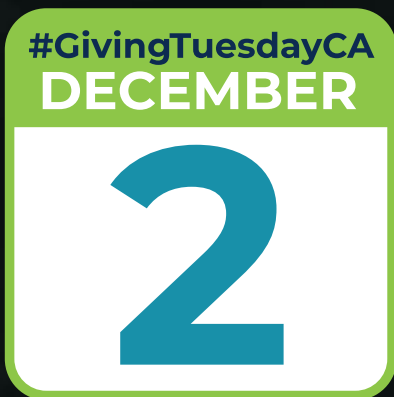




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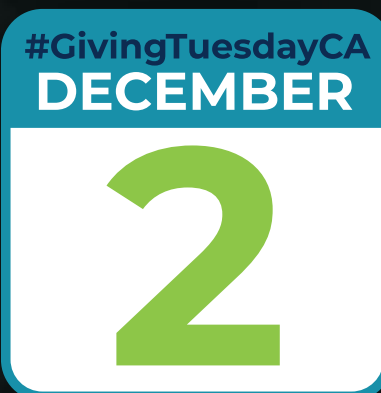


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JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

YOU ARE NOT ALONE: Staff from Bethell Hospice, including Executive Director Margaret Paan, unveiled the Butterfly Bereavement display at Headwaters Health Care Centre (HHCC), joined by the hospital's CEO and President Kim Delahunt. The displays will be visible to all those passing through the Ambulatory Care Wing. The circular arrangements of the displays are to represent the cycle of life and the processing of grief and loss. Read more on Page 7.

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Shelburne Council approves 5 per cent tax increase

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Town of Shelburne approved its 2026 municipal budget with a 5 per cent tax increase, despite total operating costs rising to roughly \$15.57 million, representing a 14 per cent increase over 2025.

The town used funds from reserves and savings from its switch to the OPP to reduce the tax increase in the 2026 budget.

Town expenses are rising across nearly every department. Operations, including roads, traffic, and maintenance, increased in cost by nearly \$500,000 from 2025 to 2026, while recreation costs rose by roughly \$660,000. The Town of Shelburne said that these rises are the result of inflation, growth-related needs and the general costs of providing services to a growing town.

Normally, that large an increase in operating costs would be accompanied by a large tax increase to offset it, but because the town had previously planned ahead, there were several options to explore.

The town said switching to OPP policing was a key factor in offsetting rising operating costs. The town is projected to save

roughly \$2 million in 2026 through the OPP, and the town utilized just over \$500,000 of that money to help keep taxes down. The remaining funds were put in a reserve account to cover future costs.

The immediate impact on taxpayers will be a 5 per cent tax increase. What that means for residents is that, on average, they will pay an additional \$145.94 per year, or \$12.16 per month.

The town's capital budget in 2026 totals just over \$8.4 million. Almost half of this, totalling nearly \$4.3 million, will go into infrastructure work, specifically on Pinegrove Avenue.

Meanwhile, roughly \$2.5 million will be going into operations. This will include new equipment for the town and expansions of the town's workshop and cold storage. An additional \$1.37 million will go to Parks and Recreation. Just under \$200,000 will go towards Town Hall, By-Law and cemetery. The By-Law Department is purchasing a new vehicle, and a new Columbarium will be installed at Shelburne's cemetery. There is also a focus on updating HVAC.

Separately, \$2.57 million will be going into Water & Wastewater Capital Projects,

\$1.35 million will go towards repainting the exterior of the old water tower, and \$955,000 will be used for Well number 1 Upgrades and Well number 9 Engineering. As well, \$250,000 is going to the Wastewater Pollution Control Plant design and engineering costs, and \$15,000 is for fencing around the Hyland Village Pump house.

The town stressed that these projects will not have a heavy impact on taxpayers, as only 1 per cent of funding will come from taxes. The rest will be drawn from other sources, such as reserves and development charges.

Despite concerns about the 5 per cent budget increase, it was largely accepted and commended by the town council and community members in attendance.

Alan Selby, a Dufferin County resident and retired treasurer for the County of Dufferin, was thoroughly impressed by the approach taken by town staff in assembling this budget. He especially applauded the town for never relying on the short-lived automated speed enforcement (ASE) program to generate town revenue.

Continued on Page 3

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Council condemns Ford government's handling of ASE ban

Over 90 per cent of speeding tickets were issued to non-residents while speed cameras were active

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Shelburne council rejected what it called “unsupported claims” by Premier Ford that speed cameras were “total cash grabs” during its Monday, Nov. 24 meeting. Council said the premier's irresponsible approach to banning Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) has resulted in unwarranted hostility towards town staff.

Following the Ford government's move to ban automated speed enforcement across the province, the Town of Shelburne has condemned the handling of the situation, saying that Ford's fast-tracking of the ban, without meaningful public debate or consultation, was irresponsible.

Shelburne Mayor Wade Mills said he believes Ford mishandled the program in its entirety, reminding council and meeting observers that it was originally a program Ford endorsed.

“I think the way this was handled by our premier was unfair and dangerous, quite frankly, to municipal staff,” he said.

“Let's remember that this was a provincially initiated program. This was a program that the province decided that it wanted to follow.”

He continued by criticizing the premier's rhetoric surrounding the ban, which the mayor said put town employees in the crosshairs of disgruntled people.

“People change their minds, but to do it in such a way as to accuse municipalities of being tax grabbers and greedy, I think it really puts our staff in the crosshairs of some angry residents who were feeding off the rhetoric used by the premier,” he said.

“Again, he is the premier; he's entitled to change his mind, but I think the way (he) handled it all was irresponsible.”

Mayor Mills' comments were echoed by Councillor Len Guchardi, who praised town staff for weathering the hostility from upset locals and harshly condemned Ford's rhetoric.

“I want to commend the staff for having to deal with the hostility that was created by the comments made by the premier,” he said. “Shame on (him), he owes every municipality in this province an apology for how he put our staff in peril and created a situation where unwarranted hostility was directed at them.”

Guchardi also said that Ford used municipalities as scapegoats while avoiding

any responsibility on the provincial level.

“Remember, from 2022 this province collected approximately 30 per cent of every ticket that went right back to provincial coffers,” he said. “So to absolve themselves of saying ‘hey, it's not a tax grab for us’ and then turn around and say that the municipalities are the villains – it is unethical.”

The town has released data collected by its ASE cameras in the roughly two months they were active.

From Sept. 5, when their cameras went up, to Nov. 14, when they were deactivated, the town said that the cameras captured 2.1 million vehicles and issued 57,055 penalty orders. This averaged to 827 penalties per day.

According to the town, 65 per cent of the tickets were speeding violations along the Main Street East and West routes that run through town.

Local residents were also observed to be the extreme minority among speeding ticket recipients, with over 92 per cent of tickets issued to non-residents.

As a result of the cameras, town staff said they observed reductions in speed of three to five kilometres per hour in ASE zones, demonstrating, in their words, a

tangible effect on speeding.

Mayor Mills said that the irony now is that local taxpayers will be paying more for speed enforcement going forward, as the town will need to redirect resources to other methods.

“We're moving from a system where those who violate the law are penalized with a ticket, to a system where now we're all paying for it,” Mayor Mills noted.

Shelburne residents were mostly unaffected by the speed cameras, with the majority of speeders being out-of-town residents.

Now, the town said, everyone will be affected as additional costs will be needed to invest in different forms of speed enforcement, and physical checks like speed bumps will slow everyone down.

An additional briefing will be presented in early 2026 with the full financial details of the Town of Shelburne's ASE program. This will include total revenue collected while it was operational.

As previously reported, because the town chose a revenue-sharing option rather than outright purchase of the cameras, there will be no immediate cost to taxpayers due to the cancellation of the ASE program.

Shelburne Christmas Hampers brings essential goods to families in need

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Times can get tough during the holidays, but a local initiative in Shelburne is stepping up to support families in need.

The Shelburne Hamper Assistance Program is a locally sourced and run initiative that provides food and other essential supplies to families during the holiday season. They are veterans of the community, having been in operation for over 50 years.

Bobbi Ferguson, chair of the program, said the initiative has taken many forms and operated in many ways, but the core mission has always been the same – helping those who need it.

“Well, we got started before my time, maybe 65 to 70 years ago,” she said. “It was started by the Lions Club, and they would basically collect a basket and drop it off at people's houses that (they) felt needed the extra help. It's changed a lot over

the years, but people come to us through the food bank now, we don't decide who needs help.”

Ferguson continued by saying that since she took over the initiative, the demand has exploded. More families than ever before are asking for help.

