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INTERACTING WITH LIVESTOCK: A child pets a horse during the 26th Annual Dufferin Farm Tour on Sept. 27. The farm tour provides area residents with the opportunity to see farming operations and animals up close. Featured farming operations included Rockview Farms in Mono Centre, Hockley Valley Farm in Mono, Sky Ridge Clydesdales in Mono, Sevenhills Holsteins in Amaranth, and Besley Country Market in Shelburne. The annual event teaches attendees about the state of agriculture, and its impact, in the region. See more photos on Page 9.

Haunt in the Park to return to Shelburne at new location

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

The Little Family's Haunt in the Park is rising up for another year of spooks, but will find itself in a new location.

The 2025 Haunt in the Park will be held at KTH Manufacturing, located at 300 2nd Line, instead of Fiddle Park.

"We were very grateful that KTH approached us with the opportunity to put the Haunt on in one of their outbuildings, near the back of the factor. It provides us with a fully enclosed building for the first time ever in our history," said Carola Little, an organizer for the annual event. "We're so grateful to have a home that we can bring this Haunt back to Shelburne like we have for the past 30 plus years."

The Haunt in the Park originally began in 1993 when Bob and Sue Little and their three then-teenage children set up a haunted house on the porch of their First Avenue home. As the family moved homes over the years, the event moved with them until they found a permanent home at Fiddle Park in 2015.

This year, the Haunt in the Park has had to

find a new temporary home due to ongoing construction at Fiddle Park.

Speaking with the Free Press, Little touched on the relocation of the Halloween attraction temporarily and why it was important for the family to bring it back in 2025 despite the hurdles.

"Over the course of the past three decades, there's been a few times where we've struggled putting on the haunt, whether it was finding a location or finding volunteers, but we are just the type of people that don't know how to quit," said Little. "We were always going to be determined to put the haunt on, even without access to Fiddle Park. We hope that by next year we'll be able to move back as promised, but even if things come up, we will continue to find a place for Haunt in the Park. It is truly undead."

Last year, Haunt in the Park attracted 4,810 visitors and was able to raise 4,130 lbs of food and \$2,512 for the Shelburne Food Bank.

"For the first time ever, we had to close the gates because we were already past our closing time," said Little.

Continued on Page 7



FILE PHOTO

FRIGHTENING FUN: Spooky characters from the Little Family's annual Haunt in the Park will be back for a terrifyingly fun time when the event returns on Oct. 24, 25, 31, and Nov. 1. While the event has historically been held at Fiddle Park, it has been moved to KTH Manufacturing this year to accommodate ongoing construction for the redevelopment of Fiddle Park. Haunt in the Park has been a staple in Shelburne for over 30 years.

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\$0 DOWN C.O.B \$26,231

2024 TOYOTA SIENNA XSE



STK# 7630P - 155 KM - 2.5L HYBRID ENGINE, ECVT, ELECTRONIC ON-DEMAND AWD, HEATED FRONT SEATS, POWER SLIDING DOORS, 9" TOUCHSCREEN WITH TOYOTA AUDIO PLUS, TOYOTA SAFETY SENSE 2.5, BLIND SPOT MONITOR, REAR CROSS-TRAFFIC ALERT, SPORT-TUNED SUSPENSION, TRI-ZONE CLIMATE CONTROL, REMOTE START!

\$271 WEEKLY INCLUDE HST 84 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA
\$71,986 ^{+HST/IC} @ **9.49%** _{O.A.C.}
\$0 DOWN C.O.B \$26,601

2024 VOLKSWAGEN TAOS COMFORTLINE FWD



STK# 7733P - 59,064 KM - HEATED FRONT SEATS, REMOTE START, DIGITAL COCKPIT, ADAPTIVE CRUISE CONTROL, DUAL-ZONE CLIMATE CONTROL, LED HEADLIGHTS & TAILLIGHTS, APP-CONNECT (APPLE CARPLAY & ANDROID AUTO), REARVIEW CAMERA, BLIND SPOT MONITORING, POWER-ADJUSTABLE & HEATED MIRRORS!

\$104 WEEKLY INCLUDE HST 84 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA
\$29,879 ^{+HST/IC} @ **6.99%** _{O.A.C.}
\$0 DOWN C.O.B \$7,923

2024 CADILLAC CT4 SPORT



STK# 7482P - 21,953 KM - 0L TURBO, 8-SPEED AUTOMATIC AWD, 18" WHEELS, PERFORMANCE GRILLE, ALLOY PADDLE SHIFTERS, WIRELESS CHARGING, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, LED LIGHTING, CADILLAC SMART SYSTEM, AND MORE!

\$173 WEEKLY INCLUDE HST 84 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA
\$45,888 ^{+HST/IC} @ **9.49%** _{O.A.C.}
\$0 DOWN C.O.B \$16,957

2024 VOLKSWAGEN TAOS COMFORTLINE FWD



STK# 7734P - 60,554 KM - 1.5L TSI TURBO, 8-SPEED AUTOMATIC, PANORAMIC SUNROOF, HEATED FRONT SEATS, REMOTE START, ADAPTIVE CRUISE CONTROL, DIGITAL COCKPIT, APPLE CARPLAY & ANDROID AUTO, DUAL-ZONE CLIMATE CONTROL, REARVIEW CAMERA, BLIND SPOT MONITORING!

\$107 WEEKLY INCLUDE HST 84 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA
\$30,671 ^{+HST/IC} @ **6.99%** _{O.A.C.}
\$0 DOWN C.O.B \$8,133


2024 VOLKSWAGEN ATLAS COMFORTLINE



STK# 7751P - 33,923 KM - 2.0L TSI TURBO, 8-SPEED AUTOMATIC, 4MOTION AWD, HEATED FRONT SEATS, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, POWER DRIVER SEAT, DIGITAL COCKPIT, APPLE CARPLAY & ANDROID AUTO, REARVIEW CAMERA, ADAPTIVE CRUISE CONTROL, BLIND SPOT MONITORING, FRONT ASSIST, TRI-ZONE CLIMATE CONTROL!

\$162 WEEKLY INCLUDE HST 84 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA
\$46,632 ^{+HST/IC} @ **9.49%** _{O.A.C.}
\$0 DOWN C.O.B \$12,365

2024 VOLKSWAGEN GOLF R



STK# 7687P - 33,635 KM - 2.0L TURBOCHARGED 4-CYLINDER ENGINE, 7-SPEED DSG AUTOMATIC WITH PADDLE SHIFTERS, 4MOTION AWD, BLACK NAPPA LEATHER INTERIOR, CARBON PACKAGE, HEATED & VENTILATED FRONT SEATS, POWER DRIVER'S SEAT WITH MEMORY, HEATED REAR SEATS, HARMAN KARDON PREMIUM AUDIO!

\$189 WEEKLY INCLUDE HST 84 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA
\$50,267 ^{+HST/IC} @ **9.49%** _{O.A.C.}
\$0 DOWN C.O.B \$18,575

2023 HONDA CR-V HYBRID TOURING



STK# 7579T - 47,990 KM - 2.0L ATKINSON I4 HYBRID, ECVT, AWD, BLACK LEATHER INTERIOR, HEATED FRONT & REAR SEATS, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, POWER DRIVER & PASSENGER SEATS, POWER PANORAMIC MOONROOF, WIRELESS APPLE CARPLAY & ANDROID AUTO, HEAD-UP DISPLAY, BOSE PREMIUM AUDIO!

\$165 WEEKLY INCLUDE HST 84 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA
\$43,892 ^{+HST/IC} @ **9.49%** _{O.A.C.}
\$0 DOWN C.O.B \$16,219

2023 RAM 1500 SPORT CREW CAB



STK# 7741T - 65,956 KM - 5.7L HEMI V8 WITH ETORQUE, 8-SPEED AUTOMATIC, 4X4, GT PACKAGE, AIR SUSPENSION, DUAL-PANE PANORAMIC SUNROOF, VENTILATED & HEATED FRONT SEATS, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, HARMAN KARDON PREMIUM AUDIO, 12" TOUCHSCREEN WITH NAVIGATION, MOPAR SPRAY-IN BEDLINER!

\$220 WEEKLY INCLUDE HST 84 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA
\$58,451 ^{+HST/IC} @ **9.49%** _{O.A.C.}
\$0 DOWN C.O.B \$21,559

2023 VOLKSWAGEN TIGUAN COMFORTLINE



STK# 7753P - 47,808 KM - 2.0L TSI TURBO, 8-SPEED AUTOMATIC, 4MOTION AWD, HEATED FRONT SEATS, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, VOLKSWAGEN DIGITAL COCKPIT, APPLE CARPLAY & ANDROID AUTO, ADAPTIVE CRUISE CONTROL, FRONT ASSIST, LANE ASSIST, REAR TRAFFIC ALERT!

\$118 WEEKLY INCLUDE HST 84 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA
\$33,877 ^{+HST/IC} @ **6.99%** _{O.A.C.}
\$0 DOWN C.O.B \$8,983

2023 NISSAN KICKS SV FWD



STK# 7671T - 72,577 KM - 1.6L I4, CVT, FWD, FRESH POWDER WHITE, CHARCOAL BLACK CLOTH, HEATED FRONT SEATS, REMOTE START, 8" TOUCHSCREEN, CARPLAY & ANDROID AUTO, SAFETY SHIELD 360, 17" ALLOY WHEELS, AND MORE!

