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PAULA BROWN PHOTO

RECOGNIZING LOCAL TALENT: Vishwa Patel, a recent graduate of OCAD University in Toronto, was presented with the Emerging Artist Award for her painting "Jyoti and Jyotsna." She received the award during the Museum of Dufferin (MoD) and the Dufferin County Multicultural Foundation's unveiling of the 4th annual Unity in Diversity art exhibit at the local museum on Saturday (June 7). The art exhibit features an array of artwork from 18 artists. See more photos and a full story on Page 10.

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Plans to redevelop Shelburne's Fiddle Park approved by council

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

The Town of Shelburne is moving forward with plans to upgrade Fiddle Park. During a special meeting on Friday (June 6), Shelburne Town Council approved the tendering for the Fiddle Park upgrades. The tender for the project was awarded to Mono-based company TDI Land Restoration/XGD for a total of \$2,399,645.82. "We got excellent remarks back on their workmanship as well as quality, how they dealt with contracts and projects. I think one of the advantages here is this is actually a local firm... that's been here since the 80s. Their expertise is in this type of project," said Stephen Burnett, principal of S. Burnett & Associates Limited (SBA) and the municipality's contract engineer. According to the report, a request for tender was uploaded to Merx and Biddingo and the Town of Shelburne's website on May 7 with a total of 55 contractors and suppliers downloading the document. The Town of Shelburne received a total of six bids for the project by the closing date of May 28. "TDI was the lowest qualified bidder having submitted through the Tendering process," reads a letter from S. Burnett & Associates Limited. "SBA has completed a reference check on TDI and would consider this company capable of completing the Fiddle Park Upgrade Project with positive results." TDI Land Restoration is based in Mono and specializes in projects such as golf construction, land restoration, boardwalk construction, quarry restoration and excavation services. The company has previously com-

pleted similar projects for other municipalities in the surrounding areas as well as for the City of Guelph, the City of Markham, and the Town of Collingwood. Work that will be completed by TDI Land Restoration will include site preparation and servicing, professional fees, building a basic grass parking lot, pedestrian circulation and accessibility improvements, a multi-functional trail, amphitheatre and pavilion improvement, overall site furnishings, shade structures, overall tree planting, and a basketball court. The tender does not include the proposed playground structure included in the Fiddle Park Plan, as it was part of a separate request for proposal and has already been awarded. Coun. Walter Benotto questioned the possibility of prioritizing the construction of the full basketball court after seeing high demand for utilization at the Greenwood Park court. Burnett said that even if the basketball court was prioritized, they would likely not have the area accessibility to the community due to both a "risk liability and insurance perspective." Coun. Len Guchardi questioned if there were any plans for introducing enhanced security at Fiddle Park during the construction process and once the project has been completed. "We are going to add some more cameras in there to get full sight of the site. We do have the one at the dog park and one at the community garden, so we're just going to add on to those with more cameras around the building, the amphitheater and the play-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CHANGES COMING: Shelburne Town Council has successfully tendered upgrades for Fiddle Park to TDI Land Restoration/XGD. "ground as well," said Will Thomson, manager of operations for parks and facilities. Councillors also asked about the specific trees that will be planted at the park, which was said to include trees from the town's native species list and those that would provide canopy enhancement for shade. The majority of the funding for the Fiddle Park restoration project is coming from development charges as well as a few items covered through the town's parks and recreation reserves. Carey Holmes, the Town of Shelburne's director of financial services, told Council that none of the funding for the project is coming from the tax base. The Town of Shelburne is planning to post a sign at Fiddle Park with an overview of the schematics for the restoration project as well as key milestones in the process. Progress reports will also be available on the town's website.

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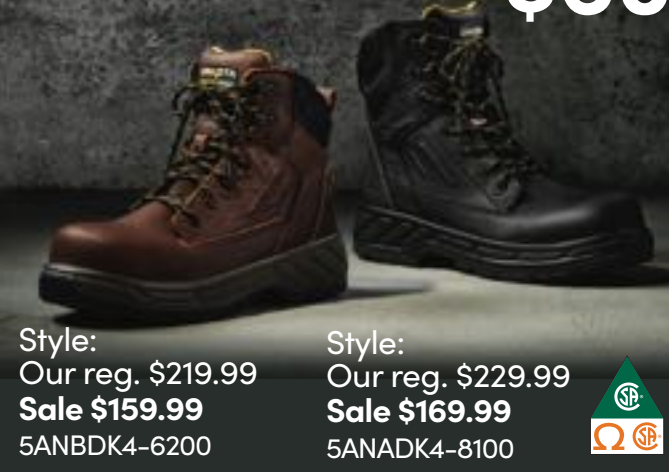
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New owner takes over Shelburne Foodland at Emerald Crossing Plaza

Written By PAULA BROWN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Shelburne Foodland is moving into another chapter, as they welcome new owner – Nehmat Haidari.

Haidari purchased the Shelburne Foodland location in April, when the previous owner, Sandy Bell, retired after more than a decade of owning the local franchise.

Speaking with the Free Press, Haidari said he had been looking for a Foodland location to purchase for a number of years, but never came across one that would allow his family to stay close to their home in Bolton.

That was until the Shelburne location became available.

“When I knew they were retiring, it just felt right,” said Haidari.

Haidari has worked in retail and within grocery stores for more than 20 years. At the age of 15, he started as a part-time employee with Fortinos in the meat department. During his time with Fortinos, he moved to different positions including meat wrapper, meat cutter, and then eventually the meat department manager. Before leaving Fortinos, Haidari held the position of assistant

store manager.

Six years ago, he purchased a Foodland location in Brampton.

“The previous store I had was smaller and having worked at Fortinos, I was used to a higher volume store,” explained Haidari. “I needed a challenge, something that was bigger and that I’m able to contribute more with.”

When asked about what has impressed him most since joining the store, Haidari simply states – the staff.

“It’s a great community. I have a great team here and a good set of staff, who most have been with the store for a long time. It’s been amazing.”

As he prepares to take the Shelburne Foodland into its next chapter, Haidari is making plans to better help serve the growing community, particularly by bringing in a larger variety of items.

