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# Shelburne Free Press

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.75(Tax) Mailing Registration No. 40005412 Thursday, January 15, 2026 Volume 151, No. 2

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BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

**TOP OF THE PACK:** The Centre Dufferin District High School Royals girls' varsity hockey team take on the Westside Secondary School Thunder during their second game of the day at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex on Jan. 8. This game ended in a 2-2 tie. The Royals have moved into first place in District 4 standings with a 5-0-1 record. See Page 8 for full story.

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## County budget reflects today's services, invests in future

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS

Dufferin County is working with an almost seven per cent tax levy increase so far in the early stages of 2026 budget preparations.

Council heard during its Jan. 8 meeting that residents would have an increase of about eight per cent over last year if the budget was to be adopted as it is. With growth factored in, that levy is lowered to 6.87 per cent.

Aimee Raves, the county's treasurer and corporate finance manager, said the 2026 spending plan is geared to balance strategic objectives with fiscal responsibility.

"Not all goals are achievable within current financial constraints," she said. "As a result, some initiatives have been deferred or scaled back, and sustaining existing programs and services remains challenging."

The 2026 capital and operating budget reflects the resources required to continue providing services the county offers.

Additional expenses added in the late stages include a \$300,000 Shelburne bypass contribution, \$200,000 for a road safety master plan, and a \$300,000 capital contribution enhancement.

Reserve funds are used strategically to offset one-time costs and stabilize the budget, but ongoing reliance is not sustainable. For 2026, allocations from the Rate Stabilization Reserve have been reduced to pre-

serve future flexibility.

"Maintaining healthy reserves helps protect against unexpected expenses and supports long-term financial stability, minimizing the impact on taxpayers," according to a budget overview provided to council.

"Significant capital work is planned for 2026, resulting in a notable dip in capital asset fund balances."

The county faces decisions on how best to fund the road rationalization payments and the Shelburne Bypass, balancing between capital reserves and tax levy contributions.

Raves said staff worked diligently during budget preparations to put off some capital projects to future years given current financial pressures. The capital asset fund will be in the negative by 2030, she said.

"The driving factor is that costs are increasing faster than our contributions," she said.

The budget represents the planned work over the next year, highlights the key initiatives that support the strategic direction of Dufferin County, and outlines some of the challenges that impact the organization.

It reflects the cost of providing services today and investing in the future.

The 2026 spending plan is impacted by a number of external factors including uncertainty around federal and provincial policy changes and funding, economic conditions including exchange rates, tariffs, and infla-

tion, and labour market pressures.

These factors put not only direct financial pressure on the county but also affect staff and resource capacity.

"Expenses have increased significantly, mostly due to planned capital work which will require borrowing," according to the overview. "Another large portion of the increase is offset by government transfers and a continued strategy to mitigate some of the remaining impact by applying reserves."

Raves suggested there be a \$35,000 transfer to the county's capital reserve funds and \$250,000 to its rate stabilization reserve.

"When it comes to reserves, we can apply more or less than what is being proposed," she said.

After much discussion about various aspects of the spending plan, Coun. Wade Mills, Shelburne's mayor, said he was ready to green-light the draft budget as it was. The intent of the meeting wasn't to accept the proposed budget, but Mills and Nix were both satisfied.

"If there's more to it, then I'm happy to hold off," Mills said.

"We do need, I think, to do a little bit more work on the wage market review piece, for one thing, to get the exact number there," said Sonya Pritchard, the county's CAO.

Pritchard said council would benefit by waiting for a treasurer's reserve fund report that will soon be tabled.

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**FEATURED ITEM**

# Council asks for in-depth study of homelessness in Dufferin County

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS

A deep analysis of local homelessness issues would serve Dufferin County well.

That was one of the needs broached as part of an update county council requested on the Choices Shelter's financial outlook to 2028.

Council heard that Choices Shelter, which consists of a location for youth and another location for men, continues to face financial sustainability challenges despite temporary emergency money from the county in 2025 and provincial Homeless and Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) Hub funding.

Brenda Wagner, the county's health and human services director, said in a report to council that consolidation into a single shelter location is the most financially viable option. But Choices' board of directors has concerns about service accessibility and organizational impacts of consolidation.

Three options were identified during council's Jan. 8 meeting. They include completing a shelter needs assessment for Dufferin County while providing interim financial support to Choices; terminating the agreements with Choices; or continuing ongoing financial support for the organization under its current operating model.