“When I took over about 10 years ago, we were getting between 50 to 60 families a year,” she said. “And now, as of this year, we're anticipating about 300. It's obviously been ramping up year over year. Part of it is, of course, getting the word out so more people now know about us. But then COVID happened. This program has become well-utilized in the community.”

Despite the high demand in such a small town, Ferguson has been able to keep the initiative organized, in part through a more recent plan to coordinate the collection of items across town, from food to toiletries.

Now, individual locations will focus on one specific item to add to care packages. “During COVID, at one point, it was ba-

sically everybody was working on their own, doing their own thing,” Ferguson said. “I thought, why are we all trying to do the same thing? Why aren't we working together?”

“We approached the churches and said, instead of just choosing items randomly, throwing them into a box, and then sorting, what if we all picked one item and focused on collecting that item?” she added. “That could be bodywash, toothpaste, toilet paper. It was a very helpful change.”

The approach is working. The initiative is well appreciated by locals, and some individuals who once depended on its generosity are turning their success stories into return investments.

“I've started to run across it a few times already, that people who had used the hampers in the past are now coming back to help us help others now,” Ferguson said. “They said, ‘You made a huge difference in my childhood, and now we're helping.’ They're huge advocates now, and they've

even gotten their companies involved.”

“It's just so gratifying to hear that these people, whose lives were impacted by the hampers, are back now to help others,” she added.

Currently, the Hamper Assistance Program is actively accepting donations of both physical items and monetary support. There are several locations around town to drop off items.

“There are giving trees set up at Enchanting Esthetics & More, RISE Physio and Wellness, and RLB,” Ferguson said. “Then we also have two reindeers collecting toys and canned goods at Town Hall and the Royal Bank.”

As the holiday season approaches and the cold weather sets in, the Shelburne Hamper Assistance Program is doing its part to make sure no one is left out in the cold.

To learn more, head to their Facebook page titled “Shelburne Christmas Hampers.”

Shelburne Council approves 2026 budget with 5 per cent tax increase

Continued from FRONT

“I have been a municipal treasurer for 35 years. I want to start with some compliments, another fantastic job, well done,” he said. “I want to start off by commenting on ASE. I want to compliment your council for when you were doing your budget for last year. You didn't take the temptation to say, ‘Oh look, here's a new revenue source.’”

“You put an estimate in your budget for ASE revenue to be put into reserve, so it had zero impact on your bottom line,” Selby added.

He commended the town for planning ahead, as the ASE now won't have a negative impact on the 2026 budget, and there's no lost revenue to recover.

Selby continued by saying he was impressed to see the town keeping a maximum tax increase despite the rising costs of operations. He again applauded the town for being proactive, putting aside money from the OPP, and using reserves from previous years to offset the roughly 14 per cent increase of town costs.

Selby said that it's a big help for those on a fixed income like himself.

“I'm now a senior living on a fixed income, I want to say I have no objection to going with a 5 per cent (increase),” he said.

“I understand it could have been 12 or 13 per cent, easily, if it wasn't for the policing savings and reserves.”

He urged the town to continue building up its reserves.

“We start building reserves now, and we keep building them,” Selby said. “Don't backtrack, don't quit. Keep it up, and I give you kudos.”

In summary, the town has achieved its goal of maintaining a maximum 5 per cent increase in its share of property taxes, despite rising costs reaching 14 per cent. This is accomplished in no small part by the town's focus on building up its reserves in advance.

As of Nov. 13, the budget was considered adopted.

For more information on the budget, consult the public presentation here, and the official budget breakdown here.

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OPINION

It's getting hot in here!

There is an old fable of sorts about a frog in boiling water that is meant as a warning for a person's inability to see, or lack of awareness, of a rising threat.

The frog is placed in a bowl of water that is heated over a period of time. Because the temperature rises so slowly, the little amphibian doesn't realize how warm it is becoming.

It gets hotter and hotter, and when the water reaches a boiling point, it is too late, and the frog dies without realizing the growing threat that ended its life.

Obviously, you can't take this moral fable all that seriously as a tale. Any normal frog would just hop out of the bowl when the water temperature became uncomfortable. He's a frog, not a snail, so animal rights activists don't have to worry about this.

However, the slow-moving threat is very real in our everyday lives and citizens in this country are starting to respond.

Once again, the federal government is going after legal gun owners, banning more firearms and starting buy-back programs, while at the same time giving illegal gun owners a slap on the wrist for gun crimes.

Legal gun owners do not cause problems.

Criminals with illegal guns do cause problems.

Just ask any police officer how he feels when called to an area where there is a possibility some thug has a pistol stuck in his waistband.

However, the courts and the federal government continually go after those who lawfully own guns and follow the laws about the use and storage of firearms.

If you think being disarmed isn't a big deal, do some research on 20th century world history and see how many hundreds of millions of people were killed by world governments after disarming the population.

I could print some of that history here, but the list is too long.

The water is also getting a little too warm when it comes to free speech. Laws and more laws are being made around 'hate speech.'

Hate speech is difficult to define. What may be considered 'hateful' to some may be seen as just bad social form to someone else.

It is the fact that speech is being attacked at all is the scary part. Imagine being charged

and jailed for having an opinion?

You can be charged, and rightfully so, for threatening someone, however, having a different opinion should not ever land someone behind bars.

I noticed there is a growing number of groups that are trending across the country that are now starting a movement to restore our nation to what it was, and should be.

I've monitored some of these groups quite closely, just as an interest. I've never seen any notion of violence, threatening behaviour, or illegal activity.

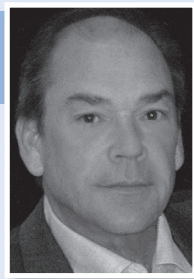
They are just citizens who want the government to listen to them. They are tired of the water being heated and want the heat turned off.

Talking to many people over the past couple of years, I've noticed that there are many people who feel the same way. They will speak about it in private, but not publicly, because they know that announcing a public opinion could get you labelled as 'phobic', 'fascist,' or the popular 'nazi.'

I'm sure a lot of people who use those terms don't even know what they mean.

I was at a small gathering a few years ago.

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



There was one woman there who was actually a very friendly and pleasant person.

She was a bit of an activist of sorts, and I think her one flaw was that she would spend too much time in a social setting telling everyone of her political views. Most people I know didn't appreciate that.

She made a reference to a person, and followed up by saying, 'He's a nazi.'

I couldn't let that slide, and said 'You mean he's a member of a political party?'

She replied, 'No, not a political party, he's a nazi.'

I chose not to point out her error.

Many people are not happy with the current situation, both economically and socially in the country.

These new groups at least intend to have a voice and make our politicians listen to them rather than towing the line and being afraid to speak up and agree that we have to get a grip and keep our cultural integrity intact.

If the water does start to boil, it will be too late.

Iran: Drought, incompetence, and maybe revolution

Twenty years of strict sanctions on Iran by both the United States and the United Nations did not bring down the regime of the ayatollahs. Half a dozen major waves of non-violent protest involving several thousand deaths have not brought it down either. Even last June's massive bombing campaign by Israel and the United States did not bring it to heel.

But the lack of water may do what all those other challenges failed to do: destroy the rule of the religious extremists who seized power in Iran in 1979 and have turned the country into an international pariah. The oldest part of every religion is purely transactional, and in Tehran the imams are praying for rain.

They should pray quite hard, because President Masoud Pezeshkian warned last month that "There is no water behind the dams. The wells beneath our feet are also running dry... If it doesn't rain, we'll have to start rationing water in [November]."

Well, it hasn't started raining yet and we are running out of November, so what

should people do next? "If the lack of rainfall continues past that, we simply won't have water and will have to evacuate Tehran," Pezeshkian said. All ten million people? Where would the government put them, given that the other 80 million Iranians are also suffering from a drought now in its fifth year?

Nobody knows. If President Pezeshkian sounds well-intentioned but hopeless and basically useless, that's because he's not really the government. For the past 45 years, all the big decisions in Iran have been made not by the elected parliament but by the unelected 'Supreme Leader', a role that has been filled since 1989 by Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Ayatollahs are the supreme religious authorities in the Twelver strand of Shia Islam that prevails in Iran and Iraq. They are not necessarily secular leaders, but in the turbulent aftermath of the Iranian revolution of 1979 that overthrew the monarchy an ayatollah called Ruhollah Khomeini sought and gained absolute power in Iran. Khomeini only lasted 10 more years, but

his designated successor Ali Khamenei is still in office 36 years later at the age of 86. As one would expect, he heads a regime that sees matters of faith and morals (like ensuring that women's hair is properly concealed) as more important than mere material concerns like looking after the water supply.