“I noticed that we have a good amount of diversity here, with people from different nationalities,” said Haidari. “Having my team together here with me, we’ve come up with a plan to start slowly bringing in more varieties to cater to these different groups.”

Shelburne Foodland is located in the Emerald Crossing Plaza at 824 Ojibway Rd.



PAULA BROWN PHOTO

NEW OWNER: Nehmat Haidari (left) has joined Shelburne Foodland as its new owner. Haidari purchased the local grocer in April following the retirement of the previous owner, Sandy Bell. Haidari has been in the grocery industry for nearly 25 years and previously owned a Foodland location in Brampton.

Shelburne Council enacts long-term financial plan to assist in strategic direction

Written By PAULA BROWN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Shelburne Town Council has adopted a roadmap to prepare the municipality for the next 10 years.

During their meeting on June 2, Shelburne Town Council received a report from Carey Holmes, director of financial services and treasurer, on the 2025-2034 Long Term Financial Plan.

“By adopting this plan, you are not creating any immediate financial implications. The plan is not a budget, you’re not setting a tax levy, you’re not setting a tax rate; those items are still carried out through the budget process,” explained Holmes.

The long-term financial plan is a 10-year guideline adopted by Town Council, which aims to ensure financial sustainability with strategic investments in infrastructure. The living document also focuses on optimizing revenue and managing the Town’s expenditures to bridge the financial gap and maintain taxpayer affordability.

The plan is based on a number of as-

sumptions such as the annual tax levy, control over reserves, debt, asset management, service levels, staffing resources, revenue streams, and community needs and wants.

The Town of Shelburne has a number of key areas of focus in the long-term financial plan and these include: infrastructure development, financial reserves, debt management and revenue enhancement.

Under infrastructure developments, staff have recommended starting a 2 per cent special capital levy, which would amount to \$220,000 for the first year and would be inflated annually.

The long-term financial plan identifies almost \$18 million in unfunded projects over the next 10 years.

“Establishing that 2 per cent will certainly not cover the \$18 million, but will help us to assist with supporting future capital expenditures whether or not they’re known now or not,” said Holmes.

With financial reserves, the report suggests increasing the amount of funding to new reserves and increasing transfers to reserves, which would collectively total over

\$320,000.

According to Holmes, more than 50 per cent of the Town of Shelburne’s reserves belong to water and wastewater.

The Long-Term Plan also speaks to debt management and existing debt as there are a number of projects, including the waste pollution control plant, that are competing for funding sources.

“The water and wastewater budget currently make up 88 per cent of our existing annual debt and council is aware that the amount required to be borrowed for the proposed water pollution control plant expansion exceeds the town’s debt limit and is highly unaffordable,” said Holmes.

Over the next 10 years, the Town of Shelburne will also need to identify additional revenue streams to boost its financial capacity.

The report outlines a six per cent increase in the tax levy for 2026 to 2028 followed by 4 per cent annually for the remaining years in the plan.

“That may seem high, but if you look at the past couple of years, we were almost at nine per cent for 2025. The tax rate is what is determined by the assessment growth so just because the levy is higher, it doesn’t mean the tax rate is going to be,” said Holmes.

Shelburne Town Council has a list of pri-

orities for the 2022-2026 term, and one of those priorities is to have responsible financial management through a long-term financial plan.

“I think the importance of this document, even though it is a living document, is that it provides a roadmap and some strategic direction and continuity going forward, despite the fact that there may well be significant changes in the composition of council,” said Mayor Wade Mills. “Future councils may not opt to follow it to the letter, but at least it provides a longer-term roadmap so that we’re not just budgeting year-to-year.”

With a municipal election set to take place in late 2026, Coun. Walter Benotto noted the significance of candidates informing themselves on the long-term financial plan.

“As a councillor for quite a number of years, we’ve never had this in the past. This gives us, similar to our strategic plan, a roadmap to follow along as councillors. Whether it’s myself or anyone else sitting at the table, you’ve got something there that you can plan with; where the town is heading, the financial burden the town has and what’s required to meet those financial burdens,” said Benotto.

By adopting the 2025-2034 Long-Term Financial Plan, Shelburne Town Council has replaced the previously adopted 2022-2025 5-Year Capital Plan.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ENHANCED ENFORCEMENT: Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) cameras are currently being installed in select locations around Shelburne. At a Shelburne Council meeting on March 10, a motion to authorize the implementation of ASE was approved. In partnership with Global Traffic Group Ltd., the ASE cameras are meant to change driving behaviours, reduce speeding, and increase safety in designated Community Safety and School Zones.



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF SHELBURNE NOTICE OF COMPLETE APPLICATION AND PUBLIC MEETING UNDER SECTION 34 OF THE PLANNING ACT

Take Notice that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Shelburne has received a complete application for a Zoning By-law Amendment (File No. Z25/02) and will hold a public meeting on:

MONDAY, JULY 14, 2025

The public meeting is scheduled to start at 6:30 p.m., or as shortly thereafter as possible, and will be held in the Council Chambers at the Municipal Office (2nd Floor), 203 Main Street East, Shelburne.

The purpose of the meeting is to consider an Amendment to the Town of Shelburne Zoning By-law No. 38-2007. Take notice that the application has been deemed complete so that it can be circulated and reviewed.

The subject property is municipally known as 114 Main Street West and is legally described as Part of Lots 1, 2, 3 & 4, on Block 2, Plan 5A, Town of Shelburne, County of Dufferin. The property is designated as Commercial Core in the Town Official Plan and is zoned Downtown Commercial (C1) in the Zoning By-law. The accompanying map illustrates the location of the land subject to the proposed zoning amendment.

The purpose and effect of the Amendment is to add a site-specific provision to permit a dwelling unit on the main floor within a non-residential building, whereas the Zoning By-law requires dwelling units to be located on or above the second storey of a building in the C1 Zone.

The agenda package including a copy of the staff report and the proposed zone change application will be available on the Town’s website prior to the meeting.

For more information about this matter, including information about appeal rights, email planning@shelburne.ca or visit the Town’s website at www.shelburne.ca.



