's family-friendly and everyone in the community is invited to attend to celebrate the things that make them awesome.

"It doesn't matter whatever background you are, whatever nationality you are, that's secondary. The idea is that we come together as a community to celebrate Pride and to celebrate the diversity within Dufferin County," said Waddington.

Last year, organizers estimated over 5,000 people attended and this year they're hoping to see that number continue to grow.

Celebrate Your Awesome's event falls on Indigenous People's Day this year, and the Brave Canoe, a local Indigenous-led not-for-profit, will be a part of the event's opening ceremonies.

New this year is the expansion of food options, with multiple food trucks expected on June 21.

There will be a story time event held around noon, sponsored by the Orangeville Public Library.

There will be two drag shows at the event. The first one is scheduled for around 2 p.m. and the second one, later in the evening, starts at 7 p.m., both hosted by TroyBoy Entertainment.

"TroyBoy Entertainment has been with us now for eight years," said Waddington. "Troy's always brought a different variety of drag queens, and we look at the diversity as much as possible. There's often a trans person, a person of color or from a marginalized

group, and it's not just a simple thing, it's something that we really have to work at and make happen."

Cherry Chapstick, a two-person band made up of Emily Gilbert and Jessie Steinberg, will be performing during the event.

In addition to a shopping area with local artisans and vendors, the event will feature a community zone, filled with not-for-profit organizations that support the LGBTQ community, sharing information and resources.

Family Transition Place, which provides support to women, children and people who identify as transgender or non-binary, will have a booth setup. Dufferin Child and Family Services, which runs the GLOW 2SLGBTQ+ Youth Group, will also be present.

Most major banks in the community are supporting the event and will have a booth.

Zehrs will also be back with a booth offering free healthy snacks, as a signature sponsor of the event.

Members of local emergency services, such as the fire department and OPP, will be in attendance as well.

An after-party event, held independently by the Rainbow Ridge Resort and Campground (203138 Dufferin County Rd 109, Grand Valley), will kick off at 9 p.m. on June 21.

Waddington noted the importance of promoting Pride and diversity, amidst growing tensions with DEI in the United States and around the world.

"With the state of the world and all this negativity and uncertainty, I think it's important that we come together and celebrate the fact that everyone here is awesome, and I think we lose sight of that sometimes," said Waddington. "It's about everybody coming together for the common good and to be part of a society that thrives on diversity, equity and inclusion."

He added, "Our 2SLGBTQIA+ community, of all aspects of the acronym, in many parts of the world, are threatened... The actual



FILE PHOTO

DRAG DIVA: Troy Caplan of TroyBoy Entertainment puts on a show for attendees of the 2024 Celebrate Your Awesome event at Alexandra Park in Orangeville. Troy will be returning with his team of drag queens on June 21, when Celebrate Your Awesome's annual event returns.

[U.S.] government has made it very clear that it's 'he' and 'she' – and that's it.

"To come out with a phrase like that is – certainly to me – quite devastating, painful, harmful, and disrespectful to just everyday people."

In light of this, Waddington said CYA's event is that much more important this year, to invite in people with open arms and share a message of acceptance and inclusion.

"The key is letting people know they're welcome here," he noted.

Reflecting back on CYA's humble beginnings, Waddington said, "I brought people together nine years ago at the Mill Creek Pub, and from there, we've evolved, and the committee has done fabulous work, putting things together."

He continued, "It's not an easy task to run a festival, it costs money, so we have some we have some wonderful sponsors in the community, and a lot of people that have donated, privately to support this event."

Waddington hopes to see continued growth with the CYA event and year-round initiatives it supports.

"Maybe one year it'll end up on Broadway or we'll be so big that that we have to move

it to a new location to make it sustainable for everyone," said Waddington.

Looking at year-round resources for people who identify as LGBTQ, there is the Queer Village reading club, which runs out of the Orangeville Public Library. There's also a Queer Village Book Club ran out of the Caledon Library's Alton Branch.