This general neglect of practical matters by the regime also opened the door to widespread corruption among those in charge of the economy, which partly explains why Iran's GDP per capita is still stuck at about the same level as it was in 1985. The other reason is the sheer incompetence of even those officials who don't take bribes.

Iran is a mostly arid country with tens of millions of farm families, so it would make sense to import crops that need a lot of water like rice from abroad while growing less thirsty crops at home. After all, a well-run Iran would have lots of oil money to pay for food imports.

Instead, the government has aimed at 'strategic self-sufficiency', including in food, and the amount of land being cultivated has doubled in thirty years in some areas. There are around a million deep wells (80-200 metres) for irrigation, and groundwater is vanishing. Subsidence is now as big a problem in Iran as in the areas of the Arctic that are losing permafrost.

Now add in an unprecedented multi-year drought that is hitting city dwellers as well as rural people. Rainfall was down by almost half in last year's rainy season, so there was very little water left behind the dams when the winter rains failed to arrive in late October this year.

The great unspoken fear in the minds of Iranians who are paying attention is that this may not be just wayward weather. It could be the leading edge of permanent climate change: five years is a long time for a random deviation from the norm.

In the shorter run, however, it could be the trigger for an uprising that finally dispatches a regime that has overstayed its welcome. All the other challenges to the regime over the years could be blamed on wicked and godless foreigners who were stirring up impressionable locals, but this problem is entirely home-grown. No excuses available.

There are no reliable opinion polls in Iran, but the best guess is that after 45 years at least half the population of Iran actively dislikes the regime while most other people just accept it as inevitable. If the rain doesn't come soon, and especially if they start evacuating cities, a decisive shift in the balance of opinion is entirely possible.

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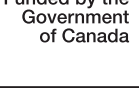
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COMMUNITY VOICES

Monthly Message: FTP issues community call-to-action for National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

A lone gunman entered l'École Polytechnique de Montréal in the early evening of Dec. 6, 1989. He methodically targeted female students — in corridors, in the cafeteria, and in classrooms.

Beginning in a mechanical engineering class, he separated female and male students, ordering the males to leave the room. The killer told the women he was fighting feminism and opened fire on them from left to right where they stood, shooting every woman in the classroom. In 20 minutes, the gunman used his semi-automatic rifle and hunting knife to kill 14 women and wound 10 women and four men before killing himself.

Fourteen young women were murdered because the man who killed them hated women.

Also known as the Montréal Massacre, this antifeminist mass shooting was the deadliest mass shooting in Canada at the time. Members of the legislature were swift to respond by passing stricter gun control laws and by changing emergency services policies during shootings to reduce casualties.

In 1991, Dec. 6 was commemorated by the Parliament of Canada as the National Day of



Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women — and informally, White Ribbon Day. Annually, flags on all federal buildings in Canada are flown at half-mast, and Canadians coast-to-coast are implored to both wear white and purple ribbons and recognize a minute of silence in solidarity and as a demonstration of their commitment to ending violence against women (VAW).

Each year, for the last 34 years, Family Transition Place (FTP) has remembered the women whose lives were senselessly taken

and recognizes this important day. Annually, FTP also honours all the womxn on the Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses' (OAITH's) Annual Femicide List. OAITH's femicide definition includes a gender-based killing of a woman, child, trans woman, 2-Spirited Person, or gender non-conforming individual where a man has been charged in relation to the death in Ontario. By this definition, we know there are many womxn—known and unknown—who are not counted on this list because charges are outstanding.

Continued on Page 14

My path to local journalism

Good morning, afternoon, or evening to whoever might be reading this. I hope this little article finds you well.

I'm Joshua Drakes, and I'm the new reporter you might have noticed in the Shelburne Free Press and Orangeville Citizen. I'm the new Local Journalism Initiative reporter for Shelburne and the surrounding area.

It's been a couple of weeks since I started covering this small town, and I think we should get properly introduced.

I didn't originally plan to be a reporter. My high school life mostly revolved around running the drama club, playing in school orchestras, and generally being a nerd. English class was really the only time I took writing seriously.

That all promptly shifted when I got to Humber College in the fall of 2019. I tried to pursue a career in engineering.

To put it mildly, it did not go well.

Then COVID happened, and school shut down. That March of 2020 was when I looked around for alternatives that played to my strengths. Acting was too risky and not a very secure career, but then I saw journalism. I could put my writing to good use.

I actually managed to get a phone call with the program coordinator for the Journalism program at Humber College, and we talked

about what I was looking for. She encouraged me to take journalism at the start of the next semester.

I did just that.

The next three years were a blur. I got to experience all the different avenues journalism has to offer. Print, magazines, radio, TV, everything there was to see. I loved doing all of it; each avenue had a new angle to challenge me to do better than last time.

It took me all three years to figure out which avenue I wanted to pursue, but by the end, only one truly captivated me despite all odds.

Newspaper reporting won out, in no small part due to the tough professors I had along the way. I credit most of my decision-making to Rob Lamberti, my old school reporter/professor, who really hammered home the responsibility we have to reporting and what it means to be a journalist.

I didn't immediately jump into my career after graduation, as my family had just moved to Orangeville, so I instead sought a temporary retail job to hold me over.

After some time, I started writing for the Orangeville Citizen as a freelancer, covering stories here and there. It wasn't much, but it was a solid start. In the end, I must have been doing something right, because I was offered the full-time position I currently have. And

now the rest is, as the saying goes, history.

So, about my focus.

I cover everything, to put it simply. That means I'll be covering community events like fundraisers, festivals, and the like, as well as town council meetings and some other political events around the town.

I've already done extensive coverage in Shelburne, including the Remembrance Day services earlier this month, local events like volunteer fairs, and, of course, council meetings.

You might have seen some of those articles already, and I hope that I've done a good job so far. I look forward to continuing to serve Shelburne and bringing you as much info as I possibly can.

Should you have any story ideas you think might be newsworthy, feel free to reach me at josh@lpcmedia.ca — I'm always open to hearing from the community.

If you see me wandering around town, don't hesitate to introduce yourself. I'm always looking to meet new people from this beautiful community.

On a more personal note,

all you really need to know about me is that I'm a nerd.

What that means is that I have hobbies in programming, voice acting, some online streaming, and costume making. None of these are professional, I must add, so I'm far from an authority.

I love movies, especially science fiction and fantasy. Star Wars and The Lord of the Rings are my bread and butter.

That's about it, really. Now you know a little bit more about me.

I hope you continue to enjoy the writing I produce for Shelburne.

JOSHUA DRAKES
BEHIND THE BYLINES



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Shelburne's Santa Claus parade to return to downtown core

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

For those who are in search of some holiday cheer, Santa Claus is coming to town.

Shelburne's annual Santa Claus parade will be passing through town at 6 p.m. on Dec. 6.

Mayor Wade Mills said the parade is a core event for the town, and he looks forward to attending it each year alongside Shelburne residents.

"The annual Santa Claus parade has become a wonderful tradition in our community and a really nice way to kick off the holiday season," he said. "I hope to see lots of smiling faces lining the street on Dec. 6."

As is tradition, the Town of Shelburne said in a statement that this year's parade will feature a special theme.

"Get ready for one of Shelburne's most magical traditions!" said the town in a statement. "This year's theme is: 'Christmas Movies.'"

"Expect to see floats inspired by your holiday film favourites, plus walking groups, music, and a special appearance from Santa Claus," the statement added.

Alongside the parade, the Shelburne Rotary Club will be present, collecting food donations for the local food bank. They are requesting that attendees bring a donation item with them, if possible.

The parade route will start at the Shelburne Agricultural Community Centre. The

parade will then go South on William Street, before turning East on Robert Street. It will then proceed South on Jelly Street, West on First Avenue, and finally North on William Street, returning to the Agricultural Centre to conclude the parade.

The town would like to remind everyone to plan accordingly for traffic, as barricades will be set up around the parade route for safety. Make sure to arrive early for a good viewing spot.

The town also asked guests to ensure they are seated away from certain intersections.

"To help floats and large vehicles make turns safely, we encourage all spectators to find a viewing spot away from the corners of the following intersections: William and Robert, Robert and Jelly, Jelly and First Ave., First Ave. and William," the town stated. "This leaves room for the floats to navigate and ensures a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone."

