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FUNDRAISING CHALLENGE: Shelburne Town Pharmacy held its annual fundraiser in support of SickKids Hospital on June 16. Pharmacy owner Sanjay Lekhi has been hosting the fundraiser for 12 years. Shelburne Giant Tiger pitched in to help and provided the food for the event. This year, the event raised \$2,938, which was delivered to the hospital on July 31.

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Local initiative provides essential supplies for students

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

The start of a new school year is rapidly approaching, which means it's time for families to start getting ready with back-to-school shopping.

But for some students, the preparation for another school year can be a struggle to ensure they have the basic supplies needed to succeed in the classroom.

To help with this, the Shelburne Rotary Backpack Program is asking for the community's help in raising funds to provide students from junior kindergarten to Grade 12 with back-to-school supplies.

"We all know the importance of sending kids back to school with the essentials they need," said Bobbi Ferguson, chair of the local backpack project. "If you can give a little, it would be appreciated to help us reach our goal of helping any kid that needs it."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SUPPORTING STUDENTS: On July 31, Rotarians and Friends of Rotary assembled over 170 backpacks with water bottles and lunch kits, which were delivered to the Shelburne Food Bank for distribution.

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County of Dufferin develops Community Safety Plan for 2025 to 2028

Written By PAULA BROWN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The County of Dufferin is introducing a four-year plan to address community safety and well-being.

The County of Dufferin announced in a press release on July 31 that the Community Safety and Well-Being Integration Table have introduced its official plan for 2025 to 2028. The Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plan is a framework that aims to help ensure residents of Dufferin County are safe, healthy, connected and have access to essential services.

“Dufferin County is defined by strong partnerships and a shared commitment to enhancing the quality of life for all residents. The 2025 to 2028 Community Safety and Well-being Plan represents the collective insights and efforts of our community, providing a thoughtful and coordinated roadmap toward a safer, healthier and more connected future.,” reads a joint statement from Jennifer Payne and Anna Vanderlaan, co-chairs of the Community Safety and Well-Being Integration Table.

The County began the early stages of the plan in December of 2023 with the Dufferin County Community Safety and Well-Being

Integration Table launching a comprehensive public survey aimed at gathering insights to improve quality of life in the community.

The data collected from the survey responses was analyzed and distributed to the Integration Table for input.

In November 2024, the Integration Table held a Data Deep Dive with community partners to discuss the results of the survey and add relevant data from key sources such as the County, Dufferin OPP and Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health.

The CSWB Plan for 2025 to 2028 was approved by Dufferin County Council in May,

and delegations were made to all the lower-tier municipalities.

Based on the community engagement, the Integration Table narrowed down five priority areas of focus for the updated plan, which included:

- Community Safety
- Housing and Homelessness
- Mental Health and Well-Being
- Family Support
- Food Insecurity

The entirety of the 2025-2028 Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan can be found on the County of Dufferin website.

Prefabricated MRI unit placed at Headwaters Health Care Centre

Written By PAULA BROWN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Headwaters Health Care Centre (HHCC) has reached another milestone in bringing the community its first-ever magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) suite.

The local hospital marked the official arrival and placement of the prefabricated unit that will house their new MRI suite. The unit, called a cassette, arrived at Headwaters Hospital shortly after noon on Tuesday (Aug. 5) and was lifted by a crane onto a foundation pad.

“Headwaters Health Care Centre is proud to deliver patient-centred quality care with the arrival of the Morningview Foundation MRI Suite. The MRI Suite marks a transformative moment for health care in Dufferin-Caledon,” said Kim Delahunt, president and CEO of Headwaters Hospital. “For the first time, residents will have access to MRI services right here in our community, helping to reduce wait times, eliminate long travel distances, and support earlier diagnoses and treatment.”

In 2022, Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones announced that the Ontario government would be committing more than \$800,000 in annual operating funding for the first MRI suite in the community.

Headwaters Hospital was one of 49 hospitals across Ontario included in the provincial government’s announcement of expanding MRI and CT scan services in an effort to reduce wait times.

“Our government is protecting Ontario’s health-care system by ensuring that more people in Orangeville and across Dufferin County can connect to convenient diagnostic care, where and when they need it,” said Sylvia Jones, MPP for Dufferin-Caledon, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “With the in-

stallation of Headwaters Health Care Centre’s brand-new modular MRI machine, we are making it faster and easier for more people to access vital diagnostic imaging in the community, for years to come.”

In 2024, Headwaters reported that there are approximately 4,000 annual scans that are being referred to other facilities for MRI, meaning the new suite will meet a significant demand for bringing more diagnostic imaging services closer to home for patients.

Once the MRI Suite is up and functioning, Headwaters said they expect to be able to complete up to 8,000 scans a year, helping to reduce wait times.

The location of the new MRI Suite is near the hospital’s Ambulatory Care Clinic and Emergency Department. The spot was chosen to accommodate the electric and mechanical infrastructure requirements of the MRI Suite.

The MRI Suite is an entirely prefabricated unit, designed with four zones that specify the level of increasing magnetic exposure.

“This exciting new MRI Scanner is a game changer for the Dufferin-Caledon community. The MRI advanced technology allows us to capture high-quality diagnostic images with greater precision and most importantly, enables patient to access this level of care closer to home,” said Rosie Lye, HHCC’s senior MRI technologist.

When construction is completed, health-care providers can refer patients over the age of eight to Headwaters for services including abdominals, pelvic, brain, spine, breast, and musculoskeletal imaging.

Construction of the MRI Suite at Headwaters was originally projected to be completed earlier this year, but due to delays, is now anticipated to be operating by Fall 2025.

For more information about the MRI Suite visit, www.headwatershealth.ca.



PAULA BROWN PHOTO

NEW MILESTONE: Headwaters Health Care Centre (HHCC) marked another milestone in their journey to bring the first-ever magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) machine to the community on Tuesday (Aug. 5) with the arrival of the prefabricated cassette the MRI suite will be held in.

