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JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

HERE COMES SANTA CLAUS: Rounding off Shelburne's Santa Claus Parade once again as per tradition, Saint Nicholas rode through town atop his horse-drawn carriage, wishing everyone in town and beyond a very merry Christmas. Kids cheered, and parents waved as the embodiment of Christmas passed by. Shelburne residents lined the streets downtown on Dec. 6 to enjoy the annual parade.

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Council considering changes to public question period

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Town of Shelburne considered adopting a more structured approach to its public question period during its Dec. 8 council meeting.

The town currently holds bi-weekly council meetings to discuss agenda items, hear public presentations, debate bylaws, and discuss local and regional matters. Recently, however, the format of the question period has been questioned, with a town report suggesting scrapping it entirely.

While some councillors expressed frustration with how the period currently operates, they agreed it should remain in place. Instead, they proposed tightening its structure so residents can continue to access the council regularly.

Councillor Walter Benotto said that although the question period is time-consuming, he would prefer to see it adjusted rather than removed.

"I don't like it, I'll be honest, it takes up a lot of council's time, which doesn't allow us to get to business in a timely fashion," he said. "But I'm not against a question period, as long as it's run in a timely manner."

Benotto said a better-structured format

would make more effective use of both the public's and council's time. He suggested a stricter, time-limited forum for residents to ask questions, citing how other municipalities manage their periods with clearer rules.

"Each questioner is allowed a period of time to do a bit of a preamble to a question, but it must be a question specific to town business in the form of the agenda, properly or a question about something they had an interaction with staff about," he said. "One question, and one question only. If we follow that format, then I think it's fair and right that our citizens are able to ask questions. They should have the right to come in front of the council and present their case."

Mayor Wade Mills received Benotto's comments positively. He agreed with the observations about how question period is currently handled, noting that while rules already exist in the procedural by-law, they have been applied loosely.

"If you look at our procedural by-law, if there are prescriptive limits and time limits and everything else, they're all sort of subject to the chair's discretion," he said. "If the person asking questions is their first time before council, and they aren't familiar with the rules, obviously I'll give them extra leeway."

However, he added that such leeway cannot be endless. While he fully supports keeping the question period, he encouraged residents to consider the nature of the questions they bring forward and to use other mechanisms, such as presentations or delegations, for longer or more detailed matters.

"However, the point is well taken that this is designed as a question period; it's not designed as an open forum," he said. "There has to be some give and take. My message to the public is that I'm happy to continue with the question period going forward, but if you're looking for a longer discussion with council or to make a pitch, then make use of the mechanisms in the agenda for a presentation or delegation."

Council remains in agreement that public question periods are an important way for residents to directly engage with their elected representatives. For now, the period isn't going anywhere, but council has recognized the need for changes to keep it aligned with its intended purpose.

Residents can expect rules to be potentially more strictly enforced going forward, while town staff have been tasked with amending the draft by-law for further review.

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Shoes4Shelburne delivers warmth to those in need over the holidays

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The shoe collecting campaign collected hundreds of pairs of shoes for the community.

Every holiday season, community groups across Shelburne rally to collect food, clothing, and other essential items for families that need a little extra help to carry them through the coldest months of the holiday season. For almost a decade now, Shoes4Shelburne has been collecting shoes for donation.

Alexandra Magder, an organizer for the initiative, said that despite a smaller collection than previous years, dozens of families received quality footwear through the 2025 program.

"This year, we were around the 300 mark in terms of shoes collected, and they've gone to helping over 70 families in town," she said. "It's definitely significantly less than we've collected in previous years, which were closer to 1,000 pairs of shoes, but the numbers of those helped is similar to previous years."

She said that the reason they didn't collect as many shoes as they had in the past had less to do with a lack of donations or town spirit, but more with their new standards for accepting donations, which have become a bit more strict to make sure people were getting good, useful shoes to wear.

"This year, we did make a bit of a change in terms of the collection side," she said. "In previous years, we always did a full month of collecting used shoes from the community, but this year, we were under a bit of a space constraint, and we have new health and safe-

ty protocols. With us being a wellness clinic, we have to be aware of the used products coming in, so there was a little bit more of a risk this year."

Despite the new rules, the town still showed up strong for the collection. With hundreds of shoes collected and dozens of families supported, Magder said the focus was not an arbitrary collection count.

"At the end of the day, the collection drive was never the main focus," she said. "It's helping the individuals that receive the shoes. In the end, we were able to help just as many individuals as last year."

This focus on giving back has been the core of Shoes4Shelburne since the initiative began. Founded by Dr. Richard Magder and Alexandra Magder from Shelburne Family Chiropractic & Wellness Centre, the origins start with Dr. Magder's own shoes.

Nine years ago, before the initiative started, Dr. Magder's shoes were stolen from outside his office while they were drying out in the sun. They were old and wet, and were still taken. While Magder said that her husband rightfully felt violated and confused, he came to a realization within the same moment.

"He made this comment, something like 'If someone actually took those shoes, that were not in great shape and wet, they must have really needed them, so we can't be mad about that,'" she said. "And that's kind of how Shoes4Shelburne took shape. We wanted to turn something negative into something positive, and help out people that maybe needed some shoes."

While their beginnings were small, they made connections and partnerships with



FILE PHOTO

SHOE SUCCESS: Dr. Richard Magder, owner of Shelburne Family Chiropractic & Wellness, started collecting shoes after his own shoes were stolen from his office. Realizing there must have been a need within the community, Dr. Magder started an annual donation drive to collect shoes for people who might need them, and to date, has collected over 3,000 pairs.

other initiatives around town, such as the Christmas Hamper initiative, the Shepherds Cupboard Foodbank, and Choices Youth Shelter.

Now, Shoes4Shelburne is a consistent source of support for those in need, offering a solid pair of shoes to everyone in need, an

important item in everyone's day-to-day life. In the years since it began, they have collected over 3000 shoes.

For more information on Shoes4Shelburne, go to <https://www.shelburnefamilychiropractic.com/shoes4shelburne> to learn more.

Headwaters Health Care Foundation raises record-breaking total on Giving Tuesday

Written By SAM ODROWSKI
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Giving Tuesday encouraged donations to the many not-for-profits and charities that support the fabric of communities around the world on Dec. 2.

Headwaters Health Care Foundation (HHCF) achieved unprecedented success on Giving Tuesday, raising \$143,882. With support from its matching gift sponsor, the

Steve and Sandra Hartman Charitable Family Foundation, this amount doubles to \$287,764. This marks HHCF's most successful Giving Tuesday to date.

"This achievement speaks volumes to the generosity and compassion of the people in our community," said K.C. Carruthers, CEO of HHCF.

"Every dollar donated helps us ensure that Headwaters Health Care Centre has the resources it needs to provide exceptional care

close to home. We are deeply grateful to all of our donors and to the Steve and Sandra Hartman Charitable Family Foundation for their incredible commitment to local health care."

Giving Tuesday occurs on the Tuesday following Black Friday and Cyber Monday each year. It's meant to balance the consumerism of these two days by encouraging people to support charities in their communities.

"Giving Tuesday is a global movement

that inspires generosity and community spirit. At Headwaters Health Care Foundation, these contributions directly support vital equipment that enhance patient care for thousands of individuals across our region," reads a press release from HHCF.

In addition to HHCF's fundraising record, nationally, the most was raised this year.

Canada Helps reported raising a record \$16.8 million for 10,422 charities this year. Last year, \$16.2 million was raised.

Shelburne's weekly Food For You program to hold free Christmas dinner at Trinity United Church

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Mark your calendars, because a warm Christmas meal is cooking up in Shelburne.

Food For You, a weekly hot meal program operating in Shelburne, is hosting its seasonal Christmas dinner on Dec. 17 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., and everyone in town is invited. No money, food, or plates are required; everything will be prepared by the team behind the program.

