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PAULA BROWN PHOTO

INTENSE COMPETITION: Caledon Firefighter Eric Delmonte was the first firefighter to complete the course of the Firefighter Extreme Challenge held on Saturday (July 19). Delmonte finished the challenge in third place. See more photos on Page 3.

Firefighters prove they're up to a challenge

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

Firefighters from across the region showed their skills to the local community last weekend.

Ready 4 Rescue, a mobile training and testing service for firefighters, hosted a Firefighter Extreme Challenge at Trainer Games in Shelburne July 19.

"The public holds firefighters at a high standard, but also don't really know what we do," said Sabrina Caruso, co-founder of Ready 4 Rescue. "They see the red fire truck, the gear and know you're going into a fire, but they don't really understand the steps and what is involved before you even walk into a fire."

"With this, the public can see the exertion, the heat exhaustion, and what it feels like to work under load."

Firefighters were tasked with making their way through an obstacle course, which included pulling a 200-pound sled, climbing 50 feet, an overhead pike pole, carrying and hoisting tools, and crawling while dragging a

charged hose line.

The obstacle course was completed while wearing a 50-pound training pack.

The event saw 10 firefighters compete and about 15 community members test their mettle.

Brendan Neely from Oakville Fire Department placed first in the men's heat of the course, Christine Martel from Caledon Fire Department place first in both the women's heat and partners with Brain Ewles, also from Caledon Fire Department.

"It's a very accurate picture of the physical demands of the job with a well-rounded combination of fitness. Pushing, pulling, and lifting while being aware of where you're at in time and space," said Neely, who has been with the Oakville Fire Department for nine years and previously volunteered with the Mulmur/Melancthon Fire Department.

The event also served as a fundraising opportunity for the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation with donations collected through a silent auction and "boot drive."

"Every firefighter knows that there's a risk involved in their job," Caruso said. "You

never know when you go in that it's you or a brother or sister that does down on the job. We want to support any non-profit organization that is willing to go the mile to take care of those people and their families."

Founded in 2003, the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation (CFFF) is a registered non-profit charitable organization dedicated to honouring Canadian firefighters who have died in the line of duty.

In addition to honouring fallen firefighters at an annual memorial ceremony on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, the organization also helps provide financial assistance, support programs, and scholarships and bursaries for the children and spouses of the fallen firefighter.

"Everything we do is through fundraising efforts. Grassroot efforts like this, where we benefit from the money that's raised, is the lifeline of the CFFF," said David Sheen, the foundation's president. "The emotional resilience of the families is so incredible and inspiring. We have found that it means the world to these families to know that their loved ones are not forgotten."

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PAULA BROWN PHOTOS
PUT TO THE TEST: Ready 4 Rescue, a mobile training and testing service for firefighters, hosted a Firefighter Extreme Challenge at Trainer Games in Shelburne on Saturday (July 19). Firefighters from across the region competed in a timed obstacle course that put their training and skills to the test. The event also served as a fundraising for the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation, which aims to assist the families of firefighters who have died in the line of duty.

Orangeville woman seeks recording of her late father's voice

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

Cathie Clarence has started a movement called #FindDadsVoice in the hopes of finding a recording of her late father's voice.

"I lost the last recording I had of him, and now I would give anything just to hear him again — even just one word," the Orangeville resident wrote in an email to the Free Press.

"My dad taught gun safety and conservation across Ontario, and I believe someone out there might have a recording of him from a course, a show, a meeting ... anything."

Robert Edward Lane Clarence, known by most as Bob, was born in Etobicoke and grew up in the west end of Toronto. He went to Thistleton Collegiate Institute and eventually moved to Orangeville where he started his family and lived the rest of his life.

Bob was an outdoorsman, hunter, and teacher. Over the years he taught firearms acquisition licence and then possession and

acquisition licence firearm safety courses. He helped stock local fishing ponds and served as president of a hunters and anglers club.

Bob battled skin cancer in his late 20s and was later diagnosed with colon cancer. He died in October 2021.

"He was deeply involved in the community — always helping others prepare for hunting season, teaching responsibility and safety, and volunteering his time," said Clarence.

As much of an involved community member, Bob also fostered a close relationship with his daughter, Cathie.

"We were incredibly close," she said. "He was my rock, my best friend, and the one person I could always count on. We shared everything — meals, stories, drives, jokes. He wasn't always the most emotional guy, but his love came through in everything he did."

Bob left a final recording for this daughter before he died in which he said: "I want everyone to know that I love my daughter Kathy so very much ... even though she's a pain in

my a**."

"That's the kind of love we had. Real, strong, and full of heart," said Clarence.

The recording of Bob's last message has since been lost.

Speaking with the Free Press, Clarence noted the impact finding a recording of her father's voice would have for her family.

"His voice is the one thing I can't get back — and not being able to hear it feels like losing him all over again. It's like there's a hole in the world where he used to be. Just to hear one word ... it would give me something I could hold on to. Something I could pass on to my son, so he knows what his grandfather sounded like. This search is about more than just me — it's about memory, legacy, and not letting the ones we love disappear completely," said Clarence.

Anyone who may have a recording of Bob Clarence's voice is asked to reach out to Cathie Clarence by emailing, iamcathclarenc@ gmail.com.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

REMEMBERING: Bob Clarence was an avid outdoorsman, hunter and teacher before his death in 2021 from colon cancer. Before his death, Bob left behind a final recorded message to his daughter, which has since been lost. His daughter, Cathie Clarence, has started an online movement called #FindDadsVoice in the hopes of finding a recording of her late father's voice.

Melancthon Against Quarries launches letter-writing campaign opposing Strada

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

Melancthon Against Quarries (MAQ) is preparing to take the next steps in opposing the construction of a below-the-water-table quarry in north Dufferin County.

The grassroots organization announced in a newsletter on July 16 that they will be launching a letter-writing campaign in opposition to Strada Aggregate's application.

"Letters of objection are huge because Strada must address with you the issues you raise and must attempt to resolve your issues to your satisfaction," Melancthon Against Quarries wrote in the newsletter. "Any unresolved issues identified in your letter of objection will influence the Ministry's decisions and will form part of what it ultimately sends to the

Ontario Land Tribunal for a hearing."

The announcement of the letter-writing campaign comes as a response to Strada Aggregate's notification to the Township of Melancthon on July 11 that they have submitted an application to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forests (MNRF) for a quarry operation within its existing 360-acre sand and gravel pit.

Strada Aggregate initially brought forward a presentation to Melancthon Council in October of 2021, which noted their intention to submit an application for a proposed quarry. The Strada Aggregate quarry was proposed to be constructed in an existing gravel pit, located in the area of 4th Line and County Rd. 17 in Melancthon, and designed to extract 2 million tonnes of aggregate while extending below the water table.

Following the submission of the application, Strada Aggregate's next steps will include giving a "public notice" to the general public, residents, the Township of Melancthon and other government bodies.

During the "public notice" period, which spans 60 days, local residents and members of the public will have the opportunity to provide comments on the application to the Ministry.

At the time of print, Strada Aggregate has yet to provide an official "public notice" of the quarry application.

In preparation for the official "public notice" period, MAQ is advising residents and members of the public to begin drafting their letters and comments for the Ministry.

"Your letter should set out simply and concisely your objections to the first blast quarry in Dufferin County," advised MAQ. "Your letter

can be brief and should contain a simple statement about who you are and why you oppose the quarry."