\$86 WEEKLY INCLUDE HST 84 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA
\$22,875 ^{+HST/IC} @ **9.49%** _{O.A.C.}
\$0 DOWN C.O.B \$8,453

2023 TOYOTA RAV4 HYBRID SE



STK# 7683P - 46,940 KM - 2.5L 4-CYLINDER HYBRID ENGINE, ELECTRONIC CONTINUOUSLY VARIABLE TRANSMISSION (ECVT), AWD, BLIND SPOT MONITOR WITH REAR CROSS-TRAFFIC ALERT, BLIND SPOT MONITOR WITH REAR CROSS-TRAFFIC ALERT, TOYOTA SAFETY SENSE 2.5, BACKUP CAMERA, ROOF RAILS!

\$182 WEEKLY INCLUDE HST 84 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA
\$48,262 ^{+HST/IC} @ **9.49%** _{O.A.C.}
\$0 DOWN C.O.B \$17,834

2023 VOLKSWAGEN TAOS COMFORTLINE 4MOTION



STK# 7752P - 12,877 KM - 1.5L TSI TURBO, 8-SPEED AUTOMATIC, 4MOTION AWD, HEATED FRONT SEATS, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, REMOTE START, VOLKSWAGEN DIGITAL COCKPIT, APPLE CARPLAY & ANDROID AUTO, BLUETOOTH CONNECTIVITY, 8" TOUCHSCREEN INFOTAINMENT, REARVIEW CAMERA, ADAPTIVE CRUISE CONTROL!

\$108 WEEKLY INCLUDE HST 84 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA
\$30,994 ^{+HST/IC} @ **9.49%** _{O.A.C.}
\$0 DOWN C.O.B \$8,219


2023 JEEP WRANGLER WILLYS



STK# 7684P - 27,412 KM - 2.0L TURBOCHARGED I4 ENGINE, 8-SPEED AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION, 4X4 WITH ANTI-SPIN DIFFERENTIAL, UCONNECT 4C NAV WITH 8.4" TOUCHSCREEN & GPS NAVIGATION, DUAL-ZONE AUTOMATIC CLIMATE CONTROL, COLD WEATHER GROUP, TECHNOLOGY GROUP, CONVENIENCE GROUP!

\$176 WEEKLY INCLUDE HST 84 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA
\$46,785 ^{+HST/IC} @ **9.49%** _{O.A.C.}
\$0 DOWN C.O.B \$17,288

2022 AUDI S4 3.0T PROGRESSIV



STK# 7376T - 43,003 KM - 3.0L TFSI V6, QUATTRO AWD, 8-SPEED S TRONIC, HEATED & MASSAGE SEATS, 10.1" TOUCHSCREEN, NAVIGATION, WIRELESS APPLE CARPLAY, AUDI PRE SENSE, LANE DEPARTURE WARNING, ADVANCED KEY, LED HEADLIGHTS, 19" ALLOY WHEELS, AND MORE!

\$181 WEEKLY INCLUDE HST 84 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA
\$50,134 ^{+HST/IC} @ **9.49%** _{O.A.C.}
\$0 DOWN C.O.B \$17,735

2022 HONDA RIDGELINE TOURING AWD



STK# 7638T - 52,807 KM - 3.5L V6 I-VTEC, 9-SPEED AUTOMATIC, HEATED FRONT & REAR SEATS, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, TRUCK BED AUDIO, IN-BED TRUNK, HANDS-FREE TAILGATE, 8" TOUCHSCREEN WITH APPLE CARPLAY & ANDROID AUTO, GPS NAVIGATION, WIRELESS CHARGER, PREMIUM SAOW AUDIO, HDMI INPUT, ADAPTIVE CRUISE CONTROL!

\$169 WEEKLY INCLUDE HST 84 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA
\$44,982 ^{+HST/IC} @ **9.49%** _{O.A.C.}
\$0 DOWN C.O.B \$16,622

2021 VOLKSWAGEN TIGUAN COMFORTLINE 4MOTION



STK# 7766P - 85,313 KM - 2.0L TSI TURBO, 8-SPEED AUTOMATIC, 4MOTION AWD, HEATED FRONT SEATS, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, VOLKSWAGEN DIGITAL COCKPIT, APPLE CARPLAY & ANDROID AUTO, 8" TOUCHSCREEN INFOTAINMENT, BLUETOOTH CONNECTIVITY, THIRD ROW SEATING (7-PASSENGER), BLIND SPOT MONITORING!

\$86 WEEKLY INCLUDE HST 84 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA
\$24,876 ^{+HST/IC} @ **6.99%** _{O.A.C.}
\$0 DOWN C.O.B \$6,596

2021 VOLKSWAGEN TIGUAN HIGHLINE



STK# 7739T - 55,871 KM - 2.0L TSI TURBO, 8-SPEED AUTOMATIC, 4MOTION AWD, -LINE EXTERIOR PACKAGE, FENDER PREMIUM AUDIO, POWER LIFTGATE, ADAPTIVE CRUISE CONTROL, REMOTE START, APPLE CARPLAY & ANDROID AUTO, PANORAMIC SUNROOF, DUAL-ZONE CLIMATE CONTROL, R-LINE FLAT-BOTTOM STEERING WHEEL!

\$108 WEEKLY INCLUDE HST 84 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA
\$31,213 ^{+HST/IC} @ **6.99%** _{O.A.C.}
\$0 DOWN C.O.B \$ 8,277

2021 TOYOTA GR SUPRA



STK# 7698P - 10,578 KM - 3.0L TWIN-SCROLL TURBOCHARGED IN-LINE-6 ENGINE, 8-SPEED AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION WITH PADDLE SHIFTERS, REAR-WHEEL DRIVE, HEATED FRONT SEATS, DUAL-ZONE AUTOMATIC CLIMATE CONTROL, 8.8" TOUCHSCREEN INFOTAINMENT WITH NAVIGATION, APPLE CARPLAY, ADAPTIVE CRUISE CONTROL!

\$237 WEEKLY INCLUDE HST 84 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA
\$62,862 ^{+HST/IC} @ **9.49%** _{O.A.C.}
\$0 DOWN C.O.B \$23,229

2021 RAM 1500 LARAMIE



STK# 7603T - 81,475 KM - 5.7L HEMI V8 WITH ETORQUE, 8-SPEED AUTOMATIC, 4X4, FRONT BENCH SEAT (6-PASSENGER), LARAMIE LEVEL 2 EQUIPMENT GROUP, HEATED & VENTILATED FRONT SEATS, HEATED SECOND ROW SEATS, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, 12" TOUCHSCREEN WITH NAVIGATION, ADAPTIVE CRUISE CONTROL!

\$195 WEEKLY INCLUDE HST 84 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA
\$51,827 ^{+HST/IC} @ **9.49%** _{O.A.C.}
\$0 DOWN C.O.B \$19,151

2020 TOYOTA COROLLA LE



STK# 7607P - 110,112 KM - 1.8L 4-CYLINDER ENGINE, CVT AUTOMATIC, FRONT-WHEEL DRIVE, HEATED FRONT SEATS, APPLE CARPLAY & ANDROID AUTO, BACKUP CAMERA, TOYOTA SAFETY SENSE 2.0, ADAPTIVE CRUISE CONTROL, LANE DEPARTURE ALERT, PRE-COLLISION SYSTEM, AUTOMATIC CLIMATE CONTROL, REMOTE KEYLESS ENTRY!

\$92 WEEKLY INCLUDE HST 72 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA
\$21,777 ^{+HST/IC} @ **9.49%** _{O.A.C.}
\$0 DOWN C.O.B \$6,804

2019 VOLKSWAGEN TIGUAN COMFORTLINE 4MOTION



STK# 7704P - 111,504 KM - 2.0L TURBOCHARGED 4-CYLINDER ENGINE, 8-SPEED AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION, 4MOTION AWD, PANORAMIC SUNROOF, FACTORY NAVIGATION SYSTEM, HEATED FRONT SEATS, 8" TOUCHSCREEN INFOTAINMENT, APPLE CARPLAY & ANDROID AUTO, DUAL-ZONE AUTOMATIC CLIMATE CONTROL, POWER DRIVER SEAT WITH LUMBAR!

\$107 WEEKLY INCLUDE HST 60 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA
\$22,127 ^{+HST/IC} @ **9.49%** _{O.A.C.}
\$0 DOWN C.O.B \$5,683

2018 VOLKSWAGEN GOLF R



STK# 7649T - 232,087 KM - 2.0L TURBO I4, 7-SPEED DSG DUAL-CLUTCH, 4MOTION AWD, DRIVER ASSISTANCE PACKAGE, ADAPTIVE CRUISE CONTROL, BLIND SPOT MONITORING WITH REAR CROSS-TRAFFIC ALERT, LANE ASSIST, AUTONOMOUS EMERGENCY BRAKING, PARK DISTANCE CONTROL, FENDER PREMIUM AUDIO!