Sandra Gallagher, one of Food For You's creators, said guests can expect a full-course meal waiting for them when they arrive.

"This is a seasonal dinner, and it's actually going to be our last dinner meal for the year," she said. "We're going to be having turkey, dressings, potatoes, and vegetables, you know, a good, hearty meal."

Of course, there will be some light desserts served as well. The exact treats haven't been decided yet, so for now, Gallagher said it will be a surprise. Whatever is decided, there will be a focus on making the desserts as healthy as possible to stay aligned with Food For You's mission of serving warm, healthy meals to those in need.

She continued by saying that everyone is welcome, regardless of age or situation. While they currently see a lot of users that

come in solo, such as seniors, they are always welcoming families as well, and have provisions for potentially picky eaters among kids.

"We try to have multiple types of soups and foods stored in case we need options. We know that kids might not like all of them," Gallagher said. "But I definitely think a full turkey dinner with veggies, potatoes and such should have something for everyone to enjoy."

This dinner is also special because it's another collaboration between Food For You and a local business, which has been a focus of the program. On Dec. 10, Trillium Ford hosted a mac and cheese dinner.

These sponsored meals give Food For You even more resources to deliver more food with greater variety.

"This dinner is sponsored by Metz Homes LTD, and we'd very much like to thank them for their sponsorship," Gallagher said.

The dinner will be hosted at Shelburne's Trinity United Church, 200 Owen Sound St, in the lower level.

Beyond this dinner, Food For You will continue its warm meals program in the new year and is still accepting food and cash donations.

For more information on Food For You, go to <https://shelburnerotaryclub.com/blog/soup-for-you/>.

More than a meal: Share the Bounty invites the community to free Christmas dinner at Shelburne Legion

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Dec. 25 will be filled with warm food and community connections as Share the Bounty hosts a Christmas dinner from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Shelburne Legion.

No one should ever find themselves alone or isolated on Christmas, nor should they be cold or unfed. Local community initiatives have set out to make sure that never happens in Shelburne.

Pam Kelly, executive director of Share the Bounty, said guests can expect a big, hearty dinner menu.

"Everyone coming can expect to receive an ample dinner serving," she said. "That's going to be turkey, ham, stuffing, potatoes, everything that you can think of that comes with a Christmas dinner. And it's also com-

pletely free."

For those who aren't physically able to make it to the dinner, Kelly said not to worry, because they've prepared for you. Volunteers from Share the Bounty are more than willing to come to you if you can make it to them.

"We have an extra offer, mainly to seniors, where if you can't get out on Christmas day and you would like some food, please call us, because we'll deliver within the area," Kelly said. "It's never a problem for us; we'd rather you not be alone."

She continued by saying that if you're able to come out, join them at the legion.

"We have tons of volunteers from around the Shelburne area that have been so kind as to give up their Christmas day to be here," Kelly said. "Come out and join us, it's going to be one big happy day."

The Christmas dinner is just one part of

Share the Bounty's mission.

Share the Bounty is a charity meal organization whose mission is to feed the hungry in the local communities it serves, including Dufferin, Caledon, and Peel. One of those communities is Shelburne, where Kelly joined the organization.

"I joined Share the Bounty a few years ago, and they generously handed me Shelburne as my local area to work in," she said. "We're actually all over Peel and Dufferin County, offering free meals twice a week out in Orangeville, and we do free meals in Brampton as well. We're looking to expand into Simcoe County as well."

Share the Bounty's Christmas dinner has become another staple in the local community for the holiday season. All across town, charities and groups are running holiday drives and activities to make sure no one

is left hungry, alone, or without a gift this Christmas.

Be a Santa to a Senior is making sure our elderly feel cherished and remembered as they get gifts prepared for them on Christmas. Shoes4Shelburne has been busy collecting shoes for families and individuals who need reliable footwear during the cold months.

Streams Community Club hosted its Very Merry Market in weeks past, giving local creators and youths the chance to showcase their creative talents and residents the chance to buy unique local products as gifts.

For more information on Share the Bounty, how to support them or to donate, visit <https://sharethebounty.info/>. To register for the dinner, contact Pam at 226-979-1926 or dinnerlegion220@gmail.com. Donations are always welcome.

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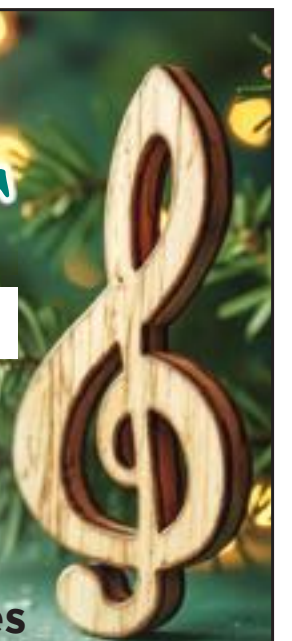
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OPINION

Don't tread on me – Bill C-9

The early astronauts were one tough and brave bunch of guys.

Those guys have a reputation as being fearless, but they were still human.

I read a quote recently from one of the early astronauts, where he explained his true feelings during a launch, years after the event.

"The altimeter said 90,000 feet. I was going straight up and accelerating, and I thought to myself, 'What am I doing?'"

At that point in his flight, he had no control of the situation at all. He couldn't turn around, he couldn't call it off, and he couldn't decide to leap from the craft and hope his parachute worked.

He was committed to the experience, and there was no way out.

That must have been a feeling of being out of control.

I believe this is how many Canadians feel about the federal government.

The men and women in Ottawa seem to have no desire to represent their constituents, the job they were elected to do.

Instead, they form an agenda and carry it out with no regard to the will of the people, even when the people tell them this isn't what we want.

This new nonsense called Bill C-9 is just

another example of the government trying to shove through yet more legislation to control the population.

That bill is now becoming a convoluted mess as the Liberals and the Bloc Québécois, who were teaming up to pass this bill, can't come to an agreement.

Bill C-9 calls for the prosecution and possible imprisonment of anyone who uses symbols or speech that someone else finds offensive. This includes certain organizations' symbols, like a swastika.

However, the plan is for it to go even further by claiming certain religious scriptures should be included as hate speech.

The Criminal Code currently prescribes jail terms of up to two years for 'wilful promotion of hatred'; however, there is an exemption if that statement is in a 'good faith' opinion based on a belief in a religious text.

Legislators are trying to remove religious protections from this Bill, meaning the pastor in your church could be arrested for quoting the bible.

Marc Miller, the newly appointed minister of Canadian Identity and Culture, opened this mess by stating parts of the bible should be censored.

We don't need more and more and more

laws, especially laws designed to govern behaviour.

Years ago, former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau's 1967 Omnibus Bill in the House of Commons made several reforms to the Criminal Code of Canada. One of those reforms was to decriminalize 'homosexual acts' performed in private.

Trudeau famously said, 'There's no place for the state in the bedrooms of the nation.'

He was quite right on that. There is no reason for a democratically elected government to peek into people's bedrooms to determine if they are living a certain way.

On a side note, Trudeau never actually said that quote – it was penned by a newspaper reporter – and Trudeau actually thanked him later for it.

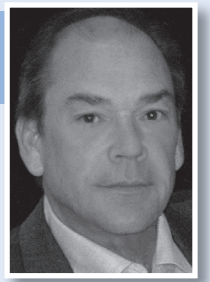
But here we are, years later, where the state wants to dictate what we can say, do, or fly on a private flag pole, or face jail time.

I don't care if my neighbour wants to fly a Nazi flag in front of his house if it's on his private property.

I wouldn't like it, that's for sure, and I certainly wouldn't salute it when I drove by.

Most likely, that guy wouldn't be very popular in the neighbourhood and would be asked by the people next door to remove it. More

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



likely, a neighbour might do it for him late at night by tearing it down or using a hacksaw to cut down the flagpole.

