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NEW YEAR'S BABY: The very first baby to be born in Orangeville in 2026 - Heink Fandrich - came into the world at 4:40 a.m. on Jan. 2, weighing seven pounds, two ounces. Heink was delivered at Headwaters Health Care Centre and is the sixth child of Orangeville parents Christian (left) and Katrina Fandrich (right). Fandrich joins his four brothers and one sister.

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Dufferin-Caledon MP Kyle Seeback reflects on key moments and challenges in 2025

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**
 LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

2025 was a turbulent year for federal politics, marked by Justin Trudeau stepping down as prime minister, a late-April snap election, and ongoing trade disruptions with the U.S.

The Citizen recently interviewed Dufferin-Caledon's Member of Parliament (MP), Kyle Seeback, to learn about his focus for 2025 and his plans for 2026.

He said the most impactful event in federal politics through 2025 was Prime Minister Mark Carney's call for a snap election, as concerns mounted over a Canada-U.S. trade war and U.S. President Donald Trump's comments that Canada could become the "51st state."

"I think that Canadians made a choice in that election and I accept that choice. They decided that Mark Carney and the Liberals were the people that should navigate this country through the difficult period that we're going through with our free trade agreement with the United States," said Seeback, who represents the Conservative Party of Canada.

"If you talked to anybody in January of 2025, everybody thought that this was go-

ing to be a very large Conservative majority government, and Canadians chose otherwise. That to me is the big news story of 2025 in Canada."

Crime

Reflecting on the greatest challenges facing Dufferin-Caledon through 2025, Seeback said crime is near the top of the list, and it has remained an issue over the last several years.

"A resident of Caledon who has a small business was interviewed about how he was extorted, and his house was shot up. This was just in December, and he was extorted for \$2 million," he said.

"These kinds of things are going on all the time. We had a gentleman whose home was broken into in Orangeville - a gun was held to his daughter's head as they robbed [him]."

Seeback attributes rising concerns around violent crime to Canada's bail system.

"People who commit serious, violent crimes seem to be able to get out the next day on bail," Seeback noted. "We have to have serious reform on the conditions under which someone can be released for bail."



FILE PHOTO

2025 REFLECTIONS: Dufferin-Caledon MP Kyle Seeback recently spoke with the Citizen about his plans for 2026, and he reflected on all that happened in 2025.

The Principal of Restraint, enacted under Trudeau through Bill C-75, mandates that police and judges release accused individuals on bail at the earliest opportunity, under the least onerous conditions.

Continued on Page 3

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Grey Bruce Farmers' Week celebrates 60 year anniversary

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

It's a showcase of how a local farmer-driven conference can endure and thrive through decades of change if they remain flexible.

Registration at the door is \$50 per day, which includes access to all sessions and a full hot meal. Attendees can also opt for three-day passes or a full-week live stream package.

Lorie Smith, the executive director at Grey Ag Services, the body that is running the event, said the six-day conference from Jan. 7 to Jan 12. will cover a wide variety of topics from farming techniques to environmental advice.

"Right now, the lineup is beef, dairy, goat, sheep, horse and crops," she said. "Beef and dairy and crops have been with us the whole 60 years. But we've had a lot of other different days other than what we have now."

This year's conference will combine in-person programming in Elmwood with a live-streaming option that opens the doors to farmers across Ontario, other provinces, and beyond.

Each day is shaped around practical content. Producer panels and expert sessions will cover technical topics such as beef market outlooks, sire selection, raising healthy calves, succession planning, feed efficiency, solar grazing, herding dogs, equine dentistry, pasture management, and the latest in crop production.

The event will feature a trade show with 137 agribusiness participants and 90 sponsors, which Smith said will give producers direct access to input suppliers, service providers, and emerging technologies.

Compared to some previous events, this will be a huge show for attendees to explore, Smith said.

Alongside the trade show, speakers will be lined up for each of the days to bring hands-on tested-in-the-field advice to attendees. Smith said speakers are coming from across North America and are the linchpin of the conference.

"We rely heavily on speakers and we have dynamic speakers coming from across Canada and the U.S.," Smith said. "This year there's even one from the Netherlands, so we have the reach to get people from across the world."

A strong technology component runs throughout the week, including autonomous machinery, precision and targeted spraying, and artificial intelligence applications in the dairy industry.

Ecological and sustainability themes are integrated into each day, from manure management and wool's role as a renewable product to more efficient, lower-input production systems.

Behind this year's program is a long-running tradition of farmer leadership. Gray Bruce Farmers' Week began in 1966 as a four-day event, with beef, dairy, and crops on the agenda from the very start.

The event has moved around to many locations over the years and has outlived



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

60 YEARS: Alongside the trade shows, industry experts and experienced farmers are leading presentations and meetings to share what they've learned in the fields and in the industry, as well as listening to feedback from attendees. The collaborative approach allows newcomers and veterans to share their experiences and improve everyone's knowledge base throughout the week-long event.

similar conferences across Ontario.

"We think we are the only remaining farmers' week still in existence in Ontario, which is pretty cool," Smith said. "So I think that's quite a feather in our cap. The last one I know of was the Central Ontario Agricultural Conference, and that was in Barrie. They were having a tough time, and then COVID kind of snuffed them out."

A key factor in its resilience has been flexibility and its farmer-driven committee, which meets twice a year to evaluate the

previous program and design the next one.

The involvement of Grey Ag Services, which has coordinated the event since 2001, is also responsible for the event's longevity.

Early adoption of live streaming in 2018 allowed the conference to pivot successfully to virtual delivery during the COVID-19 pandemic and then return as a hybrid event.

"I think Grey Bruce Farmers Week has a strong future," Smith said. "We keep getting bigger and better every year."

Dufferin-Caledon MP Kyle Seeback reflects on key moments and challenges in 2025

Continued from Front

"I think that's fine for someone who's jaywalking or stole some food from the grocery store to feed their family. I think that makes perfect sense. But for repeat violent offenders, it does not make sense," said Seeback.

Federal legislation was put forward in September by Seeback's Conservative colleagues to tighten up bail conditions for people who commit serious crimes, such as break and enter, armed robbery, assault, and extortion.

While this legislation failed to pass within the House of Commons, Carney's Liberal government introduced its own bail reform in late October, aimed at addressing violent, repeat offenders and organized crime. Although Conservatives say this legislation does not go far enough.

Cost of Living

Another key challenge for the community through 2025, and the last several years, according to Seeback, is the rising cost of living. In particular, the rising costs of groceries and housing are a concern.

When it comes to food inflation, Seeback was critical of the Federal Government's new labelling regulations, which went into effect on Jan. 1. The new regulations mandate that nutrition symbols must be placed on the front of packages of food that are high in saturated fat, sugar or sodium.

Seeback noted that food industry experts estimate the new regulations will cost food producers billions of dollars, due to the new packaging and plastics requirements.

"These are the kinds of policies that we need reversed to try and make a dent on the price of groceries," he said. "We got to

find ways to make things cheaper for our farmers as well, because they're the ones producing the food."

The rapid rise in housing costs was another area of concern for Seeback through 2025, and it has been a focus for the past several years.

While the Carney government has removed HST from the cost of new homes for new home buyers, Seeback said this doesn't go far enough.

"We need to take HST off all houses to make housing more affordable and get the housing industry building more houses," he said.

Plans for 2026

Seeback said his focus for 2026 is addressing the cost-of-living crisis, rising housing costs, and community safety issues related to crime.

"We have to push the government to actually make real reform on bail. We have to push the government to reverse decisions like the new packaging and plastics regulations for food. We have to push the government to move ahead quickly with large nation building projects that will create employment and wealth," he said.

Seeback also noted the importance of remaining united amid disruptions to free trade between the U.S. and Canada.

"We have to get the trading relationship with the United States fixed, and we're willing to help in any way to do that. They are our largest trading partner, and the tariffs on our steel, aluminum, softwood lumber – we've got to get these things resolved," he said.