CYA runs Rainbow Connection, which was started by Waddington and Jessie Steinberg in December. It has run a few events, such as a games night featuring bingo or a ukulele workshop, ran by the local Ukuladies group.

"Her and I were trying to increase the awareness of people in the queer community and allowing them an opportunity to network together, so its people who are online looking for places to go or a business in town that would like to be part of the gay community," said Waddington. "We try to reach out as much as possible and put it out in social media that this is a meeting space as a Rainbow Connection."

The group runs monthly and sees new people at each event, according to Waddington.

Follow the "2SLGBTQIA+ PRIDE ORANGEVILLE & DUFFERIN COUNTY" Facebook Page for updates.



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Commemorative event held to mark 40th anniversary of Grand Valley tornado

Written By PAULA BROWN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Town of Grand Valley marked the anniversary of a tornado that swept through and devastated the community 40 years ago.

Residents gathered at the Grand Valley and District Community Centre, located at 90 Main St. N, on Saturday (May 31), for a commemorative event marking the 40th anniversary since the 1985 tornado hit Grand Valley.

"It's an event that changed the town and it was a tragedy for a lot of people so certainly those are memories that we need to keep alive," said Grand Valley Mayor Steve Solomon. "But it also made the town come together. We had people from all over helping. There's a lot of kind people in this town and county and they show it when the chips are down."

During the event, a documentary called "Twister in the Valley" showcased the damage caused by the natural disaster and how the community has changed since. Exhibits of old

articles and photographs retold the experiences of residents and those who came to help in the wake of the disaster.

A life-long resident of Grand Valley, Mayor Solomon vividly remembers the day the tornado hit the community as he stood roughly 200 yards from the epicentre of damage.

"We didn't know what was happening. We went scrambling for cover and when I got up it was a nice day, but somebody yelled out that the library was gone. We went running up the street and sure enough the whole town looked like it was gone; it was shocking. We didn't hardly know which way to turn. Time went fast. Time went slow," recalled Solomon. "But we all pulled together and got things back."

Resident Randy McClelland was working in Orangeville at the time the 1985 tornado swept through the community but recalls the scene of destruction as he attempted to make it home to his wife and children.

"I wouldn't wish this on anybody, it was awful," he said.

McClelland further spoke with the Free

Press about the Town of Grand Valley recognizing the 40-year-old event.

"At times, some of the pictures were painful to see because it was such a destruction," said McClelland. "It's important to remember though. Maybe not the tornado, but the people in the community who came together and worked together; we had a goal to get us back up on our feet again."

Shortly before 5 p.m. on May 31, 1985, a tornado touched down in Grand Valley creating a path of damage stretching across Dufferin County. The storm was one of several tornadoes that swept across Ontario that day, including an equally strong one that hit Barrie.

The violent winds of the tornado uprooted giant trees, tossed around cars and shredded homes. The damage ranged from bent antennas to the complete destruction of residential homes.

The Grand Valley Star and Vidette reported that Amaranth Street was the hardest hit by the twister with the public library, municipal offices, and senior citizen home left in ruins.



PAULA BROWN PHOTO

REMEMBERING THE WRECKAGE: Grand Valley residents looked back at historic newspaper reports and photos of the 1985 tornado that struck the community leaving behind a trail of debris, destroyed homes and businesses and caused the death of two individuals.

The tornado resulted in the death of two individuals in Grand Valley, 76-year-old Matilda McIntyre and 50-year-old Barry Wood, and left almost 70 people injured.

Black Parents Council, school board at odds over group's delegation refusal

Written By ROBIN GEORGE

A group of parents hoped to delegate about anti-Black racism at a recent Upper Grand District School Board (UGDSB) meeting but was denied the opportunity.

Instead, 12 people with the Upper Grand Black Parents Council (BPC) sat in the gallery during the May 27 meeting, wearing shirts that said "keep Black kids safe."

The group, with members from Rockwood, Guelph and Orangeville, included parents, graduates and elementary and high school students.