First confirmed case of EEEV detected by the region’s public health officials

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

A rare but potentially serious mosquito-borne virus has infected a horse in the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health (WDGPH) region.

A confirmed case of Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus (EEEV) has been detected in a horse in Wellington County. It’s the first case of EEEV in the region. No human cases have ever been reported.

The infected horse had no travel history, which indicates EEEV is present locally.

While EEEV mainly affects horses and poses low risk to humans, severe cases can be life-threatening, according to the WDGPH.

EEEV symptoms may include fever, headache, nausea, vomiting, weakness, seizures and behavioural changes.

While there is a low risk of horse-to-human transmission, there is no risk of human-to-human transmission.

“Although EEEV is rare in humans, this

local case highlights the ongoing presence of mosquito-borne viruses and the importance of staying protected,” said Dr. Matthew Tenenbaum, associate medical officer of health for WDGPH.

“We remain proactive in monitoring and controlling mosquito populations in our region, but everyone should take basic steps to avoid mosquito bites.”

The WDGPH is asking the public to reduce their risk of contracting a mosquito-borne illness by wearing light-coloured, long-sleeved shirts and pants, especially outdoors at dawn and dusk.

Using Health Canada-approved mosquito repellent can also reduce the risk of mosquito bites.

Repairing window/door screens and draining standing water from a property can be helpful as well.

WDGPH conducts surveillance of mosquitoes throughout the region to monitor for EEEV and West Nile virus.

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OPINION

Play that music

Almost every weekend during the summer, I attend a concert in a local park.

Some of the bands and performers are local, while others come from different parts of the province.

I am always amazed at the level of musical talent out there.

When thinking of talent, it seems only those performers who make it big are thought of as the best.

However, over the years, at various venues, I have seen guitarists who could rival Eddie Van Halen and heard singers who could sing just as well as the top pop divas of the day. And yet they never made it big in terms of fame and fortune.

Maybe they were just never discovered, or maybe they really had no interest other than just being a local person and having some fun with music.

My best friend growing up had musical talent that I envied. He could pick up a new instrument and just know how to play it, and play it well.

It seems every generation comes up with a new style of music. There is a definite difference in the music of the first few decades of the 20th century, when music first started being recorded.

There was a remarkable change from the

50s to the 60s, and another big change in the 70s.

Probably my favourite decade was the 80s when New Wave started a whole new style. Although I can enjoy music from just about every era.

Music really became important in culture during the Classical Period, at least in my opinion.

For some reason, many people refer to any 'old' music, or music performed by an orchestra, as 'classical.' However, the Classic Period only lasted from around 1750 to 1820.

This was during a time when many new instruments were invented or were still recent, which changed the sound of an orchestra or ensemble.

Prior to that period, there really weren't that many instruments.

I once was trapped in an art store for eight hours as the cameraman on a movie a friend of mine was directing.

The owner of the store had a constant stream of pre-Baroque period music playing – all day long. I guess he thought it went well with the atmosphere of the store.

During that era, there were a lot of flutes of different sorts. Somehow, you can picture Henry VIII eating a large drumstick while his

court jester dances around the room.

By the end of the day, I decided I never wanted to hear flute music ever again.

There is also, what I would call, a misconception that all Classical era music is beautiful and written by great composers. I will have to challenge that.

If you took piano lessons as a kid and had to suffer through the grade books issued by the Conservatory of Music, you will understand.

I am now grateful that my parents insisted I take piano lessons. It gave me a foundation in music, and by the time I took music classes in school, I could already read, write, and play music, which made it much easier to learn other instruments.

However, the Conservatory books were filled with old music that was just not fun to either learn or play. I didn't want to play some 200-year-old Allegro written on a single page.

Maybe things have changed, but back then the Conservatory apparently didn't think any music written after 1820 was worthy of being in their books.

There are still plenty of musical geniuses out there who are working and creating great music.

One of the best resources for musical tal-

ent is Hollywood.

When you really listen to movie music scores, they are incredible.

Movies are a visual medium, so the music complements what is happening on screen. But if you took out the music, it would totally change the dynamic of the movie.

Sometimes the music outshines the movie.

You have probably heard the song Unchained Melody, performed beautifully by The Righteous Brothers' Bobby Hatfield. But have you ever seen the movie Unchained?

The song was written for the prison movie in 1955.

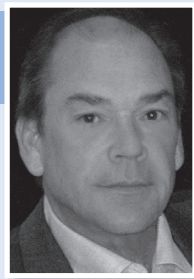
Any fan of the 1982 sci-fi film "Blade Runner" will recognize the music theme from that film.

The theme from the film "A Summer Place" is instantly recognizable. But how many people have seen the movie?

Music is one thing that transcends language.

You don't have to speak the same language as the person sitting next to you to enjoy a concert.

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



Of apes, men and war

Now would be a good time to watch a Netflix documentary series called 'Chimp Empire'. It's about one year of an ongoing war between two bands of chimpanzees, shot up close and personal, and the narrator never suggests that there is any similarity between their war and our wars. He doesn't need to. You'd have to be dead to miss it.

The central issue, as in most human wars, is about territory, or more precisely the resources it contains. Fruit trees near the constantly patrolled border between the territories of the two chimp groups in Uganda's Kibale National Park are the apple of discord in this case.

The aim of the game is to shift that boundary eastward to include those trees (the Western band) or to keep it where it is (the Central group). It's rather like the recent mini-war between Thailand and Cambodia, currently stalled by a ceasefire – although the bone of contention

in the human case is only a symbol (an ancient temple) rather than a resource of real value.

But it's not a single-minded struggle over resources in the case of the rival chimpanzee bands either. It has only been a few decades since the Western band broke away from the bigger Central group (chimpanzee bands fission if they grow much past a hundred members), and the rivalries between powerful senior males of the two groups have continued to fester.

It would be disrespectful to compare the high drama of the broken alliance between the Shinawatra and Hun families who dominated Thai and Cambodian politics in recent times to a border war led by high-status members of two neighbouring chimpanzee bands in Uganda. Nevertheless, there is a certain resonance in the circumstances.