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COMMUNITY VOICES

Monthly Message: This is what growth looks like during Streams Month

In June, things begin to bloom. Gardens fill out. Trees unfurl. What's been quietly growing beneath the surface starts to show.

The same is true at Streams Community Hub.

All year long, we plant seeds — not just of skill, but of confidence. We water them with kindness, structure, and encouragement. We pull up a few weeds, tend to the roots, and wait. And then — slowly, beautifully — something starts to grow.

Streams Month is our harvest season. It's when kids step into the spotlight. When voices ring out in harmony, lines are delivered with heart, paintings are displayed with pride, and parents and community members get to see the fruits of a year's worth of care.

But what's growing here isn't just talent. It's selfhood. It's trust. It's belonging.

You can't rush this kind of growth. You can't force it. But if the conditions are right — if a child feels safe, seen, and supported — they'll begin to stretch. To reach. To try. And before long, they'll be doing things they never thought they could.



We've seen it in the child who whispered their way through early classes now singing loud and proud; In the tween who used to hide behind her mom's legs, now dancing across a stage; In the junior high schooler, who didn't know anyone when they first joined — now leading a group number and cracking jokes in the hallway.

This is what growth looks like
Not overnight. Not perfect. But persistent. Beautiful. Real.

We say this often at the hub: good heart over good art. It's our unwritten philosophy. It reminds us that we're not just here to teach arts. We're here to tend to kids. To offer a space where their creativity, confidence, and character can grow — even if they don't bloom right away.

And this June, we're celebrating all of it

and inviting you to join us.

Earlier this month, audiences were treated to Seussical Jr., a musical theatre production bursting with colour and courage, and our youth art exhibit opened at Shelburne Town Hall — a visual feast that runs all month long. But there's still more to come.

Join us for the rest of Streams Month
Come witness the joy, talent, and courage of the children and youth in our community. Events are open to the public — we'd love to see you there.

Now through June 30 – Town Hall Art Gallery Takeover

- Visit Shelburne Town Hall anytime during open hours to view a stunning youth art exhibit curated by Streams.

Friday, June 13 – Sing Club Album Release Concert

- Join us at Grace Tipling Hall at 7 p.m. as our Sing Club performs original songs from their brand-new album.

June 20–21 – Family Fuse Game Nights

- Hilarious family and team-based fun kicks off at 7 p.m. each night at Grace Tipling Hall — bring your crew and your game face!

June 30 – Summer Kickoff Open House & Free BBQ

- Drop in at Streams Community Hub from 4 to 6 p.m. for food, fun, and a preview of our summer programs.

RSVP, secure tickets, and get more details at streamshub.org

Want to support our mission? Become One of 1,000

This year, we've launched a year-long quest to find 1,000 monthly donors — partners who believe in the importance of safe, creative spaces for kids. A gift of just \$10/month helps ensure this work can continue and grow.

If you've ever wondered how to make a lasting impact — this is it. Join us at streamshub.org/oneof1000.

Because this is what growth looks like. And together, we can keep it going.

The following article was submitted by Juli-Anne James, executive director of Streams Community Hub.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: No budget presented

Dear Editor,

During the election, Mark Carney said that a plan beats no plan. A budget is a plan, and Canadians need a plan now more than ever. Instead, he's saddling Canadians with more debt, more bureaucracy, and more inflation.

Last week, Mark Carney introduced half-a-trillion dollars of spending with no budget. It's the first time outside of COVID that has occurred in decades. His proposal would increase government spending by 8 per cent with much of this spending going towards bureaucracy, consultants, and contractors. This makes Mark Carney even more expensive than Justin Trudeau. Under Carney, consultant spending will skyrocket 37 per cent, costing Canadians \$26 billion a year.

Mark Carney's spending bill will drive up inflation and interest rates above and beyond what they would otherwise be. He's

doing this at a time when Canada is witnessing a record increase in the number of people who are unable to pay their bills.

Conservatives urged Mark Carney and his Liberal government to introduce a budget before the House of Commons rises for the summer, outlining how he will pay for all this spending. He promised that he had a plan ready to go during the campaign and he now refuses to introduce one, making it a year since Canadians received a clear look at the government's finances.

Canadians cannot afford an even more expensive Liberal government. It's time for Mark Carney to present a plan to lower government spending and the cost of living for Canadians.

Kyle Seeback, M.P.
Dufferin-Caledon



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CLASSIC CAR SHOW: The Shelburne and District Lions Club held their first Classic Car Show of the season on Saturday, June 8 at the Trainer Games and Davenport parking lot. The Lions collected \$150 for the Shelburne Food Bank, in addition to non-perishable food items, during the event. The rest of the Car Shows are slated for June 22, July 13, July 27, Aug. 10, 24, Sept. 14 and Sept. 28. Every car show runs from noon to 3 p.m.



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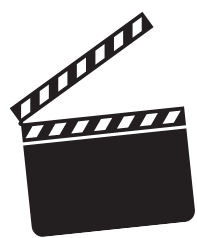
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Arts & Entertainment



LOCAL COMMUNITY EVENTS

Claire Cameron is coming to Shelburne Public Library on June 22

Written By CONSTANCE SCRAFIELD

When Claire Cameron was young, she was working in a summer camp in Algonquin Park. It was 1991 and at that moment, a Canadian couple were attacked and killed by a black bear. Statistically, bear attacks are extremely rare, with a few people per year being fatally attacked in the whole of Canada or the U.S.

Cameron was back working in the park and was haunted by the bear attack on the two people. No one was there but their bodies were found five days later. The bear was found still with the remains, clear evidence of the attack, and was shot.

At nine years old, Cameron's father died of skin cancer – melanoma. His death was quite protracted and difficult for his young daughter to witness. Seeking healing from her grief, she turned to hiking in the wilderness, which brought her back to herself. Hiking and her connection to nature over the years, her time in Algonquin Park working as a hiking guide were critical to her.

Still, the story of the bear attack haunted Cameron, bears obsessed her even and she was determined to discover the truth of the bear attack story. She began back in the Algonquin Park working with a scientist to learn more about them.