To help residents submit their letters of concern, MAQ is creating a web-based system, which will allow residents to compose and send their letter of objection directly to the Ministry through the MAQ's website.

"When we know, we will provide you with the names and addresses you will need to send your letter. If you use our website to compose your letter, the names and addresses will be pre-filled by the app."

For more information about the Melancthon Against Quarries initiatives and how to get involved, contact the group by email at info@juststopit.ca. Regular updates can be received by signing up for their newsletter at www.juststopit.ca.

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OPINION

Menace to society

"You are a menace to society."
That's a phrase a judge in a courtroom would, once upon a time, say to defendants who were repeat offenders and posed a risk to the public.

That was usually followed by a lengthy prison term to keep that person off the street and keep regular citizens safe.

A menace to society could include everything from a person with a history of violence to someone who routinely commits fraud and relieves people of their life savings through deceit and trickery.

I believe everyone deserves a second chance.

Sometimes people do end up on the wrong side of the law, and it doesn't necessarily mean they are a bad person. People make mistakes.

I know of a few people who were charged with DWI after having a couple of glasses of wine at a wedding or other social gathering. They may have felt sober and good enough to drive, but a roadside breathalyzer showed they were over the legal limit.

In that case, I don't think a serious punishment is suitable. Most normal people who go through the process of being arrested are probably shaken up enough that it will never happen again.

They were all embarrassed and were all

nice people who just made a bad decision, but they don't have a criminal mind.

However, there is another type of person who, for some reason, just doesn't learn from their mistakes. And those mistakes always affect someone else.

I had an acquaintance who was one of these types of people. I refer to him as an 'acquaintance' because, as a neighbour, he was one of those guys you had to at least pretend to be friendly with, or you just knew there would be trouble.

He had been arrested for DWI, driving under the influence of drugs, several assault charges and other offences, for which he spent time in jail. After he moved to a different area, he was once again arrested for aggravated assault for stabbing someone in the neck during an altercation.

He had been in numerous fist fights over the years for various reasons – and every time he was drunk. He usually ended up being pummelled into a bloody mess. You think a guy would learn a lesson.

I went to a local event where some of his family were in attendance. I asked if he was going to be arriving.

A family member casually told me that no, he wouldn't be arriving because he was again in jail on a charge of attempted murder, after stabbing yet another person

in some ridiculous fight.

Yet, three months later, I saw him walking his dog down the street. He had been released – again.

There was a recent traffic collision on in Bolton during the first week of July.

As a result, a young man is in the hospital with serious, life-altering injuries, including internal injuries, broken bones, and a head injury. He is currently in a coma, and his family and friends are praying for his recovery.

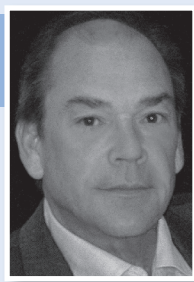
Traffic accidents happen every day. It's an inherent danger of driving an automobile.

However, in this case, the person who allegedly caused the accident and put this young man in critical condition in a hospital has already been convicted of drunk driving five times since 2010, and was on three separate lifetime driving bans.

Yet, there he was, driving a car, which he wasn't supposed to be doing, and driving it while again under the influence, which caused a serious collision that put someone else in serious danger and a life-threatening situation.

After the accident, the man was arrested, again, and charged with Impaired Driving Causing Bodily Harm, one count of Driving With Excess Blood Alcohol, and three counts of Prohibited Driving.

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



After being charged, he was released back on the street.

The young man's father did an interview with CBC News, discussing his son's current situation and calling for bail reform.

He remained remarkably composed and calm for a man who is probably experiencing a lot of inner turmoil along with the rest of his family.

He questioned why a man with a lengthy criminal record, who is clearly a danger to society and obviously has no concern for anyone else or the law, would again be released back onto the streets while his son languishes in a hospital bed fighting for his life.

Anyone who has been convicted of drunk driving five times, and does it again, and is behind the wheel of a car after being issued three driving bans, clearly is a menace to the roads and society at large.

A lot of people, as well as police, are calling for bail reform to keep the streets safe from people who routinely flout the law and are a menace to society.

Our government needs to step up and ensure public safety.

Next time, it could be you or one of your family members.

Ukraine: Buying time

There was rejoicing when US President Donald Trump announced that he was going to let Ukraine have weapons after all, but it was conspicuously contained joy. Half-smiles and sighs of relief were plentiful; cheers were absent or faked.

The Ukrainians were relieved because this is the first time they will be getting weapons actually ordered by Trump. The stop-go dribble of arms that the US has sent Ukraine at intervals in the past five months was really the tail-end of Joe Biden's last package, although Trump had to approve each shipment.

What Trump is willing to send now remains unclear, but at least it's on his own initiative and \$10 billion has been mentioned. And Ukrainians don't care that the money will really be provided by other NATO members, who will buy the weapons from the US but pass them on Ukraine's armed forces.

What does concern Ukrainians is that Trump's threatened 'secondary tariffs' (more accurately secondary sanctions) on countries like India and China that are still buying cut-rate Russian oil and gas and supporting Moscow's war economy won't kick in for 50 more days.

That gives Russian President Vladimir Putin 49 more days to bomb Kiev and other Ukrainian cities with impunity, and Trump is notorious for shifting his deadlines to later dates. (TACO, as they say – 'Trump always chickens out'). Moreover, Trump warned Ukraine not to attack Moscow in return.

So the Russian reaction to Trump's apparent change of heart was relief that it wasn't worse. It is mostly "hot air", wrote Konstantin Kosachev, a senior Russian politician, on Telegram. "A lot can change in 50 days – on the battlefield and in the mindset of those in power,

both in the US and in NATO."

That's mostly correct, but not so much about NATO, most of whose other members have privately concluded that the United States under Donald Trump is no longer a trustworthy ally.

That leaves them dreadfully exposed if Russia conquers Ukraine and they become the next item on Putin's agenda. The historical 'division of labour' within the NATO alliance has left the Europeans lacking in key military categories like aerial surveillance, satellite data and nuclear deterrence.

Trump imagines that the recent commitment of most NATO countries to spend 5 per cent of GDP on defence – twice or more than they were spending two years ago – was a response to his demands. It was really a decision to achieve strategic independence from the United States. They have realized they are on their own.

Their problem is that it will take at least five years of strenuous effort to reach that goal, and until then they will still need US support – which explains the fake adulation and fulsome flattery they offer Trump at every opportunity.

Boot-licking is hard work and they probably can't keep it up for five years, but every month makes a difference. Most European decision-makers understand that a Russian victory in Ukraine must be avoided at all costs, and that they must therefore do whatever they can to keep Trump on side.

Is that really possible? Not if the slide of the United States into a 'soft fascism' accelerates. Not if China invades Tai-

wan and panics the US into a global war. Not if Putin dies or is overthrown, only for an even more ruthless and reckless ruler to take his place.

The negative possibilities are big and plausible – but so are less disastrous outcomes. It is still possible to draw a credible scenario in which the current stalemate in Ukraine endures for another year or so and then reaches an 'in-place' ceasefire like the one that has lasted in Korea for 72 years.

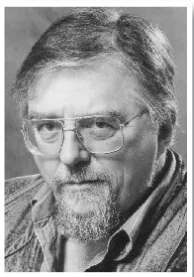
It is possible that the US can be kept in NATO long enough for the European members plus Canada to get their act together and become an independent strategic body. It is possible that China will retain its half-hearted loyalty to the international rule of law and not become another rogue state.