By the time we come to big wars between major developed states like Rus-

sia and Ukraine, the causes of the wars are often abstract 'strategic' concerns far removed from the realities of daily life for their citizens. Yet still the echoes of past behaviours resonate.

What drove Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine, for example, was regret at the collapse of the Soviet empire almost forty years ago and determination to reassemble at least the Slavic parts of it ('Russky Mir') into a single, powerful Orthodox state. Even though he is probably not a believer himself.

At that point we have left our primate relatives far behind. So far as we know, they are not prone to abstract thinking, so their wars are always about real resources and/or personal advantage. Whereas the 'world wars' of the 20th century and the possible global nuclear holocaust of the 21st are not rational: the cost vastly outweighs any potential gain.

That does not mean that no country will ever again resort to violence, nor does it mean that non-violence is the answer. Naked violence always trumps sweet reason. The only answer is what is now known as the 'international rule of law': a de facto alliance of countries that outlaw military conquest and is willing to enforce that law by violence if necessary.

That alliance already exists and its rules are spelled out in the Charter of the United Nations, signed in 1945. The fact that many countries have ignored its ban on changing international boundaries by force (and in some cases got away with it for long periods of time) is less important

than the fact that it exists at all.

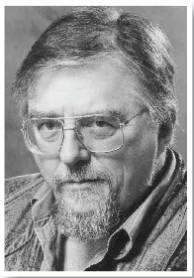
The diplomats who wrote that Charter did not know how old and deeply rooted the institution of war was. They knew nothing about war among non-human primates. They did not realise that war was universal among human hunter-gatherers even long before the rise of the first civilisations.

But they knew that their attempt to end war would fail many times in many places before it succeeded, if it ever did. Over the past eighty years many millions of people have been killed in wars, but their project has been more successful than most of them expected: the death toll from war dropped steeply as the decades passed, and nuclear weapons were never used again.

In the past few years, however, there has been a sense that the project is backsliding. Not only are major powers resorting to war more often, but they are doing so without even trying to justify it under the UN Charter rules for the use of force: Russia in Ukraine, Israel in Gaza, the United States over Iran.

Maybe so much time has passed that they have forgotten what everybody's objective was at the end of the Second World War: to replace the rule of war with the rule of law. If so, they should all be obliged to watch 'Chimp Empire', to remind them where we have come from and why we need to get to a better place.

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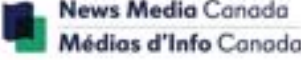




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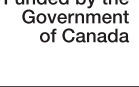

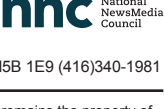
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The Backpack Program assembled 170 backpacks for students in need

Continued from Front

The Backpack Program is an annual initiative run by the service clubs of Shelburne, which looks to provide school supplies such as backpacks, lunch bags, and water bottles to families in need. The program was launched in 2020, and in its first year, it provided 85 kids in Shelburne and the surrounding areas with essential back-to-school supplies.

Since its inception, the Backpack Program has seen a steady increase in the number of students reaching out for its services.

On July 31, Rotarians and Friends of Rotary assembled over 170 backpacks with

water bottles and lunch kits, which were delivered to the Shelburne Food Bank for distribution.

Speaking with the Free Press, Ferguson said they may have upwards of 190 to 200 students in need of backpacks and other back-to-school supplies this year.

The cost of putting together the backpacks for the local students is not a cheap endeavour and varies for each age group. To put together a backpack, a water bottle, and a lunch bag for one student costs the program roughly \$75.

According to Ferguson, the total cost of funding the backpack program each year is around \$12,000.

In June, the Shelburne Rotary Backpack Program received a donation of \$5,000 through the Tim Horton's Smile Cookie Campaign.

"It [the donation] means everything. If we didn't get this support, we certainly wouldn't be able to do what we do. It's almost half of what we need so it's a significant part," said Ferguson.

The Shelburne Rotary Backpack Program also collected \$2,256 in supplemented funds through donations from Friends of the Rotary to bring the total donation to \$7,256.

The organizers spend a significant amount of time putting together the backpacks to ensure that each one is tailored

to be age-appropriate for specific students. The demographic need for supplies is determined based on the registration through the Shelburne Food Bank.

After the backpacks are packed, they are handed out to the families when they make their regular visits to Shepherd's Cupboard.

"I don't speak directly with the families, but I do hear from the people volunteering at the foodbank about how happy the students are to get their backpack," said Ferguson.

Anyone who is interested in making a donation to the Backpack Project can find more information and ways to donate by visiting www.shelburnerotaryclub.ca.

Shelburne woman becomes new vice-chair of Upper Grand District School Board

Written By PAULA BROWN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Shelburne resident and Upper Grand District School Board (UGDSB) trustee Alethia O'Hara-Stephenson is stepping into a new role.

During a special board meeting hosted on July 30, O'Hara-Stephenson, who represents the Town of Orangeville through the UGDSB, was elected as the new vice-chair. She was elected to the position following the resignation of UGDSB trustee Katherine Hauser, who was appointed to Guelph City Council on July 23.

"I'm honoured and humbled to have been elected vice-chair by my fellow trustees. It's a privilege to serve in this capacity, and I'm committed to working collaboratively with [the] Chair and the entire Board to support student success, good governance, and transparent decision-making," wrote O'Hara-Stephenson in an email to the Free Press. "I recognize the responsibility that comes with this role and I'm excited to continue contributing

to the work that positively impacts our students, families, and school communities."

O'Hara-Stephenson holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science, a Master's of Business Administration (MBA) in Leadership and Innovation, and the Chartered Insurance Professional (CIP) designation. She has over 20 years of corporate experience in the financial sector and presented as a public speaker at conferences locally, nationally and internationally on topics related to leadership, equity and community engagement.

O'Hara-Stephenson has also volunteered with local youth in schools, sat on various committees in Dufferin County, and is the founder and president of the Dufferin County Canadian Black Association (DCCBA).