\$92 WEEKLY INCLUDE HST 60 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA
\$19,255 ^{+HST/IC} @ **9.49%** _{O.A.C.}
\$0 DOWN C.O.B \$4,945

2018 VOLKSWAGEN TIGUAN HIGHLINE R-LINE



STK# 7762T - 103,387 KM - 2.0L TSI TURBO, 8-SPEED AUTOMATIC, 4MOTION AWD, R-LINE EXTERIOR PACKAGE, DRIVER ASSISTANCE PACKAGE, PANORAMIC SUNROOF, HEATED FRONT SEATS, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, DIGITAL COCKPIT, 8" TOUCHSCREEN INFOTAINMENT, ADAPTIVE CRUISE CONTROL, BLIND SPOT MONITORING, FRONT ASSIST, LANE ASSIST!

\$120 WEEKLY INCLUDE HST 60 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA
\$24,761 ^{+HST/IC} @ **9.49%** _{O.A.C.}
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A new chapter: Shelburne Library CEO of 17 years to soon retire

Written By PAULA BROWN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The page is turning, and a new chapter is set to begin for the Shelburne Public Library. Rose Dotten, chief executive officer (CEO) for the local library, will be retiring from the position after 17 years in the role.

"Being here has been a blessing in my life," said Dotten as she held back tears. "I love this place, and I put a lot of energy and care into it. This library has been a labour of love, rather than just a job."

Originally from the Shelburne community, Dotten went to Western University, where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree and eventually went on to receive a Bachelor of Education and a Master of Library Science.

Before joining the Shelburne Public Library, Dotten had a multi-decade-long career in teaching. In the mid-90s, she served as the principal of a librarianship course at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE). During her time with OISE, Dotten was contracted to help build libraries in Bermuda, Trinidad, and Belgium.

In Bermuda specifically, she helped instruct 21 teacher librarians over a three-year span and also assisted in the building of five school libraries.

"I had to design the whole library from scratch. Where everything would go, set up the internet, the book circulation system, and I ended up buying the books in Canada," explained Dotten.

Dotten eventually moved on to become the librarian at the University of Toronto Schools (UTS), a secondary school for gifted students that is affiliated with the University of Toronto.

In 2008, Dotten saw a newspaper ad for the library position and decided to apply for the job. Dotten was hired to replace the then-head librarian, Mary Lynne Armstrong, who retired after running the library for 20 years.

"She was very community-minded, and it was such an easy transition because I feel I'm community-minded," she said.

While like-mindedness helped to ease the transition, the change didn't come without challenges for Dotten.

"I wasn't trained as a public librarian, so coming to a small town, there was a learning curve to become a public librarian," said Dotten.

Coming to the Shelburne Public Library 17 years ago, Dotten recalled, at the time, they had no website or internet. She would go on to hire a website creator, who developed the existing Shelburne Public Library, and would get a grant to install the internet.

While there are many moments over the 17 years that Dotten feels proud of, one of the biggest milestones she brings up from her time as CEO of the Shelburne Public Library is winning the TD Summer Reading Club.

The TD Summer Reading Club is a nationwide free program for kids of all ages and abilities that looks to encourage a life-long love of reading during the summer.

"They phoned up one day and said, 'You're in the top nominees for this award. Is there any chance you can come out to Saskatoon'. They didn't say anything else," recalled Dotten. "So, all of a sudden, I'm sitting there and they announce Shelburne – first prize. It was such a moment."

Shelburne Public Library won the TD Summer Reading Club in 2016 and 2019, and placed third in the 2025 challenge.

"I'm proud that it was under my sort of time here that we did that and our team put it all together," Dotten said.

Reflecting back on her time with the Shelburne Public Library, Dotten is humble about her part in how the library has changed and grown. Instead, she points to her team of staff members and board members as the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NEW CHAPTER: Rose Dotten, chief executive officer (CEO) of the Shelburne Public Library, is retiring after 17 years in the role. Dotten joined the Shelburne Public Library in 2008, following the retirement of former head librarian Mary Lynne Armstrong. Dotten's final day at the Shelburne Public Library will be on Oct. 18.

key to the library's successes.

"I have a great team here and we could never do the things we do without them," said Dotten.

After 17 years with the Shelburne Public Library, Dotten said her decision to close the book on this chapter of her career came organically.

"It was a decision I made with no external pressure or forces. I just made the decision one day 'I think I'm going to retire,'" she said.

In her retirement, Dotten plans to get back into crafting, including weaving and fiber arts, as well as take up woodworking.

Dotten will also be taking on a volunteer position as a member of the UTS Alumni Board of Directors.

"It's about having time for myself and doing some of these things," said Dotten. "I know I'm going to miss my messy office and I'm going to miss the people, but I'm looking forward to it."

Taking over as the new CEO of the Shelburne Public Library is Shannon McGrady, who has spent the last 12 years as a staff member of the Orangeville Public Library.

Dotten's official last day at the Shelburne Public Library will be Oct. 18.

County of Dufferin to donate decommissioned ambulance to West Africa

Written By PAULA BROWN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A decommissioned ambulance from the Dufferin County Paramedic Services (DCPS) is being repurposed and shipped to West Africa to help support global healthcare equity and humanitarian aid.

During their meeting on Sept. 25, Dufferin County Council received a report from DCPS Chief Paramedic Gary Staples on the donation of a decommissioned ambulance

to U.S.-based non-profit, Keneya Ni Kalen Institute (KNIKI), for use in rural Mali, West Africa.

"In light of the declining utility and resale value of decommissioned ambulances, this donation presents a meaningful and impactful alternative, one that extends the life of County assets while advancing global health equity," reads the report to Council.

"By supporting KNIKI's mission, Dufferin County would not only contribute to life-saving infrastructure in Mali, but also

demonstrate leadership in sustainable, compassionate governance. This gesture would reflect the County's commitment to responsible stewardship and its willingness to support innovative solutions that transcend borders and transform lives."

Dufferin County Paramedic Services follows a five-year replacement cycle for ambulances, which is approved through the County's capital plan. Due to global procurement delays, the local paramedic service has kept ambulances in service longer than typical,

often exceeding seven years of use.

Keneya Ni Kalen Institute (KNIKI) is a U.S.-based non-profit dedicated to transforming healthcare and education access in rural Mali, West Africa. The non-profit was founded by Baissou Sissoko after losing his father and brother to preventable medical delays. KNIKI works to close systemic gaps in access to care through locally led and globally supported solutions.

Continued on Page 12

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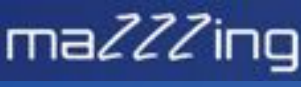
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OPINION

Hate speech

"Sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt me."

That's a phrase kids are taught about how to respond to someone calling them names.

It means just turn around and walk away. There's no use in responding to name-calling, and no reason to get into some physical confrontation over something insignificant.

If you do get into some situation, like traffic road rage, where some hothead starts yelling, simply ignore them and leave.

That will take the wind out of the guy's sails, and he just ends up looking like a fool in front of anyone who witnessed what happened.

In Canada and several other countries, the government has enacted 'hate crime' and 'hate speech' laws.

These laws are redundant and never should have been created in the first place because there are already laws in place covering what could happen in such situations.

Hate speech laws are nothing more than the government's attempt to stifle free speech when they feel it becomes necessary.

A 'Hate Crime' is defined as "an act against a person, group of people or property that is motivated by hate, prejudice or

bias based on race, colour, nationality or ethnic origin, language, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability or sexual orientation."

This was already covered by existing laws. There are penalties for crimes committed when 'hate' is involved.

Serious crimes like murder, aggravated assault, and attempted murder are never committed because of a friendly act.

You will never hear a murder confession where a guy says, "I liked my neighbour. We were good friends for 30 years. I just figured he was too darn nice and helpful, so I shot him and his wife to death."

If a person was murdered because they were disabled or a minority, or a member of a religious group, the result is the same. The person is still dead, and the offender must face the penalty for their crime, regardless of the motive.

During a trial, if one of the reasons a person was murdered was due to one of those reasons, that fact will be part of the evidence presented by the prosecutor, and it will be taken into consideration during sentencing.

Murder of an intimate is one of the most common types of killing in this country. Does the fact that a man murdered his wife make it less of a horror than if the man murdered a gay person?

Both crimes deserve the same punish-

ment.

Hate speech laws in Canada are not well defined. If you look at court cases about hate speech in this country, the findings are all over the road.

Hate speech laws are not enforced evenly. They only apply to certain groups. Judges are reluctant to convict, and there seems to be no clear understanding of what constitutes hate speech.

Again, there were already laws in place regarding making threats to people that were taken seriously by the courts.

If making a hateful comment to someone is a crime, then there are a lot of people going through divorces in this country who are guilty, as well as many road ragers, angry neighbours, and dissatisfied restaurant customers.

The Liberal government is now trying to push through new legislation that will provide up to 10 years in prison for 'displaying symbols' of hate. They have specifically referred to Nazi symbols like swastikas and Nazi SS insignia.

This type of legislation is both confusing and dangerous.

What exactly is a 'symbol of hate'?

It could mean different things to different people.

If a World War II collector has historic artifacts in his collection that contain Nazi symbols, does this legislation auto-

matically make him a criminal?