It is likewise possible that the United States, having spent some time under a capricious and authoritarian government, will return to its democratic roots, which run very deep. Regime change in Russia might re-awaken the desire for democracy that was so prominent in the late 1980s and early '90s.

It's not over until the fat lady sings. It's not even over after the fat lady sings. We are heading into a period where all bets are off because climate change will change all other calculations, and the only rational response will be cooperation on a global scale.

No promises, but despair is rarely the right move.

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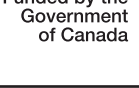
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COMMUNITY VOICES

Monthly Message: Family Transition Place gives hope to survivors of sexual violence

Three simple yet powerful words — we believe you — are at the core of what the Lotus Centre at Family Transition Place (FTP) is about.

For 40 years, hope has always been behind the doors to FTP, and it is found behind the doors to the Lotus Centre, too. Originally established with a grant from the provincial government during the pandemic, FTP's Lotus Centre continues to provide enhanced support to those who have experienced sexual violence, as well as to the family and friends who support these victims.

Working from the premise that sexual violence is “never your fault,” the staff and counselling team at FTP provide a safe place for survivors to flourish and bloom. It is a symbol of strength, resilience and rebirth — of beauty without blemish. At the Lotus Centre, healing is possible, and together, the dedicated team helps clients to discover their inherent strengths and acknowledge their own power.

FTP was granted new annualized funding in 2021 through the Ministry of the Attorney General for Sexual Assault Programming in Dufferin County to enhance its existing sexual violence services. In consultation with partner agencies — Headwaters Health Care Centre (HHCC) and Dufferin Child and Family Services (DCAFS) — FTP developed a model for this new centre to expand the collaborative services available in this community.

HHHC provides important emergency medical attention for any victim of sexual violence, and a dedicated nurse collects important forensic evidence.

DCAFS provides support and counselling for youth. FTP provides support and counselling for those 16 years of age and older. The creation of the Lotus Centre allowed FTP to build on the existing services by providing enhanced mobile crisis response; counselling support to survivors, their family members and friends; peer support and community outreach and education within schools and sports teams. This collaborative approach serves the community well, with each organization delivering services within this scope of practice and expertise.

All genders and identities are served at



FTP's Lotus Centre by a team of dedicated experts committed to recognizing the trauma arising from sexual violence — for survivors and their loved ones needing support. Holding credentials in social work, counselling and psychology, and with many years of experience behind them, the Lotus Centre crisis intake team and counsellors use a variety of strategies, including trauma-focused therapy, to support survivors. Anyone can call directly for help through FTP's 24-hour support line (519-941-4357 or 1-800-265-9178).

Counselling Supervisor Lauren Babcock comments, “The work of healing trauma related to sexual violence has changed to now include providing support to partners, family members, or friends of someone who has been subjected to sexual violence. This is because the Lotus Centre recognizes the impact this can have on those supporting a survivor, and it can be helpful and beneficial to have a space to learn more about the impacts of trauma, how to respond, and how to take care of themselves and survivors through positive coping.”

What is Sexual Violence?

How do you know if the shame, fear of violence or judgement, or any of the many feelings you might be experiencing are because of sexual violence? The answer is simple: “If something didn't feel ‘right,’ then it probably wasn't.” Lauren explains, “It's important to help clients understand and acknowledge that what they went through was indeed sexual violence and in no way their fault. Often, there are reasons why people dismiss or downplay their experiences, and it is helpful to explore that. Ultimately, we meet the clients where they are at.”

FTP is not the only agency to have re-

placed terms like “sexual assault” with “sexual violence” and “victims” with “survivors.” Empowered survivors who feel “heard, understood and validated” don't think of themselves as victims any longer.

Sexual violence can be historic or recent, but at its core, sexual violence includes being subjected to an unwanted and non-consensual touch or sexual act, sexual abuse, sexual assault or rape, trafficking, stalking, sexual harassment or exploitation, or being exposed to language or behaviour or the non-consensual sharing of images. What matters most, however, is how you felt about what was experienced.

Lauren adds, “We don't want to ‘label’ people's experience, especially if they don't want it labelled...we want to help people work through how something has impacted them.”

Beyond counselling and support, the Lotus Centre has a second and equally important component to its work and that is the important role that education plays in reducing sexual violence. Barb Mason, Sexual Violence Community Engagement Facilitator, shares that education is an essential aspect of the work the Lotus Centre will undertake in the community.

Continued on Page 7



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

GIVING GRANT: Shelburne Starbucks at 900 Main Street East has donated \$2,700 to the Shelburne Food Bank through the Neighborhood Grants program. Each year, the Starbucks Foundation invites employees and alumni to nominate local grassroots, community-led non-profit organizations in their community to receive small grants under the Neighborhood Grant program. The Starbucks Foundation is awarding more than \$5.4 million to more than 3,200 local organizations across Northern America this year.

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Apple heart links granddaughter and late Shelburne grandmother together

Written By PAULA BROWN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

If the apple doesn't fall far from the tree, it also sits close to the heart for a former Shelburne resident.

When Jason Monette received a call from his 14-year-old daughter Ella, the last thing he expected was for her to tell him that her grandmother, who passed away nearly four years prior, had made her lunch for the day.

Ella explained to her father that while packing her lunch for school she'd picked a MacIntosh apple to take and, upon closer inspection, she'd found it had a perfect heart shape on the skin. It was a match to one her grandmother had discovered more than a decade before.

"She sent me the picture and it was the same one her grandmother found," recalled Monette. "I stepped back a few steps. It was pretty amazing."

In 2014, the Free Press reported that Monette's mother, Barbara discovered a perfectly shaped heart on her MacIntosh apple.

After a grueling winter in Shelburne, Bar-

bara had gone out and purchased a bag of MacIntosh apples. While washing the bag of apples, she was surprised to find that one was almost completely ripened except for one spot that happened to be in the shape of a heart.

For Barbara, the discovery felt like a profound message: It was a reminder not to lose hope and that spring will eventually arrive.

"When I saw that apple with the perfect heart on it, I thought, with all the turmoil going on in the world it's wonderful to come across something like this," Barbara Monette had told the Free Press.

Barbara passed away in September 2021 at the age of 79.

Speaking with the Free Press, Monette remembered the close relationship Barbara had with her family and grandkids and described her as the kind person who always tried to help others.

Monette said his family has viewed the discovery of the apple as a "heart-lifting" and "beautiful" coincidence, one that reminds them of their beloved mother and grandmother.

"Grandma was reaching out to her and it was nice to see that. We know she's happy," Monette said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

APPLE OF MY EYE: Former Shelburne resident Jason Monette's 14-year-old daughter, Ella, discovered a heart shaped mark on her apple while packing her lunch for school. The apple discovery signified a heartfelt moment for the family as more than a decade ago their mother and grandmother, Barbara, discovered her own apple with a heart shaped mark. Barbara was a resident of Dufferin Oaks in Shelburne at the time she made the apple discovery in 2014. The Monette family currently lives in Orangeville.



Dufferin Chapter of Project Linus warms hearts of local children and teens facing challenges

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

A local not-for-profit group of quilters and blanketeers is providing the warmth of handmade blankets to children and teenagers experiencing illness or difficulty in their lives.

The Dufferin Chapter of Project Linus, established in 2023 by Christine Taylor, con-

sists of dedicated individuals who craft the blankets at no cost to those who receive them.

Since the chapter was formed, over 300 blankets have been donated in Dufferin County.