If that happened, he shouldn't be surprised.

But don't forget, our grandfathers and great-grandfathers fought for the right for that guy to fly whatever flag he chooses.

There are protests being planned in January to voice opposition to this bill. These groups are normal citizens who are fed up with the constant attack on the people by their own government.

If this bill passes, I guess someone could take it to the tenth degree and find a way into the parliamentary cafeteria, or whatever it's called on Parliament Hill, and clandestinely listen to the conversations among the MPs.

The first person that makes an off-colour joke, or criticizes another group, and yes, they are human, it happens, just yell 'hate speech!' and point.

That would make a great front-page story and a fiasco for the unfortunate government official who made the mistake of telling a joke or story that didn't fit the extreme narrative of Bill C-9.

Venezuela: Performative murder

"If you're on a boat full of cocaine or fentanyl or whatever, headed to the United States, you're an immediate threat to the United States," said US Secretary of State Marco Rubio last week. So it's perfectly reasonable for the US armed forces to kill everybody on that boat (including a 'double tap' on any survivors in the water).

That's a good place to start unraveling what the Trump administration is really up to, because it is literally impossible for a motorboat off the coast of Venezuela to be heading to the United States. All 22 boats destroyed and all 87 people killed by US missiles were going somewhere, or more likely many different places, but the United States was not one of them.

The shortest distance between the Maracaibo region of Venezuela and the Florida Keys, the nearest bit of the United States, is about 1,000 nautical miles (1,160 statute miles). Most of the boats are twin outboards of various designs, so their maximum fuel capacity cannot be much more than 200 gallons.

Assuming that the boats have 125 hp motors and are doing 20 knots (seems about right, from the drone footage), they will run out of fuel after something between 120 and 200 nautical miles. So they will need to stop between five and eight times to refuel. That's a major nuisance because it would mean many detours and many different customs to clear.

Alternatively, they could just fill lots of jerry cans and carry at least a thousand gallons of extra fuel on the boat. Unfortunately, a thousand gallons of fuel weighs about three tonnes, which is a lot more than those boats are built to carry.

This is basically a stupid idea, and definitely not the way that drugs reach the United States.

Everybody who grew up in countries where they teach basic geography knows that, and so do many Americans. But even if Donald Trump does plan to escalate to air strikes on Venezuela (as he says he will) or an actual invasion of the country (not yet confirmed), why would he start by

killing random people in small boats?

It is performative murder, and the intended audience is not just Venezuelans. We are all back in the 19th century, when the Western Hemisphere was the exclusive domain of the United States. As former US Secretary of State Richard Olney said in 1895, citing the Monroe Doctrine: "The United States is practically sovereign on this continent, and its fiat is law."

Since the other people who share 'the Americas' with the USA, from Canadians to Chileans and Argentines, have grown unfamiliar with this perspective, they have to be reminded of it. Indeed, they have to be re-taught it, and how better than by giving the uppity Venezuelans a good thrashing? Not only instructive, but enjoyable as well.

Trumpworld is going to be a world in which the great powers do what they want, limited only by the strength of other great powers, while the lesser countries do what they are told. If you prefer that in a more diplomatic format, it's all there in this week's 'US National Security Strategy', 33 pages setting out how the Trump administration sees the world.

The Western Hemisphere section offers us a 'Trump Corollary' to the old Monroe Doctrine: "After years of neglect, the United States will assert and enforce the Monroe Doctrine to restore American preeminence, and to protect our homeland and our access to key geographies through-

out the region. ['Key geographies'? Hmm. Like mines and stuff, maybe?]

"We will deny non-Hemispheric competitors the ability to...own or control strategically vital resources in our Hemisphere. This 'Trump Corollary' to the Monroe Doctrine is a common-sense and potent restoration of American power and priorities, consistent with American security interests."

There's no need to read between the lines. It's right there on the page: 'We'll do what we want, and you'll do what we want too.' But for slow learners the US armed forces will be staging a series of demonstrations in and around Venezuela in coming days. Stay tuned.

If this analysis is right, then we may have an answer to the question 'Why bother?' that normally bedevils debates about a US invasion of Venezuela. After all, nobody really needs its oil, and nobody in the Trump administration gives a toss about bringing justice, democracy or 'freedom' to Venezuelans.

But if Trump or whoever is doing the thinking for him needs a horrible example of what happens to any country that defies the United States, Venezuela will do fine. In that context, some performative murders as an opening act for the main event makes perfectly good sense.

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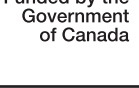


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COMMUNITY VOICES

Monthly Message: A year of small miracles at Streams Community Hub

At this time of year, a lot of attention goes to the big moments. The concerts. The markets. The parades. The things that show up in photos and on social media.

But as I look back on this year at Streams, what stands out to me most is not the big headlines. It's the small miracles. The quiet, almost ordinary moments that most people never see, but that change everything for the young person standing in the middle of them.

I think of a child who arrived at camp with shoulders drawn up to their ears and their eyes fixed on the floor. For the first two days, they barely spoke above a whisper. By the end of the week, they were laughing so hard with their group that they didn't want to leave when pick-up time came. No big speech. No dramatic transformation montage. Just a slow softening, a little more light in the eyes each day, as they realized, "I am safe here. I belong here."

That is a small miracle. I think of the student in my Blissful Baking program who told me on the last day that she had been terrified walking in on Monday morning. She was sure everyone would be mean. What she found instead was a room full of kids who helped her with her dough, shared tools, and treated her with kindness. Somewhere between measuring flour and icing cakes, her fear gave way to something gentler. Trust. Comfort. Maybe even joy.

That is a small miracle. I think of the first time our transit van, Miles, pulled up to a school for after-school



pickup. To someone driving by, it might have just looked like a vehicle in a line of other vehicles. But for the kids climbing on board, it meant, "Someone came for me. I get to go somewhere that expects me and is glad I showed up." For the parent on the other end of that day, it meant one less barrier between their child and a place that feels like home.

That, too, is a small miracle. There were others. Many others.

The moment during auditions for our Centre Stage production when a young performer who had been terrified to audition made it through, his dad holding his hand and our caring staff holding his heart. That quiet young boy blossomed on stage and has now decided to audition for a performing arts high school in the coming year.

Another small miracle. The Word of Mouth Monologue Competition, where local youth stepped onto the stage at Grace Tipling Hall and poured their hearts into stories that were funny, painful, brave, and true. For some of them, that was the first time they had ever been in front of an audience. The courage it takes to stand in a spotlight and be seen is no small thing.

The Very Merry Market, where families shopped, decorated cookies, and lingered a

little longer than they had planned, wrapped in the warmth of community. The Tim Hortons Holiday Smile Cookie week, when people grabbed a box "for the kids at Streams," not realizing that every cookie was a building block in a much bigger story.

And then there was a miracle of a different kind. This fall, we signed an agreement with the Dufferin Community Foundation to establish the Streams Creative Futures Fund, our new endowment. Thanks to a generous seed gift from the MakeWay Foundation's Harbinger Fund and the trust of local donors, we now have a way to support children we have not met yet, in spaces we may not have built yet, doing things we cannot even imagine yet. That is not loud or flashy. But it is steady. It is hopeful. It says, "We are planning for you, even before you arrive."

When I put all of these moments together in my mind, they don't look like a single big miracle. They look like a string of small ones, threaded through ordinary days by ordinary people who chose to care. Parents. Volunteers. Staff. Donors. Neighbours. Kids who welcomed someone new into their circle. Business owners who said yes to partnerships. Community members who cheered from the audience, signed up to give monthly, or simply stopped to say, "What you are doing matters."

If you are reading this and you have been part of that in any way, thank you. Whether you bought a Smile Cookie, sponsored a prize, drove a child to a program, volunteered a few hours, or became a monthly do-

nor, you have helped create space for these small miracles to happen.