UGDSB officials said two delegations were denied because they did not fit with any items on the agenda.

The delegate applications referenced the board's equity statement, a regular item on every meeting agenda.

But board spokesperson Heather Loney said the statement is not considered an agenda item; it is "intended to demonstrate UGDSB's commitment and establish a respectful and reflective tone."

She noted the BPC delegations were not the only ones denied – the board also denied a delegation request about nutrition programs.

In a press release, the BPC called the denial "not just a procedural oversight," but an act of exclusion that "reinforces the very systemic failures we have been naming for years."

Members said they attended the board meeting because their children are not safe at UGDSB schools and "trust has been broken."

"Healing cannot begin when the people harmed are silenced," the release stated.

The UGDSB equity statement describes the board's "responsibility to identify and describe racism and oppression and then work to dismantle it."

The statement also affirms the board's commitment to "disrupting systemic racism," implementing anti-racism and anti-oppression training and being accountable to all UGDSB staff, families and stakeholders.

While trustee Alethia O'Hara-Stephenson read the statement on May 27, BPC member and Rockwood parent Nia James said "Shame. Shame. Shameful."

Chair Ralf Mesenbrink responded, "I would ask the gallery to be quiet, please."

The group sat silently until after a delegation from union representatives. Once the delegation was over, the BPC walked out.

As she was leaving, James said "still shameful."

Students' experiences

Grade 11 student Tia Powers and recent graduates Angel Powers and Mak (who is using a nickname for privacy) were among those attending the meeting.

Mak and Angel graduated from a UGDSB high school in Dufferin County last June. Angel said although they aren't UGDSB students anymore, they felt it was important to show up because they still have sisters and friends attending schools run by the board.

Mak said her eight-year-old sister has already started experiencing racism at school and "I don't want it to go any further."

"UGDSB failed us," Angel added. "And they will continue to fail other students ... they need to be stopped."

During Angel's time at high school, she said she didn't feel safe, secure or seen.

She said she felt "separated from everyone else" due to frequent racist incidents that were not adequately addressed by staff.

Mak called the racism and subsequent school board responses "dehumanizing."

"I was called the N-word all the time," she said.

"Lots of kids would tell me I was too white to be Black and too Black to be white."

When Mak was walking on a crosswalk after school with a friend, she said a "known racist" student accelerated towards them, almost hitting them with his car, and called them the N-word.

Tia said there was a discussion among students in one of her classes about how the N-word is "just a word," and people are "too sensitive" about it.

She said people kept looking over at her during the discussion.

The teacher did not intervene, Tia said, they just asked afterwards if it made her uncomfortable. It did.

Mak and Angel said on multiple occasions a staff member advised them "not to fit into the stereotype of being an angry Black woman" or a "crazy Black girl."

"She said it so casually, like there was nothing bad about [it]," Angel said.

Mak said the board denying the delega-

tions was insulting, adding, "They don't want to hear what we have to say."

Angel added, "We were sitting in there because it's something that is important to us and they just don't care."

"This whole equity thing is just a lie," Mak said. "They don't do anything for us because they don't care."

Mak said she refuses to be silenced and wants to show younger people they can "stand up and speak out."

And she wants people to know the extent of the harm she feels the UGDSB is perpetuating.

"I will continue to keep speaking out about it because it was my lived experience and it was torture," Mak said.

"I starved myself for six months to try to end my life."

"The racism was so bad I was going mentally insane – I couldn't eat ... Thank God I'm here today."

Parents' perspectives

Rockwood parents Nyesha Ward, Colin Samuels and Nia James, Guelph mom Marsha Myrie and Orangeville mom Patti Thomas were among the parents at the meeting.

Samuels said his daughter is called the N-word daily and "teachers won't do anything."

The parents said their children avoid telling teachers about racist incidents because they're afraid of being punished or treated as though they are the problem.

Ward wasn't surprised they were "systematically shut out" of the UGDSB meeting.

She said board officials don't want to be part of difficult, uncomfortable conversations, but without this dialogue, nothing will change.