"All blankets are freshly washed, come packaged in protective plastic bags and include a note card explaining a bit more about Project Linus and their blanket gifts," explained Christine Taylor, Project Linus Dufferin Chapter coordinator. "We simply want to offer something special to comfort a child during a difficult time in their lives."

Taylor, who creates blankets herself, spends much of the first half of the year collecting blankets from generous groups and Project Linus members. During the later part of the year, she drops off the collection of donated blankets to be distributed by organizations.

"The blankets that are provided to the children of this program are a very special gift from members of their community who have quilted, knit, or crocheted blankets with love and care in the hopes that it makes a child or teen feel safe, warm, and cared for during a difficult time in their lives," said Taylor. "These blankets have

comforted children in hospital, receiving treatments for illness, they have been provided to children who are grieving the loss of a loved one, to teens who are struggling with mental health, and to any child who may be facing troubling times and could use the comfort."

She added, "It is our hope that these blankets provide them with something of their own that they can wrap up in when times feel uncertain or challenging."

Project Linus recently donated blankets to the women and children that Family Transition Place supports through its emergency shelter.

Caledon Dufferin Victim Services will soon receive a donation of blankets from the local chapter, which are distributed to its crisis response teams and gifted to children and teens at the scene of a crisis.

The local chapter also provides blankets to the Grand Valley Angel and Hamper Program, that provides food and gifts to children and families in need around the holiday season.

Taylor said that her group is actively seeking more avenues to support people in need.

"I am always looking for new community partners that support children and teens in the Dufferin County area, who can help place blankets into the hands of those who may be experiencing serious illness, trauma, or are otherwise in need of comfort during a troubling time," Taylor noted.

The Dufferin Chapter is made up of about 15 individuals who regularly contribute blankets. The chapter also receives regular donations from a group of about 25 people, known as the Sewcial Stitchers Guild in Orangeville.

Taylor said her chapter is always looking for more blankets to donate, and more places to donate them to. She can be contacted at projectlinusdufferin@gmail.com for interested people and organizations.

"There are many ways for someone to



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CRAFTING CAUSE: Christine Duncan, Project Linus Dufferin Chapter founder and coordinator, holds up a bag of blankets that was donated to children and youth in need. Project Linus is a nation-wide not-for-profit that is made up of sewers who craft blankets for children and teenagers experiencing illness or difficulty in their lives.

get involved with Project Linus Dufferin, of course we are always looking for new blanketeers of all skill levels. You can donate one blanket or as many as you would like – every blanket counts towards making a difference," said Taylor.

"If you are passionate about sewing, knitting or crocheting, get your friends and family involved in making blankets too, it is very rewarding. We also accept donations of quilting fabric, yarn and supplies as it helps our blanketeers keep costs down when making a blanket donation."

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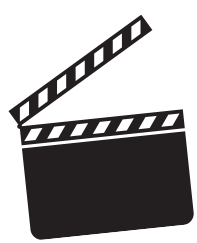
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Deadline for applications is: August 29th, 2025



Arts & Entertainment



LOCAL COMMUNITY EVENTS

Dufferin Film Festival to feature bold Canadian cinema when it returns next month

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

Downtown Orangeville will soon be transformed into a vibrant celebration of Canadian cinema with the return of the Dufferin Film Festival (DFF) from Aug. 15 to 17.

Keeping up with the momentum from last year's sold-out festival, organizers of the second annual DFF promise to deliver even more stories, voices and immersive experiences beyond the big screen.

The festival will feature 17 Canadian short films, including three world premieres, two Ontario premieres and an Oscar-qualified short film. Six films created by female directors will also be showcased.

The DFF's filmmaker-first approach helps those breaking into the industry to promote their work to a wider audience. With a more intimate feel than other film festivals, the festival is geared towards people searching for a more personal experience.

"We built this to create real connection with Canadian cinema," said festival director Kelly McDowell. "People talk, they connect, they stick around after the credits roll. We celebrate the films, but we also make space for conversation and community. That's what keeps people coming back."

A range of genres will be showcased at the DFF, such as psychological thrillers, animated comedy, fantasy, historical drama, and personal documentaries.

All of the participating filmmakers are Canadian, and each story shared at the festival reflects a unique perspective from citizens across the country.

A highlight of the festival is the Opening Night Screening, taking place on Friday, Aug. 15. The DFF has curated a powerful selection of short films to kick off the week-

end, followed by a Live Q&A and red carpet event at the Orangeville Opera House (87 Broadway).

Also happening Friday, Aug. 15, is a VIP Social at Revival 1863, located in the downstairs area of the Barley Vine Rail Co. restaurant at 35 Armstrong St, Orangeville. This event provides a high-energy evening inside the walls of a hidden speakeasy. Entertainment includes a magician and mentalist, live music by Wild Shot Honey, dancers, prizes and best of all – a chance to connect with film lovers and creators.

A speaker series will kick off on the morning of Saturday, Aug. 16, featuring three industry professionals. This event will provide an intimate morning of insight, mentorship, and conversation about the realities of working in film.

Following the speaker series on Saturday, DFF attendees are invited to two afternoon screenings, featuring fresh, daring and diverse selections of emerging and established talent. There will be a live Q&A as well as a red carpet at the screenings.

Moving into Saturday evening, Social Under the Stars will be held at Greystones Café. This open-air event will be filled with the smooth sounds of live jazz, while attendees enjoy chef-curated amuse-bouches. This is expected to be a relaxed, refined and radiant event at the DFF.

Last but not least – the Sunday Finale will feature a screening, live Q&A and red carpet at the Orangeville Opera House, followed by the Awards Dinner.

At the finale event, DFF attendees will celebrate the winning films and toast to a standout season over dinner at Greystones Restaurant.

"We've focused on building something



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION: The Dufferin Film Festival (DFF) is set to make a bold return to the local community from Aug. 15 to Aug. 17 and bringing with it bold Canadian cinema.

that feels honest and connected," said Alex Caucean, DFF film programmer. "Each film is carefully chosen, and the entire weekend is designed to bring people closer — to the work, to each other, and to the joy of great storytelling."

"We built this to shine a light on the incredible filmmaking talent across the country and give them a place where they're not just part of a schedule — they're the main event," adds Nick Rose, DFF's director of

operations. "And we've worked hard to make the entire experience top-notch — from AV to atmosphere."

With the event selling out last year, anyone interested in attending the DFF should secure tickets early. Tickets are on sale now at dufferinfilmmfestival.com. While tickets are available for single screenings, full-access VIP badges are also available for film lovers who hope to take in all the DFF has to offer.

Seven Bill Hill Scholarships awarded to students attending post-secondary schools

Written By PAULA BROWN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The County of Dufferin has awarded seven local students with scholarships to help them pursue post-secondary education.

The seven students were recognized by the County of Dufferin and presented with the 2025 Bill Hill Scholarship during a special reception held at the Edelbrock Centre in Orangeville on July 9.

Three of the recipients – Ellery Graham, Aislinn Main and Daniel Milone – were graduates from Westside Secondary School. In the fall, Graham will be attending McMaster University for Nursing, Main will attend the University for Political Science, and Milone will attend Wilfred Laurier for Life Sciences.

Damien Bland-Bestward and Imogen Morgan, both graduates from Orangeville District Secondary School, also received the scholarship. Bland-Bestward will be attending Sheridan College for Electrical Techniques, and Morgan will be attending the University of

Guelph for Psychology.

Centre Dufferin District High School's Quinn Millsap was also a recipient and will be attending the University of Western Ontario for Engineering.