If you see a criminal gang member walking down the street wearing gang colours, can you call the police and have him arrested for displaying a 'hateful' crime symbol by wearing the bandana?

A couple of years ago, a neighbour on my street flew a Confederate flag from his house. It was only there for a day, and I have no idea why he was flying it.

Could this new legislation mean you can request charges be laid because someone has a beef with Robert E. Lee?

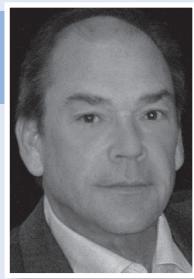
Certain religious groups have anti-social and anti-societal behaviours. Does this mean a cleric can be arrested for wearing a robe that represents that organization in public?

The legislators are not answering these questions, and the proposed law is very vague.

We don't need more laws to 'correct' our behaviour.

If your grandmother left you her collection of Dresden porcelain, you may have to hide it before some government agency arrives with a search warrant because some nosey neighbour peeked through your window and was offended by a wartime German porcelain doll.

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



Qatar and Poland

I'll get to the Russian drones shot down over Poland, but I'll start with the Israeli air strikes on Qatar because that's a much bigger deal.

Israel has bombed Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, Iran, and Yemen repeatedly in the past few months, so hitting Qatar might seem like just one more demonstration that Israel can now attack any country in the Middle East with impunity. Yes, Qatar is America's closest ally in the Gulf, but so what?

What makes it such a big deal is that Qatar was hosting the arms-length talks between Israel and Hamas on a cease-fire in Gaza, where a huge new Israeli 'final offensive' is underway. Prime Minister Binyamin 'Bibi' Netanyahu's target in Qatar was precisely the exiled Hamas leaders with whom Israel was negotiating the cease-fire.

The usual panels of 'experts' were soon on the air - the statutory politicians from left and right, somebody from a local think-tank, maybe a retired general too - trying to explain why Israel did that without mentioning the one screamingly obvious reason: that Netanyahu wanted to avoid a cease-fire.

Killing the other side's negotiators is a sure-fire way of ending the talks, even if Israel's air strikes don't get the most senior ones. It also puts every Arab country (and Iran) on notice that nobody is safe: the dwarf superpower of the Middle East can cross every red line, and even Donald Trump can't (or at least won't) rein it in.

It was almost comical watching the television experts try to slide by the obvious questions without saying the unsayable. Why did the Israelis try to kill the people they were negotiating with? Why didn't

they give the United States advance warning? What was Netanyahu really thinking? And what happens next?

Good questions, and they all have obvious answers. However, for some reason none of the television experts seemed to know the answers. It was Monty Python time: grown-up men and women with impressive job titles diligently searching high and low (with no success) for answers so blindingly bright and clear that they should have been wearing sunglasses.

Netanyahu tried to kill the Palestinian negotiators because he wants his 'final offensive' to drive all two million surviving Palestinians in Gaza into a tiny corner of the Strip, and thence into permanent exile. A cease-fire would stall that process.

There was a risk, however small, that Hamas might return all the remaining Israeli hostages, agree to disarm, and voluntarily go into exile, because the only alternative is exile for all Palestinians. Hamas has rarely been that rational, but it was a risk that had to be stamped out.

Why tell President Trump about the strike only at the last minute? Because there was a risk, also very small, that he would put his foot down and say no if given early warning. As in his dealings with Vladimir Putin, the harshest thing Trump is normally able to say to Netanyahu is that he is 'not happy', but why take a chance?

And what was Netanyahu really thinking? Over the past six months he has probably come to realize that Donald Trump's presidency is presenting him with an unexpected historical opportunity to end the 'Palestinian problem' by expelling all the Palestinians from what would then become Greater Israel.

Yes, the Gaza war has allowed him

to stay in power politically, to evade responsibility for letting the murderous Hamas attack happen on his watch, and to at least postpone his final rendezvous with the courts and possible jail time, but these are now probably minor issues in his mind. He is in full messianic mode, unilaterally deciding Israel's Future.

First, clear out the Gaza Strip and send its inhabitants to Libya or Somaliland or wherever will take them (with enough financial inducements). The three million Palestinians in the West Bank will rise up in anger, so then Israel can expel them too.

There will be huge international opprobrium and doubtless some boycotts and sanctions. The 'Abraham Accords' will crumble, but that's a small price to pay. And Trump will protect Israel from the worst of it and maybe get his 'Riviera' in Gaza as a reward.

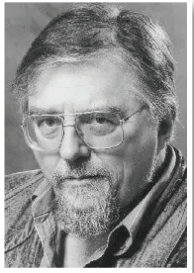
People will call it a genocide and technically they will be right, but it doesn't require actually killing millions of Palestinians. Tens of thousands, yes, but not millions. Besides, time heals all wounds; who talks about the Armenians now?

I have no access to Netanyahu's secret thoughts, but what he says and does would serve these ambitions.

As for armed Russian drones over Poland: investigate. If it was a malfunction, send Moscow a stiff complaint. If it was a deliberate provocation, consider basing European NATO fighters and surface-to-air missiles in Poland to shoot down Russian ballistic and cruise missiles over Ukrainian-controlled territory.

And stay calm. It's a long game.

GWYNNE DYER
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COMMUNITY VOICES

Monthly Message: It's a time to be thankful at the Shelburne Food Bank

Thanksgiving is a time when many people are focused on abundance and family gatherings, but it's also when the need at the Shelburne Food Bank is especially high.

Many families struggle to put food on the table year-round, and holidays can amplify that hardship. As we gather in the spirit of Thanksgiving, let's take a moment to reflect on what this day means – especially for those who turn to food banks during times of need.

For many, Thanksgiving is more than a holiday. It's a reminder of what truly matters – community, compassion, and the simple comfort of a shared meal. For food bank users, it's a chance to experience a moment of dignity, warmth, and belonging, even in the face of difficult circumstances.

This day is not just about the food on the table year-round – it's about knowing that their community cares. It's about being seen. Being supported. And knowing you're not alone in your struggle.



Thanks to the generosity of donors, volunteers, and everyone who makes this work possible. Families who may have been struggling can still gather, give thanks, and feel the joy that comes from kindness and connection.

So, on behalf of all those who benefit from your generosity – thank you! You make Thanksgiving not just a day on the calendar but a real, meaningful experience of hope, gratitude, and renewed strength. Thanksgiving becomes a symbol of kindness and the power of community. Of neighbours helping neighbours.

Thank you to those who have donated turkeys so far to the food bank – TransAlta, Caravaggios IDA Pharmacy, Shelburne Family Chiropractic & Wellness Centre, Adam Clost, Jeff & Isabel Holmes, and SGR Plumbing & Heating. We are beyond thankful for your donations!

There is still time for other individuals or businesses to assist by providing turkeys this year!

Thank you to the stores in our community that we buy from and do food rescue with – Jimmy & Stef's No Frills, Shelburne Foodland, Starbucks, Giant Tiger, Mary

Brown's Chicken, and Cobs Bread (Orangethorpe). We greatly appreciate what you do weekly so that food goes to those who need it.

Thank you to Downey Potatoes for donating potatoes to be given out for Thanksgiving – and to Rutledge and Tupling potatoes for your donations of potatoes this year. A staple every family enjoys.

Thank you to the Rotary Club of Shelburne and the Shelburne Lions Club for their ongoing support of the food bank. The Rotary Club organizes the town food drive happening on Oct. 11 with CDDHS, Pumpkinfest, the Nutcracker Gala, and many other initiatives that bring in donations.

The Lions Club held several Classic Car/Truck shows this summer/fall, all in aid of the food bank, and Rotary spearheaded the Smoked Turkey Dinner fundraiser to be held this Friday (Oct. 3) evening at the Legion. We would be lost without these great partnerships.

Shelburne Rotary Club running annual Thanksgiving Food Drive to address local food insecurity

Written By PAULA BROWN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Shelburne residents will have the opportunity to help others during the giving season.

The Rotary Club of Shelburne has launched its annual Thanksgiving Food Drive.

"During Thanksgiving, we appreciate where we are in life and what we have, and it's a time to reach out to people; to give to others," said Bill Waite, organizer of the Thanksgiving Food Drive. "This is an opportunity for the food bank to replenish their supplies they've given out through the fall, in preparation for Christmas."

The Rotary Club of Shelburne started the Thanksgiving Food Drive roughly 10 years ago with the hope of helping address food insecurity in the community.

Each year, the Shelburne Rotary Club uses funds from the Smile Cookie Campaign to purchase 1,000 paper grocery bags. These bags are given to students at Centre Dufferin District High School (CDDHS) to distribute to households around Shelburne.

The Rotary Club said they collect around



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HELPING OTHERS: Shelburne Rotary Club members have launched their annual Thanksgiving Food Drive in support of the Shelburne Food Bank. Grocery bags are distributed in the community and filled by residents.

500 bags of food each year through the Thanksgiving Food Drive, which is then given to the Shelburne Food Bank.

Residents who receive a grocery bag are then given the chance to fill the bag with items for the Shelburne Food Bank and leave them on the porch. Members of the local Rotary Club will be out on Oct. 11 to collect the items for the food drive.