Earlier this week, the Citizen had the chance to interview Claire Cameron about her remarkable new book, which is a mystery she decided to solve, a fiction of a bear's life and her own memoir, interwoven and powerful.

All the elements of "How to Survive a Bear Attack: a Memoir" are pressed by her cancer diagnosis. Her father's death was suddenly her own future, with a current prognosis of three years to live. Of the danger behind a bear's attack, she notes that for her, that very unlikely event is not what will end her life – her own genetics will do that. So, her vision of how to live is also her own.

She told the Citizen, "I've been around black bears; they were all peaceful encounters. This is a book about how to co-exist with

bears and they with us. I was trying to address my fear; at most, one person a year in North America is attacked by a bear. That's a very low number."

She was 19 years old when the attack on the couple happened and she read about it in the paper, saying, "My book is about how it happened. It links my cancer to the bear attack – how disease can strike a life."

During the research to discover what prompted the bear's attack, there been thoughts that there were groceries and there were, but the hamburger meat in a package near the fire was left untouched. The bear's autopsy confirmed the findings of the first responder camp staff once they had found the bear, killed and brought it back.

The second element of Cameron's book is a black bear's behaviour, its life as the fiction in her book. For that she wrote, working with a scientist to get a picture beside in science but in a fictional story.

Cameron attended Queens University to study history and went to California as an outdoor guide – "It was such a big part of my life," she commented.

When, at 45, she was diagnosed with skin cancer, the same as her father and told to stay out of the sun, she gasped, "What am I going to do? That was my whole life."

"It's still a work in progress," she quipped.

"I worked in Algonquin Park. It was a paradise and it was so shocking, I think for me, learning how to live with a chronic condition which was not necessarily a death trap – there is still time."

She said, "I've started to hike in November – the hiking trails are empty then and I enjoy the bad weather."

Philosophically, "If there is something you can't control... I concentrate rather what I can than can't."

What has guided Cameron through writing this book is how not to think about things that don't often happen, and how to get through hard things.

How to Survive a Bear Attack: A Memoir has "this true crime mystery – there's a lot



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

INVESTIGATIVE AUTHOR: Claire Cameron in her canoe pulling up to the island where a black bear attacked and killed a couple. Located within Algonquin Park, Cameron is going to the island to investigate and understand what happened. Cameron is coming to speak at Small Town Big Ideas upcoming event with her new book, "How to Survive A Bear Attack: A Memoir," on Sunday, June 22, at 1 p.m. at The Shelburne Public Library.

of that in the book." She has had a huge response getting to know black bears better, though this is about an individual. A lot of people are really interested in that.

There is more. While Cameron has been touring with this book, the environment has been an important part of it: she gets into the idea of Algonquin being founded in 1893. The people who lived there were told to get out. For her, it's a haven; it was the end to where they lived.

Even worse: the park is logged and was formed to a view of logging. Forty percent is logged but with roads and gravel extraction, sixty percent is industrial.

"What I thought of as pristine is not at all," she noted with sadness. "I learned you need to ask if the area – is it conserved – for whom and for what? I was naive. Writing this book expanded what I think wilderness is."

Living in Toronto now, Cameron goes down

to the lake at the end of the day, commenting she had never thought of that but now to her, it is a wilderness.

As a writer, it is so important for her to have ambition. Having cancer gave her the impetus to be very focused on writing.

"I've just started planning my life in three year segments," she explained. "Planning my time is much simpler – who you spent time with is much clearer."

She said, "It's easier to take the attitude."

Claire Cameron is coming to the Shelburne Public Library for an afternoon's delight and conversation on Sunday, June 22 at 1 p.m. with her new book, How to Survive a Bear Attack: A Memoir. There will be book sales and signings.

This is a free event. To register, visit eventbrite.ca/e/an-afternoon-with-claire-cameron-how-to-survive-a-bear-attack-a-memoir-tickets-1215613806619

Streams Community Hub takes over Grace Tipling Hall for three-day run of Seussical JR.

Written By PAULA BROWN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Streams Community Hub brought imagination to the Shelburne community with their first-ever theatrical production.

The local youth arts-based charity hosted a three-day run of the musical Seussical JR. on June 6, 7 and 8 at Grace Tipling Hall. The production was co-directed by Streams staff members, Noni Thomas and Robin Menard.

"We had a lot of kids who were performing for the first time, so it's been amazing and exciting to see their growth throughout the rehearsal process. We were also excited to have some great audience reception," said Thomas.

"The kids worked really hard on this and it's been a long-time coming," added Menard.

Written by Tony Award winners Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty, Seussical JR. brings to life the beloved characters from Dr. Seuss in a fantastical musical extravaganza.

Audiences are transported from the Jungle of Nool to the Circus McGurkus, while the Cat in the Hat narrates the story of Horton the Elephant, who discovers a speck of dust containing tiny people called the Whos. The characters of Seussical JR. are challenged on the powers of friendship, loyalty,

family and community and emerge triumphant.

Bringing the world of Dr. Seuss to life was Mariah Kidd as Jojo, a young child whose overly wild imagination gets her into constant trouble.

"Jojo is a fun-loving young girl who has parents who don't think she should be quite as imaginative as she is," described Kidd. "The show is very all over the place, but there's a lot of fun facial expressions and colour while being joyful and upbeat."

Dillian Balfour stepped onto the stage in his first-ever performance as he took on the role of Cat in the Hat – the essence of mischief, fun and imagination.

"With the Cat, you never know what's going on with him and that fact that it's all going on inside of Jojo's head, and [the fact] I'm able to infer that to the audience is what I really like about my character," said Balfour.

Seussical JR. marks the first main-stage production showcased by Streams Community Hub. The local production of the musical was produced through Streams' Centre Stage program, which began back in January.

"It's amazing and wonderful to have the opportunity to showcase to these kids, what



PAULA BROWN PHOTO

NEW PRODUCTION: Streams Community Hub brought its first main stage musical, Seussical JR., to the Shelburne community with a three-day run at Grace Tipling Hall. The musical was co-directed by Noni Thomas and Robin Menard and is part of Streams' program, Centre Stage.

the arts can [be] and all the things that you can learn from being involved in a production," said Thomas.