Quincy Bradley, who graduated from Columbia International College in Hamilton, received the grant and will be studying at Peking University in China for the Yuke program.

While addressing the recipients, Dufferin County Warden Janet Horner provided some advice to the students.

"If Bill were here, he would encourage you to live your life with courage. Take chances, stretch yourself and stand up for what you believe in. Keep involved in your community. Carry community work wherever you end up. And live well and love. Enjoy life, make new friends, have fun and experience the big world out there."

The scholarship program was introduced by the County of Dufferin in 2014. It recognizes students who pursue post-secondary

education and training in the areas of science and technology, business and social sciences, agriculture and environmental studies, arts, and skilled trades.

Originally known as the Dufferin County Scholarship, the grant was renamed in 2018 to honour former council member and Warden Bill Hill. He is regarded as the driving force behind the development of the annual scholarship program.

In 2020, County Council approved adding two more scholarships, within the fields of study, dedicated to recognizing students who identify as Black, Indigenous, First Nations, Metis, Inuit, or Person of Colour.

The seven students selected to receive the Bill Hill Scholarship are awarded a one-time \$2,500 grant.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BRIGHT FUTURE: Seven students from Dufferin County were presented with the Bill Hill Scholarship on July 9 at the Edelbrock Centre in Orangeville.

For more information on the Bill Hill Scholarship Program, visit www.dufferin-county.ca.

Family Transition Place provides a safe space where individuals can feel heard, understood, validated

Continued from Page 5

She said, "To be able to provide excellent support to survivors of sexual violence and their loved ones is a priority but, how do we stop the cycle? How do we target the root cause of the issue? How do we get to a point where we actually see a shift in culture that translates into a reduction of sexual violence

in the communities we serve? Education is the key to prevention."

Since the centre's inception, we have connected with hundreds of individuals through community agencies, youth, school boards, sports organizations and even area businesses to ensure everyone knows about the Lotus Centre, how it can help, and that eliminating sexual violence is the responsibility of us all.

Sparking a sustained cultural change might seem daunting, but if anyone is up to the challenge, it's the team behind the Lotus Centre at FTP.

Here you will find a safe space, counsellors who understand trauma, who are "respectful, gentle and kind," and who will listen so that you feel "heard, understood and validated." Perhaps most importantly of all — you will

find people who believe you.

If you or someone you know needs support, compassionate staff are available to help 24/7. Call 1-800-265-9178.

If you are in immediate danger, call 911.

Article by Brennan Solecky with excerpts from *We Believe You*, written by Sheralyn Roman and published in FTP's 2022 HOPE Magazine.

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SPORTS

Big sixth inning gives Mansfield Cubs U15 AA the win

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

They played a solid game through all seven innings, but it was the sixth inning that really moved the Mansfield Cubs U15 AA ahead during their Tuesday, July 15 game against the Barrie BayCats on the diamond in Mansfield.

The Cubs took an early 1-0 lead in the first inning.

In the second inning, Blake Pyle led off with a single, then stole second base.

Landon Roncone batted in a run to give the Cubs a two-run lead.

No runs were scored by either team in the third inning.

Ty Hamilton had a big hit in the fourth inning when he hit to deep field for a double, but the Cubs couldn't finish with any scoring.

The BayCats scored two in the sixth inning to move the score a little closer.

It was the sixth inning where the Cubs' bats really got moving.

Mason Fogal hit a double to bring in a run. An error allowed the Cubs to score another run.

That was followed by a hit from Corey Coe that brought in two more runs.

Pyle had another big hit that brought in run number seven for the Cubs.

The BayCats challenged in their final at-bat, bringing in three runs, but the Cubs held

on and left the diamond with an 8-5 win.

"At first we were hitting and doing good defence, but we ran into a little trouble in the last inning, but we got through it," said Cubs third baseman Blake Pyle. "We were swinging the bat and getting good contact."

Teammate Ryan Keba thought the team played a clean game.

"We played good. We hit well and didn't have many errors," Ryan said after the game. "We picked it up in the sixth inning and figured out the pitcher."

The Cubs will be back on their home diamond in Mansfield on Saturday, July 26, to host the Thornhill Reds in a morning game.

Game time is 11 a.m.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

TURNING THE THROW: The Mansfield Cubs hosted the Barrie Baycats on Tuesday, July 15, on the diamond in Mansfield. The Cubs left the field with an 8-5 win. Cubs shortstop Ty Hamilton makes the catch for the out, then throws to first base during the second inning.



Warriors and Samurais dominate the play during weekend SCC action

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

There was a lot of cricket action at KTH Park in Shelburne over the weekend with two matches being played.

The Shelburne Warriors clashed with Shelburne Knights on the cricket pitch July 19.

The Knights, who won the toss and opted to bat first, posted a strong total of 178 runs, led by Tabish Taufiq for 36 and Vinny Thakur for 26, to set the stage for what looked like a challenging chase.

The Warriors responded with precision. Skipper Samir Patel led from the front with superb bowling, claiming three wickets. Ahmed Zarkhaiz, a promising new addition to the team, made an immediate impact with two wickets of his own.

The Warriors chased down the target with confidence and a lot of aggressive play. Openers Mubarak and Samir Saif started off with a good effort. Saif dazzled with his maiden SCC half-century, staying unbeaten on 70, while Mubarak provided steady support with 28 runs.

The chase wrapped up in just 17 overs.

Man of the Match was Samir Patel, for his all-round brilliance with both the ball and captaincy.

On July 20, the Shelburne Gladiators were up against the Shelburne Samurais.

The Samurais won the toss and elected to put the Gladiators at bat.

Despite early setbacks and a flurry of wickets, the Gladiators managed to post 139 runs thanks to Abhay Pratap for 39, and Maitek for 27.

For the Samurais, Ajit Sohi was the standout bowler, claiming three crucial wickets. In response, the Samurais' chase was anchored by a sensational inning from Abdul Rashid who notched his first half-century of the season and remained unbeaten.

Parminder added 20 off just seven balls, helping the Samurais seal the win with seven wickets in hand, finishing the job in the 19th over.

Suresh Sudhakaran also chipped in with two wickets during the Gladiator's innings.

Man of the Match was Abdul Rashid, for his match-winning knock under pressure.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CELEBRATORY: There was plenty of cricket at KTH over the weekend as the Shelburne Cricket Club had two matches. Shelburne Samurais player Abdul Rashid celebrates his first half-century of the season.

The Shelburne Sports and Cultural Club meets Brampton in T20 cricket showdown

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

The Shelburne Sports and Cultural Club (SSCC) met up with a team from Brampton on Saturday, July 19, for a T20 cricket match as part of the summer series opener.

SSCC won the toss and decided to bat first, in a move that would later prove to be the right decision.

SSCC's innings got off to a shaky start with

the early dismissals of openers Dip Kumar and Ttushar, both falling in the powerplay and putting pressure on the middle order. However, the middle order still showed some good action.

Mohnish had a well-crafted 30, timing the ball and rotating the strike. Sarthak added crucial runs with a gritty 14.

Hardik contributed significantly, playing a stabilizing role in the play. RV brought mo-

mentum back into the inning with 27.

The inning found an anchor in a 24-run partnership between Keyur and Himanshu, adding depth during the final overs.

The real fireworks came when Onkar lit up the field in five deliveries, smashing two sixes and one four to finish unbeaten on 18 off 5, giving SSCC 152/8 in 20 overs.

Brampton began their chase with SSCC's bowling unit striking hard.