O'Hara-Stephenson was appointed to the UGDSB Board of Trustees in 2023, representing the Town of Orangeville.

"Alethia brings a wealth of experience from the corporate world, as a public speaker, a parent and from being an engaged member of the communities in Dufferin County," said Chair of the Board Ralf Mesenbrink.

In her new position as Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees, O'Hara-Stephenson will support Board Chair Ralf Mesenbrink in leading the governance work of the Board and step up in his absence. She will also be responsible for facilitating board meetings, aligning with the Board's strategic priorities, and working with the Board Trustees, senior staff and Director of Education.

Speaking with the Free Press, O'Hara-Stephenson said she is particularly focused on maintaining a balanced budget and preparing for potential new legislation such as the re-introduction of School Resource Officers (SROs) in schools.

"Equally important to me is ensuring that equity, student well-being, and long-term success remain at the heart of every decision," said O'Hara-Stephenson. "Our students deserve more than short-term fixes; they deserve lasting solutions that support them academically, socially, and emotionally. That's where I will continue to focus my efforts."

O'Hara-Stephenson will sit as vice-chair for the remainder of the 2022-2026 term.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NEW POSITION: Upper Grand District School Board (UGDSB) trustee Alethia O'Hara-Stephenson is the board's new vice-chair, following her election to the position at a July 30 meeting.

Town of Grand Valley seeking public input on future of Lions Park Ball Diamonds

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

The Town of Grand Valley is seeking public input on the future uses of the Greta and Titch Boswell Memorial Lions Park Ball Diamond.

During Grand Valley Council's regular meeting on July 22, town staff were directed

to gather community feedback via email.

Any person, community group or organization with ideas or suggestions can email mail@townofgrandvalley.ca to have their voices heard.

On a Town of Grand Valley Facebook post requesting public feedback on the future use of Greta and Titch Boswell Memorial Lions

Park Ball Diamond, the majority of comments expressed support for keeping it as is, or making no drastic changes.

"As a father who neighbours this park for the past decade with two girls who love nothing more than to play on these grounds, I can attest that hundreds and hundreds of people use this diamond to help unwind, get exercise

and create wonderful summer memories," wrote Grand Valley resident Tony Fenech. "It's truly is one of our most beloved assets and I pray nothing should ever come of it."

All of the feedback collected by the Town of Grand Valley through the mail@townofgrandvalley.ca email will be presented to Town Council at its Sept. 23 meeting.


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SPORTS

Eight teams start North Dufferin Baseball League senior playoffs

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

The top eight teams in the Senior Division of the North Dufferin Baseball League (NBDL) are entering the first round of playoffs this week after a successful regular season schedule.

Four teams failed to make the playoffs this year. The Orillia Majors, Clarksburg Blues, Caledon Cardinals, and Mansfield Cubs can trade in their baseball gloves for golf clubs.

The New Lowell Knights finished the regular season in first place with a 17-4-1 record. They finished just one point ahead of the Owen Sound Baysox, who led the league for

much of the season.

The first game of the senior playoffs got underway on Aug. 5, with results not available at press time.

The Knights are up against the eighth-seeded Creemore Padres. The Padres made it into the playoffs by just three points and finished the regular season with a 10-11-1 record.

Finishing in third place, the Owen Sound Baysox will be up against the Midland Mariners. Owen Sound finished the regular season with 34 points.

Midland landed in seventh place with 23 points.

That series was scheduled to get under-

way in Owen Sound on Aug. 6.

The third-place Rangers will be up against the Barrie Angels. Ivy ended the regular season with 28 points. Barrie finished with 23 points.

The series started on Aug. 5, in Ivy.

Finishing the regular season in the middle of the pack, the fourth-place Bolton Brewers will meet the Lisle Astros in their first-round series.

Bolton finished the regular season with 25 points and a 12-9-1 record.

Lisle recorded 24 points and an 11-9-2 record, so this should be a good series to watch.

Junior Division

In the Junior Division of the North Dufferin Baseball League, two teams have battled their way to the championship.

The Creemore Padres will face the Innisfil Cardinals for the Junior championship in a best-of-five series.

The Padres and Cardinals finished the regular season as the two top teams.

Creemore landed in first place with a 15-2-1 record and 31 points.

Innisfil was in second place with 21 points and a 10-7-1 record.

The dates for the Junior Division championship games have not yet been announced.

Dufferin Cricket Club welcomes visit from legendary player Mukesh Narula

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

The Shelburne Sports and Cultural Club and Dufferin Cricket Club had a special visitor during their weekend match at KTH Park in Shelburne on Sunday, Aug. 3.

Mukesh Narula, a former Indian and Baroda cricketer who was the past head coach of the Canadian National Team, turned out for the match. He shared insightful tips on bowling variations, batting strategy, and the mental composure needed to play the sport under pressure.

“Matches are won not just on skill, but on sharpness, focus, and presence of mind,” Narula told the players in a post-match huddle.

The match of the day featured the Mavericks up against the Phoenix in a morning game.

In a flawless performance, the Mavericks cruised to a 10-wicket win over the Phoenix.

Chasing a target of 73, the Mavericks reached 74 without a loss in 7.2 overs.

The Phoenix chose to bat first in the match and managed 72 runs in 14.3 overs with 27 extras making up a significant portion of their total.

Jasmeet Bhullar (13 off 12) and Shivam Kumar (13 off 27) were the top scorers in the line-up.

The Mavericks' bowling attack was spearheaded by Hardik Modi, who claimed three wickets for five runs, with support from Sarthak Patel (2/13), Tushar Thakur (2/9), and Sarpreet Athwal (1/10).

The Phoenix suffered three dropped catches – two in the very first over.

Opening the innings, Deep Kumar hammered 39 off 23 balls, including 3-fours and 3-sixes.

At the other end, Tushar Thakur remained unbeaten on 29 off 21.

Together, the duo sealed the victory in just 7.2 overs.

At the end of the match, the Mavericks won by ten wickets.