"It's nice to give them an opportunity outside of school for them to go and express themselves and learn about the arts and the-

atre. The things you learn in theatre are so transferable to life itself and those skills are so necessary," said Menard.

For more information about Streams Community Hub and the programs available visit www.streamshub.org.

adopt a cat



Gracie is approximately 7 years old and has all the volunteers wrapped around her paw. Not only does she have the best facial expressions, but she loves to dance circles and get pets. Gracie was timid for a long time but has really flourished!

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Limitations No waste from industrial, commercial, or institutional sources. No white goods/large appliances (including any appliances with freon). No garbage, or recycling. No unidentified/unknown materials. No drums of materials.

Visit dufferincounty.ca/waste for updates and a full listing of acceptable materials & limitations. Future events: July 23, August 20, September 20, October 25.

See website for details on hours & locations for each scheduled event.

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



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SPORTS

Shelburne Cricket Club kicks off 2025 season with Gladiators-Knights game

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

The Shelburne Cricket Club has started its fifth season with a lot of exciting action to be played on the pitch at KTH Park in Shelburne over the summer.

Action got underway on Saturday, June 7, with a match between the Gladiators and the Knights.

The Gladiators won the toss and elected to field. It was an inspired call given the conditions.

The Gladiators exploited a receptive pitch, taking wickets at roughly one per over.

Hisaan Siddiqui delivered a standout performance with a superb maiden five-wicket haul, dismantling the Knights' top and middle order.

The Knights never recovered, collapsing to just 60 all-out in under 20 overs.

In response, Abhay Pratap, who received the Player of the League Award in 2024, anchored the chase with an unbeaten 41, guiding the Gladiators to a six-wicket victory with overs to spare.

Hisaan was awarded Man of the Match for his match-turning spell.

The second game of the weekend saw the Warriors and the Samurais face off at KTH Park.

The Warriors elected to bat.

Samir Patel blazed through the Samurai



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

READY TO ROLL: The Shelburne Cricket Club has started the 2025 season with matches being played at KTH Park in Shelburne. The Shelburne Warriors and the Shelburne Samurais join in the opening ceremony to start the season on Saturday, June 7.

attack, scoring 97 before being caught and bowled in the 22nd over. His explosive innings powered the Warriors to a total of 160.

The Samurais' chase was shaky from the start, though Captain Vikas showed grit with 40 out of their meagre 91.

In the end, the Warriors sealed a convincing 69-run wicket. Patel was awarded Man of the Match.

Mansfield Senior Cubs win second game of the season 7-3 over Clarksburg Blues

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

The Mansfield Senior Cubs left the diamond with a 7-6 win over the Clarksburg Blues on their home diamond in Mansfield on Tuesday, June 3.

It was a harrowing seventh inning when the Blues suddenly got the bats moving and scored three runs to come within one run of tying the game.

The Blues opened the scoring with a single run in the first inning

It was a tie game in the second when Quinn Scharlach batted in a run on a single.

Clarksburg moved ahead in the third on a hit to deep centre field that scored a run.

It was a good inning for the Cubs in the third they brought in two runs on hits from Tristan Park and Devon Caldwell.

There was no scoring in the fourth and fifth innings.

It was a big sixth inning for the Cubs starting with Zac Piechocinski stealing second and third base to get into a scoring position. He crossed home plate on a hit from Cory Cox.

The Cubs went ahead 7-3 when Justin Fenn

hit a double and brought in two runs.

The Clarksburg squad had a good effort in the final inning starting with a single run home run from Quinn Hawton.

The Blues brought in two more runs to close the scoring gap, but they couldn't do more and the game ended on a strikeout to give the Cubs a 7-6 win.

It was the Mansfield team's second win of the season.

There is no Mansfield Junior team this season, and Cubs coach Lance Bryan allowed several junior players to compete on the senior squad this year.

"I brought up nine players from our junior team this year," Bryan said. "Now the team is young and enthusiastic, their heads are in the game and they are paying attention. Over the last two years we had two wins that first year and two wins last year. This year we've already have two wins and a tie already so we're ahead of the pace."

The Cubs will return to their home diamond in Mansfield on Wednesday, June 18, to host the Lisle Astros.

Game time is 6:30 p.m.



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

CLOSE MATCH: Mansfield Senior Cubs shortstop Justin Fenn goes for the tag at second base during the fourth inning of the Cubs game against the Clarksburg Blues at the diamond in Mansfield on Tuesday, June 3. The Cubs won the game 7-6 for their second win of the season.

Local athletes do well in competitions at Special Olympics School Championships in Ottawa

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

Several local athletes competed at the Special Olympics Ontario School Championships held in Ottawa from June 3 to 5.

The School Championships are the flagship event of the Unified Champions Schools Program that is dedicated to promoting inclusion, acceptance, and positive change in schools across Ontario.

The event is hosted by the Ottawa Police Service and features track and field events, basketball, bocce, soccer, and floorball

competitions.

More than 10,000 high school athletes from across the province competed for the honour of representing their school and community at this year's provincial event.

Over 1,100 qualifying athletes and coaches from Ontario high schools as well as three out-of-province high schools arrived at this year's Special Olympics Ontario for three days of competition, with some fun events to make it a memorable experience.

This includes Unified athletes who are without intellectual disabilities and are

partnered with Special Olympics Athletes.

Day One of the competition included preliminaries and track and field events.

Day Two wrapped up with more track and field and the final playoffs for basketball, bocce, soccer, and floorball.

Several Shelburne residents representing Centre Dufferin District High School and Robert F. Hall Catholic Secondary School competed at the event and were given a 'good luck' sendoff by local residents, Dufferin OPP, and local town councillors when they departed for the games on Monday, June 2.

The CDDHS basketball team won the bronze medal after putting in a good effort

on the basketball court.

The CDDHS floorball team also did well in the competition.

Robert F. Hall student Yazmine Wilson-Daponte won bronze in the 200-meter dash. Yazmine also placed 6th in the 100-meter dash, 5th in shotput, and 4th in standing long jump.

Robert F. Hall Unified athlete Aszzura Barnett had an outstanding competition, winning four medals.