"If we don't get these things resolved, the Canadian economy is really going to suffer."

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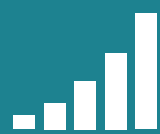
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OPINION

The customer is always right

Now that the new year is here, maybe you have taken advantage of Boxing Day sales, or as the retail world has now reinvented it – Boxing WEEK sales.

Yes, this unusually named day has now become an entire week when stores entice you to come in and spend even more money after you have already maxed out your credit cards on Christmas purchases.

I don't mind it - I got a couple of nice deals this Boxing Week.

So, Merry Boxing Week to everyone, and Happy.. something.

Some customers will shop in a calm, dignified manner. Others follow the old saying, 'The customer is always right,' and make a lot of demands of shopkeepers and store employees.

Except the phrase, 'The customer is always right,' was never a thing.

When you think about it, why would it be correct? Just because you're a customer doesn't mean you can decide to be rude to store staff or make unreasonable demands.

The original saying was 'The customer is always right, in matters of taste,' which gives it an entirely different meaning.

The original saying, coined by a retailer, means, do not argue about a customer's preferences. It was never meant to tell

employees to give in to unrealistic customer demands.

There are many old sayings that have changed over time, and with that, their meanings and intended wisdom.

'Money is the root of all evil,' is an often quoted phrase from the bible. It seems to imply that rich people are inherently bad and somehow achieved their money through nefarious means.

Why would a person who has done well in business or in life be automatically considered 'evil' in some way?

The original passage in the bible states, 'The LOVE of money is the root of all evil.' That single word dramatically changes the entire meaning.

The phrase doesn't mean that money itself is bad; it is the excessive desire for it that leads to various forms of wrongdoing.

'Curiosity killed the cat,' is an old saying that implies sticking your nose into somewhere where it doesn't belong will get you into trouble.

However, the original phrase is actually, 'Curiosity killed the cat, but satisfaction brought it back.'

Those additional words entirely change the meaning. The phrase implies that curiosity may lead to setbacks, but the rewards

of discovery make it worthwhile.

You have probably heard, or used the phrase, 'Blood is thicker than water.'

The modern meaning is that your family always comes before everyone else. However, there are a lot of families that do not get along for different reasons.

If you have a brother who is the black sheep of the family, and just got out of prison after his third conviction of being some kind of sexual pervert, do you place him higher on your list than a lifelong friend who has supported you your entire life?

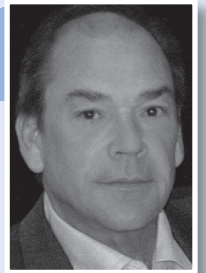
The original phrase is 'The blood of the covenant is thicker than the water of the womb.'

This implies the exact opposite of the modern phrase. It actually means that bonds made by choice are stronger than family ties.

Remember that the next time someone tells you that you are obligated to help that creepy relative who hasn't worked for 20 years, does illicit drugs, and is looking for a place to crash for the week, and they suggest your house has a nice guest bedroom.

"A jack of all trades, but master of none," is an old saying that seems to ridicule someone who tries to accomplish varying tasks, but has limited skills.

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



The original saying is, 'Jack of all trades, master of none, though oftentimes better than master of one.'

That little addendum changes the entire meaning.

The phrase now means that having multiple skills, even if not perfectly mastered, is more valuable than excelling in just one area.

Remember that the next time you criticize someone for trying their best but not achieving perfection every time.

'Birds of a feather flock together' is a phrase that implies that people who have the same interests gravitate toward each other.

However, the original phrase has the added line, 'until the cat comes.'

This is a warning about fair-weather friends who are there for you until trouble arrives. That's when your not-so-loyal friends have scattered and left you on your own.

Things take on a different meaning when you see the whole picture.

"The early bird gets the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese!"

Somaliland: Mixed motives

Last week Israel was the first country in the world to establish diplomatic relations with Somaliland. Not Somalia, a wreck of a country on the East African coast that has been mired in civil war for the past thirty-five years, but Somaliland, a different country just north of there that has been peaceful, relatively prosperous and even democratic for all those years.

This is causing a diplomatic outcry because many countries suspect that the deal has a secret clause. They think Somaliland's president, Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi, may have promised to let Israel offload Gaza's two million Palestinians onto his country in return for recognising Somaliland as an independent state.

Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's motivation is clear. He still wants to expel the Palestinians from the Gaza Strip if possible, although his own cabinet will not let him defy President Trump's order to accept a ceasefire. But he knows how volatile Trump is: just one big Hamas

strike could turn him around and let Netanyahu restart the war.

Netanyahu is slow-walking the talks on moving to the second phase of the ceasefire (ten weeks and counting), while the Israeli forces keep trying to provoke Hamas into doing something stupid (401 Palestinians killed and 1,108 injured since the ceasefire). But even if Israel got a green light from Trump to expel the Palestinians, where would it send them?

Every Arab state has said it will not be an accomplice in the ethnic cleansing of the Gaza Strip, but Somaliland would do as a destination. It's Muslim, it has room (6 million people in an area bigger than Bangladesh), it's not too far from home (just across the Red Sea from Yemen), and above all it's willing. But why would it let in up to two million Palestinians?

They would be excellent immigrants in smaller numbers (one of the best-educated populations in the Arab world), but normally no country would voluntarily bring in foreign immigrants who speak an

entirely different language and are up to one-third of the entire existing population. However, Somaliland does not live in normal circumstances.

It's a classic case of 'Marry in haste, repent at leisure.' The British colony of Somaliland and the Italian colony of Somalia both got their independence in 1960, and the people of the smaller bit (Somaliland) voted to join the bigger bit in a unified 'Somalia'.

They forgot that all politics in Somalia is clan politics, and that the Isaaq, the main clan family in the northern, formerly British-ruled area, had no allies or influence in the formerly Italian-ruled south. The Isaaq came last in government and civil service jobs, in education and healthcare, in their share of the national budget.

Within a year the northerners had realised their mistake and voted heavily against the new constitution. It made no difference – and when they protested, they were met with repression.

By the '80s the whole north was occupied territory and the repression had tipped over into genocide. It only ended when the dictator Mohammed Siad Barre was overthrown in 1991 and the former British colony reclaimed its independence and its name: Somaliland.

The rest of the once-united country then dissolved into almost perpetual civil war (which still continues), but Somaliland

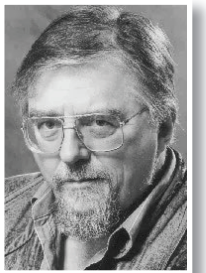
and kicked free of the wreckage and has seen no further violence. It's a perfectly normal country in many ways – an army, a currency, a school system and health-care, regular elections – but no other country recognises its government.

It is a victim of the basic rule of post-1945 international law: borders may not be changed by force. That's unfair to many parts of the world that are trapped in unhappy unions, or have managed to secede but don't get international recognition. However, if the rule puts an end to wars of conquest then it's a price most of the world thinks is worth paying.

The problem is that the rule is no longer being observed. Russia's attempted conquest of Ukraine is the most flagrant example, but the impending US attack on Venezuela would be an equally unjustifiable breach of the law. If those things are okay, then surely Somaliland can legally secede from Somalia without getting the latter's permission.

Ethiopia and the United Arab Emirates will probably recognise Somaliland fairly promptly, because they have some interests in common with it. However, I suspect that Somaliland's president is stringing Netanyahu along: he already has the recognition, and in the end he probably won't help Israel ship the Palestinians out.

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COMMUNITY VOICES

Monthly Message: Food bank calls for strong community response in 2026

We welcome the new year with hope and a clear awareness of the challenges many in our community continue to face.

Over the past year, the Shelburne Foodbank has seen a significant increase in use. More families, seniors, and young people are relying on emergency food support, often for the first time. Rising living costs, housing cost pressures, and unexpected hardships have made it more difficult for many to meet even basic needs.