Wagner said funding to the shelter has just recently started to flow despite it becoming a HART Hub in November. The projected \$600,000 allocation has been prorated due to the later-than-planned opening, as original funding assumed a mid-year launch.

Ten per cent of that, which is a \$60,000 administrative portion, may be used to offset general operating costs.

"While helpful, this amount is insufficient to address Choices' ongoing operational deficits or ensure long-term sustainability in its current model," Wagner said.

From August 2025 to December 2025, Choices has been supported financially in the following way with \$134,951 from the Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP), a \$55,305 federal Reaching Home grant, and the \$100,855 of the county emergency money.

That's a total of \$291,111.

Councillor Fred Nix, who is also Mono's deputy mayor, said \$291,111 over the last five months for an average number of 17 people at the shelter works out to about \$3,400 per person a month.

For that kind of money, Nix asked if apartments could be found for those shelter clients.

"It seems to be a very expensive way to

"It really would provide us the opportunity to really do a deep dive and come up with an approach that would be data-informed"

Brenda Wagner, the county's health and human services director

handle emergency beds for that price," he said.

Wagner drew council's attention to the option that calls for a comprehensive review of existing housing and homelessness programs across Dufferin County, including a gap analysis. A data-driven assessment would help determine the level of shelter services required.

"It really would provide us the opportunity to really do a deep dive and come up with an approach that would be data-informed," Wagner said.

Jaime Edge, the shelter's executive director, said the tally of 17 people included in a recent report was the number of people

who were in the shelters on the day that report was written.

"Each day we could have new intakes coming in," Edge said.

The numbers that make more sense, she said, are the number of "bed stays."

"And in nine months, we've offered 5,000 bed stays," she said. "That number is a little bit more significant because, although I was saying about our average stay, there was some people who were only in shelter for a week or two weeks."

They were able to be re-housed.

Edge said the actual number of people who availed of the shelter's services in that who time was 77 people.

Coun. Todd Taylor, who is also Orangeville's deputy mayor, said the shelter's financial outlook is a difficult question with many facets. The reality is, the Choices Shelter is a required option for Dufferin County.

There are people in the county who would be significantly inconvenienced by the shelter's absence.

He supported county staff conducting the recommended housing and homelessness program review and an accompanying service gap analysis.

"Lots of time I feel that we're just missing the data," Taylor said.

# Council holds first regular meeting of 2026, gets behind U.S. alcohol sales

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Shelburne council paved the way for an animal veterinary clinic to set up shop.

The zoning bylaw required an amendment that would allow a small animal veterinary clinic to operate at 122 Owen Sound Street in the downtown core. It's a building

previously used as a retail space.

The town's planner explained during council's Jan. 12 meeting the proposal aligns with existing planning policies and would bring a currently vacant storefront back into use. Discussion focused largely on parking and day-to-day operations.

Staff recommended a minimum of three designated parking spaces behind the building, with additional on-street parking available to minimize traffic impacts. The applicant confirmed the clinic would not function as a kennel or boarding facility, and that animals would only remain onsite for short recovery periods when required.

With no technical objections raised by reviewing agencies, council agreed the use was appropriate and approved the zoning bylaw amendment.

## Changes coming to recycling program

As the province assumes greater responsibility for recycling, new blue bins will be issued to all households.

Residents who feel the larger bins may be difficult to store or manage can request a smaller option through the town's website by Jan. 15, after which selections will be finalized.

## Town clears way for possible borrowing

Council approved a bylaw authorizing the town to borrow up to \$12.9 million, if necessary, as a contingency measure.

Staff explained the bylaw is required under the Municipal Act and functions as a standby borrowing authority to ensure municipal operations can continue during unforeseen cash flow emergencies.

It was emphasized that the town is not borrowing funds at this time. Instead, the bylaw establishes a maximum borrowing

limit, which is about 75 per cent of annual tax revenues, that could be accessed only if required.

## Town supports sale of U.S. booze stock

Councillor Lindsay Wegener highlighted a letter from Dufferin County to Premier Doug Ford in support of an initiative in several provinces to sell stockpiled American-made alcohol.

The alcohol has been removed from store shelves as a salvo in the current trade war between Canada and the U.S. Proceeds from the sales will be directed to charities and food banks.