Deep Kumar was named Player of the Match.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

LEGENDARY TALK: The Dufferin Cricket Club received a visit from a special guest when legendary cricket player and former national coach Mukesh Narula attended a match at KTH Park in Shelburne on Sunday, Aug. 3. He provided some insights on the game to local players.



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO


SUMMER SUCCESS: There is a lot of energy on local soccer pitches as games take place at Greenwood Park through the summer. The team sponsored by No Frills goes up against the team sponsored by the CanRea Group during U11 action on the field at Greenwood Park on Thursday, July 31.



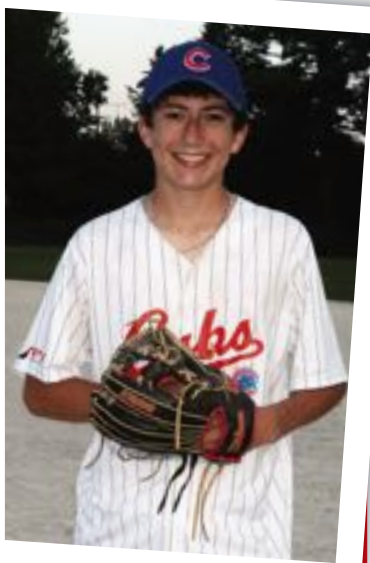
BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

SOCCER TIME: Shelburne Minor Soccer games are in full swing for the summer, with games being played at Greenwood Park in Shelburne. The team sponsored by Crewson Insurance take on the team sponsored by Shelburne Family Chiropractic at Greenwood Park during U13 house league action on Thursday, July 31.

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

BLAKE PYLE

Playing baseball for most of his life, Mansfield Cubs 15 AA third baseman brings a lot of experience to his team.

“I like the competitiveness,” Blake said of why he likes playing baseball. “It’s a mind game, really. You just have to pull through in any game.”

Blake focuses on baseball as the only sport he plays.

The Cubs U15 AA are having a good season this year.

TEAM: MANSFIELD CUBS U15 AA
POSITION: THIRD BASEBALL

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Summer colours coming to Shelburne Town Hall Art Gallery in August

Written By PAULA BROWN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

An Ontario-based not-for-profit art group is bringing the colours and creativity of summer to the Shelburne community.

The Colour and Form Society (CFS) is hosting an exhibit titled "Summer Forever" at the Town Hall Art Gallery in Shelburne from Aug. 4 to 22. The exhibit features the works of more than 20 artists from the CFS, who have submitted between one to three pieces each.

The Colour and Form Society (CFS) is a not-for-profit group that was founded

in 1952 and is considered one of Ontario's longest-standing visual arts organizations. The organization was formed as an influx of European visual artists who immigrated to Canada in the post-war period, looked for ways to present their work as a unit and bring recognition their distinct creativity. The group and their exhibits contributed to the escalation of art awareness in Canada, particularly in the 1950s and 1960s.

Today, the CFS group is composed of many accomplished visual artists from across the province.

Each year, the group hosts two members' exhibits and one juried exhibit for non-mem-

ber artists, which is used as a prerequisite for joining the CFS.

"They're all first-class artists and members of the society," said Joanna Turlej, president of the Colour and Form Society. "The quality of the artists is really high."

The "Summer Forever" exhibit features a wide range of artistic styles and mediums, including acrylic, oil, and watercolour paintings, along with pencil, charcoal, and sculpture.

"Visitors will enjoy a diverse collection of realism and abstract works, with subjects ranging from portraits and landscapes to nature, animals, and modern themes. Many

of the pieces will be available for purchase," said the Town of Shelburne in a press release for the exhibits' launch.

The Colour and Form Society exhibit, "Summer Forever," will be on display at the Shelburne Town Hall Art Gallery until Aug. 22.

The Shelburne Town Hall Art Gallery, located at 203 Main Street East, is open Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For more information about the Colour and Form Society, visit www.colourand-formsociety.org.

Theatre Orangeville's Young Company prepares for latest play, 'The Neverending Story'

Written By CONSTANCE SCRAFIELD

"The NeverEnding Story" is about the end of stories, of wondrous fictional characters and places – the end of people's imagining them. Theatre Orangeville's Young Company Drama has chosen to tell this story on the weekend of Aug. 22 to 24, with four performances on the David Naim Stage at the Orangeville Opera House.

The NeverEnding Story is a considerable challenge "fully embraced" by this year's 12 Young Company members, each playing many characters and making us all want to remember the thrill of imagination and the Land of Fantasia.

Pat Rundell is back from Victoria as director of the show, as he did last year for "Mean Girls" here at Theatre Orangeville.

He took some time this week for a Zoom interview with the Citizen to praise the young actors, the creative team and to talk about producing this amazing show.

"The ambition has been to portray the 37 characters with 12 actors wearing many hats. This is old school theatre magic. This is using your imagination and not letting go," Rundell said, adding that the show is a whimsical play.

Kevin May, who has been in many productions, plays the role of Bastian, the shy young boy who, by running away from bullies, dashed into an old bookstore. The owner is reading a strange-looking book called the NeverEnding Story. He advises Bastian not to read it, but the boy takes the book and hides in the school's attic to read it. He falls into such a strange adventure, partly inside and out of the story.

Rundell commented, "This is a different style – larger than life. It is quite unrealistic

and none of them knew the story as kids. Falkor is a dragon that doesn't need wings."

All the cast made a point to see the movie or read the book beforehand.

It is good to have some nostalgia. The reason the story works, as Rundell explained, is not forgetting that Fantasia exists only because people in the world believe.

Rundell said, "This is appropriate to produce this show in these times. It is so important to bring these messages of very strong imagination and creativity. Theatre gives people hope and inspiration."

Rundell brings along his experience of working on The NeverEnding Story 12 years ago as a stage manager.

When asked about the trickiest part of this tale, he said, it is a quest where the characters travel to many fantastical places. To bring those to life, the set design has been created by Theatre Orangeville's production manager Beckie Morris, technical director Lisa Lahue, and their creative team, for whom Rundell has huge respect and appreciation, saying Casey (McDowell) and Hannah (Alvarado) are the show's dream team, "so creative and collaborative."