Currently, 13 floats are confirmed for the parade. They include LC Auto, Hear Right Canada, Shelburne Rotary, Shelburne Memorials, Compass Community Church, Turn It Out, Shelburne Fair, MPP Sylvia Jones, Trillium Ford Lincoln Ltd., The Ontario SPCA Orangeville & District Animal Centre, Sickie Cell Awareness Group of Ontario, The Shelburne Soccer Club, Northern Dufferin Auto-show, and Stella-Jones Inc.

This number is expected to grow as the parade date approaches.



FILE PHOTO

READY TO ROLL: The Shelburne Rotary Club's float from 2024 featured some festively dressed youth who helped spread holiday cheer during last year's Santa Claus Parade. The Shelburne Rotary Club will be participating again this year, entering a float to match this year's theme, "Christmas Movies."

Bethell Hospice unveils Butterfly Bereavement display at Headwaters Hospital

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A new art display by Bethell Hospice was unveiled at Headwaters Hospital on Thursday, Nov. 20, to recognize those who struggle with grief and loss.

In recognition of National Grief and Bereavement Day and National Children's Grief Awareness Day on Nov. 20, this initiative provides a butterfly to each participant, who are encouraged to draw, decorate, and colour it however they see fit. The process allows participants to express and release their grief in a healthy, controlled way to help in the healing process.

The butterflies on display were arranged in hanging circles to represent the circle of life and how people express themselves when confronted with it.

Kim Delahunt, president & CEO of Headwaters, said that displays like this one are positive examples of what happens when healthcare organizations work together, and praised Bethell Hospice for its continued support of Dufferin and Caledon residents.

"This is a profoundly important project, and it's, of course, created to honour the national bereavement month," she said. "This project is much more than an art installation. I think it speaks to all of us. These butterflies, which I'm told there are more than 3,500, represent love, remembrance and the transformation that accompanies grief."

"Grief touches every one of us at some point in our lives, and healing is nurtured when we come together to support one another," she added.

Margaret Paan, executive director of Bethell Hospice, said that she is extremely grateful to Headwaters for cooperating with them to set up this display.

Over the five years that Butterfly Bereavement has operated, participation has skyrocketed, and Bethell Hospice needed to expand its spaces to host the displays, and Headwaters was quick to step up.

"We reached out to the hospital three years ago, during our fourth year, and we said 'could we expand this a bit?'" Paan said. "Headwaters didn't miss a beat. They said 'yes, absolutely, how can we work together?'"

Thanks to Headwaters' support, Paan said more people in the community will know they are not alone, that others are

struggling, working through their own grief in their own ways, and that support is available.

"I think bringing grief and loss out into the community is really important," she said. "Letting people know that they're not alone is important. This display gives people coming up and down the hallways an opportunity to see that, to see all the people that participated and reflected."

There is no other group where this reinforcement is needed more than with youth. Thanks to investments by the Ontario government, Bethell Hospice now has a registered social worker who specializes in working with youth, Jessica Marsella.

She said that helping children move through grief is both complex and slow, requiring patience and adaptability.

"According to the children and youth group network, one in 14 children will experience the death of a parent or sibling," Marsella said. "Despite these statistics, it can still be a challenge for parents, caregivers and even service providers to connect these children with appropriate support in their communities. Children are often said to be the forgotten mourners, with their resilience, flexibility and play-oriented processing serving as protective factors."

She continued, "These traits can be misunderstood as a lack of understanding or care. The reality is that they express themselves differently from adults. The Butterfly Bereavement project draws attention to the importance of ensuring even our littlest members of our communities have access to the care and support that they need."

As National Grief and Bereavement Day and National Children's Grief Awareness Day pass, Bethell Hospice, Headwaters Hospital, and their partners continue to advocate for compassion, communication, and understanding throughout the grieving process.

They also hope the butterfly displays will continue to inspire and comfort those who pass them, reminding them that everyone processes grief differently, but support remains available for everyone, no matter the circumstances or age.

In addition to Headwaters, a butterfly display was unveiled at the Orangeville Public Library on Mill Street, with a viewing event on Nov. 21.

For more information on the Butterfly Bereavement project, visit <https://bethell-hospice.org/>.



JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

BEREAVEMENT BUTTERFLIES: The Butterfly Bereavement display at Headwaters Health Care Centre (HHCC) is visible when passing through the Ambulatory Care Wing. The circular arrangements of the displays represent the cycle of life and the processing of grief and loss. The project totals 3,500 butterflies.

Festive RIDE program underway in Dufferin County

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers officially began their annual Festive RIDE campaign across Dufferin County on Nov. 20.

The program runs until Jan. 1, 2026, and throughout the holiday season, officers will conduct RIDE checks to keep the county's roads safe and remind drivers that impaired driving, whether by alcohol or drugs, is never worth the risk.

"As you celebrate with family and friends, please plan ahead and choose a safe way

home. No amount of impairment is safe for driving," reads a Dufferin OPP press release.

"From all of us at the Dufferin OPP, have a safe, responsible, and happy holiday season."

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Fire department's toy and food drive breaks fundraising record on opening day

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The annual toy and food drive hosted by the Shelburne and District Fire Department (SDFD) kicked off this past weekend on Nov. 22, marking the drive's biggest opening weekend since it began 16 years ago.

The first collection was held at the Shelburne Foodland and of the 100 bags prepared as donations, only six were left just a few hours after the fundraiser started.

Running from Nov. 20 to Dec. 20, the drive is currently seeking non-perishable foods - such as canned and packaged goods - along with packaged toys and monetary donations, including gift cards and cash.

Capt. Mike Morrell of the SDFD explained that the goal of the drive aligns with the role of a firefighter: giving back to the community.

"We're on our 16th year now, and it all started with bantering between a bunch of us for a couple of years, until my wife basically said put up or shut up," Morell said. "So I started looking into where I could get stuff for our community."

He added that what began as a toy drive quickly expanded. "We were originally just going to be a toy drive, but within a week of planning, we changed to a toy and food drive. That's how it all started."

Over the years, demand for the drive has only increased, Morrell said. He stays in regular contact with local organizations to gauge community needs.

"Every year, the need has gotten more and more demanding. I try to have conversations with our community partners, Dufferin Family and Child Services, and the Shepherd's Cupboard (Shelburne) Food Bank to see what they need," he said.

"You really get a picture of what they need, and how it's increasing year after year. It's part population growth, and of course, our economic state is also adding to that."

Morrell expressed gratitude for the department's local partners, including Foodland, Giant Tiger, and No Frills, whose ongoing support has been crucial.

"All three of them, they're incredibly generous to us," Morrell said.

"The Foodland actually prepares bags for us, which makes it way easier, and so does Giant Tiger; they do something similar as well. No Frills and Foodland also give us gift cards, which are also always welcome."

While physical donations are vital, Morrell encourages monetary contributions, which give local food banks flexibility to purchase specific items as needed. Yet, for him, toys remain the heart of the drive.

"One thing that sticks with me is the toys. I think every kid needs to open a toy or a gift during the holidays," Morrell said.

The drive has three more collection days scheduled following the first Foodland collection: Giant Tiger on Nov. 29 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., No Frills on Dec. 13 at the same hours, and Foodland again



JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

SUCCESSFUL START: Shelburne Fire Chief Dave Pratt and Captain Mike Morrell stand next to what was collected during the first day of the fire department's annual toy and food drive. Out of over 100 bags prepared by Foodland, six were left after just a few hours. This was the most successful opening the food drive has had since it started.

on Dec. 20 during the same hours.

Those unable to attend these dates can

also deliver donations directly to the Shelburne firehouse at 114 O'Flynn Street.

Melancthon man charged with second degree murder after pedestrian pronounced deceased

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are currently investigating a homicide in Melancthon.

On Tuesday, Nov. 25, at approximately 8:40 p.m., officers from the Dufferin OPP responded to a single motor vehicle collision involving a pedestrian in a hotel parking lot in Melancthon.

One person was pronounced deceased, identified as Garnett (David) Walters, 59, from Melancthon.

As a result of the ongoing investigation, Andrae Mullings, 34, from Melancthon, has been charged with second degree murder, contrary to section 235(1) of the Criminal Code.

Mullings was remanded into custody and is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville at a later date.

The second-degree murder charge against Mullings has not been proven in court.

"The investigation is continuing by the

Dufferin OPP Crime Unit under the direction of the OPP Criminal Investigation Branch, in collaboration with the Office of the Chief Coroner and the Ontario Forensic Pathology Service," reads a press release from Dufferin OPP. "Assistance is being provided by the OPP Forensic Identification Services and the OPP Central Region Traffic Incident Management and Enforcement team."