Aszzura won gold in the 100-meter dash, gold in shotput, silver in the 200-meter dash, and silver in the standing long jump.

These two local athletes' hard work paid off in the provincial competition.

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

MASON FOGAL

Mansfield Cubs U15 AA player Mason Fogal has been playing baseball for 11 years and brings a lot of experience to his team.

"I like the team play and the fact that you always have to be in it and engaged," Mason said of why he likes the sport. "I like hitting - offense is my favourite, but I like defence too."

The Centre Dufferin District High School student also plays hockey with the Orangeville Flyers AA.

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Unity in Diversity art exhibit at Museum of Dufferin showcases works of 18 artists

Written By PAULA BROWN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

While communities across the province celebrate Multicultural Month, the Museum of Dufferin is bringing diverse groups together with a new exhibit.

The Museum of Dufferin (MoD) and the Dufferin County Multicultural Foundation unveiled the 4th Annual Unity in Diversity art exhibition in the museum's Silo Gallery on Saturday (June 7).

Unity in Diversity is a juried multicultural art exhibition that looks to celebrate culture, identity and community. The art exhibition features a vibrant collection of works created by 18 talented artists from across Ontario.

"There are so many great artists in our community and art is such a great form of expressing who you are," said Althea Alli, founder of the Dufferin County Multicultural Foundation. "It's amazing to see this opportunity is given and that we continue to really build and create a space for our artists."

The Dufferin County Multicultural Art Show presented four awards: Juror's Choice, Youth Artist, Emerging Artist and Best in Show.

Kaiya Davoodian, a Grade 9 student from Centre Dufferin District High School in Shelburne, was presented with the Youth Artist Award for her piece "Glory to Ukraine." The painting depicts young Ukrainian girls dressed in traditional embroidered shirts while braiding their hair.

"[The exhibit] was an option for one of our projects in art class so I did this painting for the exhibit. I thought it would be fun to make a painting and be able to connect

with my culture," said Davoodian

Barrie-based artist, Faryal Shehzad was the recipient of the Juror's Choice Award. Her piece "Homecoming" is an homage to friendship depicting both Shehzad and a close friend, and serves as a reminder of the bonds that can grow between people from different walks of life.

"It's nice to not just be on the wall next to some really wonderful artists, but to also be able to represent my culture and background and to show how beautifully multicultural Canada really is," said Shehzad, who immigrated from Pakistan at the age of six. "This exhibit not only give the opportunity for people to express themselves and their own culture, but really celebrates it."

The Award for Emerging Artists was presented to Vishwa Patel for her diptych pieces "Jyoti" and "Jyotsna," which translate to "Light of the Sun" and "Light of the Moon". The two large tapestries showcase two women doing a traditional dance from a region of India that Patel is from. It was created in the traditional miniature painting style of India.

"I thought it would be interesting to blow them up to a large scale and work with textile because it's not really done in this style of painting," explained Patel. "It's a celebration of both the folk dance and also the textiles that come from that dance."

Melissa Boodoo, a Toronto-based artist, was the recipient of the Best in Show Award for her piece "The Lotus and the Koi No. 1". The piece of art, which is part of a large collection of works, is inspired by the symbols of Boodoo's Chinese and Trinidadian heritage.

"I spent a lot of my life questioning my identity, growing up biracial. I always treat-



PAULA BROWN PHOTOS

UNVEILING INCREDIBLE ART: The Museum of Dufferin (MoD) and the Dufferin County Multicultural Foundation unveiled the 4th annual Unity in Diversity art exhibit in MoD's Silo Gallery on Saturday (June 7).

ed myself like two different people instead of embracing me as one person," said Boodoo. "Art is such a great way to explore identity and to have a community that support that journey is very validating."

The Unity in Diversity art show will be on display at the Museum of Dufferin's Silo Gallery until Aug. 30.

To learn more about the exhibit, visit dufferinmuseum.com.



YOUTH ARTIST: Kaiya Davoodian, a Grade 9 student at Centre Dufferin District High School in Shelburne, was presented with the Youth Artist Award for her painting, "Glory to Ukraine."



JUROR'S CHOICE: Faryal Shehzad, an artist based out of Barrie, was the recipient of the Juror's Choice Award for her painting, "Homecoming."



BEST IN SHOW: Toronto-based artist Melissa Boodoo was the recipient of the Best in Show Award for her painting, "The Lotus and the Koi No. 1" from Althea Alli, executive director of the Dufferin County Multicultural Foundation.

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Local support group celebrates Brain Injury Awareness Month

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

In a single moment, life can change forever. Whether it's a motor vehicle accident, slip and fall, a concussion from sports or health complications, an acquired brain injury can severely alter how a person interacts with the world.

The 165,000 Canadians who endure a serious brain injury each year, according to Brain Injury Canada, can be left disabled or cognitively impaired for the rest of their life.

With June marking Brain Injury Awareness Month, a local not-for-profit support group is celebrating the people it serves with a community barbecue.

Headwaters Acquired Brain Injury Group (HABI) holds the barbecue each year as an opportunity for its members, as well as their family and friends, to enjoy camaraderie, support and a celebration of the group's success.

HABI is a Dufferin County-based support group, founded in 2009, and operated under the umbrella of the Ontario Brain Injury Association.

"HABI is committed to providing support to those impacted by brain injury and is dedicated to raising awareness about the impact that brain injury has on so many," reads a press release from HABI.

"HABI hosts monthly support groups, which provide members with opportunities to support each other, listen to guest speakers, and form social connections."

HABI hosts social activities as well. There is no cost to attend HABI and all community members are welcome.

There is no waitlist to attend HABI gatherings, which take place on the first Thursday of each month, beginning at 6:30 p.m., at The Centre (375 Hansen Blvd., Orangeville).

The group currently has 75 active members

and 15-25 people usually attend each gathering at The Centre.

HABI members have shared that they enjoy coming to a group where everyone knows what they are going through and they don't have to explain their symptoms. While many members noted they were nervous when first joining the group, they have found HABI to be a very welcoming and positive outlet for them.

Everyone fits in – whether someone is living with a mild concussion or a more severe brain injury.