Onkar set the tone in the first over, finish-

ing with two key wickets. Amit Modi bowled four overs for just six runs, and grabbed one wicket.

RV, Keyur, and Onkar all chipped in with two wickets each, with Sarthak and Amit getting one each.

SSCC won the match by 60 runs, to lead the series 1-0.

Top performers in the match were Onkar (18 and two wickets), Himanshu (three wickets) and Mohnish (30 runs and two wickets).



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SUMMER SUCCESS: The Shelburne Sports and Cultural Club (SSCC) meet a team from Brampton on the pitch at KTH Park in Shelburne on Saturday, July 19. The SSCC won the match to lead the summer series 1-0.

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TEAM: MANSFIELD CUBS U15 AA
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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

TY HAMILTON

A lifelong baseball player, Ty Hamilton brings a lot of experience to his Mansfield Cubs U15 AA team.

"I like everything about it – the teamwork, the hitting. It all comes together," Ty said of why he likes playing baseball. "It's very cool how it all comes together. Everyone has to play together. It's different than a lot of other sports."

When he's not on the ball diamond, Ty plays hockey with the Collingwood Blues AA team.

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Memorial moving to Orangeville in honour of late volunteer firefighter Dan Little

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

Canada's very first memorial for firefighters had a decommissioning ceremony at the former Gravenhurst Campus of the Ontario Fire College on July 13.

With the Gravenhurst Campus shut down, the Ontario Firefighters' Memorial that was built there in 1988 needs a new home, and that new home will be in Orangeville. The relocation, taking place this fall, is in honour of late volunteer firefighter Dan Little, who served with the Orangeville Fire Service from 1949 to the year he passed, 1989.

Little, who grew up in Shelburne, conceived the idea of creating a memorial after seeing one at the Michigan State Firefighters Conference, which he attended annually for 14 years. Once the idea was formed, Little worked tirelessly over six years to turn his dream into a reality, as a tribute to the bravery and sacrifice of firefighters who have died in the line of duty.

"We are incredibly honoured that the Firefighters Memorial will soon call Orangeville home. This monument is a powerful tribute to the bravery and sacrifice of firefighters who gave their lives in service," said Orangeville Mayor Lisa Post, who attended the decommissioning ceremony.

"Its move to Orangeville holds special meaning, as former firefighter and Orangeville resident Dan Little was instrumental in its creation. With the closure of the Ontario Fire College, it truly feels like the memorial is coming home. We are committed to honouring that legacy with the care and respect it deserves."

The monument will be relocated to a visible location along Riddell Rd. in Orangeville.

"We are prepared to create a very safe, ongoing space, where families can come and recognize the sacrifices of their family members, where we can all come together to pay tribute to all the firefighters who have come before [us]," said Mayor Post.

Orangeville Fire Chief John Snider shared a speech at the decommissioning ceremony, reflecting on the monument and Little's efforts to bring it to fruition.

"We stand here today at an important moment in Ontario Fire Service history. A moment where we're here to gather to bid farewell, to an important symbol that has graced the grounds of the Fire College since it was unveiled in 1988," said Snider. "The firefighter memorial is not just a physical structure, but a poignant tribute that resonates with the unsung heroism, courage and selflessness embodied by firefighters across our province. This monument serves as a steadfast reminder of those firefighters who

are no longer with us."

He added that he would be remiss if he did not acknowledge and celebrate the passionate advocacy that created the monument in the first place.

"It was the dream of a devoted volunteer from Orangeville Fire, Dan Little, whose vision and perseverance ensured this tribute even exists," Snider said.

Little's first day as a volunteer firefighter happened by accident, but nonetheless, it marked the beginning of his four-decade-long role at the Orangeville Fire Service.

"Dan was driving his transport truck through Orangeville when the fire chief commandeered it to block traffic at a fire," Snider recalled. "From that day forward, Dan was a volunteer firefighter."

"He was a volunteer firefighter by mistake, but the next 41 years were definitely not a mistake, and we cherish every year that he served with us," Snider added.

Dan Little's son, Robert Little, attended the decommissioning ceremony and said his family is "ecstatic" about the memorial moving to Orangeville.

Robert remembers the many years Little spent in meetings, on phone calls and travelling to other communities to ensure the families of firefighters would have a place to pay their respect. He recalls Lt. Governor Lincoln Alexander sitting at the kitchen table of their Elizabeth Street home in Orangeville, discussing plans for the monument.

With no monument for firefighters existing anywhere in Canada before 1988, Little built the very first one.

Reflecting on Little's dedication to the Orangeville Fire Service, Robert remembers many Christmases and holidays where he wasn't at the dinner table because he was out extinguishing fires and saving lives.

His mission was to keep people safe.

"Volunteer firefighting is much more than just the firefighter itself. So often, the volunteer firefighter embraces and touches the entire family, whether it be missed birthdays or holidays or those events that are interrupted by the siren or the pager going off," said Snider.

During his remarks at the decommissioning ceremony, Snider thanked the Little family for the impact the memorial has had on the fire service over the years.

"Thank you to all that are here today for being part of this endeavour, for your support and for keeping the spirit of every firefighter alive in our collective hearts," he said.

Former Orangeville fire chief and Orangeville councillor Andy Macintosh also attended the ceremony and reflected on his time working with Little.

"Dan had seen a need. He realized there was not a fitting tribute for Ontario firefighters, both past and present. So, it began his six-year journey to correct this. His countless hours of meetings, travelling, phone calls and fundraising finally paid off on Oct. 2, 1988, with the dedication of this very fitting monument."

Macintosh added, "This monument will have a great home in Orangeville. It's almost as if, in a way, it's actually coming home. I would like to thank the Fire Marshal's Office and all the people that will be involved in the moving of this monument."

Gravenhurst Fire Chief Jared Cayley spoke at the decommissioning ceremony as well. He noted that for the last four years, the monument has sat outside of the public's eye. The Gravenhurst location of the Ontario Fire College (OFC) closed down on March 31, 2021.

"The decision to close the OFC grounds left it in limbo, no longer to be seen, to inspire or to promote the remembrance of those who have gone before," said Cayley. "Soon, it will rest in a new home, a new site from which to remind the next generation of firefighters what this job really means. A public site where its visibility to the community around it will remind them of what it takes to answer the pager, the gong or the bells."

"May it stand straight and tall for many years to come," Cayley concluded.

After the OFC closed the Gravenhurst Campus, the Little family expressed interest in having it preserved in Orangeville.

"I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Dan's family for Dan's commitment to the fire service, for his support in establishing this memorial, and for the efforts to preserve Dan's wishes," said Deputy Fire Marshal Jon Pegg, during a speech at the decommissioning ceremony.

"Bringing this memorial home to Orangeville will help the community and the province continue to honour his commitments to his neighbours."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NEW CHAPTER: The decommissioning ceremony of the Ontario Firefighter Monument took place at the Gravenhurst Campus of the Ontario Fire College on July 13. Solicitor General Michael Kerzner, Deputy Solicitor General Mario Di Tommaso, Gravenhurst Fire Chief Jared Cayley, Orangeville Fire Chief John Snider, Gravenhurst Mayor Heidi Lorenz, Orangeville Mayor Lisa Post, Orangeville Councillor Andy Macintosh, Deputy Fire Marshal Jon Pegg and Fire Marshal John Macbeth attended the ceremony.

Gravenhurst Mayor Heidi Lorenz also shared a few words at the ceremony.