Dufferin OPP says its investigators believe this is an isolated incident, and there is no

threat to public safety.

However, residents can expect to see an increased police presence in the area as the investigation continues.

Anyone with any information that may assist the investigation is asked to contact the Dufferin OPP at 1-888-310-1122, referencing incident #E25153928.

Anyone who wishes to remain anonymous, can contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or ontariocrimestoppers.ca.

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Arts & Entertainment

LOCAL COMMUNITY EVENTS

Lions Club supports Theatre Orangeville with \$5,000 donation

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Theatre Orangeville is getting a much-appreciated boost to its operations, as the Orangeville Lions Club recently donated money from its bingo fund to help support the arts in town.

"It came out of nowhere for me; we're absolutely thrilled to accept it," said Jennifer Stewart, artistic director for Theatre Orangeville. "It's just wonderful to be supported so much by the community and the Lions Club."

She continued, "This money is going right into our programming at the theatre. We're truly honoured."

Stewart said that every dollar is a great help to the theatre, which is still working — slowly but surely — to recover its income and viewer base from the pandemic. Any and all support, whether that's coming from individual supporters or other clubs and organizations like the Lions Club, is greatly appreciated by the theatre.

"Donations are greatly appreciated at this time, especially as we're still recovering from COVID-19 and the drop we saw," Stewart said. "But I can say we're up the upward slope, things are getting better. Every boost just helps us get up that hill."

She continued by saying that support during the fall and winter seasons is crucial.

"Donations like this really show us how special our community is," Stewart said. "People need laughter and joy in their lives, especially this time of year. We need more laughter and joy."

Sharyn Ayliffe, the theatre's executive director, agreed.

"This is what makes organizations like the Lions Club so special," she said. "All the service clubs in town are extremely generous, of course. But the Lions Club really understands the profound impact that arts and culture have on a community, and that's a very special thing that I think gets overlooked."

"It's something that we can take for granted, our books, TV, films, theatre, music, etc.,



JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

FUNDING BOOST: Leadership from Theatre Orangeville and the Orangeville Lions Club has been in communication to decide how best to support the creative arts in town, and the Lions Club felt that directly supporting the theatre was the best way to stay involved. As a result, they have made a \$5,000 donation to the theatre, which will go right into the Creative Partners on Stage Program.

until its gone. Then it's just the void that people notice."

Ayliffe said that the money from this donation will go straight back into the theatre to help fund its Creative Partners on Stage program, a program specifically designed for adults with neurodiversities.

Creative Partners on Stage actors work directly with directors and choreographers to create two new and original scripts every year, made with the support of Theatre Orangeville's production team and the accredited support workers of Community Living Dufferin.

The Orangeville Lions Club members said

they love supporting the creative arts in town.

Orangeville Lion Dan Roach said they are consistently impressed by the theatre's hard work.

"The Lions Club is very community involved," he said. "Arts and culture is very important, and thankfully very well run in our town and very well received. We want to continue playing a part in that, so this is our way of helping to contribute."

"The Orangeville Theatre is the headstone of arts and culture in this town, and it's very important to us that we're involved; they are absolutely a worthy cause to support,"

Roach added.

He continued by saying on a personal level, he has always enjoyed the high quality of productions put on by the theatre, and said that the experience is like no other.

"For a small town, you know, the shows are so well done, so professionally made. My wife and I have seen shows here. Even the venue itself is second to none. There's so many things there for you to see and enjoy."

The Lions Club is just one in a long line of supporters who continue to help the theatre do what it does best - deliver quality entertainment right in the heart of Orangeville for all to see.

HollyFest attracts thousands to Orangeville Fairgrounds over two-day Christmas market

Written By SAM ODROWSKI
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Orangeville Citizen's inaugural HollyFest Christmas market welcomed thousands of shoppers over two days, offering handcrafted and unique products from a curated selection of 100 vendors.

Dufferin-County-based businesses, charities, nonprofits, and crafters filled up the Orangeville Fairgrounds on Saturday, Nov. 22, and Sunday, Nov. 23, for a one-of-a-kind shopping experience.

"HollyFest was a wonderful addition to an already festive weekend in Orangeville. With Joy and Lights (Festival), the Christmas tree lighting, and our Santa Claus parade all bringing the community together, HollyFest added another warm and welcoming place for families to shop and celebrate," Orangeville Mayor Lisa Post enthused.

"I was so impressed by the incredibly diverse array of vendors, the overall energy of the event, and, most importantly, the generosity shown by the community to support the Orangeville Food Bank... Events like this one remind us what makes Orangeville so special."

HollyFest was free to attend, and instead of charging an admission fee, donations to the Orangeville Food Bank were encouraged at the door.

In the end, the food bank collected 1,131 pounds of food and over \$5,400.

Carrie-Anne DeCaprio, donor engagement and community outreach manager at the Orangeville Food Bank, told the Citizen she was impressed with the success of HollyFest and enjoyed having conversations with attendees about the important work being done at the food bank.

"HollyFest was great because when it



SCOTT MARTIN PHOTOS

FESTIVE FUN: The HollyFest Christmas market came to the Orangeville Fairgrounds on Saturday, Nov. 22, and Sunday, Nov. 23, featuring over 100 vendors. Thousands of people attended and browsed a variety of hand-crafted and unique items during the two-day event. Donations were collected at the entrance for the Orangeville Food Bank, and in total, the organization received 1,131 pounds of food and over \$5,400.

opened on both days, there was a lineup out the door," she said. "I think for myself and the other vendors who were there, that just gives you an initial rush, goosebumps, and excitement that it's going to be a great day."

DeCaprio continued, "Then it just kept getting better and better, with Santa Claus wandering around, the Grinch wandering around, and getting to see all the different artisans and crafters. It's just amazing to see what the people in our community had on display and what they bring to the table."

"It was a beautiful event, and I really look forward to it next year," she smiled.

The Orangeville-based 1849 Lorne Scots Royal Canadian Army Cadets directed traffic through the parking lot, and Dufferin DJs played Christmas music for the duration of HollyFest.

"HollyFest Christmas market was truly magical this year — huge crowds came out to support us, the weekend was full of festive energy, and we were able to contribute to such a great cause in our community," said Janine Taylor, HollyFest event manager. "Thanks to our incredible vendors, whose talent and heart made the market sparkle brighter than we could have imagined."

HollyFest Event Director Doug Rowe said he's thrilled with the community support he witnessed at the market over the weekend.

"What an amazing community," he said. "Thank you to everyone who stopped by and supported the event. Whether you shopped the vendors, dropped off a donation for the food bank, or just chatted with us at the Orangeville Citizen booth, we are grateful to everyone who checked out HollyFest."

Rowe added, "We look forward to hosting it again in 2026."



SPORTS

Wolves U11 Rep team battles hard but takes a loss to Georgian Shores

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

The Shelburne Wolves U11 Rep team put up a good fight but had to settle for a loss to the Georgian Shores Lightning during a weekend game at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex (CDRC) on Saturday, Nov. 22.

The Wolves were coming off a win the previous week, when they beat Wasaga Beach at home.

During the first period of Saturday's game, Georgian Shores had an early advantage, scoring in the first period.

That was followed by two more first-period goals, leaving the Wolves scrambling to get back in the game.

Georgian Shores scored two more in the second period before the Wolves got on the scoreboard with a goal midway through the period. It was the only scoring the Wolves could do for the game, and they had to take a weekend loss.

The Wolves played a solid game, and despite the loss, players thought they had a good performance on the ice.

"We played good, but I don't think we played our best," said Wolves centre Emmett Midanik after the game. "On offence, we got it in their zone a lot. We kept getting in there, but we didn't get a lot of shots on net. Our defence was good, but the other team was in our zone for too long."

Teammate Andrew Ziniuk, who plays left wing, also said he thought the team played a good game.

"I think we were forechecking really well moved the puck well," Andrew said. "Our backchecking was good, we covered the puck and moved it into their zone. We tried our hardest. I don't think we were going deep enough in our own zone on defence."

The Shelburne Wolves U11 Rep team will be back on the ice at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex on Saturday, Nov. 29, when they will host the Essa Eagles. Game time is 12:30 p.m.



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

WEEKEND LOSS: The Shelburne Wolves U11 Rep team take on the Georgian Shores Lightning at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex (CDRC) on Saturday, Nov. 22. The Wolves played a good game but had to settle for a loss. They will be back next weekend with another home game.

Stayner Siskins moves into second place in the PJHL's North Carruthers Division

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

Nearing the halfway mark in the regular season schedule of the Provincial Junior Hockey League (PJHL), there have been a few changes in the standings as teams start the battle for a final place before heading into the playoffs.