As we come to the end of the year, we are already looking ahead to the next one. There will be new programs, new faces, new challenges, and new stories. There will also be more small miracles if we keep tending the ground together.

If you would like to be part of that, there are a few simple ways to help:

You can support our day-to-day work by becoming One of 1000, our campaign to find 1,000 monthly donors giving \$10 a month. It may not feel like much, but just like the small moments I have described, it adds up to something bigger than you can see at first. You can join at streamshub.org/oneof1000.

You can also make a special year-end gift, or tell one family you know about Streams and our programs. Sometimes the small act of passing on information is the beginning of a big change in a child's life.

However you choose to support, or even if all you can offer this year is your attention and your encouragement, please know that it matters. The big moments are wonderful. But it is the small miracles that keep us going. And at Streams, we are grateful to be in a community where those miracles keep showing up.

From all of us at Streams, we wish you a season filled with peace, rest, and small miracles of your own. May the coming year bring new reasons to hope—for you, for your family, and for the young people we are raising together in this community.

Town of Shelburne asks residents to support emergency services by clearing snow off hydrants

As winter weather continues to cover the streets of Shelburne in snow, the town has issued a statement asking residents to help local emergency services.

Every second counts in an emergency, and snow-covered fire hydrants can delay a

response. To combat this, the Town of Shelburne is requesting that residents become "Hydrant Heroes" by clearing snow and ice from hydrants near their homes or businesses.

Firefighters need at least three feet of clearance around the hydrant and a clear path to

the street to connect hoses quickly during an emergency.

A blocked hydrant could mean precious minutes lost when fighting a fire or saving lives.

The town asks that after each snowfall, res-

idents check hydrants near their property and clear snow or ice from all sides, ensuring the hydrant is visible from the street.

Anyone who sees a hydrant buried under snow is asked to take a few minutes to dig it out, which could save a life.

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Town of Shelburne hosting first-ever Holiday Home Decorating Contest

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Get ready to decorate your homes with the spirit of Christmas, because the town will be looking for you to submit your entry by Sunday, Dec. 15, at 11:59 p.m.

The Town of Shelburne has been looking for new activities and events to promote community engagement this past year and has been trying out some holiday-themed activities.

Melissa Kenney, the town's communications coordinator and administrative assistant, said that after positive feedback on previous events, the town is excited to see how this decorating contest unfolds.

"We're thrilled to be launching our very first Holiday Home Decoration Contest," she said. "After receiving such positive feedback from our Canada Day contest, we knew we wanted to keep the momentum going. This is just the beginning."

"Our goal is to create more opportunities for community engagement in the new year through fun contests, interactive surveys, and other initiatives that bring people together."

For those looking to enter the competition, two types of awards are up for grabs. The Community Choice Award will be selected through a public vote held from Dec. 16 to 19. There will also be the Judge's Choice Award. This one will be selected by a panel

of town staff, who will judge entries based on creativity, presentation, and holiday spirit.

For the Judge's Choice Award, there will be four areas they'll be looking at to judge decorations.

Creativity and Originality will include things like unique themes and imaginative design. The Overall Presentation will evaluate details like display cohesion, colour choices, and visual impact. The Use of Lights & Decorations will judge effective lighting and balanced décor. Holiday Spirit will evaluate the warmth, joy, and festive ambience of the decorations.

There are a few rules to consider before entering. Street addresses must be given, and decorations must be safe and comply with all

municipal bylaws. Inflatables, music, projections, and themed displays are welcome as long as they do not create safety or noise issues.

Of course, only exterior decorations will be evaluated, and by entering the contest, participants grant the town permission to share photos of their display.

Naturally, with any competition, there will be some prizes up for grabs. Winning in either of the two award categories will land you a \$50 gift card to be used at a business here in town. The winners will be announced on Dec. 22.

To enter to compete or to vote, go to <https://www.haveyoursayshelburne.ca/>. You won't be able to enter without it.

Mulmur women defends world title in women's physique bodybuilding championship

Written By JAMES GERUS

Jessie Steinberg recently made her community of Mulmur proud after taking first place in the world championship for women's physique at a bodybuilding competition in Toronto.

Steinberg, 53, moved to Dufferin County in 2000. Prior to competing in bodybuilding competitions, she played semi-pro soccer, but two concussions in that sport led her to seek a different physical outlet.

It was when she was 45, taking her daughter to a gymnastics class, that another mom in the bodybuilding world suggested she give it a try. She took a chance on the sport in February of that year, and by October, she competed in her first competition.

While she was hesitant about undertaking such a daunting new skill, Steinberg explains, "I felt like a fish out of water. But you know what? I'm learning something new, I'm 45, and I'm learning something too. It's good for my brain, and humble for my ego. Let's go!"

Steinberg is someone who oozes optimism and curiosity from every ounce of her being. On top of her commitment to athletics, she works a myriad of jobs that connect her to the community. She's well known as the founder of Leap Adventures - an educational team building organization that works with corporations and schools and gets them out of their comfort zones with team building activities.

Steinberg is a teacher for the Upper Grand District School Board, a part-time musician, works in disaster relief, and is working on a tree farm this holiday season.

Where does this entrepreneur of many trades get all this energy and motivation from? From two areas: One is looking after and respecting her body.

"I love when people sink into their bodies and know how strong they are," said Steinberg, who doesn't drink or smoke. "However you built your body, you built it — the way you feed it, move it, don't move it — and if you don't like how it feels lets get empowered to have it feel better!"

The other key factor is having a purpose and mission to help her community.

"Giving back to the community, creating

community, its part of who I am and how I roll in the world. I want to walk around with generosity, kindness, and integrity," said Steinberg.

That love of the body and zest for life keep her going and help her maintain a positive mindset as she won her latest competition.

On Nov. 8 she defended her title in the Ultimate Fitness Events (UFE) World Championships for all-natural bodybuilding in Toronto.

Steinberg competed in the women's physique category and gained five extra pounds of muscle just for the show. After winning last year, she was able to win again and is hoping to have a three-peat next year.

But regardless of the outcome, Steinberg said, "In the end, this is about me showing up on stage with what I got, and in my world, I already won because I made it to the stage. Everything else is a bonus."

The regimen to prepare for the competition is intense; when hinting at her diet and physical training to prepare for the show, Steinberg reflects, "It's possible for women over 40 to build muscle. We just have to shift what we've always done. We have to eat differently and move differently. Instead of doing cardio, we actually have to lift weights."

As a bodybuilder, Steinberg is committed to living a natural lifestyle and competing in competitions as a natural bodybuilder, despite the challenge of gaining muscle at an older age.

"If people choose not to go natural, they need to know what they're getting into," she



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

WORLD CHAMPION: Jessie Steinberg of Mulmur has been named the world champion in the women's physique category of the Ultimate Fitness Events (UFE) World Championships, held in Toronto on Nov. 8

said, noting the side effects are what really concern her.

"The implications are huge. There's something to be said about being a natural bodybuilder and seeing how you can build muscle with what you got."

Fortunately, Steinberg has many supportive people on her side. Even Popeye's Supplements in Orangeville supports her as an athlete and helps provide her with supplements and powders to aid her journey.

When asked if she has a favourite part of the body to work out, she said, while it's definitely not leg day, "I love doing upper body, typically chest and shoulders are my (favourite)."

When asked if she has advice for others looking to take up bodybuilding at any age, she said to "connect with somebody, connect with a coach. Someone who has been in it. And connect with someone who is also a natural."

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JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTOS

COMMUNITY CELEBRATION: Shelburne's annual Santa Claus parade was another success across the board, with hundreds braving the cold and snow to watch dozens of floats and displays parade through town on Saturday, Dec. 6. From small children to grandparents, the message was clear to everyone - Christmas is here.