The pressure on foodbanks is being fuelled by multiple factors:

Economic pressures: with higher food prices and the cost of living squeezing household budgets. That means more families are turning to emergency food sup-

port that is already stretched thin.

Reduced resources: many food programs have less food than in previous years. For example, Ottawa's food bank network announced cutbacks of 20-50 per cent in food distributed to partner agencies due to funding and supply limitations.

Drop in donations and grants: after a surge in charitable giving and emergency funding during the pandemic, many non-profits now face leaner giving seasons as demand continues to grow.



This reality calls for a strong community response. Foodbanks are not just shelves and supplies. They are lifelines built on generosity, kindness, time, and care. As demand continues to grow, so does the need for dona-

tions, volunteers, advocacy, and awareness.

Advocates emphasize that foodbanks, which play a crucial emergency role, cannot substitute for stable income supports like adequate wages, robust social assistance or food security policies.

"Food insecurity is not just about food.

It's about deeper systemic challenges," according to a 2025 hunger report.

Without additional funding and structural change, the gap between need and available support is only likely to widen.

As 2026 gets underway, the Shelburne Foodbank is urging the public not only to donate but also to push for policies that address the root causes of food insecurity. We invite everyone who is able to take part by donating, checking in on neighbours, and support efforts that address food insecurity. Even small actions, when made together, can make a meaningful difference.

Together, we can make sure hope and nourishment are part of everyone's new year ahead.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: Ontario homes renovation savings program

Dear Editor,

I am writing to share important updates on Ontario's efforts to support families through expanded energy-saving programs that will help reduce household costs and strengthen our province's long-term energy system.

Our government is expanding the Energy Savings Program by introducing new rebates that will help families make practical upgrades while keeping monthly expenses

down. As energy demand is expected to grow significantly over the next 25 years, these measures will help ensure communities like Dufferin-Caledon across Ontario remain affordable and prepared for the future.

Households across Ontario are eligible for rebates of up to \$200 on a wide range of energy-efficient appliances through the enhanced Home Renovation Savings Program (HRSP). These rebates are available to all homes connected to Ontario's electricity

grid. They can be used for appliances purchased in-store or online, as long as the eligibility requirements are met.

These improvements are part of a larger, long-term strategy to lower energy use across the province. Ontario is already on track to exceed its 2025 conservation targets, having reduced energy demand equivalent to more than 220,000 homes. By 2026, our government expects to reduce peak electricity demand by 3,000 megawatts, the equivalent

of taking 3 million homes off the grid. This progress helps reduce system-wide costs and strengthen the reliability families depend on.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to ensuring Dufferin-Caledon remains a strong, affordable and resilient community.

Sincerely,
Sylvia Jones, MPP
Dufferin-Caledon



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTOS

DIPPING IN: It was cold and the water was freezing, but that just made the day all that much more fun during the 35th annual Grand Valley Lions Club Polar Bear dip held at Stucky Park in Grand Valley on Saturday, Jan. 3. While a large group of brave dippers hopped into the freezing water, an even bigger group turned out to watch the swimmers from the park and cheer them on. The annual event raised more than \$5,400 in support of Grand Valley Ontario Food Bank.



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CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION

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Christmas trees in the Town of Orangeville will be collected during the week of **January 12.**

Residents in **rural areas** must call 1.888.941.3345 ext. 1 a week in advance to be put on the list for collection the week of **January 12.**

Christmas trees in the urban areas of Grand Valley, Shelburne & the rural subdivisions will be collected during the week of **January 19.**

Do not bag trees for collection and ensure that decorations and tree stands are removed.

Trees that are buried in snow will not be collected.

Please note: If you have any yard waste left over from the fall, you may place it out for collection.

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2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

Rewinding back to the top news highlights of 2025

Attention Readers!

For the first edition of the Shelburne Free Press in 2026, we're taking you through all of the highs and lows of the first half of last year. Our 2025 Year in Review will share some of the most significant stories impacting our readers from January to June, continuing with the second half of the year in next week's edition of the Shelburne Free Press. Now, without any further ado, here's a look at the year that was!

Jan. 9

- The Dufferin Community Foundation (DCF) has awarded its 2024 fall grants to five recipients. The Arts and Culture Fund was awarded to four local charities – Dufferin Children and Family Services, Streams Community Hub, Caledon Meals on Wheels and The Brave Canoe. Each charity receives a grant of \$2,000 to be used for programs, projects, public performances, forums and events. Dufferin Community Foundation also awarded the National Wildlife Foundation with an Environmental Fund grant, valued at \$2,500.

- A call to local police regarding a suspicious person in Amaranth resulted in charges relating to impaired driving, possession of an unauthorized weapon, property obtained by crime and drug trafficking. Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers were dispatched to a male who was standing in the middle of the road holding a dog on Jan. 2 around 8:30 a.m. After a brief conversation with the male who was holding a dog, the officers began an impaired driving investigation, resulting in several charges.

Jan. 16

- A campaign aimed at bringing an MRI to Headwaters Health Care Centre (HHCC) recently completed its largest matching gift challenge yet, raising \$3 million. The hospital's foundation announced on Tuesday, Jan. 14, that the matching gift challenge for the Smart Headwaters saw extraordinary generosity thanks to the commitment made by the Morningview Foundation.

- Councillors and staff members from the Town of Shelburne will be attending a meeting with the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) to delegate about the potential for a truck bypass. During their meeting on Monday (Jan. 9), Denyse Morrissey, chief administrative officer for the Town of Shelburne, gave council a verbal update on the upcoming delegation

King's representative in Ontario, made things official on Wednesday morning, issuing the traditional writ that kicks off the campaign. Ford made his intentions to call an election more than a year ahead of schedule last week in Brampton, citing a need for a renewed mandate from Ontarians amid looming tariff threats from US President Donald Trump.

Feb. 6

- Dufferin County Council has passed the 2025 budget with a 4.21 per cent increase on the tax levy. During a special meeting on Jan. 30, Dufferin County Council went through a revised version of the 2025 budget and was able to make additional cuts.

Feb. 13

- Headwaters Health Care Centre and Dufferin Paramedic Services have entered a partnership with Toronto Grace Health Centre to help patients awaiting long-term care and minimize health issues for seniors living with chronic diseases in the community. The Remote Care Monitoring (RCM) program provides eligible patients with 24/7 remote care monitoring using a variety of safety devices.

Feb. 20

- The Shelburne Food Bank has officially unveiled its new food rescue van, worth \$100,000. Volunteers, sponsors, community members and dignitaries gathered at the Mel Lloyd Centre last Thursday (Feb. 13) for a special event celebrating the launch of a food rescue van for the Shelburne Food Bank.

- Dufferin County Council has pledged to provide \$10,000 in financial assistance to Crime Stoppers of Simcoe–Dufferin–Musoka, following a report on their uncertain future.

- Residents of Dufferin-Caledon had the opportunity to bring their biggest concerns to the candidates running in the local riding ahead of the provincial election. Dufferin

Board of Trade (DBOT) hosted the first of three provincial election debates on Tuesday (Feb. 18) at Theatre Orangeville (87 Broadway). The debate consisted of questions created by DBOT as well as questions from constituents.

Feb. 27

- The provincial election is taking place today (Feb. 27) with seven candidates running in the Dufferin-Caledon riding.

March 6

- Dufferin-Caledon voters have spoken and Conservative politician, Sylvia Jones, has been elected for her sixth consecutive term as MPP of Dufferin-Caledon. Jones was re-elected after securing 52.1 per cent or 26,072 of cast votes in Dufferin-Caledon during the provincial election last Thursday (Feb. 27). Runner-up Michael Dehn of the Liberal Party had 25.2 per cent, Green Party candidate Sandy Brown had 12.3 per cent, and NDP candidate George Nakitsas received 6.3 per cent of the votes.