In the North Carruthers Division, the Alliston Hornets are still holding on to the top spot.

The Hornets were on a 13-game winning streak but suddenly hit a rough spot on Nov. 6, when they took a loss to the Stayner Siskins. Two more losses to the Penetang Kings and the Orillia Terriers followed on Nov. 14 and 15.

The Hornets turned it around this past weekend with wins over Orillia and Muskoka.

The Alliston team remains in first place in the division with a 16-3 record.

Moving into second place, the Stayner Siskins have been putting out a strong performance over the past few weeks. They now have a 15-5 record and 30 points. The team has won eight out of its last nine games.

That strong performance by the Siskins moved them up in the standings and dropped the Orillia Terriers to third place in the division.

The Terriers were in first place for most of the season. The drop in the standings, however, doesn't tell the whole story.

Orillia has played only 17 games, winning 13 and losing only four.

This means they are still a major powerhouse in the division.

In the middle of the pack, the Penetang Kings, Midland Flyers, and Muskoka Bears have recorded similar wins/losses this season.

The Kings have 10 wins, the Flyers have eight, and the Bears have six.

The Huntsville Otters are struggling this season and have won only five games after 15 games.

It's the same for the Innisfil Spartans, who have managed to win only four games and are in the basement with nine points.

The Division will meet the halfway mark of 21 games for the regular season schedule this coming weekend.



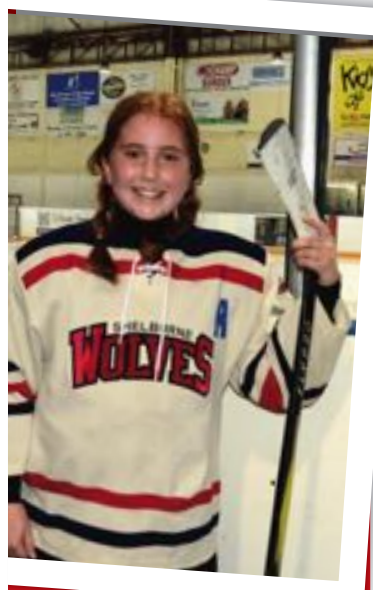
BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

FIRST PLACE TEAM: The Alliston Hornets take on the Orillia Terriers at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre on Friday, Nov. 21. The Hornets won the game 4-1 and remain in first place in the North Carruthers Division of the Provincial Junior Hockey League with a 16-3 record.

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

KATE SHEPPARD

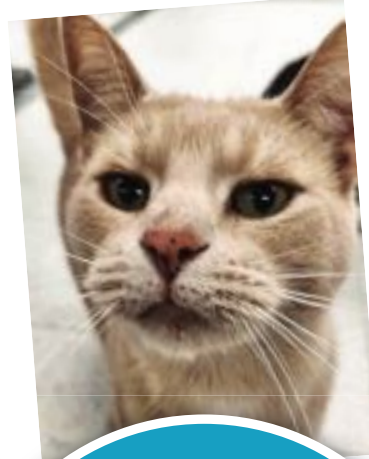
Currently in her third year of playing hockey, Shelburne Wolves U11 Rep left wing Kate Sheppard brings a lot of skill to her team.

"I enjoy playing hockey," Kate said. "I like trying to score and I like making new friends on the team and meeting people on the team. We encourage each other and tell the other players they are doing really good."

During the summer months Kate plays soccer with the Shelburne Thunder.

TEAM: SHELBURNE WOLVES U11 REP
POSITION: LEFT WING

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Council proclaims Dec. 2 as Giving Tuesday in the Town of Shelburne

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Town of Shelburne has recognized the needs of local charities and non-profits through a proclamation issued during a regular council meeting on Nov. 24.

Mayor Wade Mills read a proclamation recognizing the tremendous work charities do in town and the immense importance of continuing to support their efforts.

“Giving Tuesday is a national day of generosity taking place on Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2025,” he said, when reading the proclamation in council chambers. “Giving Tuesday encourages residents to give as much as they can, in whatever way that they can, to benefit our community.”

Mayor Mills continued by explaining the many different ways residents can support local charitable initiatives. These range from making a one-time monetary donation to volunteering within the community, helping to keep these groups staffed and operational, and donating physical items such as food.

Local charities rely on community support to continue functioning, as use of food banks and other support services continues to rise year by year. Mayor Mills encouraged the community to continue donating, volun-

teering, and otherwise supporting charities across town when continuing to read the proclamation.

He finished his remarks by officially declaring Dec. 2 as Giving Tuesday in the Town of Shelburne.

“Local charities and non-profits need our support to meet the increased needs and demand for services,” he said. “The people of Shelburne have always joined together to serve the community and make a positive impact. Therefore, I, Mayor Wade Mills, on behalf of Council, do hereby proclaim Dec. 2nd to be Giving Tuesday in the Town of Shelburne and encourage all residents to ‘Give Where You Live’ this holiday season.”

Giving Tuesday was originally started in 2012 as a response to the commercialism of Black Friday and Cyber Monday. The day encourages the public to shift their focus from spending to supporting charitable causes and people in their community.

There are many initiatives and non-profits throughout Shelburne and the wider Dufferin County. As the holiday season sets in, they need more help than ever.

Michele Fisher, executive director of the Dufferin Community Foundation, said there is always a need in the community, and residents are encouraged to contribute in any way they can.

“Giving Tuesday was created as a way to give to your community, in whichever way works best for you,” she said. “Some people are in a position to give cash donations, and other people are able to volunteer their time. Even general acts of kindness are welcome. Everything counts on Giving Tuesday.”

Here in Dufferin County, Fisher said there is a wide variety of non-profits and charities running initiatives for Giving Tuesday.

“We have Share the Bounty, that’s going to be running a toy drive in Shelburne, they’ll be at Giant Tiger on Dec. 2 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.,” she said. “They’re a very interesting organization, as they deliver food and kindness to uplift people going through hard times, and they hold free dinners for anybody facing food insecurity.”

“We also have the Rotary Club of Shelburne doing its annual Christmas Hamper campaign in conjunction with the food bank. That’s another very big initiative happening right now in town,” Fisher added.

There are also broader initiatives focused on giving back by supporting the environment.

“We also have the National Wildlife Center, they’re having a Giving Tuesday Campaign where they’re seeking \$25,000 in matching donations,” Fisher said. “They are

looking to deliver medical care and surgeries to sick, injured, and orphaned animals from their wildlife field hospital, serving Dufferin County and Caledon.”

While it is only the second year that Giving Tuesday has been widely recognized in the county, Fisher said last year, despite being the first time they’ve promoted the idea, was very successful.

“Last year was our organization’s first year doing it, and the community really came together,” she said. “Canada Helps, one of the major online giving platforms, sent us some data that showed that donations in Dufferin County doubled on Giving Tuesday last year with our campaign. We’re looking forward to keeping that momentum up because our local charities and non-profits need it.”

Giving Tuesday and the related campaigns launched by the Town of Shelburne and the Dufferin Community Foundation have already had a clear impact, boosting community involvement during the critical winter months.

With such a wide array of non-profits and charities operating in Shelburne and beyond, residents can donate their food, time, and money to a variety of causes.

For more information on Giving Tuesday and how to get involved, go to dufferincommunityfoundation.ca/giving-tuesday.

Six people arrested in connection to copper theft ring impacting Dufferin County

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers recently executed search warrants at four locations, including two rural farm properties and a scrapyard in the northwest part of Dufferin County.

During the operation, police seized a quantity of stolen bell copper wire, stolen tools, stolen vehicles, cocaine, methamphetamine, firearms, ammunition, and numerous other items.

Six individuals from Melancton and Dundalk were arrested in connection with the incident.

“Throughout 2025, copper thefts have been on an upward trend in Dufferin County. The Dufferin OPP initiated an investigation following numerous reported thefts and complaints from the public,” reads a Dufferin OPP press release.

On Nov. 19, the Dufferin OPP Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU), with assistance from the Caledon CSCU, Grey Bruce CSCU, Nottawasaga CSCU, and Dufferin A and D Platoon, executed the search warrants.