**NOTICE OF STATUTORY PUBLIC MEETING
OFFICIAL PLAN AND ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENTS**



THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF
Melancthon

RECEIPT OF COMPLETE APPLICATION

TAKE NOTICE that the Township of Melancthon has received a complete application for a joint Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendment for the lands legally described as Part of the East Half of Lots 13 and 14, Concession 4 OS, and municipally referred to as 437202 and 437138 4th Line.

DATE AND LOCATION OF PUBLIC MEETING

Date and Time Thursday, January 15, 2026, at 5:45 p.m.
Location Council Chambers - 157101 Highway 10 or Virtual via Zoom

If you wish to attend virtually, please email the Clerk prior to the day of the public meeting so you can be provided with the link to the meeting.

THE PURPOSE of the application is to twofold in nature. The first portion seeks to amend the Township Official Plan to redesignate the subject lands from Agricultural and Environmental Conservation to Extractive Industrial. The second component aims to amend the Township Zoning By-law 12-1979 to rezone the subject lands from General Agricultural (A1) to Extractive Industrial - Exception (M2-XX) and Open Space Conservation (OS2).

FURTHER INFORMATION AND MAP OF LAND SUBJECT TO THE APPLICATION

A key map has been appended (see Appendix A) that identifies the lands that are subject to the joint Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendment application.

Additional information and materials regarding the jointly proposed Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendment application are available for review by contacting the Township office by telephone at 519-925-5525, by email to the Clerk at dholmes@melancthontownship.ca, or by visiting the Township office located at 157101 Highway 10, Melancthon, ON during regular business hours Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (the Office is closed between 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m.).

Mailing Date of this Notice: Thursday, December 4th, 2025

Denise B. Holmes

Denise B. Holmes, AMCT
CAO/Clerk
Township of Melancthon

Appendix A - Lands Subject to Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments



LEGEND
 437138 4th Line
 437202 4th Line
 Pit Expansion Area



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Arts & Entertainment

LOCAL COMMUNITY EVENTS

Children's Christmas Market in Melancthon helps kids with holiday shopping

Written By SAM ODROWSKI
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Helping Hands Project is running a Christmas market from Dec. 12 to Dec. 14 at Tripp Fields in Melancthon.

Sometimes, Christmas shopping isn't very affordable. That's even more apparent if you're a kid looking to get something thoughtful for your parents, siblings, or someone else who's close.

But that's where the Helping Hands Project aims to step in. They have gathered a large assortment of donated items to be sold for affordable prices, so that kids can have a chance to purchase something nice for Christmas.

Brenda Serbin, one of many volunteers with Helping Hands, said the goal was to give kids some independence.

"The general philosophy behind the market was to provide the kids with an opportunity to go out shopping without breaking the family budget," she said. "It's also an independence thing, giving them the freedom of purchasing and gifting something to someone they care about, to know that feeling of giving."

This market sells items priced from \$1 to \$5, no matter what they are. This allows kids on a tight budget to purchase several items for as little as \$10. The money isn't the focus, but the heartfelt gift the kids will give is.

"Everything is priced from \$1 to \$5, so that kids can come to the market with \$20 and maybe get something for the whole family with cash left over," Serbin said. "As a mom or grandma, if your child's gone and picked out an item that didn't break your budget, you're quite happy. It could be a plastic ring, and you'd still say 'wow' because it's a genuine gift they picked for you from their heart."

All of the money raised by the market will stay in the community and be donated to other charitable causes, such as local food banks.

Of course, for that extra special touch, the market also has a gift wrapping station, so when the kids have picked out what they'd like to get, they can have their choices wrapped up for them.

The Helping Hands Project is also preparing some shopping certificates for kids. Cash donations, such as a very generous

\$500 donation from a local resident, will be broken down into small, \$10 packages to be given to kids who might have a little bit more cash for their Christmas shopping.

For parents on a tight budget during the holiday season, a special area has also been set aside. Concealed from the rest of the market, adults can come in and shop for items they might want as gifts, in comfort and privacy.

Serbin said that there will be a variety of items to choose from.

"We have things like brand new roasters, jewelry, toys, and stuff," she said. "There's a lot to pick from. I have a banquet hall on my property, a 3,000 square foot building, and it's absolutely packed with stuff we collected this year from donations."

The Helping Hands Project is a relatively new but very busy and spirited organization. There is no hierarchy in the group; they maintain a collaborative atmosphere where everyone can propose new ideas freely, and it's been that way since the group was founded.

"Everything is done by voting here, including our name. They just thought of some names, and the Helping Hands Proj-

ect was the one we went with," Serbin said. "We all own our own successes and failures. At the end of the day, we are just a bunch of people that love doing initiatives like this."

The project is also looking to partner with local businesses.

"We would really love to have more businesses donate, as we haven't had too many step up yet," Serbin said. "Even if it was \$20 per business, we could give out a bunch of \$10 shopping certificates to kids. It would make a huge difference."

While they might be new, the Helping Hands Project is full of passion and energy, and has committed itself to bringing more positivity to a world that needs it. They hope that anyone interested will visit their market and consider supporting them in the future.

The market will be open from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Dec. 12, and open at 11 a.m. on both Dec. 13 and 14. It will be set up at Tripp Fields, 723190 Sideroad 250, Melancthon.

For more information about the Helping Hands Project and the market, contact Brenda Serbin at 519-943-3582.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

PREPARING TO PERFORM: The Imagine Expressive Arts Collective, created by Branching Out Support Services as an 11-week pilot project, will take the stage at Westminster United Church to perform *Mystory of Light*, directed by Jane Cameron.

Neurodivergent cast of actors to take the stage at Westminster Church for theatrical debut

Written By SAM ODROWSKI
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Imagine Expressive Arts Collective, created by Branching Out Support Services, will perform *Mystory of Light*, a theatrical production featuring a cast of neurodiverse adults.

The show is coming to Westminster United Church in Orangeville on Dec. 12 and sold out tickets just two weeks after it was announced, showcasing strong community support.

Jane Cameron and Michelle Grierson will be leading the cast in this sensory theatre performance. The founder of Branching Out Support Services, Kimberly Van Ryn, told the Citizen that Cameron, who's directing the show, has been a part of it every step of the way.

"Jane Cameron is a creative genius. Her process is incredible. She sat with the group in a circle for quite a bit of time to hear their stories – however they tell them – listen to their passions, understand their

lives and then created a show that highlights each actor as well as combines all their talents in group numbers," said Van Ryn.

"The show is a masterpiece that deeply honors each neurodiverse actor. So, although Jane wrote the script, it was informed by each actor and their support circles. It is a close reflection of what the actors wanted to see in their play, how they see and experience their own lives and what they have to share with others."

Mystory of Light focuses on how to find light in darkness and how people can show each other "the light."

Founded as an 11-week pilot project in October, the Imagine Expressive Arts Collective aims to address the need for more inclusive opportunities for neurodivergent artists.

"We were aware that there are already some amazing dramatic arts, music and dance opportunities for people with disabilities (or) neurodivergence in Dufferin County," said Van Ryn. "We wanted to add

to that roster with a low pressure, community supportive collective where all people are welcome despite being able to communicate through speech or if they communicate differently."

She added, "It was created by a caregiver of a neurodivergent artist having a conversation with some of the support professionals at Branching Out Support Services. We then sat down with director Jane Cameron and talked with people who had lived experience of both disability and art as to what they would like to see in our community."

The collective's end goal is to turn it into a standalone not-for-profit organization once the 11-week pilot concludes.

Reflecting on what makes this performance special, Van Ryn said it's community theatre at its "absolute best."

"All of the actors are neurodivergent (or) disabled, and their support professionals and volunteers merge into the set to support them every step of the way. This performance comes from the passions of peo-

ple who are highly creative and experience the world from a very sensory-based perspective. Our theatre performance blends so many elements of art, courage, support and community," Van Ryn told the Citizen.