- Concerned Melancton residents are coming together to protest a proposed application by local aggregate company, Strada Aggregate, to quarry below the water table. Melancton Against Quarries, an independent group opposing the expansion of gravel mining, hosted a community town hall meeting on Sunday (March 2) at the Horning's Mills Community Hall, located at 14 Mill Street in Melancton

- Crewson Insurance, located at 110 Adelaide St. in Shelburne, has reached a significant milestone as they celebrated 40 years of business on March 1.

March 13

- Three nameless alleyways in the Town of Shelburne have officially received names. During a meeting on Monday (March 10), Shelburne Town Council received a memo from the Arts, Culture and Heritage Committee regarding the naming of the three municipal laneways, marking the conclusion of the committee's initiative. The new names are Townsend Lane, Sawyers Feed Mill Lane and Rose Lane.

March 20

- The North Dufferin Agricultural and Community Taskforce (NDACT) has released Garry Hunter from his duties as their Community Trusted Peer Reviewer as the Strada Aggregate quarry application moves into the next phase. The local group announced the decision to discontinue Hunter's services in a press release on Monday (March 17), stating



PAULA BROWN PHOTO

LOCALS HELPING LOCALS: The Shelburne Food Bank celebrated the unveiling of their new food rescue van last Thursday (Feb. 13) at the Mel Lloyd Centre. Community members and local businesses helped the food bank purchase the van, which cost a total of \$100,000, through a sponsorship program and donations. As seen in the Feb. 20 Shelburne Free Press.

their goal of "achieving clarity on the application has been achieved."

- Mulmur residents rallied together to show their love of hockey, and now their local arena has been announced as a finalist in the 2025 Kraft Hockeyville Competition. Honeywood Arena was announced as one of four finalists in the 2025 Kraft Hockeyville Competition on Saturday (March 15), with the hope of winning \$250,000 for arena upgrades and the chance to host an NHL pre-season game.

- A former Dufferin County employee is being recognized for her decades of dedicated work. Caroline Mach, former manager of the Dufferin County Forest, was presented with the Forest Stewardship Award from Forests Canada during their conference in February.

March 27

- Riders who use the weekday transit system to travel between Shelburne and Orangeville will continue to have access to the service as the County of Dufferin pushes the end date of their agreement with Grey County. During their meeting on March 13, Dufferin County Council was notified that the Grey Transit Route (GRT) service between Shelburne and Orangeville, known as Route 2, would be extended for an additional three months. The transit service was slated to discontinue on March 31 but has been extended in anticipation of grant funding from the provincial government.

- A snap election has been called for April 28 by Canada's new Prime Minister Mark Carney. Carney, 59, was named Liberal Party of Canada leader on March 9, replacing Justin Trudeau who announced on Jan. 6 that he would resign as party leader and prime minister. Carney took 89 per cent of the vote during the Liberal Leadership Race, with just under 152,000 party members voting. The early election is seen by the major parties as a way of letting Canadians decide who is best equipped to respond to the ongoing trade war with the U.S.

April 3

- The Bruce Trail Conservancy's Dufferin Hi-Land trail has been temporarily closed for the safety of visitors and volunteers as a result of an ice storm over the weekend. Several areas along the Bruce Trail have been heavily impacted by the storm, these include Mono Cliffs, Boyne Valley and Black Bank, which covers all associated side trails between Mono Centre and Lavender. BTC staff and volunteers are in the process of assessing the damage and carefully planning for the removal of hazards.

- Some changes have been made to the electoral map for Dufferin-Caledon and surrounding ridings ahead of the upcoming federal election. The riding of Simcoe-Grey has had its boundaries changed. It no longer includes portions of Mulmur Township and Grey Highlands. Meanwhile, all Mulmur residents and some residents of Adjala-Toso-

rontio will find themselves voting in the Dufferin-Caledon Riding. Caledon residents will also see some changes, as the region is split between two different ridings instead of one. This means Caledon residents will either be voting in the new Brampton North-Caledon, in addition to the Dufferin-Caledon riding.

April 10

- They didn't win the big prize, but Mulmur residents will still come out ahead in the 2025 Kraft Hockeyville Competition. Honeywood Arena was announced as one of the four finalists in the competition to name Canada's top hockey town on Saturday, March 15. As a finalist, Honeywood Arena will receive \$25,000 in upgrades and \$10,000 worth of brand-new youth hockey equipment, courtesy of NHLPA However, Goals and Dreams.

- It's been a rough week for Mulmur residents, who were placed under a State of Emergency from April 3 to 7. An ice storm took out electrical infrastructure, causing blackouts and left trees on roadways and residents' driveways, making them impassable. Recognizing the magnitude of the required cleanup efforts following the storm, Mulmur Mayor Janet Horner declared a State of Emergency on April 3. This facilitated mutual aid, wellness checks, shelter activations and focused efforts on clean-up to support the needs of residents, while many of them were left without hydro.

April 17

- Shelburne Mayor Wade Mills has reassured fellow councillors he "doesn't plan to exercise" the new authority allotted to him with the province's proposed expansion of "strong mayor" powers. During their meeting on Monday (April 14), Shelburne Town Council addressed the provincial government's announcement, which proposed the expansion of strong mayor powers to the heads of council in 169 additional municipalities, including Shelburne and Orangeville.

- The Town of Shelburne is honouring the rich heritage of the Rotary Club of Shelburne as the service club celebrates 87 years of leadership and fundraising for projects benefiting local residents. During a meeting on Monday (April 14), Shelburne Town Council proclaimed April 22 as "Shelburne Rotary Day" in the community.

April 24

- Dufferin County cattle farmers will have the opportunity to expand their operations to a new pasture as Dufferin County Council approves an agreement to use 200 acres of public land. Dufferin County Council approved a proposal to enter a 10-year lease agreement with the Grey-Dufferin Community Pasture Committee during their meeting on April 10. The lease agreement is for a roughly 200-acre piece of land off of Amaranth-Grand Valley Townline, which the County has owned for more than 30 years.



PAULA BROWN PHOTO

REPAIRING THE WRECKAGE: Shelburne and surrounding area residents are in the process of cleaning up the aftermath of a freezing rain storm that hit the community late Saturday (March 29). The storm resulted in downed trees, downed hydro poles and power outages for thousands of residents. As seen in the April 3 Shelburne Free Press.

with the MTO. The meeting is scheduled to be held on Jan. 20. Morrissey told council that staff will ask the MTO to lead the engagement and facilitation to implement the next steps for a potential truck bypass for the Town of Shelburne.

Jan. 23

- A man who devoted his life to community news and keeping people informed recently passed away. Thomas Claridge, 89, who was born and raised in Shelburne, passed on peacefully at Headwaters Health Care Centre in Orangeville on Jan. 18, surrounded by the love of his family. Claridge started his journalism career with the Canadian Press shortly after graduating from university and went on to write for the Globe and Mail for 30 years. While working as a reporter for the Globe, he purchased the Shelburne Free Press and Economist from his father in 1972 and founded the Orangeville Citizen in 1974. Thomas and his wife Pam, who passed in 2024, also owned and operated the Grand Valley Star-Vidette and Caledon Citizen. Their son Alan contributed as reporter, editor and general manager over the years.

- The Township of Mulmur is calling on the support of community members as they join the 2025 Kraft Hockeyville Competition. In a press release issued on Jan. 15, the Township of Mulmur announced its participation in the 2025 Kraft Hockeyville Competition, with the hopes of winning \$250,000 to use for arena upgrades and the chance to host an NHL game.

Jan. 30

- The Shelburne Food Bank is bringing forward big changes for the organization's future as it continues to make efforts to address food insecurity in the community. The local food bank told the Free Press on Monday (Jan. 27) that they have begun the steps in becoming an officially licensed charity and are in the process of rebranding.