"Food scarcity is a big issue in every community. This initiative recognizes that the food bank and all the great volunteers can't do it alone," said Waite. "We feel honoured that we can help the food bank fight food scarcity."

While all donations are appreciated, there is a particular need for items such as:

- Canned fruits, vegetables, and fish
- Boxed food, baking supplies, and condiments
- Personal hygiene products (tampons, shampoo, toothpaste, etc.)
- Peanut butter
- Pancake mix, syrup, and cereal
- Pasta sauce
- Bag lunch items for children (juice boxes, granola bars, etc.)

"Your generosity in supporting the Shelburne Food Bank is very much appreciated," said the Rotary Club of Shelburne.

For those who may miss the collection day, donations can be brought to Pumpkinfest, which will be held at Natasha Paterson Memorial Park on Oct. 11 from noon until 4 p.m.

Anyone interested in getting involved with the Rotary Club of Shelburne or in learning more about the projects the group organizes is encouraged to email ShelburneRotary@gmail.com or visit www.ShelburneRotaryClub.com.

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GREAT GULF

County Paramedic Services implementing Medical Priority Dispatch System

Written By PAULA BROWN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Changes are coming to 9-1-1 medical call dispatch in Dufferin County.

The County of Dufferin announced in a press release on Monday (Sept. 29) that starting in December, the provincial government would be implementing a dispatching system called the Medical Priority Dispatch System (MPDS).

"Our government is rolling out the Medical Priority Dispatch System in Dufferin County to ensure the right emergency services are sent to the right place, at the right time. By investing in this world-class technology, we are protecting communities in Dufferin County and beyond with state-of-the-art emergency care," said Sylvia Jones, MPP for Dufferin-Caledon.

Currently, most Central Ambulance Communications Centres (CACCs) in the province rely on a dispatching protocol known as Dispatch Priority Card Index (DPCI). It has been found that through the DPCI protocol, low-priority calls for ambulance service are often over-prioritized, resulting in depleting paramedic resources in communities.

The aim of the Medical Priority Dispatch System (MPDS) is to help prioritize life-threatening situations, meaning those in urgent need will get help faster.

How MPDS will work is when a person in Dufferin County calls 9-1-1 and requires paramedic services, dispatchers will ask

more detailed questions to better understand how serious the emergency is.

Dispatch calls that will be prioritized by DCPS will include emergencies like stroke, heart attack, severe allergic reaction, difficulty breathing, or major trauma.

While calls such as those from broken bones without bleeding, sprains, or flu-like symptoms will be considered lower-priority and will be responded to as quickly as possible.

On Sept. 25, Dufferin County Council received a mid-year report from Dufferin County Paramedic Chief Gary Staples regarding paramedic services in the community.

One of the statistics shared in the mid-year report was the number of incidents of "Code Zero" or "Code Red" that occurred from Jan. 1 to June 30. A Code Zero/Code Red is declared when there are no Dufferin County ambulances available to respond to an emergency.

According to the report, Dufferin County Paramedic Services had a total of 97 incidents of "Code Zero" or "Code Red" over the six-month period, resulting in 45 hours of zero ambulances available in Dufferin County.

These numbers are slightly down from 2024, when the DCPS reported a total of 220 Code Zero incidents that resulted in 105 hours of zero ambulances available in Dufferin County.

The report also noted that DCPS has received a total of 5,951 calls for service in the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NEW SYSTEM: The Dufferin County Paramedic Service is implementing the Medical Priority Dispatch System to ensure emergency calls are responded to based on severity. Life-threatening calls will be better prioritized under the new system.

first half of the year, and is projecting to see roughly 6,193 calls in the second half of the year. This is an 11 per cent increase from 2021.

"At Dufferin County Paramedic Service, our goal is to always get the right help to the right people at the right time. The new Medical Priority Dispatch System will support this goal by making sure that the most serious emergencies are handled first in our

community. Residents are reminded to stay calm when calling 9-1-1, always provide as much information as possible and if your condition changes, call 9-1-1 again immediately," said Chief Staples.

The Medical Priority Dispatch System has already been implemented in the regions of Toronto, Niagara, Kenora, Thunder Bay, Ottawa, Renfrew, Peel, Halton, Simcoe, York, and Kingston.

Shelburne council expresses concern over Strada Aggregates' proposed quarry expansion

Written By PAULA BROWN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Town of Shelburne is preparing to submit its comments and concerns regarding the proposed expansion of the Strada Aggregate quarry.

During their meeting on Monday (Sept. 22), Coun. Walter Benotto asked to discuss communications from the Township of Melancthon regarding the Strada Aggregate quarry application.

In the communications, the Township of Melancthon informed the surrounding communities that they had been notified of the application submission by Strada Aggregates for a quarry operation within its existing 360-acre sand and gravel pit, and the 60-day commenting period under the Aggregate Resources Act (ARA) had commenced as of Sept. 11

Coun. Benotto raised concerns about the application, particularly the lack of information on how increasing traffic for the proposed operation would impact the Shelburne community.

"All of their traffic study was done in Melancthon; none of it concerned Shelburne at all. I'm quite concerned at some point we need to speak up about [County Rd.] 124, if that's what they're using, because that's what they're stressing in their traffic report," said Benotto.

"We need to really make our concerns known regarding that, plus the fact we have people walking on the side of the road going to different stores. Even if we have a 40 [km/h speed limit], those are darn big trucks that'll be coming down and a lot of them," he added.

Denyse Morrissey, chief administrative officer for the Town of Shelburne, noted to

council that staff members are in the process of preparing comments on the proposal. She also added that the Town of Shelburne has existing data from past traffic studies, which will be used to prepare the comments.

"We're going to pull those files and update that data specific to Shelburne and the greater community," said Morrissey. "We have been working on our bypass; we have additional data to the safety, noise, and the wear and tear on our roads that would be a cost for us."

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.

The Town of Shelburne, as well as residents in Dufferin County, will have until Nov. 10 to submit their comments on the quarry application.

Haunt in the Park set to return in Shelburne

Continued from Front

To address the growing number of visitors, the Haunt in the Park has added another event date this year.

"We love all the enthusiasm from the people that are driving from far and standing in the line for many hours. We hope that we can continue to make it vibrant, exciting and fresh every year," said Little.

The Little Family Haunt in the Park events will be held on Oct. 24, 25, 31, and Nov. 1 from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. A 'Mini-Boo' will be held on Oct. 25 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for younger children.

With the temporary relocation of the Haunt in the Park comes different hurdles.

The Haunt in the Park is in need of volunteers ages 18 and up to serve as parking attendants to guide visitors through the KTH Manufacturing shipping dock, which will be active during the events, to the outbuilding.

"From an aspect of volunteering, it's not a romantic role. You're out there in potentially cold weather with a reflective vest, asking people to listen to you. But, without those volunteers we will not be able to open our



door because it will not be safe to have people crossing that live shipping deck otherwise," said Little.

At the time of print, Haunt in the Park is looking for parking attendant volunteers for their Oct. 25, Oct. 31, and Nov. 1 event. Eight parking attendant volunteers are required for each event.

Those interested in volunteering for a shift are asked to contact the Haunt in the Park through direct message on Facebook or by texting their volunteer coordinator, Stacey, at 905-751-7620.

Youth charged with armed robbery of downtown Orangeville business twice in three days

Officers from the Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have arrested one male in connection with an armed robbery at a retail store on Broadway in Orangeville.

On Sept. 18, a robbery occurred at knife-point at a retail location on Broadway. The suspect fled the scene before police arrived.

Two days later, on Sept. 20, the same male returned to the store and attempted to rob it again.

During this second incident, a struggle occurred between the suspect and store staff. The accused was overpowered and restrained

until officers from Dufferin OPP arrived and placed him under arrest.

A male, who cannot be identified under the Youth Criminal Justice Act, has been charged with the following offences:

- Armed Robbery (two counts)
- Disguise with Intent (two counts)

Anyone with information related to this investigation is asked to contact the Dufferin OPP Major Crime Unit at 1-888-310-1122. To remain anonymous, call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or visit www.crimestoppersdm.com.

You will not be asked to identify yourself, and you will not be required to testify in court.

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SPORTS

Royals girls' varsity basketball team, even after two games

Written By **BRIAN LOCKHART**

The Centre Dufferin District High School (CDDHS) Royals girls' varsity basketball team took its first loss of the season to the Westside Secondary School Thunder from Orangeville in the gym at CDDHS on Wednesday, Sept. 24.

Their first game of the season ended with a 17-14 win over Norwell District Secondary School on Sept. 22.

The Royals started off strong in Wednesday's game, putting out a huge effort early in the game.

The Westside team outscored them and kept up the pressure for the rest of the game. At the final buzzer, the Royals had to settle for a 49-9 loss.

The Royals had a poor start to the season when a structural failure closed the school gym, leaving the team without a place to practice before the season began. They did manage to get in some outdoor practice in the schoolyard.

The problem is now fixed, and the team can get in some much-needed practice time.

Although the Royals lost their Wednesday game, they are feeling confident of their skills on the court and are looking forward to some wins this season.