It was important for the BPC to show up, Ward noted, so board officials could "sit with us in the room and feel what we are feeling."

James said it's been over 130 days since they first started asking UGDSB officials to address ongoing racism, and they have yet to receive an adequate response, with the trustees and director ignoring their emails.

Myrie said their delegations were not about re-hashing problems, but about rebuilding trust and moving forward.

"I can't understand why they wouldn't want to have that conversation," she said.

Myrie added the board's response helped her understand the racism she and her son have experienced at his school.

"Teachers are not trained, principals are not trained, and procedures aren't working,"

she said, adding attitudes of school staff members reflect that of board leadership.

"This is what systemic racism looks like," Myrie said.

And what that tells "Black parents, Black students and Black community members is that we don't belong here," Myrie added.

The BPC released an open letter on April 1, outlining what they call "Deeply entrenched and highly dangerous anti-Black racism within the UGDSB" and calling for a board-wide third-party equity audit.

A week later, the board announced it would engage in an independent third-party human rights review.

Board officials did not mention the open letter in connection to the review or inform BPC of it – the council first heard of the review through an article published by the Wellington Advertiser.

Samuels said if the board had connected with the BPC after the letter and communicated with them about the review, relations between the council and board would be different now.

Instead, board officials called the letter inflammatory misinformation that undermined "the real, difficult and ongoing work being done by many in our system" and did not engage in conversation with the BPC.

UGDSB officials said they could not comment on the issues brought forward by the BPC this week because doing so could undermine the review.

"We are committed to fostering learning and working environments where students, staff and community members are safe, valued and treated with dignity," Loney stated.

Mesenbrink said in an emailed statement that the UGDSB's Human Rights policy, which is being developed and in draft form, will come to the Policy and Priorities Committee and a Board meeting, once public consultation and the third-party review are complete.

"These would be opportunities to delegate," said Mesenbrink.

James said the BPC is growing as more parents reach out and share similar experiences, adding this collective means they can build each other up and keep momentum.

The board has its system, "but we have ours too," she said.

The board is going to have to face the issues the BPC is raising "sooner or later," James said.

Myrie added that if board officials continue to ignore the problem, it will only fester.

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Shelburne Canadian Legion (front entrance on 2nd Ave.)

Superburger, 506269 ON-89, Shelburne (Corner of Hwy 89 and 10)

Town Hall, 203 Main St E, Shelburne (inside Town Hall)

Trillium Ford, 506168 ON-89, Mono

CDRC, 200 Fiddle Park Lane, Shelburne (Box inside lobby)

Foodland, 824 Ojibway Rd, Shelburne

Caravaggio, 128 Main St E, Shelburne

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- JUL 25TH.....INUIT / ART / JEWELRY AUCTION
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EVENTS

DECORATION DAY. Honeywood Cemetery Board representative will be at the cemetery between 1-3pm on Sunday June 8th to answer questions regarding plots and Columbarium niches. If you are unable to attend and would like information please call 519-925-6372 or 705-435-4237.

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DONNA ELDEANE COE

Passed away peacefully at Hospice Georgian Triangle in Collingwood on June 1, 2025 in her 86th year. Predeceased by her loving husband of almost 69 years, Wilbert (April 29, 2025). Eldeane leaves behind her devoted family, her six children Karen (James), Blaine (Carolyn), Richard (Debbie), Judy (Alex), Sandra and Brenda Lee (Ross) and the grandchildren she was blessed with - 16 grandkids, 33 great-grandkids and 6 great-great-grandkids. She is also survived by sister Ruth (Bob) Winchester. She will be lovingly remembered by her many nieces and nephews. Predeceased by her parents Delmer and Alvina Armstrong and her brother Gary Armstrong.



Even with busy life on the farm, raising her six children and being a devoted wife, Eldeane always greeted her kids after school with a batch of homemade french fries, a memory they will always cherish.