- Ontarians are set to go to the polls on Feb. 27 following a snap election call from Progressive Conservative Premier Doug Ford. Lieutenant-Governor Edith Dumont, the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TAKE A SHOT: The Township of Mulmur is hoping to bring upgrades to the Honeywood Arena as they announce their campaign for the 2025 Kraft Hockeyville Competition. The first place prize for the competition is \$250,000 while the top three runner-ups receive \$25,000. As seen in the Jan. 23 Shelburne Free Press.

• Catholics and religious people around the world are mourning the death of Pope Francis. He passed away at 88 years old on Easter Monday (April 21). A stroke and subsequent heart failure resulted in Pope Francis's death according to a statement from the Vatican.

May 1

• Residents of the region turned out in record numbers on April 28 to cast a vote in Canada's 45th federal election. Incumbent Dufferin-Caledon MP Kyle Seeback was re-elected with 41,836 votes or 58.8 per cent of ballots cast, followed by Liberal candidate Malalai Halimi with 24,151 votes or 33.9 per cent, and NDP candidate Viktor Karklins with 1,815 votes or 2.6 per cent. Voter turnout reached a record of 71.71 per cent or 71,169 of 99,251 registered electors in Dufferin-Caledon – the highest number reported since the riding was created in 2004.

• Human rights practices at the Upper Grand District School Board (UGDSB) will be reviewed. That's according to an announcement from director of education Peter Sovran, made a week after UGDSB parents released a public letter calling for a third-party equity audit.

May 8

• Shelburne residents will have more than one option when they cast their ballot in the next municipal election. During their meeting on April 28, Shelburne Town Council authorized the use of telephone and internet ballots when voting in the 2026 municipal election.

May 15

• Shelburne council unanimously passed a motion requesting the provincial government

remove them as one of the municipalities granted strong mayor powers. During their meeting on Monday (May 12), Coun. Lindsay Wegener brought forward a motion regarding the recently granted "strong mayor powers." Wegener's motion reads that Shelburne council rejects the strong mayor powers granted and requests that the province repeal the legislation or offer an option and ability to opt out of the legislation.

• The baseball diamond in Honeywood will see some much-needed improvements. The Township of Mulmur was declared one of the winners in the Toronto Blue Jay's Field of Dreams competition.

May 22

• Shelburne Town Council is opposing a newly proposed piece of legislation that seeks to change environmental protections and municipal planning procedures within Ontario. During their meeting on May 12, Shelburne Councillor Len Guchardi brought forward a motion to oppose Bill 5, Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025, which was introduced by the provincial government in April.

May 29

• Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers are investigating two home invasions that recently occurred at properties on Shady Glen Lane in Mono, where shots were fired. During the incidents, "one victim suffered some minor injuries from broken glass," who was treated and released, according to Dufferin OPP Const. Andrew Fines.

• It has been 40 years since a devastating series of tornadoes ripped across central Ontario. The severe weather incident happened on Friday, May 31, 1985, leaving a trail of destruction in the Town of Grand Valley and killing two town residents. Another eight people died in Barrie as the storm moved northwest across the province. According to Environment Canada, a total of 14 tornadoes struck several communities in Ontario, including Arthur, Grand Valley, Orangeville, and Tottenham. Classified as a powerful F4 level twister, the tornado that stormed across Grand Valley began around 4:15 p.m. near Arthur and moved west for over 115 km, leaving a trail of destruction along its path all the way to Mount Albert.

June 5

• Three church congregations in Dufferin County are coming together to celebrate the 100th year anniversary of



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ACCOMPLISHED: Henry Hiker reached the highest point on the pass over the Pyrenees Mountains, entering Spain, on April 7, during his Camino hike. As seen in the June 26 Shelburne Free Press.

the United Church of Canada. Trinity Primrose United Church, Westminster United Church and High-Country United Church will be hosting four events over the span of a week to commemorate the centennial milestone. The ministers presiding over the celebrations will be Rev. Ann Harbridge, Rev. Janet Jones and student minister Aidan Legault.

June 12

• The Town of Shelburne is moving forward with plans to upgrade Fiddle Park. During a special meeting on Friday (June 6), Shelburne Town Council approved the tendering for the Fiddle Park upgrades. The tender for the project was awarded to Mono-based company TDI Land Restoration/XGD for a total of \$2,399,645.82.

• Streams Community Hub brought imagination to the Shelburne community with their first-ever theatrical production. The local youth arts-based charity hosted a three-day run of the musical Seussical JR. on June 6, 7 and 8 at Grace Tipling Hall. The production was co-directed by Streams staff members, Noni Thomas and Robin Menard.

June 19

• It's a big year for the 164 Squadron of the Royal Canadian Air Cadets, as the not-for-profit program celebrates 50 years as a squadron. The Squadron was originally formed in 1975. To celebrate, the cadets held their 50th annual ceremonial review to demonstrate their military skills and run drills, while looking sharp and disciplined. They marched in formation into the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex on Saturday, June 14.

• A new partnership between the County of Dufferin and Dufferin Community Founda-

tion (DCF) is helping ensure that the Museum of Dufferin (MoD) will remain an educational treasure for generations to come. The County and DCF jointly announced in a press release on June 11 that an endowment fund had been established for the local museum. The Museum of Dufferin Endowment Fund will be a "forever fund", where donations are invested permanently and the annual income is used to provide grants to the museum each year.

June 26

• Headwaters Health Care Foundation (HHCF) reached a major milestone on June 18 with the completion of its \$18 million Smart Headwaters Campaign. The campaign, which looks to revolutionize healthcare delivery in the community, has enabled Headwaters Health Care Centre (HHCC) to purchase new equipment and upgrade key areas. The campaign has enabled the purchase of an MRI machine and advanced CT scanner, renovations to its X-ray room, the deployment of 3D Tomosynthesis Mammography technology and upgrades to its Hemodialysis Unit.

• A local youth has returned home after seven weeks of putting one foot in front of the other to complete an ancient pilgrimage hike in Europe. Henry Little, 11, known locally as Henry the Hiker, has completed his biggest hiking challenge to date, a nearly 800-kilometre hike of the Camino de Santiago in Spain.

• The numbers are in and the Shelburne community has set a new local record for the amount of money raised through the annual Tim Hortons Smile Cookie Campaign. The Rotary Club of Shelburne was presented with a cheque for \$19,030 from Shelburne Tim Hortons on June 18.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CENTURY OF SERVICE: Trinity Primrose United Church in Shelburne will be holding a service with a musical element to mark the 100th anniversary of the United Church of Canada on June 10 at 7 p.m. As seen in the June 5 Shelburne Free Press.

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SPORTS



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

ON THE SLOPES: While winter weather makes some people stay indoors, others embrace winter activities and enjoy the season. The recent snowfall means an early ski season across the region. The hills at the Hockley Valley Resort are open, and skiers and snowboarders enjoy a day on the slopes on Thursday, Jan. 1, to start the new year.

Shelburne Wolves U18 team having a stellar season with 19 wins

Written By **BRIAN LOCKHART**

The Shelburne Wolves U18 Rep team is having an outstanding season and putting out a good effort on the ice this year.

With a lot of skill on the ice and good cooperation between both players and the coaching staff, the squad is looking really good.

The team currently has a 19-4-4 record and is in third place.

A home game against the Essa Eagles at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex on Jan. 4 ended in a 2-2 tie.

Head coach Tyler Hogan said he thought it wasn't one of their better games.

"We didn't have our 'A' game tonight, that's for sure," Hogan said. "I think we had a bit of a holiday hangover."

It was a scoreless first period in Sunday's game despite a lot of fast action and shots on net.

The Wolves opened the scoring with the only goal in the second period.

It was tied up when Essa hit the back of the net early in the third period.

Shelburne went ahead when they scored just 30 seconds later to take a 2-1 lead.