"We've only had one practice and that was

yesterday," explained Royals point guard Sienna James after Wednesday's game. "In today's game we did well in passing and switching around on the court to get open. In our last game, we were all over the place, and that was pretty stressful. I think our passing and getting open was a lot better this time."

Teammate Tea Saunders agreed that the team put out a good effort in the game.

"I think it was a good game," Tea said. "We were moving around way better in this game and our passes were a lot better than in the last game. Our shooting was better too - we had our shots, we just need to work on accuracy."

The Royals will have three road games before returning to their home court at Centre Dufferin on Friday, Oct. 3, when they will host Wellington Heights Secondary School. Game time is 2:30 p.m.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

WINNING MATCH: The Centre Dufferin District High School (CDDHS) Royals girls' varsity basketball team takes on the Westside Secondary School Thunder from Orangeville in the gym at CDDHS on Wednesday, Sept. 24. Royals' Tiana Benjamin brings the ball into the Westside zone during the third quarter. The Royals had to settle for a loss in this game and are now 1-1 for the season.



New Lowell Knights defeat Baysox in Game 7 to claim NBDL's Strother Cup

Written By **BRIAN LOCKHART**

The New Lowell Knights are the North Dufferin Baseball League champions after edging out the Owen Sound Baysox 5-4 in a dramatic Game 7 on Saturday, Sept. 27, in New Lowell.

The Baysox were last year's champions.

Owen Sound and New Lowell were separated by just one point in the regular season standings and traded wins in the final series.

Owen Sound won the first two games in the final best-of-seven series. New Lowell responded with two wins of their own.

Both teams won a single game during the previous weekend to force a decisive seventh game.

After a scoreless first inning, New Lowell scored twice in the second.

Owen Sound answered with a run in the third, but the Knights extended their lead with three more runs in the fourth to lead 5-1.

The Baysox rallied in the sixth inning when Steve Barrett hit a three-run home run over the centre-field fence to narrow the gap to one run.

Owen Sound threatened again in the seventh inning when Ryan Bartley laid down a bunt, but Ryan McNeill was tagged out at home trying to score the tying run.

With two outs, Greg Slater stepped up but struck out, sealing the win for New Lowell.

Adam Shaver led the Baysox offence with three singles. McNeill and Kevin Zettler each added two, while Robert Doyle, Bryan Post, and Nick Van Wyck chipped in singles. Barrett's late-inning home run was a pivotal moment in the Baysox comeback attempt.

Chris Greer paced the Knights with a triple and a single. Tanner Zeggil and Jake Nicholson each had two singles, while Tristan Cabral and Steve Bowman added one apiece.

Owen Sound leaned on power throughout the series, hitting a total of nine home runs. New Lowell countered with small ball tactics - bunting and clutch hitting to move runners and manufacture runs.

Knights starter Brandon Norrie, who was later named playoff MVP, threw five 1/3 innings, giving up four runs on eight hits, walking two, and striking out three.

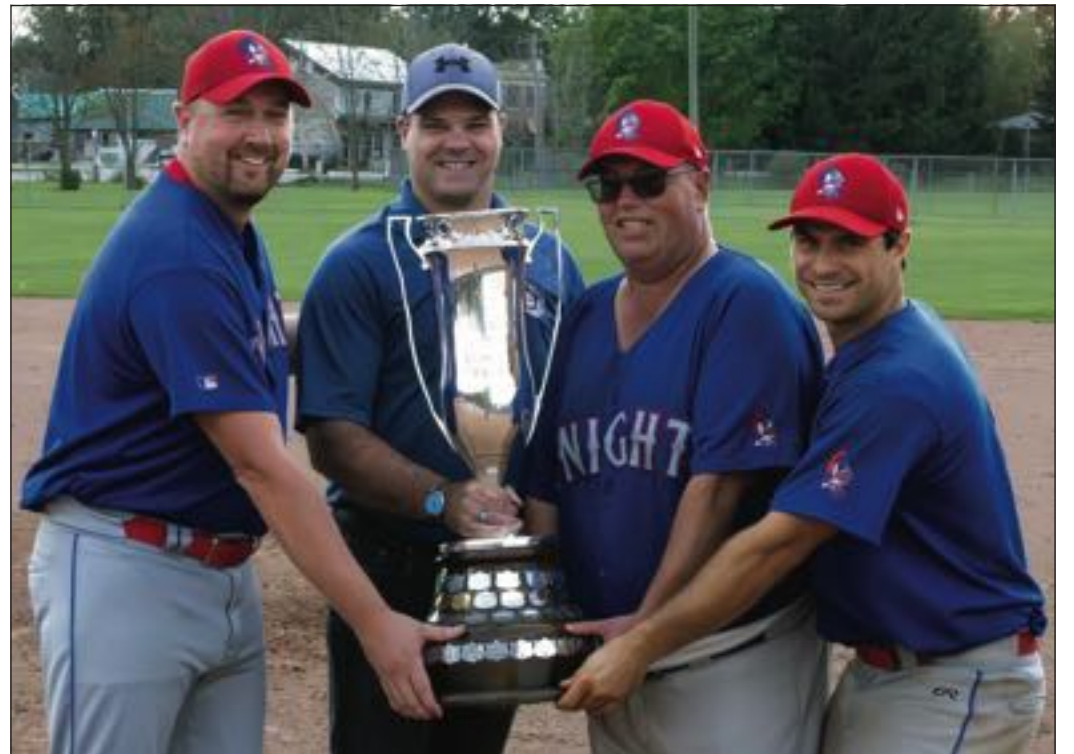
Young pitcher Nic Guthrie closed out the final with one 2/3 innings, allowing no runs on three hits and striking out one.

It was another successful season for the North Dufferin Baseball League.

After the game, league secretary and con-

venor Scott Anderson praised both teams for a hard-fought series and a thrilling final.

The championship Strother Cup was presented to Chris Rettie, Kurt Roy, and coach Pete Kinghan of the New Lowell Knights after the game.



DAVID ANDERSON PHOTOS

WINNING MATCH: The New Lowell Knights claimed the North Dufferin Baseball League 2025 Strother Cup championship with a 5-2 win over the Owen Sound Baysox on the diamond in New Lowell on Saturday, Sept. 27. League secretary Scott Anderson (second from left) presents the Strother Cup to Knights players Chris Rettie, Pete Kinghan, and Kurt Roy during a post-game presentation.



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

SEASON OPENER: The Centre Dufferin District High School Royals senior boys' soccer team takes on the Norwell District High School Varsity Reds on the soccer pitch at CDDHS on Monday, Sept. 22. It was the season opener, and the Royals left the field with a 2-1 win in their first game of the season.

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

ABI WILSON

An experienced field hockey player, CDDHS Royals member Abi Wilson has been playing the sport for all of her four years in high school.

"I like the vibe of the sport," Abi said. "All the girls are very nice and try to connect together. It's not a sport that you come into high school already playing, so everyone starts fresh in Grade 9. You build your skills together and work as a team."

Abi is also a member of the CDDHS rugby team.

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Shelburne Ethnic Group celebrates Navrati at Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex

Written By **BRIAN LOCKHART**

The Shelburne Ethnic Group gathered to celebrate Navrati at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex on Saturday, Sept. 27, in a colourful and lively event.

Navrati, meaning ‘nine nights,’ is one of India’s most vibrant and spiritually significant festivals, dedicated to worshipping Goddess Durga and her nine divine forms.

While it is celebrated with devotion across the country, the Gujarat and the Gujarati community hold a unique distinction in the way this festival is observed.

In Gujarat, Navrati is not only a religious occasion but also a grand cultural expression, marked by the world-famous Garba dance. Each evening, people dressed in colorful traditional attire gather in open grounds and community spaces to perform Garba in large circles, moving rhythmically to the beats of drums and folk songs.

The dance is performed around a decorated earthen pot with a lamp inside, symbolizing the eternal energy of the Goddess. The festival brings together people of all ages and backgrounds, creating an atmosphere of unity, joy, and devotion.

For Gujaratis, Navrati is both a celebration of faith and a proud showcase of their rich cultural heritage, which has now gained global recognition as communities across the world carry forward the tradition of Garba with the same enthusiasm.

Reflecting this spirit, the Shelburne Ethnic Group “Dufferin Garba Night – 2025” in Shelburne. The celebration witnessed an enthusiastic turnout of more than 200 people.

Dressed in vibrant attire, attendees enjoyed an evening filled with traditional Garba dancing, authentic Gujarati food, and festive cheer.

People from Shelburne, Orangeville, and surrounding areas came together to celebrate, making the event a true reflection of cultural pride, community spirit, and the joy of Navrati.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

WINNING MATCH: Revellers in colourful garb dance the night away at Navrati, a celebration worshipping Hindu Goddess Durga, at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex in Shelburne on Saturday, Sept. 27. Over 200 participants turned out for the celebration.



PETER RICHARDSON PHOTOS

AGRICULTURAL EXCELLENCE: Attendees of the 26th Annual Dufferin Farm Tour on Sept. 27 enjoyed tractor and horse drawn wagon rides, seeing animals and harvesting operations up close and a 35,000 sq. ft. automated dairy farming operation. It was a fun day for the entire family and an opportunity to see the state of agriculture in Dufferin County.