Working her own magic for so many characters is Wendy Speck as the costume designer, while Alyssa Campbell has designed the lighting, and Brian Bleasdale is in charge of sound.

Speaking of taking on challenges, Arlen Otten is the stage manager,

It was clear that no matter where Rundell goes in Canada and mentions Theatre Orangeville, the response has been consistently positive. Actors and directors – whoever come here to participate in a production on the David Naim Stage – find a very cordial welcome and a theatre company keen on



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BREAK A LEG: The cast for "The NeverEnding Story," presented by Theatre Orangeville's Young Company Program, rehearses with director Pat Rundell in preparation of the play's weekend run from Aug. 22 to 24.

producing the best in live theatre.

Audiences appreciate the high quality of the entertainment, loving the fact that they do not have to go to the city for such a fine couple of hours of live theatre right here in their own town.

Remarking on the sets for this production, Rundell pointed out, "This is a very ensemble piece and everyone on the dream team has worked hard on this wonderful world. As for the actors, never was it more true in this story than the old adage, 'there are no small parts.'"

The NeverEnding Story has many layers, and Rundell hopes audiences will walk away believing in the power of the imagination.

"We have the capacity to bring big change to our own worlds," was his opinion.

As to why people should fill the theatre over the Aug. 22 to 24 weekend for the show, Rundell said, "The audiences are going to see remarkable young artists and see them now before they move on to bigger opportunities and careers."

For those who have seen the movie, maybe more than once, or read the book, this will be another marvellous chance to experience it on stage and understand the tremendous experience it must be for the young participants on and off the stage to be a part of it.

If you are wondering just how they portray the wonderful guiding light that is Falkor for those who remember it well, Rundell urges us, "Come and see it."

For more information and to purchase tickets, go to www.theatreorangeville.ca

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Much-anticipated Authors in the Hills of Mulmur returns this weekend

Written By **CONSTANCE SCRAFIELD**

Once again, Nancy Frater, owner of BookLore, is bringing us back to the beautiful Foley Barn, located on Sideroad 10 in Mulmur, for another Authors in the Hills event on Aug. 10.

Frater notes in her email to the Citizen this week that the Authors in Mulmur events are the brainchild of Mulmur Mayor Janet Horner, and are a literary 'sense of occasion,' with tickets selling out early.

Frater writes, "This annual event is a collaboration between the Township of Mulmur, Shelburne Public Library, BookLore and hard-working volunteers."

Taking on the theme of History, Mystery and Mayhem, the three authors featured in the Aug. 10 event are bringing the best of summer reading for interest, fun and humour, Frater calling it a "cutting-edge line up."

History: For history buffs, The Resistance Painter by Kath Jonathan, examines "the lit-

tle-known story of Poland's extraordinary WWII resistance army and the contemporary lives of two artists, grandmother and granddaughter, inextricably linked by a wartime betrayal. This year we wanted something that would have a wide appeal. There is a great interest in historical fiction so The Resistance Painter was the perfect fit," Frater commented.

The Resistance Painter has seen reviews saying, "immersive, heart-wrenching but hopeful; not to be missed."

Jonathan is a former educator, poet, short story writer, and novel writer.

Mystery: Author of "Hum if you Don't the Words," "If you Want to Make God Laugh," and "The Witches of Moonshyne Manor," Bianca Marais is back by popular demand. She takes readers through the process of solving a murder that hasn't happened yet.

Her book for this Aug. 10 event is "A Most Puzzling Murder." It is "an interactive, quirky, locked-room murder mystery." Positively

nail-biting!

Novelist Nita Prose praised the book.

"[It is] filled with conundrums, murder most foul, and more spells than you can shake a stick at, this original novel is a puzzler's delight," she said.

Frater related, "BookLore launched Bianca Marais to our area readers. 'Hum If You Don't Know The Words' was presented at The Opera House with Theatre Orangeville; 'If you Want to Make God Laugh' was chosen as Dufferin's One Book choice; 'The Witches' was presented at the Headwaters Arts Festival at the Alton Mill."

Marais is now called back by fans wanting to read more of her work.

Mayhem: In an email to the Citizen, Frater said Sue Hincenbergs, former TV producer, brings a tremendously comic novel overflowing with wicked, murderous fun in "The Retirement Plan." In a clear tale of how old marriages can sour, three middle-aged friends turn to murder with a view of collecting on

their husbands' life insurance policies. Their plans may be shaken as they are unaware that their husbands have a devious plan of their own.

Crime Time says, "Think Richard Osman, mischievous, elderly pensioners meets Bad Sisters and Desperate Housewives... the shenanigans move fast and furiously."

Frater always treats patrons to a reception and refreshments at all of her author's presentations. Come to the Foley Barn on Aug. 10, starting at 1 p.m., to watch the discussion among the three authors, have a chance to meet them and let sign the books you want.

Tickets are limited to 150 in total and can be purchased at BookLore in Orangeville, which can be called at 519-942-3830. The Shelburne Public Library also has tickets and can be contacted at 519-925-2168. As well, tickets can be bought at the Mulmur Township Office.

Email frontdesk@shelburnelibrary.ca to purchase a ticket online.

Premier Equipment continues growth journey, expands John Deere dealership network

Written By **MARK PAVILONS**

Premier Equipment, a multi-store John Deere dealership serving southern Ontario, has come to an agreement to purchase neighbouring dealer Green Tractors Inc.

Premier Equipment has been on a considerable growth journey in 2025. The acquisition of Green Tractors Inc. (Green Tractors) will be the fourth and most substantial acquisition that Premier will be undertaking this year.

In February, Premier added a Stouffville location (formerly Hutchinson Farm Supply). In April, the Hagersville location was added (formerly W.J. Heaslip Ltd.) and on July 31, a Belleville location will be added with the acquisition of Deerhaven Lawn and Garden Ltd.

The addition of the nine existing Green Tractors locations will bring Premier's total number of John Deere Ag and Turf branch locations to 20.