The actors have been practicing for two to three hours each week leading up to the show, and Van Ryn said their skills are "second to none."

"Every Friday they come together as a group in the space where we will do our performance, the lower level of the Westminster Church. With their supporters they design sets, learn dances, practice music, practice timing, and work with the staff team as we solve problems on the fly, and make it happen," she explained.

In addition to the theatrical debut on Dec. 12, there will be a small artisan market featuring neurodivergent artists, showing and selling their work.

Products from Branching Out Support Services' Granola Project will also be for sale, and there will be a community social after the show.

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SPORTS

CDDHS boys' basketball teams have strong start to the season

Written By **BRIAN LOCKHART**

The Centre Dufferin District High School Royals boys' basketball teams are starting off the season with a strong performance.

Centre Dufferin has had a strong basketball program over the past several years, featuring a lot of talent on the court. Many players are also club players, bringing a lot of experience to their high school teams.

The season got underway with the first games on Dec. 1.

JUNIOR

The District 4 Junior boys' basketball schedule has five high schools competing this year.

In addition to Centre Dufferin, there are teams from Erin District High School, Wellington Heights Secondary School, Westside Secondary School, and Emmanuel Christian High School.

The District has an eight-game regular-season junior schedule before the playoffs.

The lowest-ranking team at the end of the regular season will not have a berth in the playoffs.

The playoffs include a semi-final game between four teams, with the winners advancing to the district championship game.

The Royals junior team won their first game of the season, leaving the court with a 59-26 win over Westside from Orangeville

on Dec. 1.

Their second game resulted in a 50-30 loss to Erin District High School on Dec. 3.

The juniors will have three road games before returning to their home court on Wednesday, Feb. 4, to host Emmanuel Christian High School.

SENIOR

In the District 4 senior division, five teams are entered this year.

In addition to Centre Dufferin, teams from Emmanuel Christian High School, Erin District High School, Westside Secondary School, and Norwell District High School are entered in this year's competition.

The senior division has an eight-game regular season schedule. Only the top four teams will make the playoffs, which are scheduled to start on Feb. 18, with semi-final games. The winners of those two games will go on to compete for the District championship on Feb. 23.

The Royals senior team won their first game of the season on Dec. 1, with a 57-41 win over Westside.

They took a 69-55 loss to Erin District High School in their second game on Dec. 3.

The Royals senior squad will have three road games before returning to their home court on Feb. 4 to host Emmanuel Christian High School.

Siskins take over first place from Alliston Hornets in the North Carruthers Division

Written By **JOSHUA DRAKES**
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Stayer Siskins have moved into first place in the North Carruthers Division of the Provincial Junior Hockey League, and they lead by a single point over the Alliston Hornets.

The shift in the standings took place over the weekend, after the Siskins won both of their games and the Hornets came up short.

Those outcomes dropped the Hornets to second place and moved the Siskins into the top spot in the division.

The Hornets have had a disastrous couple of weeks. After going on a 13-game winning streak to start the season, the Alliston squad lost five of their last eight games.

They lost two games to Stayner and two games to the Penetang Kings. They also lost a game to the fifth-place Midland Flyers.

For some reason, the Hornets have just been unable to score goals.

The Siskins now have 35 points – one ahead of the Alliston squad.

The weekend also saw the Penetang Kings move up a spot to third place. They knocked the Orillia Terriers down to the number four spot in the division.

Penetang has 31 points and a 14-9 record, including two overtime losses and one shoot-out loss.

Orillia started out strong, but took some losses. They have a 13-6 record, including one overtime loss, and have recorded 27 points so far.

In the middle of the pack, the Midland Flyers are in fifth place with 20 points and a 10-12 record. They have won two games on shoot-outs this season.

The Muskoka Bears and Innisfil Spartans are in sixth and seventh place, respectively. Muskoka has won 6 games after 24 times on the ice. Innisfil also has six wins, but they have played only 20 games so far this season.

In the basement, the Huntsville Otters are struggling and have a 6-17 record.

The North Carruthers Division is just past the halfway mark in the 42-game regular season schedule.



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

MOVING UP: The Alliston Hornets host the Stayner Siskins on the ice at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre on Friday, Dec. 8. The Hornets gave up a 4-1 loss in the game. The Siskins moved into first place in the North Carruthers Division after this game.

That means there is still a lot that can happen as the teams battle it out for the rest of the season in a bid to secure a good playoff berth.

Across the league, every division has a couple of teams that are very strong this year, as Junior C squads from across the province hope to win their division and compete for the provincial championship – the Schmalz Cup.



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

TIED FOR THE SEASON: The Centre Dufferin District High School Royals junior boys' basketball team host the Erin District High School Raiders in the gym at CDDHS on Wednesday, Dec. 3. The Royals played a good game but had to settle for a 50-30 loss. They now have a 1-1 record for the season.

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

EMMETT MIDANIK


Playing hockey since he was just three-years-old, Shelburne Wolves U11 Rep centre Emmett Madanik brings a lot of experience to his team.


"I like how everybody's mad at each on the ice – it's a good way to get your anger out," Emmett joked of how he likes the aggressive side of the game. "I like playing with a team because they bring you up – they say, 'let's go again!' and they're helping you on the ice.

Emmett is a valuable member of the Wolves U11 Rep team.

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*Leasing offers available O.A.C. from Genesis Financial Services based on a new 2026 G70 2.5T Advanced AWD with an annual lease rate of 1.9% for up to 39 months. Lease offer includes 1% Genesis lease loyalty rate reduction. Monthly payments show the price including the rate reduction. See your Genesis distributor for details on eligibility. Monthly lease payment of \$578 for a 39-month walk-away lease. Down payment of \$4,250 and first monthly payment required. Trade-in value may be applied to down payment. Total lease obligation is \$26,773. \$9 security deposit on all models. 16,000 km allowance per year applies. Additional charge of \$0.15/km on all models. *Financing offers available O.A.C. from Genesis Financial Services based on a new 2026 G70 2.5T Advanced AWD with an annual finance rate of 3.9% for up to 84 months. †Offers available for a limited time and subject to change or cancellation without notice. Inventory is limited. See Genesis Brampton for complete details.

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Shelburne Public Library raises over \$2,000 at annual silent auction, book sale

The hearts of Shelburne Public Library staff are certainly full after seeing the community show up in full force for its Annual Silent Auction & Book Sale.

The library received 232 donations, had over 300 people attend, and raised \$175 from a book sale, and over \$2,000 (final amount TBD) from its silent auction.

These funds will enhance the library's collection for all ages and are greatly appreciated. "We couldn't do it without the generous donations of local businesses and patrons, our staff and volunteers who work tirelessly to organize and stage the items,

and you, the buyers. Thank you from your library," reads a statement from the Shelburne Library.

"We also want to give a special shout out to Book Basket Creator Extraordinaire, Trudy. Trudy curates each SPL book basket and creates a stunning array each year. Bravo!"

STAFF PICK OF THE WEEK:

First Born: A Memoir by Lauren Christensen: Christensen is an editor in New York City, who starts documenting her motherhood journey as soon as she learns

she is pregnant with her first child. While experiencing the throes of maternal joy, she is simultaneously watching her beloved grandfather move towards his death, and grappling with the complicated relationship she has with her own mother. Then, unexpectedly, she is faced with the reality of having to terminate her pregnancy due to genetic complications – being told by her doctor that "either one of you dies or both of you die." While processing this devastating news, and still having to endure the birth of her baby, Christensen is left leaning on the support of her family while figuring

out how she can possibly continue living following this kind of loss.

Why Amy Recommends it: This memoir is absolutely heartbreaking – my heart was clenched tight the entire time I was reading it. Yet it so beautifully depicts the vastness and vulnerability of a mother's love for her child (long before they are born), and the intricacies of life, death and family. I also think it's an incredibly courageous story to share, given how many mothers experience such losses, and so that others may also understand how deeply a person is altered after such loss.