The family will receive friends at the Jack & Thompson Funeral Home, Shelburne on Friday, June 6, 2025 from 12-2 p.m. The funeral service will follow in the funeral home chapel at 2:00 p.m. Interment at Honeywood Cemetery. Following the interment, family and friends are welcome to join the family in a celebration of Eldeane's life at the Hornings Mills Community Hall. Light food and refreshments will be served. If desired, donations to Hospice Georgian Triangle would be appreciated as expressions of sympathy. Online condolences and donations may be made at www.jackandthompsonfuneralhome.com

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Together we can make a difference



Top Canadian talent takes over Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

The sweet sounds of blues and jazz filled the streets of Orangeville over the weekend as the community gathered, danced, laughed and sang their hearts out.

The 21st Annual Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival returned to the downtown core over the weekend, featuring more than 50 touring blues and jazz bands, who were mostly Canadian.

Bands took over stages on Broadway, Alexandra Park and the Opera House, from May 30 to June 1. Some of the top brass that made up the lineup includes Harry Manx, Robi Botos, Steve Strongman, Kenny "Blues Boss" Wayne, the Maple Blues Band and Lachy Doley.

Despite cold and windy weather, the event was well attended, with slightly less people than in 2024, when the festival set an attendance record of 40,000.

"People dressed up for it, and obviously there wasn't as many people as last year, but it was a lot better than I thought it would be,"

said Larry Kurtz, festival founder and musical director. "I'm quite pleased with how it went."

Kurtz said a great energy and atmosphere filled Orangeville's downtown for the duration of the festival.

The Blues Cruise Car Show on Friday and Blues and Bikes Show and Shine on Sunday filled Broadway and Mill Streets with interesting and unique vehicles for patrons to browse.

A new beer garden near the TD Broadway Stage was introduced this year and well received by festival-goers.

Kurtz shared some of the high points he saw during the festival.

"Musically, for me, there's tons of highlights. Having Harry Manx perform [on the TD Main Stage] on Sunday and then having our Saturday night headliner from Australia [Lachy Doley] jump up on stage and join him - that was unplanned and very cool. Seeing two headliners playing together, jamming out on the main stage, it was fun to watch."

Kurtz also lauded bands from the region who performed.

"Looking at the level of talent locally that we had, it seems like we stepped up our game this year. Everybody did really well. All the local bands - they were really well received. Having the [Joyful Sound Gospel Choir] in the Tweedsmuir Church this year for the little Saturday Service - that was cool."

The Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival has been receiving attention from organizers of other notable festivals, as it continues to grow and feature talented artists on its lineup each year.

"We had people visiting from the Ottawa Blues Society, there was a big gang of them who came all the way from Ottawa. They were having a great time. We also had people from other festivals and event organizers all praising our festival, saying it's one of the very best in Canada," Kurtz lauded. "People from Windsor, people from Kincardine area, and over in Uxbridge area, all who organize events, came to our event. That was very gratifying to have them come and appreciate what we're doing here."

Looking ahead to the 2026 festival, the



PETER RICHARDSON PHOTO

HIGH LEVEL PERFORMANCE: Headliner Kenny "Blues Boss" Wayne shreds on the piano at the TD Main Stage on Friday, May 30 for the Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival. The award-winning musician put on an eclectic performance.

planning committee is already rolling up their sleeves and organizing it. The committee always looks to feedback from the community to see what went well and what may need improvement next year.

Kurtz noted the festival's organizers are grateful for the many volunteers and sponsors who make it possible each year.

"Their efforts don't go unnoticed," he said.

Shelburne Public Library shares upcoming events, recommended read this week

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Shelburne Public Library has exciting events for adults coming up over the next few weeks.

• June 17 at 6 p.m. - Real or Robot: How archives & libraries are using AI, presented by Museum of Dufferin

• June 22 at 1 p.m. - An Afternoon with Claire Cameron. Co-hosted with CanHist/STBI.

• Aug. 10 - Authors in the Hills of Mulmur. Save the date, more details to come!