"Premier's growth initiatives in 2025 are carrying out a goal that has been years in the making," says Allan Dueck, President of Premier Equipment.

Over the past decade Premier has focused on increasing service capabilities. Modernizing facilities, increasing parts and service capacity along with concentration in key areas like precision agriculture has helped position Premier as a leading dealership with the ability to further grow operations.

"We are very excited for this opportunity and what it means for staff and customers," says Dueck. "For Green Tractors, it provides the opportunity to leverage specialization in areas like production and precision ag and service amenities that Premier has been building out continuously for years. For Premier it provides the opportunity to diversify and

learn from Green Tractors' strength and expertise in turf care, municipalities, small tractors, light construction, and golf market segments. Overall, it provides the ability to further scale our operations and invest in staff and infrastructure to deepen our offering to customers across a significant area in Ontario."

"It has been a pleasure representing John Deere, providing equipment and service to our customers for so many years," says Karl Davis, Co-CEO, Green Tractors in Nobleton. "Times have really changed since my father started fixing threshing machines. Today, leveraging technology is paramount for customers in all segments, and we feel Premier is equipped to help take our team to the next level," says Davis. Davis, along with business partner Ken Svendsen have led Green Tractors since 2010 when the dealership came together with 5 locations – Nobleton, Brampton, Milton, Omemee, and Port Perry. Earlton was added in 2012, Kingston and Odessa locations in 2014 and the Orono location in 2022.

The intention is that Green Tractors customers experience minimal disruptions and the same customer experience while we are working through the transition.

"Over time, we will strive to deliver an enhanced customer experience with more access to equipment, parts and a larger service network," says Davis.

"We are committed to maintaining and growing the high level of customer service that both Green Tractors and Premier Equipment are known to deliver."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

EXPANDING NETWORK: Staff at Nobleton Green Tractors celebrated Lorne Somerville's 50th anniversary. Joining in were (l to r) King Councillor Jennifer Anstey, Kevin Davis, Barb Davis, Karl Davis, Lorne Somerville, Keith Davis and Ken Svendsen (GT Co-CEO).

Staff members from Green Tractors will be retained to maintain continuity and leverage of expertise and experience.

Davis and co-CEO of Green Tractors Ken Svendsen at Omemee will step back – and the teams are still working through processes to determine management needs moving forward.

"We are so thankful for our dedicated employees and grateful for the opportunities we've had to support farms, businesses and the communities we serve," says Svendsen. "We are excited for what the future holds for

our team."

"We intend to honour the legacy that Karl, Ken and their teams have established, and continue to build on a foundation of service," says Dueck. "We look forward to sharing knowledge and resources and the potential for growth that this opportunity brings collectively for staff and customers."

Premier Equipment intends to commence operations with existing staff and facilities on Nov. 3, subject to all necessary approvals and final due diligence.

To learn more visit: premierequipment.ca

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- Solid understanding of mechanical systems and components.
- Excellent problem-solving skills with high attention to detail.
- Ability to read blueprints and technical diagrams and interpret schematics correctly.
- Experience working with preventive maintenance software.
- Ability to multitask in a fast-paced environment with a lot of change.
- Ability to work 12-hour continental rotating shift.
- Excellent knowledge of health and safety and lockout procedures.
- Strong team player with excellent problem-solving skills.
- Have a positive willingness to assist all departments as required.

To view a comprehensive overview of the position, please go to <https://jobs.dayforcehcm.com/en-US/irss/CANDIDATEPORTAL/jobs/2477>

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 NO FRILLS, 101 2nd Line RR 1, Shelburne (by the mailboxes)

First Ave West (by train tracks/ new condo mailboxes)

Royal LePage RCR Realty, 126 Main Street East, Shelburne
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Shelburne Canadian Legion (front entrance on 2nd Ave.)

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

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

Trillium Ford, 506168 ON-89, Mono

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

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 TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Shelburne Public Library shares upcoming events, recommended read

UPCOMING EVENTS

Our favourite event of Summer is finally here! This Sunday, Aug. 10 you can join us in a barn, on a farm, in the beautiful hills of Mulmur for our annual Authors in the Hills of Mulmur event. The afternoon promises History, Mystery and Mayhem with authors Kath Jonathon (The Resistance Painter), Bianca Marais (A Most Puzzling Murder), and Sue Hincenbergs (The Retirement Plan). Tickets are \$40 and include an outstanding array of refreshments and tasty treats, including a deliciously creamy surprise this year! You can buy tickets at BookLore, Shelburne Public Library, and the Township of Mulmur. Shelburne Public Library can accept cash or

e-transfers as payment.

We still have 3 weeks left in the Adult and Teen Summer Reading Challenges, so keep up the great momentum logging your reading and earning badges. Don't forget you will be entered in to a draw for a personal pan pizza each week you log a book! Questions on how to get in on the fun? Give us a call at 519-925-2168 or email frontdesk@shelburnelibrary.ca.

RECOMMENDED READ

Lola in the Mirror by Trent Dalton - A girl and her mother have been on the run for sixteen years, from police and the monster they left in their kitchen with a knife in his throat. They've found themselves a home

inside a van with four flat tires, parked in a scrapyard by the edge of the Brisbane River. The girl has no name because names are dangerous when you're on the run. But the girl has a dream. A vision of a life as an artist of international acclaim. There's only one person who can help make her dreams come true. That person is Lola and she carries all the answers. But to find Lola, the girl must first look in the mirror.

Why Molly Recommends it: If you enjoyed Alice in Wonderland as a child, and have come to grips with the gritty nature of our present, Lola in the Mirror is a book you might need to read. Our heroine doesn't know her name, and as such isn't really

connected to many people, aside from her mother who won't tell her what that name is. Her only friend is an oddly recognizable reflection of an older woman, Lola, in an upside-down broken mirror. From the very first chapter, we are dropped down the rabbit hole into an underground we don't want to admit exists, and follow the main character to her true identity. While at some point, it does become obvious, I really enjoy Dalton's characters and his commitment to them. He shows a versatility in relating difficult topics with a tongue in cheek flair. Dramatic and thrilling, this book also offers a little cheesy romance and excellent descriptions of the locations for each scene.