Family Transition Place holds a candlelight vigil recognizing victims of gender based violence

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Family Transition Place (FTP) held an outdoor ceremony to recognize the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women on Thursday, Dec. 4. The gathering recognized that gender based violence remains an ongoing crisis across Canada and beyond.

A moment of silence was held shortly after the start of the ceremony, a vigil for women killed for simply being women. Candles were lit for the memorial.

Lynette Pole-Langdon, a board member for FTP, thanked those in attendance for their moment of silence.

"Thank you, everyone, for recognizing that moment of silence, but lighting the candles reminds us that today isn't just about remembrance, it's a call to action," she said. "Over the past few years, we've seen some important shifts. Municipalities, including our own, have declared gender based violence an epidemic."

"I think we all here tonight agree that women, children, and families deserve far more than the management of violence. There really is so much work still to be done. We see it every day. The sad reality is our services remain chronically underfunded," Pole-Langdon added.

Despite the funding gap, Pole-Langdon thanked the shelter's supporters, whose time

and money have helped keep it running, despite a lack of funding.

The evening ceremony then shifted, with shelter supervisor Tiffany McMillan coming forward to recognize and honour the victims of the École Polytechnique massacre in 1989. She said that since that massacre, violence against women has remained a deeply rooted problem in society.

"Thank you, everyone, for recognizing the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women and pausing while we remember the 14 young women who lost their lives at École Polytechnique," she said. "We also recognize the many women, girls and gender diverse peoples whose lives continue to be shaped or lost because of gender-based violence in Canada."

She continued by reminding those in attendance that while the statistics can paint a grim picture, it's important to remember that every number is a person, a woman, a child, families that have to sacrifice so much just to be at peace. But with real action and support, the cycle can be broken,

"One in three women in Canada will experience intimate partner violence in their lifetime. Every six days, on average, a woman is killed by her intimate partner. These are more than statistics for our shelter. These are people coming to us for support. Gender-based violence is preventable, and it takes all of us. It requires sustained investments, and it requires the courage to speak

openly about a problem that thrives in silence."

Pole-Langdon continued by calling out all the supporters of the shelter, whose support and advocacy have been instrumental in their mission.

"We feel so blessed that we have our wonderful volunteers and our wonderful community that supports us," Pole-Langdon said. "We appreciate all our donors that stand beside and support us, and all of you that came out here in the freezing cold."

She continued by making a call to action to the community.

"Each of us here has a role to play, whether you're a door, a volunteer, a neighbor, a parent, a service provider, anyone that believes we should all have a safer future," she said. "Your voice, your advocacy, your willingness to stay engaged matters. We need coordinated, sustained, and structural change. We need to refuse anything less than safety, dignity and justice for every woman, every child, and every survivor."

Family Transition Place concluded its Dec. 4 ceremony with a heartfelt message - no matter how reality might seem, there is



JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

HONOURING VICTIMS: Family Transition Place staff and guests in attendance lit small candles in a showing of unity and remembrance, both as a tribute and a promise to continue to fight for a safer future.

always hope and a light at the end of the tunnel. Gender-based violence is not an invincible reality. It can be challenged, changed, and prevented.

FTP provides critical services to women and their children who have experienced abuse and unhealthy relationships. These services include shelter services for those who need to leave home, counseling services, and outreach campaigns to educate and inform.

For more information, go to FTP's website at familytransitionplace.ca.

Dufferin OPP issues warning to the community regarding fraudulent texts for speed camera payment

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is warning residents about a text message scam circulating in the area that falsely claims recipients have incurred a speed camera fine.

In an incident reported to the Dufferin OPP, a victim received a text message stating that a speed camera fine had been issued, along with a link appearing to direct the individual to a secure Service Ontario payment page. Believing the message to be legitimate, the victim paid what appeared to be a \$12 fine.

By submitting the payment, the victim unknowingly provided scammers with access to their credit card information. Fraudsters then attempted to withdraw \$750 from the card. Fortunately, the suspicious transaction was detected by the credit card company, the card was cancelled, and no further losses occurred.

The victim later received a second, similar text message. A screenshot of this message has been shared with the police to help raise public awareness.

The OPP would like to remind residents of

the following important facts:

- The Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO) does not send notifications of fines by text message.
- The MTO does not collect or use personal phone numbers for enforcement or fine notifications.
- Legitimate provincial offence notices, including speed camera fines, are delivered by mail only.
- Do not click on links in unsolicited text messages-even if they appear to be from official agencies or government services.

• If you receive a suspicious message, delete it immediately and do not provide any personal or financial information.

Anyone who believes they may have been a victim of fraud is encouraged to contact police and report the incident to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501 or antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca.

If you wish to report a similar incident or have information related to this scam, please contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122, or Crime Stoppers to remain anonymous at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS).

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DECEMBER 19TH

VINTAGE TOY & ADVERTISING MEMORABILIA

A Collector's dream offering vintage toys, gas & oil memorabilia, and standout advertising signs all in one sale! Just in time for the holiday season. We even have our own big jolly guy making a list & checking it twice... Dennis of course!

Lots begin closing at 5pm on Dec 19th.

Preview: Fri Dec 19th, 10am – 4pm, or call for appointment on another day.

Pickup: Sat Dec 20th, 10am – 4pm. Call or text if you need more information.

Pickup & preview at our Home Office Base: 438280 4th Line, Melancthon L9V 1S9 (North of Shelburne).

Features: Minnito Pressed Steel Supertest Oil Tanker; Tonka Pressed Steel Carnation Milk Delivery Van; Dinky Supertoys Gift Set 990 incl. Diecast Pullmore Car Transporter; Toys Toys Plastic Mercedes Benz 300 SL Pedal Car; AMF Big 4 Pedal Tractor; 588 ISETTA Tin Friction Car; Ertl McCormick Farmall & Mogul Diecast Tractors – signed by Joseph L. Ertl; Hubley Cast Iron Race Car w/ Moving Pistons; Hot Wheels Carry Case & Track Sets w/ large assortment of sealed diecast cars; Ertl American Muscle Diecast '69 Dodge Charger R/T & '70 Chevy; Dinky Supertoys 666 – Diecast Missile Erector Vehicle; Britains Historical Series Lead Figure Sets; 1951 Schwinn Black Phantom Bike; Comics; Play Sets & Games; Model Kits; Train & Racing Track Sets and more.

In addition to vintage toys, this sale features a wide variety of Tin; Porcelain & Framed Paper Advertising from brands such as Red Indian; Texaco; Ford; Buffalo Motor Oil; Evinrude Outboard Motors; Gold Star Stamps and more; Pepsi-Cola "Delicious Refreshing" Battery OP Wall Mount Clock; Stained Glass Coca-Cola Table Lamp; Orange Crush SST Push Plate; Gas Station Collectibles incl. Shell Oil 60L Barrel Can; Gasoline Fuel Pump Globe; Service Caps w/ Texaco Patches; Hubcaps; Motor Oil Cans; and so much more.



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HELP WANTED



NOW HIRING

Ice River is currently looking for twenty (20) Material Handler/QA Technician(s) to join our team. You will be working at our Blue Mountain Plastics Recycling facility, located at 485387 30 Sideroad, Shelburne Ontario L9V 3N5.

A Production Operator (Material Handler/QA Technician) is responsible for sorting products on the production line, operating forklifts to move materials, ensuring quality assurance compliance, and performing equipment calibration. The operator is also tasked with data interpretation, software interfacing, and maintaining accurate records. Working as part of a team, the operator focuses on meeting production goals while maintaining safety, efficiency, and quality standards.