HABI members also enjoy the fact that the group is run by and for people with brain injuries.

The Ontario Brain Injury Association (OBIA) is using this month to highlight brain injury caused by oxygen deprivation related to non-fatal overdose.

According to OBIA, "Research suggests

that for every one fatality due to overdose, there are approximately 15 non-fatal overdoses, many resulting in hypoxic or anoxic brain injuries. These injuries are often invisible and remain undiagnosed, yet they can significantly affect a person's memory, focus, emotional regulation, and mobility."

The OBIA continued, "Between 2016 and 2021, more than 27,000 opioid poisoning hospitalizations occurred in Canada. The majority were non-fatal, yet the long-term impact on survivors often goes unnoticed. Many are discharged from hospital care without any assessment or follow-up for possible brain injury."

For more information, check out HABI's website at headwatersabi.ca and Facebook page @Headwaters Acquired Brain Injury Group - HABI.

Information about OBIA can be found at obia.ca.



GLENN RODGER PHOTOS

ROOTIN' TOOTIN' RODEO : Ram Rodeo came to the Orangeville Fairgrounds on June 7 and 8 with cowboys and cowgirls facing off in a variety of competitions. The event saw record-breaking attendance with close to 4,000 people turning out over the weekend. In terms of competition winners, Ashley Cornish and Shaylynn Cornish won the Rescue Race, Kaitlyn Wagg won Ladies Pole Bending, Isla Dobbins won Youth Pole Bending and Youth Barrel Racing, Nathan Kulchuk-Ward won Novice Bucking Horse, Isaak Siemens won Bareback Riding, Gideon Stutzman won Saddle Bronc, Jocelyn McNichol won Barrel Racing and Austin Lightfoot won Youth Bull Riding. There was no regular bull riding champion at the Orangeville stop of Ram Rodeo as a rider must last eight seconds to earn a score and none of the competitors were able to. Tuff Therapeutic Riding, which provides at-risk youth with horse riding opportunities in Lorretto, has received \$1,750 through the Ram Rodeo tour.

Dufferin County to host event promoting 2SLGBTQIA+ inclusivity for Pride Month

Join Dufferin County this June for a free, educational and meaningful conversation on improving 2SLGBTQIA+ inclusivity in Dufferin County and beyond.

In collaboration with the Equity Events Working Group, Dufferin County will be hosting "Don't Rain on My Parade: Combatting 2SLGBTQIA+ Hate, Celebrating Community, and Taking Action Towards a More Inclusive World" in recognition of Pride Month.

This free community event will take place from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 25 at the Monora Park Pavilion.

Speaking from broad professional, personal and educational experiences, keynote speaker Prasanna Ranganathan will explore

notions of identity and connection with a view to creating community, shattering stereotypes and combatting the rampant hate and discrimination that 2SLGBTQIA+ communities face worldwide. With a blend of personal stories, human rights considerations and inclusion best practices, Prasanna will underscore how we can, individually and collectively, create workplaces, organizations and civic spaces where 2SLGBTQIA+ community members not only feel safe, but included, valued, respected and celebrated.

"Dufferin County Council has proclaimed June Pride Month in Dufferin County to spotlight and celebrate the contributions of Dufferin's 2SLGBTQIA+ communities. County

Council invites our residents and stakeholders to join us in recognizing and celebrating Pride Season this summer, and encourages everyone to join us at this meaningful event to learn how we can create inclusive spaces for 2SLGBTQIA+ communities," said Janet Horner, Warden of Dufferin County.

Registration is required for the event here. Register online at eventbrite.ca/e/dont-rain-on-my-parade-community-conversation-tickets-1397240075679.

Prasanna Ranganathan is a documentary producer, human rights lawyer, diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility and belonging (DEIAB) consultant/advisor, speaker, author, correspondent, writer and arts colum-

nist.

Proudly claiming his identity as a racialized, queer person with a disability (blindness), Prasanna is a board member of the Disability Screen Office and a past board member of Inside Out (the largest LGBTQ2+ film festival in Canada).

Prasanna is a seasoned speaker, providing the annual Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) inclusion and accessibility workshop, speaking at the TIFF Industry Conference, delivering anti-bias and accessibility training to the Sundance Institute, and serving as a Guest Lecturer at the University of Southern California Annenberg Inclusion Initiative on inclusive storytelling.

Purolator's Tackle Hunger Red Bag Campaign returns to Grand Valley for second year

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

A campaign that looks to support individuals who are struggling to afford food is returning to Grand Valley.

The Purolator Tackle Hunger Red Bag campaign kicked off on June 8, but is continuing until Sunday, June 15.

The campaign is in support of the Dufferin Food Share, which is operated by the Orangeville Food Bank, and provides food to Grand Valley residents in need of assistance.

Volunteers dropped off approximately

3,000 red bags throughout Grand Valley and Waldemar on June 8.

Residents are asked to fill the red bags with non-perishable food items and leave them on their doorsteps by 9 a.m. on June 15 to be picked up by Purolator couriers. All red bags will then be delivered to the food bank.

The Dufferin Food Share is a partnership between the Grand Valley Food Bank and Orangeville Food Bank, with the two organizations joining forces last year to better address food insecurity within Dufferin



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF: Purolator's Red Bag Campaign is returning to Grand Valley, with bags dropped off to residents on June 8. Residents are asked to fill the bags with non-perishable food and place them outside for pickup from Purolator on June 15.

County. The Dufferin Food Share saw a 46 per cent increase in individuals accessing its services from December 2023 to December 2024. The number rose to 112 visitors from 70. The Orangeville Food Bank has seen a 19 per cent increase in the number of households it served in December 2024, compared to December 2023.

Last year, thanks to the generosity of the people in Grand Valley, Purolator delivered 7,000 pounds of food to the Dufferin Food Share as part of its first-ever Purolator Tack-

le Hunger Red Bag campaign.

There are several items on the Dufferin Food Share's most needed items list.

These items include packaged pasta, canned beans, canned fish and meat, soups, canned fruits and vegetables, cereal, rice, 100 per cent fruit juice, jam and peanut butter.