As a result of the operation, Samiullah Khan, 40, from Melancton, has been charged with:

- Possession of Property Obtained by Crime Over \$5,000 - in Canada (two counts)
- Trafficking in Stolen Goods over \$5,000 (including possession with intent to traffic)
- Possession of a prohibited device or ammunition

Gordon Winslow, 33, from Melancton, has been charged with:

- Trafficking in Stolen Goods over \$5,000 (including possession with intent to traffic)
- Mischief Endangering Life
- Possession of Property Obtained by Crime Over \$5,000 - in Canada (five counts)
- Possession of a Schedule I substance for the purpose of Trafficking - Methamphetamine

Tracey Johnston, 50, from Melancton, has been charged with:

- Trafficking in Stolen Goods over \$5,000 (incl. possession with intent to traffic)
- Mischief Endangering Life
- Possession of Property Obtained by Crime Over \$5,000 - in Canada (five counts)
- Possession of a Schedule I substance for the purpose of Trafficking - Methamphetamine

Chelsea Monckton, 33, from Melancton,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

COPPER RING BUSTED: Six people were recently charged in connection to a copper wire theft ring by Dufferin OPP. Police seized a quantity of stolen bell copper wire, stolen tools, stolen vehicles, cocaine, methamphetamine, firearms, ammunition, and numerous other items.

- Trafficking in Stolen Goods over \$5,000 (including possession with intent to traffic)
- Mischief Endangering Life
- Possession of Property Obtained by Crime Over \$5,000 - in Canada (five counts)
- Possession of a Schedule I substance for the purpose of Trafficking - Methamphetamine

The following items were seized during the investigation:

- A large quantity of stolen Bell copper wire
- 2021 Ram 1500 (previously stolen; approx. value \$45,000)
- 2018 Chevrolet Silverado (previously stolen; approx. value \$20,000)
- Terex skid steer (previously stolen; approx. value \$45,000)
- Two large tandem-axle utility trailers (previously stolen; value approx. \$25,000)
- Large quantity of stolen power tools (approx. value \$10,000)
- 359 grams of methamphetamine (approx. value \$23,000)
- A quantity of cocaine
- 11 long guns
- 6 handguns
- 3 replica firearms with removed serial numbers
- 1 prohibited device (magazine)
- Large assortment of ammunition

has been charged with:

- Trafficking in Stolen Goods over \$5,000 (including possession with intent to traffic)
- Mischief Endangering Life
- Possession of Property Obtained by Crime Over \$5,000 - in Canada (five counts)
- Possession of a Schedule I substance for the purpose of Trafficking - Methamphetamine

Brandy Wisebrod, 46, from Dundalk, has been charged with:

- Trafficking in property obtained by crime
- Mischief Endangering Life
- Possession of Property Obtained by Crime Over \$5,000 - in Canada

Curtis Whitten, 33, from Melancton, has been charged with:

Dufferin OPP’s weekend traffic blitz along Highway 10 results in nearly 75 charges for motorists

From Nov. 21 to 23, officers from the Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) conducted a focused traffic enforcement initiative along Highway 10 throughout Dufferin County.

Between that time period, officers issued 74 provincial offence charges, most of which were related to speeding, including one stunt driving charge.

Police also conducted four RIDE programs along the Highway 10 corridor to help enhance road safety during the busy holiday

season.

“The Dufferin OPP continues to prioritize safe roadways and is reminding all motorists to make smart choices behind the wheel. Slow down, stay alert, avoid driving impaired, and always buckle up. These actions save lives,” reads a press release from Dufferin OPP.

Anyone with information about suspected unlawful activity is encouraged to contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-822-8477 (TIPS), or visit www.crimestoppersdcm.com.



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Position Summary

The Continuous Improvement Maintenance Specialist will provide technical support to the maintenance and production teams, driving continuous improvement (CI) initiatives across the company's packaging assets. This role will be instrumental in enhancing equipment performance, optimizing maintenance practices, and ensuring reliable production through strategic improvements and predictive maintenance programs.

These are full-time positions, based on 88 hours of work per 2-week cycle, with occasional overtime. At this time, we are only looking for individuals who can work a 12-hour rotating continental shift, including nights and weekends.

- Salary \$52.45 per hour, with possibility of bonus; 10 days vacation plus extended medical, dental, and long-term disability insurance & participation in our retirement savings plan.
- Inbound transportation costs for out of province applicants.
- Minimum of 7 years of experience in maintenance, production, or continuous improvement within a manufacturing environment.
- Minimum of 5 years of experience working as a service engineer with Krones machinery; this includes performing installations, audits, maintenance, troubleshooting, overhauls and conducting training sessions.
- Must have hands-on experience with automation and control systems, including plc programming, troubleshooting, and integrating these systems into production lines.
- Diploma or degree in mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, industrial engineering, or a related field.
- Electrical or mechanical red seal certification preferred.
- Strong understanding of mechanical and electrical systems related to packaging equipment.
- Experience with preventive and predictive maintenance programs.
- Knowledge of KPI development and performance monitoring.
- Technical writing skills – report, summaries, instructions, procedures, structure.
- Willingness to travel to plant locations for onsite support.
- 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/irs/CANDIDATEPORTAL/jobs/3052>

Interested candidates please send a copy of your resume and cover letter to cstewart@iceriversprings.com or write to:

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 Shelburne, ON
 L9V 3N5



NOW HIRING

Ice River is currently looking for ten (10) Process Control & Machine Operator(s), Beverage Processing (NOC 94140) to join our team. You will be working at our Shelburne facility, located at 108 Prentice Drive, Shelburne, ON, L9V 3N5.

Position Summary

The Process Control & Machine Operator plays a critical role in our manufacturing process, responsible for ensuring the efficient and safe operation of bottling processing equipment. This role involves operating and maintaining specialized multi-function process control bottling machinery, monitoring production processes, and adhering to quality standards to ensure the consistent bottling of beverages. This position requires a strong focus on safety, attention to detail, ability to interpret technical instructions to operate sophisticated equipment and the ability to work effectively in a fast-paced environment.

This is a full-time position, based on 88 hours of work per 2-week cycle, with occasional overtime. At this time, we are only looking for individuals who can work a 12-hour rotating continental shift, including nights and weekends.

- Salary \$20.60 - \$21.50 per hour, with possibility of bonus; 10 days vacation plus extended medical, dental, and long-term disability insurance & participation in our retirement savings plan.
- Inbound transportation costs for out of province applicants
- Completion of high school required.
- Some post-secondary education required as the position requires the ability to read and understand technical instructions and sophisticated Husky equipment user manuals.
- Two years plastics injection or bottling line experience required.
- Previous heavy equipment experience preferred.

To view a comprehensive overview of the position, please go to <https://jobs.dayforcehcm.com/en-US/irs/CANDIDATEPORTAL/jobs/3083>

Interested candidates please send a copy of your resume and cover letter referencing Req#317 to cstewart@iceriversprings.com or write to:

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OBITUARIES

DEBORAH LYNNE GARVEY-SIEGEL

Born January 21, 1954, in Port Perry, Ontario, Deborah Lynne Garvey-Siegel passed away on November 13, 2025, at Headwaters Health Care Centre in Orangeville. She was the daughter of Agnes and Frank Garvey.



Debbie grew up in Port Perry, where her intelligence, beauty, and sharp wit were evident early on. She was active in Brownies, earning her 23rd badge in 1965, a milestone that landed her in the Port Perry Star. In high school she excelled academically and was voted "Queen" in one of her senior years.

After graduating, she moved to Toronto and completed her training in Respiratory Therapy at the Michener Institute. Her early career at SickKids and Toronto General gave her a lifetime of stories, all retold with her signature humour and a touch of embellishment.

Debbie later settled in Dundalk and Shelburne, where she raised her family and eventually opened her own wine-making business, becoming known locally as "the wine lady." She delighted in indulging in the things she liked, unbothered by anyone's opinion. She faced life's challenges with resilience and humour, including surviving a house fire that temporarily displaced her and brought new friendships she cherished.

She is survived by her spouse, John; her children, Erin and Rory; her granddaughter, Juliette; and her sisters, Mary Fines (Elsie) and Fran Herder (Karl), her daily Scrabble bestie. She was predeceased by her parents and her brothers, Howard and Donald.

As per her wishes, cremation has taken place. Donations in memory of Debbie Garvey-Siegel may be made to Headwaters Health Care Centre.



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Monthly Message: FTP issues Call to Action for month of November

Continued from Page 5

Moreover, there are countless more victims of gender-based violence (GBV) who are not safe in their homes, safe at work or safe in their communities. Make no mistake, this is happening in all our communities. Yes, this means Dufferin and Caledon, too.

Last year, there were 62 women and children on OAITH's Femicide List. Mothers, sisters, aunts, friends, daughters... people we all care about. One of these womxn was from our own community. Nowhere is immune to the devastating impacts of GBV.