It was again knotted when Essa scored.

Neither team could break the tie before the buzzer sounded and both teams had to settle for a single point in the 2-2 stalemate.

Overall, Hogan said the team has been playing very well this year and players have bought into the systems they use.

"Overall, the season has been good so far – pretty positive," Hogan said. "We won the regional Silver Stick, then we're off to the international Silver Stick next weekend, so that's our next goal. As a team, we have progressed really well. We had a lot of turnover and new guys this year. They bought in, we're working together toward a common goal."

The Parry Sound Shamrocks are currently in first place in the division. They are followed by the South Muskoka Bears in second place and the Wolves in third.

The Wolves are looking forward to a good showing in the international Silver Stick tournament.


The Shelburne Wolves U18 Rep team will be back on home ice at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex on Jan. 18 when they will host the South Muskoka Bears #1 team. Game time is 5 p.m.



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

TIE GAME: The Shelburne Wolves U18 Rep team take on the Essa Eagles at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex on Sunday, Jan. 4. Both teams played well but couldn't break a third period tie. The game ended with a 2-2 score.

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

PAUL ROBINSON

A real team player, Centre Dufferin District High School senior basketball power forward Paul Robinson puts a lot of effort into his time on the court.

"I like that it's a team sport," Paul said of why he likes playing basketball. "I like to be a role player, I like to get everybody involved. I like the fact that I get to play the sport with other people."

When he's not on the basketball court, Paul plays soccer during the summer months.

TEAM: CENTRE DUFFERIN DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL ROYALS SENIOR BOYS' BASKETBALL
POSITION: POWER FORWARD

Alliston still leads North Carruthers Division in Junior C hockey league

Written By **BRIAN LOCKHART**

With 11 games left in the regular season schedule, the Alliston Hornets are leading the North Carruthers Division of the Provincial Junior Hockey League – but not by much.

The Hornets have been in the top spot all season except for a brief period in December when they went into a slump and lost five out of eight games, and the Stayner Siskins took over first place for a few days.

However, the Hornets are back to winning ways, coming out on top in seven of their last eight games.

That gives them a 23-8 record and 46 points to lead the division.

The Siskins are five points behind with 41 – good for second place. The Siskins have played 29 games so far this season, two less than the Hornets, for a 20-9 record, including one overtime loss.

The Hornets and Siskins will meet three more times before the regular season is over, so there should be some good action for Junior C fans as those teams battle it

out for the top playoff berth. In third place, the Orillia Terriers have had a good season and now have a 19-9 record, including one overtime loss.

The Terriers have been consistent this year, following last season, when they won the division with an upset in the final series against the Hornets.

The Penetang Kings have had a good year and are now riding a 17-11 record, including three overtime losses and one shootout loss. The Kings can't be counted out when it comes to the playoffs this year and could be a contender for the final series.

The Midland Flyers are in fifth place, followed by the Muskoka Bears. The two teams are three points apart. Midland has 23, and Muskoka has 20.

At the bottom, the Innisfil Spartans and Huntsville Otters both have 17 points. Neither team could be considered a serious contender when the playoffs start.

The North Carruthers Division regular season will end on Monday, Feb. 16, with the final line-up determining which teams will face off in the playoffs.

Shelburne library reflects on 2025 changes and 2026 plans

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Shelburne Public Library saw big changes last year and adopted a renewed focus on the library's role as a cornerstone of community life.

The biggest of the changes was Shannon McGrady was appointed CEO. She succeeded Rose Dotten in the role. McGrady said the year was defined by its changes.

"2025 was the year of change for SPL," McGrady said. "Staff, patrons, and the board navigated a time of unprecedented (and fast) change with the grace and community spirit we've become known for."

Despite the changes, the library continued its commitment to deliver a high level of programming to draw residents through its doors.

One of the year's biggest highlights was national recognition for the TD Summer Reading Program. The library placed third among libraries across Canada and McGrady said it was an achievement especially meaningful given its size.

Participation in the Adult Summer Reading Challenge also increased, signaling a

"2025 was the year of change for SPL ... Staff, patrons, and the board navigated a time of unprecedented (and fast) change with the grace and community spirit we've become known for."

Shannon McGrady, CEO Shelburne Library

growing engagement beyond children's programming.

Another milestone in 2025 was the first anniversary of the Shelburne Public Library Kiosk at Foodland. The offsite location has expanded access to library materials while partnering with local businesses, offering

residents a convenient way to browse and borrow books as part of regular routines.

McGrady said the way patrons use the library also continued to evolve. Increasingly, the library has become a place for technology assistance.

"Increasingly, patrons are turning to us for their tech needs," she said. "Whether that is help with printing forms or downloading ebooks from the library, we've become known as the go-to place for tech help."

McGrady assumed the helm partway through the year and said getting to know both staff and patrons quickly became a top priority.

Looking ahead, she has identified youth engagement, community connection, and inclusive programming as key areas of focus, with new initiatives such as a Teen Advisory Board and wellness-focused programming planned for 2026.

"A strong public library is the cornerstone of a healthy community," McGrady said. "My goal in 2026 is to connect with our residents as we continue to work together to shape Shelburne Public Library into a dynamic hub that embodies our community's values and aspirations."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

LOOKING AHEAD: Orangeville Library CEO Laura Warner recently stepped into the top position after the departure of longtime boss Darla Fraser. She's been working hard to improve the library and usher in new creative spaces for public use like the upcoming Exploratorium.

Ontario SPCA helps close to 700 animals find homes over the holidays

The Ontario SPCA and Humane Society is celebrating a heartwarming milestone this holiday season after successfully meeting its Home for the Holidays adoption campaign goal, helping almost 700 animals find loving homes across the province.

The adoption campaign, which took place from Dec. 1 to 24, focused on finding families for animals of all ages, including senior pets and long-term residents who had been waiting months for their chance at a fresh start.

"Thanks to the compassion of adopters across Ontario, 688 animals are now spending the holidays where they belong – safe, loved and at home," reads a press release from the Ontario SPCA and Humane Society.

Sonya Reichel, the SPCA's vice president of operations, noted the impact that the adoption campaign has on the animals that were being cared for by her organization.

"Reaching this goal is an incredible re-

minder of what's possible when people come together to help animals," said Reichel. "Every adoption represents a life changed – not just for the animal, but for the family who opened their heart and home."

As the SPCA celebrates adopting out nearly 700 animals over the holidays, many more are still waiting for someone to open their heart and home.

Anyone interested in adopting can visit ontariospca.ca/adopt to meet animals that are hoping to start the new year with a family.

"For those unable to adopt, a year-end donation is a meaningful way to help provide care and shelter to animals still waiting for their own happy story," reads the SPCA's press release. "As a registered charity that is 100 per cent donor funded, the Ontario SPCA relies on the generosity of animal lovers to continue making these second chances possible."

To donate, visit ontariospca.ca/donate



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

FINDING FUREVER HOME: Across Ontario, 688 animals were adopted during the Home for the Holidays adoption campaign hosted by the Ontario SPCA and Humane Society from Dec. 1 to 24.