"Being a kid is hard. Being a hungry kid is harder. Yet one in three Canadians who rely on food banks are children. Filling the Purolator Red Bag will help tackle hunger and stock the shelves of the Dufferin Food Share who are helping to feed children in Grand Valley," reads a press release from Purolator's Tackle Hunger Red Bag Campaign.

Those who do not receive a bag can donate at www.orangevillefoodbank.org/donate.

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- First Ave West** (by train tracks/ new condo mailboxes)
- Royal LePage RCR Realty**, 126 Main Street East, Shelburne
- Stewart Street** (Hyland subdivision by mailboxes)
- Hornings Mills** (by the Community Centre)
- Dean Road, Mulmur** (by news boxes)
- 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
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- Foodland**, 824 Ojibway Rd, Shelburne
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CELEBRATION OF LIFE

CELEBRATION OF LIFE for Eric George Bryant

A celebration of life for Eric George Bryant will be held on Saturday, June 21st, 2025, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Museum Room at the Shelburne Legion, 203 William Street, Shelburne.



If desired, donations to the Canadian Cancer Society or Diabetes Canada would be appreciated. Online condolences and donations may be made at www.jackandthompsonfuneralhome.com

EVENTS

MONTICELLO UNITED CHURCH STRAWBERRY SUPPER Save the Date: Tuesday, June 24th, 2025. Take-Out: 4:00 PM - 4:30 PM. Dine-In: 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM. Tickets: Adults: \$25, Kids 6-12: \$15. Children 5 & Under: Dine Free! Reserve Your Spot before June 21st 2025. Call : Madeleine at 519-928-5302 or Johanna at 519-942-6827.



STRAWBERRY SUPPER

Thursday June 26th
 from 4:30pm - 7:00pm
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Orangeville SPCA Ride to fundraise for local animals in need of support

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

Calling all motorcycle and scooter riders! An upcoming event in the community gives you the chance to enjoy a group ride while supporting a good cause.

The Orangeville SPCA Ride is taking place on June 21, in support of the Ontario SPCA Orangeville and District Animal Centre.

Riders are asked to gather at the local SPCA's parking lot at 650 Riddell Road before the event starts at 11 a.m. From the SPCA, riders will travel to the Hockley Valley General Store, and finish at Higher Ground Café in Belfountain.

The cost to participate is \$5 and there will be a raffle available at the café to help raise more funds for the SPCA.

Wayne Sumbler, the ride's organizer, is expecting anywhere from 20 to 80 participants

on June 21.

Sumbler is known in the community for riding around in his red Vespa with his dog Auston in the sidecar. Auston sports biker gear, with a helmet, vest and shades to match.

Two other dogs will be participating in the ride as well. Tracy Charles' dog Roo, who's travelled with her to Peru and Colombia, will be taking part.

A gentleman who Sumbler met at the Orangeville Canadian Tire also has a sidecar for his dog and will be participating in the ride.

Sumbler says his bike looks like something out of Star Wars.

Since Sumbler started fundraising for the SPCA a few years ago, he's generated roughly \$7,000.

He said he wants to make sure all of the animals in the community are properly cared for and have enough to eat. With the SPCA being

a not-for-profit organization, Sumbler noted that the organization relies on donations from the community.

Nearly 20 businesses and individuals are sponsoring the SPCA Ride this year.

Cudney Funeral Home, Harley Davidson Barrie, Posh Puppy Orangeville, URO Performance, Dr. Mike Mori, Miedemas Auto Sales, Shoppers Drug Mart, M&M Food Market Orangeville, Pet Value Orangeville, Animals in Motion Rehab, Home Hardware Orangeville, Synergy Exteriors Orangeville, Liberty Tax Orangeville, Elite Water and Air, Ray's 3rd Generation, Jason Perkins, Hawk Shop, Booklore and Best Buy are all pitching in.

Sumbler said he'd encourage everyone who is able to participate in the Orangeville SPCA Ride to come out. And anybody who wants to get involved but doesn't have a motorcycle, can drop off a donation directly at the SPCA.



SAM ODROWSKI PHOTO

RIDING FOR A REASON: Wayne Sumbler and his dog Auston look forward to raising funds for the local SPCA and Animal Centre.

Shelburne Public Library shares upcoming events, recommended read this week

UPCOMING EVENTS

We have some 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, will be presented by the Museum of Dufferin

- June 22 at 1 p.m. – An Afternoon with Claire Cameron, will be co-hosted by CanHist/STBI.

- Aug. 10 – Authors in the Hills of Mulmur will be held. Save the date, tickets will be available soon for \$40 each.

Please register for any of the above events

by calling the Shelburne Public Library at 519-925-2168 or by visiting its website at www.shelburnelibrary.ca Teens and adults are now able to register for their respective Summer Reading Challenges on Beanstack. Download the Beanstack app, search for Shelburne Public Library and create an account. The real fun starts June 29 when you can start earning badges and get entered into a weekly draw for a personal pan pizza by logging your reading.

RECOMMENDED READ:

Heartwood by Amity Gaige: A gripping

journey taking place as a search and rescue team race against time when an experienced hiker mysteriously disappears on the Appalachian Trail in Maine.

Why Jade recommends it: If you're a fan of thriller books and hiking, there's a good chance you're going to like this one. Additionally, while it's a thriller by nature, I want to mention that it's fairly gentle, without the gore and menace of many others. Told from multiple perspectives, that of the missing hiker, a Maine State Game Warden, and a homebound

septuagenarian, the harrowing journey of this missing hiker unfolds.

Without giving too much away, as readers we learn that the stakes are high for our Maine Game Warden to find the missing hiker, not only because that's her duty, but because she has a near perfect rescue rate. Moreover, our homebound septuagenarian has a fractured relationship with her daughter which makes the news of this missing young hiker impact her deeply. We will come to find out just how close to home the situation is for her, but you're going to have to read the book to find out how.

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17⁹⁹ **SALE**
Nanaimo Bars 850 g

12 PIECES **200 g**
Mini Eclairs

5⁹⁹ each **SALE**
Mini Cream Puffs 250 g

8⁹⁹ **SALE**
Caramel Cream Puffs 240 g



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