"If we have this crazy stockpile, we should be trying to sell it off and potentially donating the money to charities," she said. "We have so many food banks that are struggling right now with providing food to an increasing number of people. We pulled it off the shelf for a good reason, but we should try to do something with it."

Council supported the initiative and voted to endorse the county's letter, with the possibility of sending a separate letter of its own.

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# MPP Sylvia Jones reviews challenges and accomplishments through 2025

Written By SAM ODROWSKI  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones, who serves as Ontario's deputy premier and minister of health under Premier Doug Ford, recently shared her thoughts on what was achieved in 2025 during an interview with the Shelburne Free Press.

Locally, Jones said the opening of the MRI suite at Headwaters Health Care Centre (HHCC) last fall was an incredible improvement to the community.

"I've been part of the Headwaters community for decades, and I can tell you that there's been many people over the years who have stepped up and wanted to see an MRI in our own hospital," she said.

Jones said it was incredible to see so many people step up to quickly fundraise for the MRI and get it operational last year, and it felt great to give it the stamp of approval as the minister of health.

She also gave kudos to HHCC for using a prefabricated building to get the MRI up and running more quickly, allowing residents to access diagnostic imaging sooner.

"It truly is game changing not to have to spend time trying to find an open MRI, then working through paramedics to get them to the appropriate facility. It's all happening at Headwaters, and I am absolutely thrilled," Jones enthused. "It's got to be the highlight for me of 2025."

She also noted, as minister of health, 49 new MRIs were approved across Ontario last year, bringing care closer to home.

The Town of Shelburne securing financial assistance from the province to expand its water sewage treatment plant is another key investment made in 2025 that Jones lauded. She said expanding sewage

and water capacity means the municipality will be able to move forward with developing more houses and a long-term care home.

Meanwhile, Orangeville received \$8.1 million for improvements to its water infrastructure capacity through the province's Municipal Housing-Enabling Water System Fund stream of the Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program (MHIP). This funding will support the development of approximately 3,055 new housing units in Orangeville.

One of the greatest challenges facing Dufferin-Caledon residents, according to Jones, is the growing unaffordability of day-to-day living.

"There's no doubt that people are being stretched, whether it's through just the general cost of living, whether it's the ability to find and secure accommodation, rental homes, etc.," she noted.

One initiative aimed at addressing this issue and benefiting commuters, Jones said, was the Ford government's permanent tax cut on gas.

Ontario's fuel tax was reduced from 14.7 cents per litre for gas down to 9 cents per litre in 2022, and made permanent in May 2025.

"Dufferin-Caledon has a very high percentage of commuters who travel south-west-northeast, so anything that we can do to make that a little more manageable. I think it was an important signal to take something that was year to year and make it permanent," Jones noted.

On affordability, she also lauded the Ontario government for avoiding increases to the provincial sales tax rate or provincial income tax rates.

"That's certainly sending a very clear



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**LOOKING AHEAD:** As MPP Sylvia Jones looks ahead to a fresh year, she encourages residents to "get involved, get engaged, and ask questions."

message that we intend to do everything we can to operate within our fiscal responsibility," Jones said.

However, municipal leaders and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) have raised concerns about the province downloading costs onto municipalities by cutting services and shifting provincial responsibilities onto them. AMO argues this has resulted in higher property taxes for ratepayers or cuts to services.

Looking ahead to 2026, from the Ministry of Health's standpoint, Jones said her focus will be on continuing to improve On-

tarians' access to doctors.

"We're making good progress on primary care expansions, making sure that everyone who wants to has an opportunity to sign up with a primary care practitioner, so that work will continue," she said. "For individuals who are looking, I hope that they will explore the Health Care Connect and sign up through that program."

Ontario residents can register with Health Care Connect, and once available, the Ministry of Health will connect them with a primary care provider in their community.

About 2.5 million people in the province currently lack a doctor, according to the Ontario Medical Association.

Another focus for Jones in 2026 is to continue taking a collaborative approach to governance.

"Locally, I think it is important for politicians, regardless of our political stripe or background, to be able to work together. So obviously, (Orangeville) Mayor Lisa Post, now (Dufferin County) Warden Post - there will be many issues that we will work together through," said Jones.

"At the end of the day, we both serve the same community and the same people."