"I would be remiss to say we aren't a little disappointed to see the monument leaving Gravenhurst, but I know it will be in terrific hands in Orangeville, under the care of my counterpart, Mayor Lisa Post and her council and staff," she remarked. "I want to thank the little family for coming here today and say that I'm grateful for the opportunity to pass along the monument."

The monument stands at eight feet tall, on top of a two-foot cement base. It is made of black granite from India at a cost of \$125,000 when it was installed in 1988.

Saunderson Monuments Co., based out of Orillia, built the monument. The company also made the nine-foot-tall bronze Terry Fox monument that sits near Thunder Bay in 1982.

Little's dedication to his community and country extended beyond his role at the Orangeville Fire Service. He served as a Canadian Armed Forces member in the Second World War and has volunteered with countless mutual aid associations as well as the Ontario Firefighters Association, where he held several roles, including president.

He is remembered by the community for his dedication to service and keeping Dufferin County residents safe.

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The family of Albert "Bruce" Horner would like to announce his peaceful passing on Wednesday, October 16, 2024, at Bethesda Regional Health Centre in Steinbach, Manitoba.



Bruce will be deeply missed by his Children, Grandchildren, Sisters, Nieces, Nephews and many Friends.

As per Bruce's wishes, cremation has taken place.

Bruce always lived life to the fullest and was always ready for the next adventure.

Celebration of life to be at the Shelburne Legion, William Street. Saturday, August 2, 2025 - 1:00 to 4:00pm

EVENTS



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OBITUARY

SHARON ANN BROWN (NEE LAROCQUE)
 APRIL 28, 1944 - JULY 16, 2025

Peacefully, surrounded by the love of her family, Sharon passed away at Headwaters Health Care Centre at the age of 81, on July 16, 2025. Loving wife of Harvey Brown for 60 years. Devoted mother of Nicole, Michael, Anissa and Jason. Sharon will be dearly missed by her grandchildren Jacob, Jessi, Karlee, Nusarah and Taitan. Great grandmother to Hudson. She will be missed by many friends and extended family.



A Memorial Service is to be held on Thursday July 24, 2025, starting at 6:00pm at St. Mark's Anglican Church (5 First Avenue, Orangeville, ON) with a reception to follow in the church's hall.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Alzheimer's Society of Dufferin County would be appreciated by the family.

Online condolences can be made at www.imfunerals.com

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

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Shelburne Public Library shares upcoming events, recommended read

UPCOMING EVENTS

Summer Reading 2025 is upon us! People of all ages can still register now on Beanstack for their respective Summer Reading Challenges.

Questions on how to get started? Give the Shelburne Public Library a call at 519-925-2168 or email frontdesk@shelburnelibrary.ca.

On Aug. 10, Authors in the Hills of Mulmur will be held. The event features an afternoon of History, Mystery and Mayhem with authors Kath Jonathon (The Resistance Painter), Bi-

anca Marais (A Most Puzzling Murder), and Sue Hincenbergs (The Retirement Plan).

Tickets are \$40 and available at BookLore, the Shelburne Public Library, and the Township of Mulmur. The Shelburne Public Library can accept cash or e-transfers as payment.

RECOMMENDED READ

The Night Watcher by Daphne Woolsoncroft. After an encounter with a serial killer as a child, Nola Strate has grown up and tried to forget her traumatizing night with The

Hiding Man. She never spoke of her experience, and now hosts Night Watch, a radio call-in show her father used to run. When coincidences lead Nola to believe that she is being stalked, and a caller on Night Watch has a live incident with an intruder, the description of whom is chillingly familiar, Nola is convinced that The Hiding Man has resurfaced and is coming for her.

Why Jade recommends it: Night Watcher had everything I was looking for in a book right now, and was a perfect 5 stars for me!

From a spooky atmosphere, to extremely flawed and suspicious characters, to a radio show reminiscent of the author's own podcast, thriller lovers will race alongside Nola to reveal the identity of The Hiding Man.

On reflection, I likely should have deduced the culprit before the big reveal, but the hints were subtle enough and the red herrings were convincing enough that I didn't. What is also unique about this thriller is the satisfying ending – not everything is perfect, but all plot lines are resolved and explained

Dufferin OPP lay several impaired driving related charges throughout the region

Shelburne man faces impaired driving charges after traffic stop

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers charged a Shelburne resident with impaired driving-related offences following a traffic stop on June 30.

Shortly after 1 a.m., Dufferin OPP officers were on general patrol in the area of County Road 11 in Amaranth when they observed a vehicle having difficulty maintaining its lane.

A traffic stop was conducted by police, and during the interaction with the male driver, officers noted signs of impairment, prompting them to begin an impaired driving investigation.

As a result of the investigation, Maxwell Duck, 22, from Shelburne, has been charged with:

- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)
- Operation while impaired - alcohol and drugs
- Young driver - B.A.C. above zero
- Fail to surrender insurance card
- No mudguards
- Improper tires
- Driving motor vehicle with open container of liquor

The accused individual is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville.

His driver's licence was suspended, and his vehicle was impounded following the traffic

stop. The listed charges have not been proven in court.

Motorcyclist charged with impaired driving related offences

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) charged a Shelburne resident with impaired driving-related offences following a traffic complaint on July 11.

Shortly before 9 p.m., officers responded to a report of a motorcycle in the ditch near James Street and Sarah Court in Shelburne. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the male driver and observed signs of impairment, prompting them to initiate an impaired driving investigation.

Justice Hewitt, 30, from Shelburne, has been charged with:

- Operation while impaired - alcohol and drugs
- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)
- Novice driver - B.A.C. above zero
- Possess unmarked cigarettes
- Driver fail to surrender licence

The accused individual is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville. Their driver's licence was suspended, and their vehicle was impounded.

None of the charges have been proven in court.

Operation Safe Driver wraps up in Dufferin County after week long campaign

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers recently concluded the Operation Safe Driver Campaign, which ran from July 13 to 19.

Dufferin OPP officers conducted pop-up inspections to ensure identified Commercial Motor Vehicles (CMVs) met the required safety standards to operate within the community's roadways, as part of the campaign.

Drivers were also checked for compliance on proper licensing, registration, documentation, pre-check inspections and hours of work. Officers focused on vehicles travelling around these large trucks and high-risk driving behaviour as well.

"It is our mission to promote the safety of all road users throughout the Dufferin Detachment area and reduce the frequency and severity of incidents involving CMVs, including a reduction in fatalities, injuries and property damage resulting from these incidents," reads a statement from the Dufferin OPP on the campaign.

The initiative was spurred by the increasing and considerable presence of CMVs on roadways throughout Dufferin County.

"Due to the size, weight and loads, these vehicles have increased potential of causing serious collisions due to vehicle mechanical fitness, driver fatigue, improper licencing

and/or driver behaviours," reads Dufferin OPP's statement.

Operation Safe Driver began in 2007 as a way of reducing the number of crashes, deaths, and injuries involving large trucks, buses, and passenger vehicles due to unsafe driving behaviours.

Started by the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA), the campaign aims to improve the behaviour of all drivers operating in an unsafe manner, especially in or around commercial motor vehicles. This is achieved through educational and traffic enforcement strategies to address individuals exhibiting high-risk driving behaviours.

"Road safety is a shared responsibility, and we all have a role to play. Commercial vehicles are heavy and require greater stopping distance. Motorists are reminded to leave plenty of space for these large vehicles to slow and stop safely," reads Dufferin OPP's statement.