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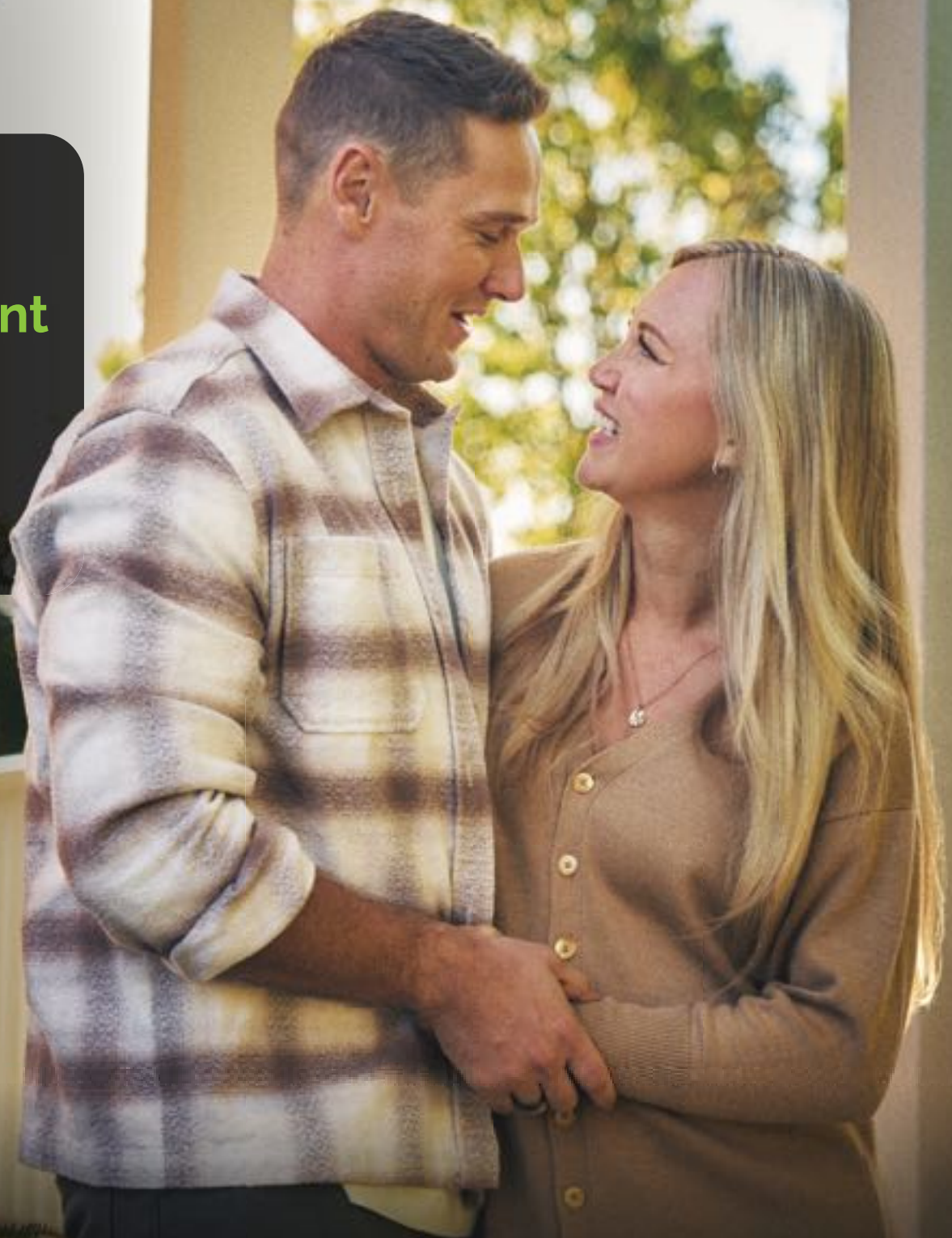
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Ontario 

Shelburne library says hello to 2026 and goodbye to librarian Jan. 9

For many, the new year brings a beautiful beginning, an exciting time for change and new adventures. Here at SPL, we are facing a bittersweet beginning as we say farewell to the best librarian we know.

Jade, our technical services and communications librarian, is headed off on a new journey in Library Land and, although we couldn't be happier for her, we are certainly sad for us. Jade's last day is Jan. 9 and we invite you to drop by to wish her well.

As we look back on the year, some of our best memories are the times we escaped into great books – the kind that stay with you long after you finish reading. Check out our team's top titles of 2025 and place your hold today.

Humankind by Rutger Bregman

"This book knocked a few fiction titles I enjoyed right out the window with its realistic optimism. I found myself reassured and renewed with a motivation to seek out the good in everyone again. Top recommen-

ation for somewhat natural Grinches." - Molly

Night Watcher by Daphne Woolsoncroft

"I knew all the way back in July that for another book to dethrone Night Watcher as my favourite book of 2025, it would have to be perfect. Night Watcher had everything I wanted: a chilling atmosphere, a dynamic protagonist, and a true crime podcast with an epic live reveal. If you get the chance to listen to the audiobook, you'll experience top-tier narration, which is always a bonus." - Jade

The High House by Jessie Greengrass

"I am a sucker for a good dystopian novel and the majority of this book is written through the eyes of children and adolescents. This smooths some of the heavy topics like the disastrous climate change, world-wide catastrophes, loss of life, and instead shows the day-to-day life of chil-

dren as bystanders while the world moves around them. Often people talk about children being resilient. They're not. They are just often distracted in serious situations so they can cope. This book digs into that and, although the ending is not happy, it does show major growth and how this type of world would affect how young people would think, live, and survive." - Brittany

Wild Dark Shore by Charlotte McCornaghy

"This is my favourite read of the year for so many reasons. It's got an incredible atmospheric setting: a tiny remote island near Antarctica, which is being ravaged by climate change and an unprecedented storm on the way. Layered in are interesting characters, each operating with their own secret agendas and emotional connections as they try to figure out what happened to others who vanished from the island and how they can get themselves out of there alive. Amidst the escalating tensions, the

author intersperses beautiful descriptions of nature that highlight our human connectedness to the land around us. The prose evokes a deeply unsettling awareness about our current environmental decline and all that is at stake in our own lives. It's the kind of book that will leave you thinking about it long after you finish." - Amy

The Black Wolf by Louise Penny

"This is Louise Penny's 20th book in the Chief Inspector Gamache Series. The Black Wolf continues where The Grey Wolf left off. All our favourite characters are there with Three Pines as their base and their haven. This is a timely and frightening thriller with references that may be predications of our future. With tension building, relief came in a laugh-out-loud moment with Rosa and Gamache, and a road trip taken by four women and a duck. Racing to finish this story and worried about the outcome of these conflicts, I realized that this author will not disappoint me." - Trudy

Festive RIDE campaign charges show impaired driving remains a problem

Police charged 179 drivers with a combined 288 impaired driving related charges during the Festive RIDE campaign.

The Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere (RIDE) campaign ran from Nov. 20 until Jan. 1. OPP officers conducted 1,916 roadside spot

checks that made up about 3,500 hours of enforcement across 13 detachments.

Police in Bracebridge, Caledon, City of Kawartha Lakes, Collingwood, Dufferin County, Haliburton Highlands, Huntsville, Huronia West, Northumberland, Nottawasaga, Orillia,

Peterborough County, and Southern Georgian Bay participated.

Coyer Yateman, superintendent of OPP Central Region, said impaired driving is not acceptable.

"Removing over 200 impaired drivers during this campaign is both significant and deeply concerning," Yateman said. "Every one of those drivers represents a potential tragedy we prevented."

Police in the central region also issued 28 warning-range driving suspensions during the campaign.

Police from the Dufferin detachment responded to a Christmas Eve report of a suspicious vehicle at about 2:30 a.m. in the area of Anishinaabe Drive in Shelburne. A traffic stop was conducted, and Avinash Shivratan, 27, from Orangeville was charged with operating

a motor vehicle while impaired and driving without insurance.

As part of the RIDE campaign on Dec. 25 at about 11 p.m. on Broadway in Orangeville, Robert Fisher, 53, of Dundalk was charged with operating a vehicle while impaired by alcohol and driving while impaired by alcohol and drugs.

Then at about 4 p.m. Dec. 28, officers attended a report of a vehicle in a ditch in the County Road 16 area in Mono. Michael Paquete, 31, of Orangeville was charged driving while impaired and driving with an open container of liquor.

At about 7 p.m. on Dec. 31, Dufferin officers were conducting general patrol when they observed a vehicle travelling in the wrong lane and in the wrong direction on Highway 89 in Melancthon. Ramanan Nadesu, 44, of Shelburne was charged with operating a vehicle while impaired.