Please register for any of the above events

by calling the Shelburne Library at 519-925-2168 or by visiting its website at www.shelburnelibrary.ca

The library is also gearing up for its Summer Reading program, so get ready for another summer of reading, activities, and prizes. We will have reading challenges for readers of all ages; from kids to teens to adults, there will be fun for everyone. Stay tuned for more details.

RECOMMENDED READ:

Victorian Psycho by Virginia Feito: In

Grim Wolds, England, Winifred Notty takes on the role of governess at Ensor House, where she must navigate the twisted dynamics of the dysfunctional Pounds family while suppressing her own violent past. As Christmas approaches, she plans sinister gifts for her charges, revealing her true nature.

Why Molly recommends it: This is one of those books I judged immediately by its cover, as it brings to mind 'American Psycho': an all-American tale whose serial killer anti-hero is wholly the product of his upbringing and environment. Enter: Winifred Notty. She

is eager for her new governess appointment to go well, despite the barely concealed, roiling darkness beneath her skin. The setting is Christmastide, England; a time of ghost stories, propriety and secrets revealed. Told with Dickensian undertones, B movie level gore and hilarious lines concerning what women 'should be like,' this book has the makings of a terrifying classic. Victorian Psycho is a book which holds many mirrors designed to reflect our deepest, darkest, societal evils and how each moment of our history writes our own story as we grow.

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Fried Battered Mushrooms 300 g **SAVE \$2**

Pizza Rolls 8 PIECES 460 g 2 Varieties **10⁹⁹ each**

Jalapeno Cheese Sticks 13-16 PIECES 454 g **12⁹⁹ each**

STOVETOP KITS 840 g - 1.05 kg **SAVE \$3 each**

16⁹⁹ Creamy Basil Chicken and Pasta

19⁹⁹ Sweet and Spicy Shrimp and Scallops

Chicken Fajitas

Beef Teriyaki

WHEAT QUANTITIES LAST

Lemon Herb Chicken and Pasta

Chicken Stir Fry

Beef Lo Mein

READY IN THREE EASY STEPS 1 • 2 • 3

STEP 1 SIMMER THE SAUCE • **STEP 2 ADD INGREDIENTS** • **STEP 3 SERVE AND GARNISH**

BRING ON THE BACON

49⁹⁹ Bacon Wrapped Beef Filet Mignons 4 STEAKS x 170 g/6 oz **SAVE \$10**

19⁹⁹ Bacon Wrapped Chicken 4 PIECES x 142 g/5 oz **SALE**

15⁹⁹ Bacon Wrapped Jalapeno Shooters 12 PIECES 255 g **SAVE \$2**

17⁹⁹ Maplewood Smoked Bacon Wrapped Salmon 2 PIECES 284 g **SAVE \$2**

25⁹⁹ Beef and Bacon Skewers 15 SKEWERS 450 g **SAVE \$2**

14⁹⁹ Cheddar & Bacon Stuffed Beef Burgers 4 BURGERS x 170 g/6 oz **SAVE \$2**

17⁹⁹ Bacon Wrapped Scallop Medallions 9-13 PIECES 300 g **SAVE \$2**

ALWAYS ROOM FOR DESSERT

5⁹⁹ Homestyle Key Lime Pies 2 PIECES 264 g **SALE**

15⁹⁹ Key Lime Pie 600 g **SAVE \$2**

9⁹⁹ Portuguese Style Custard Tarts 6 PIECES 450 g **SALE**

7⁹⁹ Fruit Bars 6 PIECES \$34 mt **SALE**

SAVE \$4

24⁹⁹ Slow Cooked Beef Pot Roast 907 g/2 lb

Also available: Pork Pot Roast 907 g/2 lb **\$21.99 SALE**

*** MULTI BUY ***
Buy 2 for \$7

SAVE \$1.98

Blossoms 2 PORTIONS 230 g

MIX AND MATCH

Caramel Apple

Apple

Regular price \$4.49 each



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PROUD CANADIAN COMPANY



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