- 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 \$24.50 - \$25.40 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.
- At least two years of experience in the plastics recycling industry required; previous manufacturing experience is preferred.
- Demonstrated ability to work independently on specific tasks and collaboratively within a small team to achieve production goals in a fast-paced, high-volume setting.
- Certified and experienced in operating various forklifts, including models equipped with clamps, with a strong emphasis on safety protocols, efficient loading techniques, and adherence to load capacities.
- Strong working knowledge of Microsoft Office Suite (Excel, Word) for data tracking, reporting, and analysis, with the ability to quickly learn and utilize industry-specific software (e.g., Presage) for operational data management.
- Competent in interpreting production data, identifying operational trends, and providing insights to improve sorting efficiency, production speed, and material quality.
- Knowledge of quality assurance methodologies, including experience with calibration tools and procedures to maintain sorting equipment's accuracy and reliability.
- Familiarity with PET/HDPE material handling, recycling processes, and industry-specific standards for processing and sorting recycled materials.
- Experienced in following shipping protocols, generating, reviewing, and organizing shipping documentation (BOLs), and ensuring compliance with transport and regulatory standards.

To view a comprehensive overview of the position, please go to <https://jobs.dayforcehcm.com/en-US/irss/CANDIDATEPORTAL/jobs/3305>. Interested candidates please send a copy of your resume and cover letter to cstewart@iceriversprings.com or write to:

Company
Ice River Springs Water Co. Inc.
485387 30th Sideroad
Shelburne, ON
L9V 3N5

OBITUARY

LOIS HAND

Lois Jeannette Hand passed away peacefully on Dec. 4, 2025 at Headwaters Healthcare Centre, surrounded by her family.



Beloved wife of Earl. Devoted mother of Angela (Antonio) and Jen (Chris). Proud grandmother of Cooper, Freddie, Jack, Aeryn, and Chase. Lois will be lovingly remembered by her family and friends.

As per her wishes, a cremation has taken place and a Celebration of Life will follow at a later date. Details to follow. Online condolences may be placed at www.jackandthompsonfuneralhome.com



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Live Auction Sale

for **Robert & Jennifer Black Ryanday Farm**

Saturday December 20th, 9:30am

6039 8th Line, Hillsburgh (Erin) ON Coming north on Trafalgar Rd towards Hillsburgh. Turn east onto Wellington 22 & go 1.3km to 8th Line Erin. Then north 4.0km to sale on east side of road. OR come south from Hwy 9 on Hwy 25 (Cty Rd 24) for 10km to Erin/Garafraxa townline. Then east 1.4km to 8th Line Erin. Then south 2.1km to sale on east side of road. **** PARKING ON SITE****

Tractors/Skid Steer: Case IH MXU 110 4x4 tractor, Quicke Q41 loader, cab, 2 remotes, 4600hrs.; MF 265 tractor & Allied 590 loader, multi power; JD 5575 skid steer, material bucket, 3479hrs; JD X320 lawnmower, 54" deck, hydrostatic, 597hrs, annual maint. **Mach/Equip:** JD 8350 seed drill, 18 run, grass seed, 1 disc, fert; Gehl TDC 1475 round baler, 4x5's, inoc; NH Hayliner 315 sq baler & thrower; (3)18ft wood wagons; Kuhn GA4100 rotary rake, pull-type, tandem; Lucknow 6ft snowblower, hyd chute; post hole auger; Case IH 8330 haybine, 9ft; gravity box; Ford 8ft disc; IH 12ft cultivator, & harrows; (3) thrower wagons (2- 20ft, all steel tops, 1- 20ft steel with wood floor); 20ft wood & steel round bale wagon; for skidsteer- 2 prong hay fork, manure forks; Leon 375 manure spreader; Agro-Trend 3pth sprayer. **Horse Equip & Rel:** 4-seater horse sleigh, team hitch; (2) single horse shafts; (2) Fore carts (single, double); blankets; stocks-for shoeing; (2)horse bale feeders; whipple trees; (1) set work harness; (1)set Todd Style show harness; harness rack; qty heavy horse harness pieces, lines, etc; asst horse supplies; (2)steel stall dividers; (2)single horse sleighs; (4)stall corner feeders; (2)hay/grain feeders; (3)round bale feeders-tombstone style; semen tank; microscope; Black Horse Ale picture & trays; 4-wheel buggy-like new; 2-wheel pleasure driving cart; draft foal/horse halters; asst white show halters; leg wraps; asst show equip; and much more! **Shop/Farm Rel/Straw & Hay:** Onan 60W generator, alternator; 4'x8' 1-axle utility trailer; bale moisture tester; twine; tool chest; anvil; battery charger; asst lumber; 1 tonne winch; oat/corn roller; asst of tools; (9)bales 3x3x6 wheat straw; some sm squares hay(if not used); stationary sander/grinder; radial arm saw; table saw. **HH & Antiques(A):** (A)flat back hutch & buffet cupboard; (V)Kenmore sewing machine; leather couch-dk brown, nice; recliner chair-brown fabric; pine dining room table & (6)chairs; pine buffet & hutch; (A) hutch; (6)wood chairs; dry sink;lots to see!

Lunch Booth & Washroom Available Preview: Friday Dec 19, 1-6pm

NOTES: MAJORITY OF SALE WILL BE HELD INSIDE RIDING ARENA
Smaller Sale - please be on time

Terms & Conditions: Cash or Cheque with proper I.D. on day of sale. Owner and/or Auctioneer will not be held responsible for accident or loss on day of sale. All items are sold "As Is". All verbal announcements on day of sale take precedence over written ads.

Owner: Robert Black (519) 827-7587

Auctioneers: Kevin McArthur (519) 942-0264 Scott Bessey (519) 843-5083
www.theauctionadvertiser.com/KMcArthur - Email: mcarthurbessey@gmail.com

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Shelburne Free Press

OBITUARY

JAMES (JIM) ROBERT SMITH

It is with deep sadness we announce the passing of our father, James (Jim) Robert Smith. Surrounded by his loving family, Jim passed away peacefully at the age of ninety-two, on the afternoon of December 2nd.



Jim was born in Hamilton, Ontario. His family moved to Kitchener where he grew up and met his wife of 52 years, Doris Jean Beatty. Jim and Doris were married on October 9th, 1959. They moved to Mississauga in 1961 where they raised their three children, Vicki, Shelley and Scott. Involved in the community, Jim enjoyed membership in the Dixie Lions Club, Dixie Curling Club, bowling, golfing and taking his son Scott to early morning hockey practice and games.

In 1972 Jim and Doris purchased a cottage on Three Mile Lake. A little piece of heaven to share with the family along with countless friends. Corn roasts, water ski shows, fishing and boating were how their summers were spent, always finishing with the annual family Thanksgiving to close the cottage for the season. Grandkids came along, memories were made and the fun continued.

Jim had a successful career in the hardwood business. His desire for independence resulted in a creative partnership with a fellow employee, Lawrence Cannon. Needing a name for their new company they looked at the street sign, Rayette Road in Concord and Rayette Forest Products was born. Their company became a leader in the hardwood industry through their common belief in perseverance, integrity and commitment to their customers...their word was their bond.

Jim, predeceased by his wife Doris, will be missed terribly by his children. Vicki (Marty), Shelley (Paul), Scott (Marie). His grandchildren John, Emily, Joseph, Nathan, McKay, Ryan, Kealan, Tyler (Ashlyn) and Brittany (Andrew) and his great-grandchildren Kaelyn and Henry. Through his calmness, confidence and honesty he gave us, his family, the building blocks to shape our own lives.

Words cannot express how much he will be missed. Much loved and never to be forgotten.

A private family service will be held at Trinity-Primrose United Church in Shelburne on Saturday December 13th, 2:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the following organizations: The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto or the Shelburne Food Bank. Online condolences may be placed at www.jackandthompsonfuneralhome.com



PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER!



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