Provincewide, the OPP removed 766 impaired motorists from roads and issued 150 warn-range suspensions.

adopt a cat

Derrick is a stunning 2 year old male. Derrick loves to frolic around with the volunteers, making everyone laugh. He is often rolling around, playing or doing Derrick-things.

He is neutered, microchipped, vaccinated, dewormed and flea treated. Adoption fee is \$275.

Check our facebook page to see the other kitties looking for their forever home. Donations always needed to help care for the cats as we are not funded at all, and rely on donations and fundraisers. If you would like to volunteer as well we are always appreciative.

Derrick

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 Email, or call us for pricing. Classified cut-off time is 12 pm Tuesday

AUCTIONS



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PRESENTS - SOME AWESOME UPCOMING AUCTIONS!

JAN 16TH - Tools & Equipment Sale - FEATURES; Troy-Bilt; Husqvarna Trimmer; Toro Snow Blower; RYOBI Battery Mower; 2 T Engine Hoist; JOBMATE Benchtop Drill Press; RYOBI Belt/Disc Sander; Trademaster Bench Grinder; Dewalt Cir Saw; Dewalt 15Gal Air Comp; Firman Inverter Generator; Wheeler Rex Hyd Pump; 12 T Hyd Pipe Bender; PFAFF Silberblau 2Ton Car Jack w/ Case; PFAFF Silberblau 1T 6M; Lift Manual Chain Hoist; Victaulic Style 750 Reducing Coupling; Power Tool Batteries & Chargers; Tool Boxes & Chests w/ Contents; U-Line Wire Shelving w/ Castors & Doors; qty of Crossville Porcelain Tiles; qty of Interface Carpet Tiles - Natures Course; Armstrong Cortega Ceiling Tiles & Metal Grid Supporters; Evin Reversible Hi-Vis Jacket; qty of hand tools from trusted brands such as Milwaukee; Dewalt; Mastercraft & more; ladders; air hoses; garden tools; spools of wire; hardware; bolt bins and more.

JAN 22ND & 23RD - Currency Collector's Auction

JAN 30TH - Antiques, Collectibles & Quality Household Items

FEB 6TH - Canvas, Carvings & Keepsakes / Art & Jewelry & Gems

FEB 17-21ST - Straight Shooter Sale

MAR 5TH & 6TH - Sports Memorabilia / Trains & Toys / Advertising Collectibles

MAR 25-27TH - The Roger Hadfield Estate Auction for Militaria and Firearms



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Invites Applications for:

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The Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex is currently accepting applications for the following positions.

- Outdoor Pool Deck Supervisor
- Lifeguard/Swim Instructor
- Camp Supervisor
- Camp Assistant Supervisor
- Summer Day Camp Counsellors

For more information on the including employment period, wage range, duties, responsibilities and submission deadlines, visit the link: shelburne.ca/cdrc

Eligible candidates are invited to submit their resume to Emily Francis, Recreation Program Coordinator, Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex, 200 Fiddle Park Lane, Shelburne, ON L9V 3C9
 Email: cdrc@shelburne.ca

Please note the position applying for on cover page or in the email subject line. We thank all the applicants who apply and advise that acknowledgement will only be forwarded to those applicants who are invited for an interview



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 - \$23.00 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/irss/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:

Company
 Ice River Springs Water Co. Inc.
 485387 30th Sideroad
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CELEBRATION OF LIFE

EVELYN MAE PELL

Celebration of Life for Our Beloved Wife, Mom, Grandma, and Great Grandma Evelyn Pell



We invite you to join us as we gather to celebrate the life of the best woman we were ever blessed to know- Evelyn Pell

A woman whose love wrapped around her grandchildren and great-grandchildren like the quilts she so carefully stitched, she shared her heart in every seam, every laugh, and every quiet moment of care. Her passion for sewing wasn't just a craft-it was her way of giving warmth, beauty, and pieces of herself to all of us.

Please come share stories, memories, and the love she poured into her family and everyone lucky enough to know her.

Date: January 24th
 Time: 1:00pm - 4:00pm

Location: Shelburne Legion (back hall)

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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:

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OBITUARIES

MARION BURSEY

Peacefully at Brightshores Health System in Markdale, ON, on December 14, 2025 at the age of 83. Loving mother of Donnie (Gayle), Debbie (Kevin) and David (Vangelina). Grandmother of Amanda (Josh), Danielle (Connor), Dylan and Eric. Great Grandmother of Ella 'Corrie'. Loving sister of Vonnie (Tom), Margie (the late Oli), Clarence (Sharon) and Al (Aggie). Predeceased by her parents, Eric & Alfreda, brothers; Vince, Eric, Leo (the late Teresa) and sister, May (the late Al). Treasured friend of Doreen. She will be greatly missed by her many nieces and nephews.



Born on the shores of Bell Island, Newfoundland on January 24, 1942 to Eric and Alfreda O'Brien, Marion enjoyed growing up on the East Coast and held dear to her Newfie roots her whole life through. She relocated to Toronto in her early 20s and slowly moved further and further away from the city, working various jobs along the way, until settling in Grey County. Marion loved sitting around the campfire, listening to her brother Clarence play his guitar, as everyone joined in chorus. She was an avid card player and enjoyed Bingo nights and watching Judge Judy. Her passionate, know what she wants attitude and quick-witted humour will be greatly missed. Serve up a Jiggs dinner or look peacefully at a lighthouse, and hold her near in your heart and mind as you do.

Cremation has taken place and a Celebration of Life will be held in the summer, around the campfire, with a guitar, just the way she would have wanted it.

In lieu of flowers, donations to Grey Bruce Health Services Foundation would be greatly appreciated.

Online Condolences and tributes available at www.fawcettfuneralhome.ca



OBITUARIES

TREVOR WILLIAM LYNCH
JUNE 29, 1971 - DEC. 23, 2025

Trevor left us suddenly of natural causes at age 54, leaving behind his wife Joanna and his adored children Thomas & Jocelyn, brother Patrick and parents Bill & Marilyn, a crowd of cousins, aunts & uncles of a large extended family and his cat Mica.



Trevor was a kind, sensitive hardworking individual who loved rebuilding antique cars in later years. He grew up in Bradford, where like most boys joined cubs, scouts, hockey. His boyhood idol was Evel Knievel which led to falling off bikes, trees etc. usually ending in injuries.

He liked taking things apart and putting them back together which led him to his career as a mechanic. His passion was NASCAR and No. 3 Dale Earnhardt. Trevor will be sadly missed by his mom & dad, children, his cat along with friends and co-workers.

The family will host a Celebration of Life on Saturday March 7th, from 1:00pm to 3:00pm at The Thomas Funeral Home 244 Victoria St. E. Alliston. Speeches to begin at 2:00pm.

You can take a rest now.



OBITUARIES

MORLEY FARNELL

Peacefully with his wife by his side at Headwaters Health Care Centre on Sunday, January 4, 2026 at the age of 75. Beloved husband of 50 years to Shirley. Loving father of Julie (Chris) Hofstede and stepfather of Janet (John Yake) and Wendy (Matthew Jamieson). Proud papa of Jaden, Alia, Jorja, Gavin, Holly, Evan and Sienna. Survived by his brothers Norman (the late Alice), Lawrie (Diane) and Mel (Jan). He will be lovingly remembered by his many nieces, nephews and friends. Predeceased by his parents Murray and Ileen Farnell and his sisters Beth (Alf) and Ruth (Malcolm).



Friends and family were received at the Jack & Thompson Funeral Home on Wednesday from 7-9 p.m. The funeral service was held in the funeral home chapel on Thursday, January 8, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. Spring interment at Shelburne Cemetery. If desired, donations to Trinity-Primrose United Church or the Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated.

Online condolences may be placed at www.jackandthompsonfuneralhome.com



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