As part of Operation Safe Driver, Dufferin OPP shared the following five tips: no phones while driving, leave room and move over, stop tailgating, don't forget to signal, and have all your paperwork organized.

"We would like to thank the majority of safe drivers who are found to be in compliance. We depend on our professional drivers to help contribute to safe roads," reads the Dufferin OPP's statement.

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SAVE \$3 **24⁹⁹** each Korean BBQ Beef Short Ribs 550 g

SAVE \$3 **16⁹⁹** each Mild Italian Sausages 8-9 PIECES 900 g

SAVE \$3 **16⁹⁹** each Herb & Garlic Chicken Breasts 5-9 PIECES 907 g

SAVE \$4 **16⁹⁹** each Oktoberfest® Sausages 8-9 PIECES 900 g

SAVE \$5 **14⁹⁹** each

Burgers 6 BURGERS x 142 g/5 oz

Angus Beef Sirloin Beef Prime Rib Beef Gourmet Chicken

BUY 1 GET 1 50% OFF

SAVE \$7⁵⁰ **MIX AND MATCH**

Jalapeño Cheese Sticks 13-16 PIECES 454 g

Regular price \$14.99 each

Mozzarella Sticks 15-21 PIECES 454 g

JUST ADD A SIDE SALE

9⁹⁹ each Mushroom Risotto 454 g

4⁹⁹ each Supreme Scalloped Potatoes 227 g

4⁹⁹ each Seasoned Sweet Peas 300 g

4⁹⁹ each Veggies & Rice 500 g

4⁹⁹ each Bisto-style Green Beans 300 g

9⁹⁹ each Penne Pasta Salad 400 g

9⁹⁹ each Cheese and Spinach Ravioli 400 g

4⁹⁹ each California Style Mixed Vegetables 500 g

4⁹⁹ each Peaches & Cream Corn 500 g

GREAT CATCH

17⁹⁹ Herb and Garlic Shrimp Skewers 4 SKEWERS 365 g

9⁹⁹ each North Atlantic Salmon 142 g

9⁹⁹ each Mussels in White Wine Sauce 454 g

24⁹⁹ Breaded Haddock 7-10 PIECES 907 g

21⁹⁹ Battered Haddock 6-9 PIECES 680 g

21⁹⁹ Smoked Tuna Sushi Bites 375 g

GLUTEN-FREE ZONE

14⁹⁹ Panko Shrimp 454 g

29⁹⁹ Country Style Chicken Breasts 6-10 PIECES 907 g

12⁹⁹ Haddock Tenders 8-12 PIECES 454 g

9⁹⁹ Ice Cream Cookie Sandwiches 6 SANDWICHES 600 mL 3 Varieties

19⁹⁹ Sirloin Beef Meatballs 60-70 PIECES 907 g

29⁹⁹ Cauliflower Bites 450 g

9⁹⁹ Nanaimo Bites 15 PIECES 300 g

14⁹⁹ Blueberry Bliss Cheezecake 600 g

SAVE ROOM FOR THESE

12⁹⁹ Chocolate Caramel Pecan Cheesecake 600 g

14⁹⁹ Key Lime Pie 800 g

8⁹⁹ Fruit Bars 6 PIECES 534 mL

6⁹⁹ each Cakes 2 PORTIONS 228 g - 280 g

6⁹⁹ each Caramel Sea Salt

6⁹⁹ each Lavalicious Chocolate

SAVE \$4

24⁹⁹ Slow Cooked Beef Pot Roast 907 g

SAVE \$3

19⁹⁹ Pork Pot Roast 907 g

4 lb ENTRÉES 1.81 kg SERVE 6-8

24⁹⁹ each Lasagna

24⁹⁹ each Homestyle Shepherd's Pie

24⁹⁹ each Cabbage Rolls

24⁹⁹ each Deluxe Meat Lasagna

To view the full flyer, scan the QR code or go to mmfoodmarket.com

PROUD CANADIAN COMPANY

ALL PRICES IN EFFECT THURSDAY, JULY 24 TO WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 2025 UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED.

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2025 SENTRA
UP TO 24 MONTHS O.A.C.

2025 ROGUE
UP TO 60 MONTHS O.A.C.

2025 KICKS
UP TO 24 MONTHS O.A.C.

¹FINANCE FROM

0 %
APR

OFFER ENDS JULY 31ST

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*OFFERS AVAILABLE BETWEEN JULY 1ST - JULY 31ST, 2025
SELLING PRICE OF 2025 SENTRA SR PREMIUM CVT // 2025 ROGUE PLATINUM // 2025 KICKS SR PREMIUM AWD MODEL SHOWN IS \$33,870 // \$48,500 // \$37,797. LIMITED TIME FINANCE OFFERS PROVIDED THROUGH NISSAN CANADA FINANCE, ON APPROVED CREDIT. ALL PRICES AND PAYMENTS INCLUDE \$2,030 FREIGHT AND PDE, \$100 A/C CHARGE, REGULATORY FEES (UP TO \$35), DEALER ADMINISTRATION FEES (UP TO \$621), PPSA FEES (UP TO \$139), AS WELL AS ALL OTHER APPLICABLE FEES, LEVIES AND DUTIES (ALL OF WHICH MAY VARY BY REGION AND RETAILER). LICENSE, INSURANCE, REGISTRATION, AND APPLICABLE SALES TAXES ARE EXTRA. REPRESENTATIVE FINANCE EXAMPLES: SELLING PRICE OF 2025 SENTRA SR PREMIUM CVT // 2025 ROGUE PLATINUM // 2025 KICKS SR PREMIUM AWD IS \$33,834 // \$48,473 // \$37,752. FINANCED AT 0.49% // 0.49% // 0.49% [OR, 0.99% // 0.99% // 0.99% WITHOUT THE 0.5% LOYALTY RATE REDUCTION FOR QUALIFYING NISSAN OWNERS] FOR 48 // 48 // 24 MONTHS EQUALS MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF \$712 // \$1,020 // \$1,581 [OR, \$719 // \$1,030 // \$1,589]. \$0 DOWN PAYMENT REQUIRED. COST OF BORROWING IS \$340 // \$486 // \$198 [OR, \$688 // \$986 // \$391] FOR A TOTAL OBLIGATION OF \$34,183 // \$48,960 // \$37,945 [OR, \$34,532 // \$49,459 // \$38,143]. TOTAL OF 48 // 48 // 24 MONTHLY PAYMENTS REQUIRED DURING THE TERM. DEALER MAY SELL FOR LESS. DEALER ORDER/TRADE MAY BE NECESSARY (BUT MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL CASES). *CONDITIONS APPLY. OFFER IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE OR CANCELLATION WITHOUT NOTICE. ASK YOUR DEALER OR VISIT WWW.NISSAN.CA FOR DETAILS. NISSAN NAMES, LOGOS AND SLOGANS ARE TRADEMARKS OWNED BY OR LICENSED TO NISSAN MOTOR CO. LTD. AND/OR ITS NORTH AMERICAN SUBSIDIARIES. OFFER VALID BETWEEN JULY 1ST - JULY 31ST, 2025 AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE OR CANCELLATION WITHOUT NOTICE. ASK YOUR DEALER OR VISIT WWW.NISSAN.CA FOR COMPLETE DETAILS. NISSAN NAMES, LOGOS AND SLOGANS ARE TRADEMARKS OWNED BY OR LICENSED TO NISSAN MOTOR CO. LTD. AND/OR ITS NORTH AMERICAN SUBSIDIARIES. ©2025 NISSAN CANADA INC.

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