Dufferin OPP lay several impaired driving related charges throughout the region

Two people charged with assaulting police officer during traffic stop

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have charged two Mississauga residents with assaulting police and other offences following a traffic stop for speeding in Shelburne.

On Aug. 3, 2025, just before 2 p.m., Dufferin OPP officers were conducting radar traffic enforcement on County Road 124 in the Town of Shelburne when they observed a vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed. The officer activated their emergency equipment and conducted a traffic stop.

Dufferin OPP said upon speaking with the male driver, he became extremely belligerent and refused to provide the required information under the Highway Traffic Act. Despite several attempts to de-escalate the situation, both the driver and passenger were subsequently charged.

A 32-year-old male from Mississauga has been charged with:

- Resist Peace Officer
- Assault a Peace Officer (two counts)
- Speeding 1 - 49 Km/h over posted limit
- Fail to surrender insurance card
- Fail to surrender permit for motor vehicle

A 31-year-old male, from Mississauga has been charged with:

- Resist Peace Officer

• Assault a Peace Officer (two counts)
The accused individual is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville. None of the listed charges have been proven in court.

Driver charged with failure to remain at scene of collision

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers have charged an Orton resident with impaired driving offences following a fail-to-remain collision.

On July 30, just before 11 p.m., Dufferin OPP officers responded to a fail-to-remain motor vehicle collision near County Road 109 and Highway 10 in Caledon.

While en route, officers located the suspect vehicle and conducted a traffic stop in East Garafraxa. Upon speaking with the female driver, officers observed signs of impairment and initiated an impaired driving investigation.

Dufferin OPP officers reported that the female driver registered over twice the legal limit of blood alcohol level.

As a result of the investigation, Lisa Burgess, 52, from Orton, has been charged with:

- Fail to remain
- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)
- Fail to surrender insurance card

• Fail to surrender permit for motor vehicle
• Drive motor vehicle, no currently validated permit

• Obstruct plate
The accused individual is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville. Her driver's licence was suspended, and her vehicle was impounded. None of the listed charges have been proven in court.

Single motor vehicle collision results in impaired driving charges

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers have charged a Mississauga resident with impaired driving offences following a single-vehicle collision.

On Aug. 3, shortly after 12:30 a.m., Dufferin OPP officers responded to a single-vehicle collision on County Road 25, just north of Grand Valley, where a vehicle had struck a bridge deck. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the male driver and observed signs of impairment, prompting an impaired driving investigation.

As a result of the investigation, Terrance D'Souza, 53, from Mississauga, has been charged with:

- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)
- Operation while impaired - alcohol and drugs

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.

RIDE spot check nets impaired driving charges for resident

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers have charged an Orangeville resident with impaired driving-related offences following a Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere (R.I.D.E.) program.

On Aug. 3, just after 10:30 p.m., Dufferin OPP officers were conducting a R.I.D.E. spot check in the area of Townline in Orangeville. A vehicle entered the checkpoint and, after a brief interaction with officers, an impaired driving investigation was initiated.

As a result of the investigation, Lucky Gill, 27, from Orangeville, has been charged with:

- Operation while impaired - Blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)
- Drive vehicle or boat with cannabis readily available

The accused individual is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville. The accused's driver's licence was suspended, and their vehicle was impounded. None of the listed charges have been proven in court.

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12⁹⁹ NEW! Thai Style Chicken Peanut Curry 907 g
14⁹⁹ Seasoned Breaded Cod 4-5 PIECES 400 g
17⁹⁹ Panko Shrimp 454 g
16⁹⁹ Sirloin Beef Meatballs 60-70 PIECES 907 g
16⁹⁹ Blueberry Bliss Cheezecake 600 g
9⁹⁹ Ice Cream Cookie Sandwiches 6 SANDWICHES 600 mL
11⁹⁹ Cauliflower Bites 450 g
17⁹⁹ Buffalo Parmesan
12⁹⁹ Stuffed Potato Skins 5-7 PIECES 390 g
9⁹⁹ Fried Battered Pickles 10-12 PIECES 390 g

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17⁹⁹ each Maplewood Smoked Bacon Wrapped Salmon LIMITED TIME ONLY 2 PIECES 284 g
54⁹⁹ SAVE \$5 Bacon Wrapped Beef Filet Mignons 4 STEAKS x 170 g/6 oz
11⁹⁹ SAVE \$3 Bacon Wrapped Scallop Medallions 9-13 PIECES 300 g

APPETIZERS FOR EVERYONE

5⁹⁹ SALE Spinach, Artichoke & Cheese Dip 250 g
9⁹⁹ SAVE \$3 Stuffed Potato Skins 5-7 PIECES 390 g
12⁹⁹ each Battered Cheese Curds 280 g
9⁹⁹ SAVE \$2 Fried Battered Pickles 10-12 PIECES 390 g
5⁹⁹ SAVE \$2 Dry Garlic Pork 50-70 PIECES 600 g

SIZZLING SKEWERS

27⁹⁹ Lobster Tail Skewers 4 PIECES 200 g
11⁹⁹ each Chicken Skewers 4 PIECES 300 g
16⁹⁹ each Chicken and Pineapple Mini-Skewers 20 PIECES 500 g
16⁹⁹ each Chicken Satay with Peanut Sauce 20 SKEWERS 500 g

THE GOOD STUFF

13⁹⁹ SAVE \$4 Chocolate Caramel Pecan Cheesecake 600 g
6⁹⁹ Cakes 2 PORTIONS 228 g - 280 g
9⁹⁹ Mini Filled Donuts 8 PIECES 184 g
8⁹⁹ Confetti Cake Pops 6 PIECES 216 g
9⁹⁹ Portuguese Style Custard Tarts 6 PIECES 450 g

SALE

3⁹⁹ each
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