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Belfountain Bicentennial this weekend: Here's what you need to know

Written By RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Belfountain Heritage Society has been working for months to prepare a day of fun celebrating Belfountain's 200th Birthday and history.

Sarah Bohan, President, Belfountain Heritage Society & Chair, Belfountain Bicentennial Committee, said the bicentennial is a "great way that the Region of Peel, Town of Caledon, and the community can come together to deliver a phenomenal celebration."

The day will go from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., with parades, live music, and ceremonies in between.

While celebrations are underway, road closures will be in effect on Bush Street and Mississauga Road off of Woodland Ct.

They will be closed from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., so be sure to plan ahead of time.

Free shuttles will run throughout the event, starting at 9:30 a.m. and continuing until 6 p.m., with service provided as needed.

The free parking and shuttle service will operate from the Caledon Ski Club's West Lodge, located at 17431 Mississauga Road.

The parade will begin shortly after the event starts at 11 a.m.

It will feature the Sandhill Pipes & Drums Band, the 2nd York Militia & Canadian Volunteers of 1812 re-enactment company, horses, vintage cars, the Erin Air Cadets, and more.

Those in attendance are encouraged to arrive and dress in vintage or heritage attire.

Those interested in participating in the parade must pre-register at www.belfountain-heritage.com/parade-sign-up#registration.

Following the parade will be the opening ceremonies, during which a commemorative statue unveiling will take place, as well as the unveiling of a historical plaque from the Town of Caledon.

During the opening ceremony, guests will be invited to view the community garden and Indigenous placemaking feature in Belfountain.

This project involved collaboration with the Belfountain Heritage Society partner with the Region of Peel consulted with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nations and the Town of Caledon to create this healing garden.

Mississaugas of the Credit First Nations provided ideas on traditional plantings and a planter.

The canoe is made of cedar, and inside are traditional indigenous plants.

The MCFN logo and reference to the Ajetance Treaty #19, 1818 – the words "As Long as the River Flows" – is an expression used in early treaties to suggest a relationship that will last forever, or as long as the river flows or grass grows.

Following the opening ceremony, live music will begin at 12:45 p.m.

This will feature MAXIMUM 60s and Golden Country Classics Band.

Historical re-enactments will begin at Forsters Park at 1.30 p.m. and run until 4.30 p.m.

This event will include battle re-enactments, mini-militia, and musket demonstrations.

Also featured at the event will be a scavenger hunt, Heritage Art Show and displays, and a Vendors' Market. There will also be free horse-drawn wagon rides.

Donuts will be supplied from Downey's Farm, and apples and apple cider from Spirit Tree Estate Cidery.

Brar's in Erin Mills will be supplying samosas.

For this day only, everyone will be a "Belfountain Resident", and can enter Credit Valley Conservation's Belfountain property for free.

They will also have various displays available.

To commemorate this day of celebration and parade, the Belfountain Heritage Society has been drawing inspiration from the 150th celebration old photographs and videos.

This year's event will feature a videographer and photographer to ensure that, for years to come, and possibly even during the 250th celebration, residents and community members can look back and remember this historical moment.

Bohan shared that they are incredibly proud to have this unique opportunity to celebrate the community and that the community stepped up to volunteer and make it happen.

To volunteer with the event, visit www.belfountain-heritage.com/volunteer.

A final free art and poster workshop will be held at the Belfountain Community Hall on Saturday, September 27.

Theatre Orangeville showcases Norm Foster's wit and heart with 'The Writer'

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES

Last week, Theatre Orangeville hosted *The Norm Effect*, a multi-day celebration honouring the works of Norm Foster. The event featured staged readings of some of his most beloved plays, including *On a First Name Basis*, *The Writer*, and *Jonas & Barry in the Home*.

Foster is one of Canada's most produced playwrights, with over 80 plays to his credit. Known for his sharp wit, warmth, and ability to balance humour with heartfelt storytelling, his works have been performed across Canada and beyond. In 2016, Foster was awarded the Order of Canada in recognition of his contributions to Canadian theatre and his lasting impact on audiences across the country.

For this unique event, Theatre Orangeville welcomed Foster himself, who performed alongside a roster of well-known theatre names. For many in the audience, it was a rare opportunity to see Foster not only as a writer but as a performer, breathing life into his own characters.

On Sept. 19, Foster appeared on stage with Jamie Williams in *The Writer*.

The play follows Donald Wellner, an accomplished playwright, and his son Blake during their yearly visits after Donald's di-

voice. Donald masks his loneliness and regret with humour, but over time, it becomes clear that he is slipping into dementia. As Blake struggles to connect with his father, the truth of the family's past – and the weight of their changing relationship – gradually comes into focus.

The Writer is a masterclass in minimalism. The entire performance was staged with only two chairs and a table holding a typewriter. This stripped-down setting was far from bare; it carried symbolic weight for the characters. The chairs recalled the atmosphere of a talk-show set, a nod to Donald's past career highs and his need for an audience, while the typewriter anchored Blake's own career as a writer.

The result was a stage picture that represented the play's themes of memory, legacy, and identity.

The choice to present the play as a staged reading meant the production relied almost entirely on the performances. With limited physical action, the actors had to command attention through voice, expression, and timing – and both Foster and Williams rose to the challenge and delivered.

Foster infused Donald with charm, wit, and bravado, while allowing just enough hesitation and fragility to seep through.

His performance balanced the humour

audiences expect from his writing with poignant hints of what lies beneath – a lonely man struggling to hold on to his identity. Every pause before a joke and each understated compliment to Blake revealed the vulnerability that Donald worked so hard to conceal.

Williams, as Blake, was equally compelling. He captured the frustration of a son trying to connect with a stubborn father while still juggling his own career and responsibilities.

His portrayal of concern was subtle and believable. He mirrored the real ways families often address dementia – gently correcting, softly encouraging, or allowing small confusions to pass unchallenged. Williams' quiet patience built a sense of authenticity that connected with the audience.

The play's most powerful moment came at the end. When Blake realizes his father is no longer truly present, Williams shifts from composed strength to raw grief in a matter of seconds. The emotional wave swept the theatre, leaving a lingering silence in the air. It was the kind of moment that reminds audiences why live theatre carries such power.

Throughout the evening, the audience was engaged from start to finish. What began as a cheeky comedy earned steady laughs, but as Donald's decline became clearer, the tone in the room shifted.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By intermission, one audience member could be heard whispering, "Oh my god," before the lights dimmed, capturing the stunned reaction that hung over the crowd.

The second act carried heavy emotions, as the audience prepared to say goodbye to Donald alongside Blake. By the end, it wasn't just Blake losing his father – it was every member of the audience saying farewell to a character they had grown attached to in just one evening. That kind of impact speaks volumes about the writing, the direction, and ultimately, the performances.

Taken as part of *The Norm Effect*, *The Writer* was more than just a play. It stood as a reminder of Foster's gift for weaving contrasting themes together in ways that reflect the human experience.



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Melancthon man wins \$100,000 through ENCORE in recent LOTTO MAX draw

A Melancthon man recently won \$100,000 in a LOTTO MAX draw.

Ricardo Rosa of Melancthon matched the last six of seven ENCORE numbers in exact order in the Aug. 1 LOTTO MAX draw to win the six figure cash prize.

"Ricardo, a maintenance manager, has been a loyal lottery player with OLG for decades. He enjoys playing LOTTO MAX and LOTTO 6/49, using OLG's Quick Pick feature to make his selections and always adding ENCORE to his tickets," said OLG in a press release on Sept. 25.

Now, 56-year-old Rosa is thrilled to share the story of his first big win.

"I went to the store to buy water and decided to pick up a ticket," Rosa recalled, while visiting the OLG Prize Centre in Toronto to claim his winnings. "After the draw, I checked it and realized it was a winner. I was so shocked — I couldn't believe it! When it finally sank in, it was very exciting."

Ricardo revealed the incredible news to his family.

"They were stunned," he said with a smile. "Everyone's very happy."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

WINNER, WINER: Ricardo Rosa, 56, of Melancthon, recently won \$100,00 through LOTTO MAX's ENCORE. The winning ticket was purchased at Circle K in Shelburne.

With his windfall, he plans to pay off some bills, share with his family, and treat himself to something special.

Rosa's winning ticket was purchased at Circle K on Main Street East in Shelburne.

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Pickup: Sat Oct 18th, 10am – 5pm. Call or text if you need more information.

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Saturday October 18, 9:30am

554447 Mono-Amaranth TLine, Mono, ON — Go west through Orangeville on Hwy 9 to County Rd 16 (Veterans Way at Greenwood Cemetery), turn north 5 miles to farm on East side. OR From Shelburne go east on Hwy 89 for 2 miles to Mono-Amaranth Townline, turn south & go 5 miles to farm on East side.