Every year, this day serves as a painful and poignant reminder that we continue to have much work to do to end GBV — and we know we can't do it without the support of our communities.

This year, FTP will be hosting an outdoor candlelight vigil on the evening of December 4th, to recognize the 14 women murdered in 1989, as well as the many more womxn who have lost their lives across Ontario. Additionally, on Dec. 6, we will recognize the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women on our social media channels. We hope you will join us at the vigil in solidarity and share our social posts within your networks.

We are also asking every member of our

community to please consider the important actions you can take in your day-to-day lives — this and every month — to demonstrate your commitment to creating a world free from GBV. While it's important to recognize the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, this commitment needs to be enduring if we truly want a future free of violence.

So, what can you do to help us end the stigma and break the cycle of violence?

Please consider our calls to action below to generate important awareness of, and advocacy for, ending VAW throughout the year, at home, and in the workplace.

- Attend our candlelight vigil on Thursday, Dec. 4, 2025, from 5 to 5:30 p.m. at 20 Bredin Parkway, Orangeville.

This will be an outdoor event — please dress accordingly.

- Share this Call-to-Action letter and engage with and share FTP's social media posts within your networks.

- During the month of November, help us Shine the Light on Woman Abuse (an initiative developed by London Abused Women's Centre) by lighting up your home with a purple bulb. Add a Shine the Light polybag sign to your order to show your community the meaning behind your purple light. Let's turn our communities purple to raise awareness.

- Visit familytransitionplace.ca to access FTP's online store for all awareness items.

- Reach out to your local members of parliament, municipalities and community leaders to ask about their awareness activities and actions related to femicide and ending GBV in our communities and our country. Advocate for more.

- Educate yourself on GBV and VAW issues and rates in Ontario by visiting OAITH.ca.

- Research to understand our current government's position and policies on VAW.

- If you have a flagpole, lower your Canadian flag to half-mast on December 6th.

- Model and talk about healthy relationships and behaviours at home and in the workplace.

- Need support or resources? FTP is available 24/7 to help. Just call 1-800-265-9178.

- Donate to FTP.

- Visit familytransitionplace.ca/give to learn about the ways you can support our critical programs and services—many of which are completely donor-funded. Right now, this is more important than ever.

For businesses:

- Support staff to take time away from work to attend GBV and VAW advocacy and remembrance activities.
- Share your Workplace Violence Policy

with staff. If you don't have one, create one.

- Familiarize yourself with Bill 168, and your responsibilities as an employer to support and protect staff experiencing GBV.

- Create opportunities for staff to learn about and discuss this important issue, and advocacy efforts you can undertake as an agency or company to help break the cycle of violence.

If you have any questions or ideas not shared here, we would love to hear from you. FTP also provides healthy relationship education and can present to staff and community groups. Please contact Brennan Solecky, director of development and community engagement at 519-942-9142 ext. 240, or brennan@familytransitionplace.ca to learn more.

Please know that any advocacy efforts are helpful. If you are sharing on social media, please tag FTP on Facebook, Instagram or Threads — @familytransitionplace.

If you need support, our compassionate staff are available to help 24/7. Call 1-800-265-9178. If you are in immediate danger, call 911.

Thank you for your support. Woman abuse is not a women's issue. It's a human rights issue and affects us all.

This Community Voice submission was provided by Lynette Pole-Langdon, executive director of Family Transition Place.

Shelburne Public Library shares weekly news, recommended read of the week

The Shelburne Public Library has some exciting news to share... as of Dec. 2, our Children's Library will be open and unlocked during all operational hours. No need to ring the bell when you arrive, just head on in to discover a world of wonder on our shelves with stories for babies to big kids.

Stay to read and relax, colour or chat, and then head upstairs with your books when you are ready to check out.

Grandad's Camper by Harry Woodgate: Coming soon to the Children's Library.

"Gramps and Grandad were adventurers. They would surf, climb mountains, and tour the country in their amazing camper. Gramps just made everything extra special. But after Gramps died, granddad hasn't felt like traveling anymore. So, their amazing granddaughter comes up with a clever plan to fix up the old camper and get Grandad excited to explore again," said the book's publisher.

This beautiful picture book fosters empathy, honours love and loss and reminds us to

celebrate our loved ones even when they are no longer with us.

Recommended Read of the Week
Rooster Wore Skinny Jeans by Jessie Miller:

This hilarious tale of self-acceptance, resilience, and the joy found in authenticity, is one of Shannon's favourite picture books to read aloud to children and adults.

At the Storytelling for Grown-Ups: Children's Book Edition presented by the Toronto Poetry Project last year, Shannon per-

formed a reading of Rooster Wore Skinny Jeans to an audience of adults and everyone laughed along as the Rooster modeled his new outfit.

Picture books are for all ages and like Grandad's Camper, often include important messages wrapped up in fun stories and wonderful and whimsical illustrations.

If you have a favourite picture book, Shannon would love to hear all about it and don't forget to browse the Children's section at your library.

Local museum invites the community to celebrate the holidays at its upcoming events

It's the most wonderful time of the year for cozy crafts and handcrafted holiday treasures at the Museum of Dufferin (MoD).

"Whether you're looking for a perfect gift handmade by local artisans or are ready to roll up your sleeves and learn to make something new in one of our hands-on programs, the MoD is the place to be this holiday season," reads an MoD press release.

Register today for workshops on making soap, clay earrings or felt ornaments, and be sure to visit the MoD from Nov. 26 to Dec. 7 for its Holiday Treasures Craft Market. Attendees will be able to browse over 60 local vendors and curated exhibits all at once.

Below is a list of the various programs and events coming to MoD. Early registra-

tion is encouraged to ensure residents looking to attend don't miss out.

Members Preview Day - Holiday Treasures Craft Market

Free for museum members, the MoD encourages the community to be first to experience this year's Holiday Treasures on Nov. 23 from noon to 4 p.m.

Registration is available online at dufferinmuseum.shop/pages/events.

Holiday Treasures Craft Market

Taking place from Nov. 26 to Dec. 7, and running from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day, discover unique, handcrafted gifts from more than 60 artisans and creators.

Holiday Treasures Felt Ornament Workshop

Registration is required for this workshop at a cost of \$25 + HST per participant. The event takes place from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Dec. 5. To register, visit dufferinmuseum.shop/pages/events.

Holiday Treasures Soap Making Workshop

The cost to attend this workshop is \$50 + HST per participant and registration is required at dufferinmuseum.shop/pages/events. The event takes place on Dec. 6 from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Holiday Treasures Polymer Clay Earrings Workshop

Registration is required for this event on Dec. 7 from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. The cost is \$35 + HST per participant. Registration is

available at dufferinmuseum.shop/pages/events.

Give the gift of history this holiday season

Looking for a gift that keeps on giving all year? Give the gift of a MoD membership this holiday season! Members even get the chance to shop the MoD's Holiday Treasures event in advance.

MoD members also enjoy:

- Free year-round admission
- Discounts on MoD studio workshops
- Gift shop savings

It's the perfect gift for history lovers, makers and anyone who loves supporting local culture.

Visit dufferinmuseum.com to learn more.

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SAVE \$5 each

Chicken Quesadillas
4 PIECES 500 g

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89-95 PIECES 907 g

SAVE \$5 each

Jalapeño Cheese Sticks
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SAVE \$5 each

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6 PIECES 432 g

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MULTI-SERVE MEALS 850 g - 907 g 17 VARIETIES

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12.99 each

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42-48 SHRIMP 454 g

SAVE \$2 each
17.99 each

Cocktail sauce included

Bacon Wrapped Scallop Medallions
9-13 PIECES 300 g

Cheese Stuffed Mushroom Caps
17-19 PIECES 300 g

Lobster Stuffed Shrimp Caps
12 PIECES 279 g

Panko Shrimp
454 g

Sauces included

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Wonton Soup

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240 g

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LIMITED TIME ONLY

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Chocolate Chip Cookies
4 PIECES 340 g

LIMITED TIME ONLY

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Mini Chocolate Peanut Butter Cakes
6 PIECES 300 g

SALE
11.99 each

NEW! Mini Raspberry Cheesecakes
6 PIECES 300 g

100% CANADIAN DAIRY

Mini Apple Crisp Cheesecakes
6 PIECES 360 g

Nanaimo Bites
15 PIECES 300 g

12.99

Chocolate Yule Log
700 g

LIMITED TIME ONLY

Mini Chocolate Torte Duo
2 CAKES 160 g

8.99

Mini Cream Puffs
250 g

Caramel Cream Puffs
240 g

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12 PIECES 200 g

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