Tractors, Combine: Agco 5670 4x4 tractor, Quicke 310 loader, material bucket, 3983hrs; JD 3520 loader tractor 1176hrs, good cond; White 1370 loader tractor; 3910 Ford tractor, 4290hrs; White 7300 diesel combine, 13' grain head, 3 row corn head. **Trailers/Vehicle/Motorcycle:** 6'x12' bumper hitch enclosed trailer; 1100cc Yamaha V-Star Classic motorcycle; 2009 Jeep Cherokee North Edition. **Mach/Equip:** 6' Lely Turf Shaper; 12' cultivator; 7' 1-auger snowblower; bale spear, ALO hookup; Gehl 175 manure spreader; manure bucket; Gehl 250 tandem manure spreader; 800 gal plastic nurse tank on Horst double-reach wagon; JD 415A, 2 furrow plow; JD 78 grader blade; HLA 72" manure forks; Gehl 250 tandem manure spreader; Demco 800gal nurse tank on Horst undercarriage; Bruns 300bu hopper wagon; Marwood Buzzsaw - only used 2yrs; Sovena 5ft 3pth rototiller; Bushog 3pth wood splitter; Kverneland 4 furrow plow; NH 326 haybine; Case 8450 round baler; Heston 555 round baler; Heston 1120 haybine; 18' disc. **Farm Rel/ Shop/Misc:** Red tool case on wheels; (3)lawn seeders; air hose line; motors; shop light; leaf blower; Kawartha Kutter snowmobile tow sled; Karrite - car roof storage; Delta checker-plate truck tool box; sm metal Coca-Cola cooler; sm pig feeder; (2)hammer drills; (3)Nelson automatic waterers; chainsaw sharpener; (2)sea cans (8'x8'x20' & 8'x8'x40')-purchasers to remove; 220V motor; Champion 5625, 4500W generator; tensile wire, Echo leaf blower; Stihl MS271 chainsaw; 2550psi pressure washer; (2)chicken crates; (3)farm gates; tractor roll-over bar; hammer mill motor; (2)sm motors; (2)crosscut saws(A); calf bowls; grain funnel; wheelbarrow style air comp with Honda motor; elec chain hoist; set of 360gal truck saddle tanks & mounts; tire balancer; (75+)sheets of aspenite-mostly 7/16"-new; 200+ 8ft 2x4's - new; (14) bush cord white ash, stacked 2 yrs; 5-knuckle metal bender; (2)charge point elec car commercial units; Win-Sweep commercial leaf blower; PIAB dynamometer; (5)Multilin; qty cedar logs; welders; commercial electrical cable handling; log skidder tracks; garden rototiller. **HH & Antiques(selling promptly at 9:30am -be on time):** (A)antique: Washstand(A); dresser(A); 3 pane coloured glass window(A); leaded glass front 2-door bookshelf(A); wood hand hay rake(A); doors(A); sideboard(A); Sad irons(A); (14+) oil lamps(A); depression glass pieces(A); table lamp with round globe(A); washstand(A); pitcher & bowl set; dresser with oval mirror(A); school hand bell(A); (2)sideboards(A); Royal Sovereign sign machine; 8-10 rolls for sign machine; GBC Sichinger USPI3 Universal speed punch; Maizex dealer sign(NIB); and many more items!

****Watch the website as items being added regularly****

Lunch Booth & Washroom provided

Preview: 1-6pm, Friday Oct. 17th

Auctioneers: Kevin McArthur (519) 942-0264 Scott Bessey (519) 843-5083

Email: mcarthurbessey@gmail.com

www.theauctionadvertiser.com/KMcArthur - full listing & photos

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER!

Together we can make a difference



Shelburne Public Library to feature fun lineup of events through the fall

The Shelburne Public Library has been doing some great planning over the last few weeks and has an excellent lineup of events this fall:

- Oct. 22 at 7 p.m. – Coffee, Conversation & Books featuring Hugh Russel
- Oct. 23 at 6 p.m. – Five Steps to Write a Piece of Your Family History with Cynthia Young
- Oct. 25 at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. – Safe Driving for Seniors (Safe Winter Driving at 10:30 a.m., and Senior Driver License Renewal at 1 p.m.)

- Oct. 28 at 6 p.m. – Haunted Dufferin with MoD
 - Nov. 5 at 2 p.m. – Beyond the Uniform: Honouring Military Service and Building Communities with Dr. Darryl Cathcart
 - Nov. 6 at 6 p.m. – Butterfly Bereavement Project with Bethel Hospice
 - Dec. 6 at 10 a.m. – Shelburne Public Library's Annual Silent Auction & Book Sale
- Please visit the Shelburne Library's website or call 519-925-2168 to register for any of the above events or for more information.

Recommended Read
"Framed in Death" by J.D. Robb-Manhattan is filled with galleries and deep-pocketed collectors who can make an artist's career with a wave of a hand. But one man toils in obscurity, his brilliance unrecognized, while lesser talents bask in the glory he believes should be his. Come tomorrow, he vows, the city will be buzzing about his work. Indeed, before dawn, Lt. Eve Dallas is speeding toward the home of the two gallery owners whose doorway has been turned into a horrifying crime scene overnight.

Why Rose Recommends It: I have been reading J.D. Robb for so long that I think if I were presented with any page of her writing, I could identify it by language and tone alone!
 Set in the not-so-distant future, Eve Dallas is a heroine known for her tenacity and ability to track down the most formidable opponents.
 Her skills are much needed as the high art world intersects with a culprit who has access to an abundance of money and contacts to help him evade justice.

Minimum wage increase of 40 cents per hour goes into effect across province

Hourly minimum wage for Ontario workers increased from \$17.20 to \$17.60 on Oct. 1

Written By SAM ODROWSKI
 LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Over 800,000 minimum wage workers across Ontario received a pay raise yesterday.

The Ontario government enacted a minimum wage increase from \$17.20 to \$17.60 per hour on Oct. 1. This represents a 2.4 per cent increase in pay, which was based on the Ontario Consumer Price Index (CPI). The Ontario CPI measures inflation by tracking the changes in prices of goods sold within the province.

The Ontario government says this pay raise delivers on the government's plan to protect and support workers while keeping Ontario competitive amidst U.S. tariffs. "At a time when many families are feel-

ing the pressure of global economic uncertainty, our government will protect Ontario workers with a minimum wage increase that supports our world-class workforce," said David Piccini, Ontario's Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development. "We will continue to take action to build a strong, resilient workforce ready to face whatever comes our way."

A minimum wage worker who clocks 40 hours per week will see an annual pay increase of \$832.

Approximately 36 per cent of workers previously at or below the wage of \$17.60 per hour were in retail, while 23 per cent work in accommodation and food services.

"This increase is just one of the ways

the government is delivering on its plan to protect Ontario workers. Since its launch in 2021, Ontario has invested \$1.5 billion through the SDF Training Stream and Capital Stream to help train more than one million workers for in-demand careers," reads a statement by the Ontario government. "As announced in the 2025 Budget: A Plan to Protect Ontario, the government is investing \$1 billion more through the Skills Development Fund over the next three years, bringing the total to \$2.5 billion, to support key industrial sectors and help train even more workers."

The province's minimum wage has increased to \$17.60 from \$14 over the past seven years.

Ontario now has the second-highest provincial minimum wage rate in Canada.



British Columbia remains the province with the highest minimum wage rate, paying \$17.85 per hour.

County of Dufferin to donate decommissioned ambulance to West Africa in support of global healthcare

Continued from Page 3

County Coun. Philip Rentsch, Deputy Mayor for Grand Valley, asked about the decision to donate the decommissioned ambulance to a U.S.-based non-profit rather than a Canadian charity doing similar work.

"I was approached by an organization in Ontario about the opportunity for a donation to this non-profit that is from the US. I had the opportunity to meet the individual who is the founder and he shared his story,"

explained Chief Staples. "The reason why it went to this organization was because this company from Ontario approached me and asked if we would be willing to do this and how they would go about getting an ambulance to donate."

Chief Staples added that the repurposing of the decommissioned ambulance would have no cost to Dufferin County, and would result in no financial gain, as the recipient is a non-for-profit.

"This Ontario company is funding the

shipment, transport, and refurbishment of the ambulance to get it over to Africa," said Staples.

Coun. Rentsch also asked how much decommissioned ambulances are typically sold for.

"It depends on the age of the ambulance. Since we're having issues procuring since COVID, our ambulances that are now being decommissioned are over seven-year-old," said Chief Staples, before adding that the last successful public sale of a decommis-

sioned DCPS ambulance sold for \$9,000.

According to the report, the DCPS decommissioned ambulance was listed for sale on GovDeals, but received no bids.

"I think it's great that we're doing it, and we should probably look into doing it more," said Coun. Rentsch about the donation.

Council approved the report and directed Chief Staples to proceed with the donation of the decommissioned ambulance to Keneya Ni Kalan Institute.

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2021 RAM 1500 LARAMIE CREW 4X4



STK# U528026 • 141,428 KM • 5.7L HEMI V8, 8-SPEED AUTOMATIC, 3.21 AXLE, 5.7FT RAMBOX, NAV, UCONNECT12, PANORAMIC SUNROOF, HEATED/COOLED LEATHER BUCKETS, HEATED SECOND ROW, HARMAN KARDON AUDIO, REMOTE START, DUAL ZONE CLIMATE, LARAMIE LEVEL 2 GROUP, 360 CAMERA, PARK ASSIST, ADAPTIVE CRUISE, SAFETY TECH, TOW PACKAGE, HEADS UP DISPLAY!

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