A municipal election will be held across all of Ontario's 444 municipalities in October, and Jones noted a federal election may be triggered. Before concluding her interview with the Shelburne Free Press, Jones said she would encourage residents to get involved and share their thoughts with all levels of government.

"If I can leave one thing with people, it's get engaged, get involved and ask questions, because we all become better representatives when we get that feedback from our constituents," Jones remarked.

# Dufferin County Paramedic Service unveils new crest to better reflect mission

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Dufferin County Paramedic Service has changed its crest in an effort to better represent its expanding services and mission.

The previous crest was unchanged for 20 years, according to Gary Staples, the chief paramedic at DCPS. The change was a choice based on practicality and a desire to refresh the service to the public eye.

"We had initiated a paramedic action committee and one of the things that they mentioned was that they'd like to have a more fresh look for our service," he said. "We thought it would be a good opportunity to take a look and see what we could come up with."

"The crest was one of the first ones that we tackled. We've actually run out of our existing crest, so we had to make new ones anyway."

Thanks to the dedicated work of some committee members who devoted time to redesigning the paramedic crest, three designs were created and brought forward. Ultimately, by unanimous decision, the new blue crest beat out the rest.

Sporting a new blue theme, the crest does away with the black and gold. A smooth blue background topped by blue maple leaves and a white trillium flower have taken over.

The lettering has also changed, with Staples saying it will now reflect the scope of services now offered by the DCPS.

"Previously, as we know, our crest had EMS on it as well, which was emergency medical services, but that's not all we do



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**NEW LOOK:** The redesigned crest incorporates the blue colours of Dufferin County, and sports an eight-leaf pattern representing the eight municipalities serviced. The rollout will be gradual, with new uniforms being issues with the updated crest.

now," he said. "With the addition of our community paramedic program and our involvement in other areas such as the public access defib and our public relations that we do, we felt that we should take off the emergency part, because we do more than just emergencies."

"Everyone felt that the new design reflects the service a little better than the older one."

The rest of the emblem is also designed

to better reflect the region. The blue follows the official county colours, and the maple leaves, which are eight on either side, represent the eight municipalities that DCPS services.

They are Amaranth, East Garafraxa, Grand Valley, Mulmur, Mono, Melancthon, Orangeville, and Shelburne.

Rounding off the design is the star of life at centre, the globally recognized symbol for emergency medical services and personnel.

Another important focus of the change was to implement it without impacting the service financially.

"Obviously one of our conditions when we started this was that we wanted to make sure that financially, this was not going to

impact our ability to deliver service," Staples said. "There was a little bit of design work needed, but the local business we work with said that there would be no charge to actually do a final design, so it'll just be a smooth turnover from old to new."

The rollout will be gradual. As new uniforms are issued, the new crest will be on them. Expect to see a mixture of the old and new for a time until the switchover is completely finished.

In the near future, the DCPS is also looking at a redesign of its ambulances to improve visibility without relying on the emergency lights, which they have received feedback saying they can be blinding when idle on the side of the road.

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# OPINION

## It is up to Canadians to remain free

Freedom – it's something we take for granted in this country.

Have you ever been afraid of going on a trip or travelling across the province?

Have you ever worried that your neighbour might be spying on you and passing information to a government agency?

Have you ever worried that your local grocery store will not have any food because government rationing hasn't gotten around to supplying your town?

Have you ever been concerned that the afternoon barbecue you planned at your home may become the object of secret police surveillance because more than three people gathering in one place may be part of a secret anti-government plot? You've probably answered 'no' to all of those questions.

If you answered 'yes', you are definitely living an inappropriate lifestyle.

We take freedom for granted, because we have it.

A guy I used to work with decided to travel across Eastern Europe through countries that were part of the Soviet Union for a vacation in the 1970s. He told me that he just thought it would be an interesting trip. While everything went smoothly, he said he was under constant scrutiny and suspicion.

Why would a Westerner even want to visit Eastern Europe was the main theme.

He realized his movements were being monitored. To the authorities, a Westerner meant he could also be a spy. He checked in at a small inn, and the innkeeper insisted he turn over his passport for the night.

When asked why the innkeeper needed the passport, the reply was, "If I don't keep it from you while you are staying here, I will be arrested by the authorities in the morning."

One thing my friend noticed was the horrible amount of pollution. With all industry under government control, there was no other agency to oppose the fact that a factory was polluting the air and killing local residents.

He said he had to shower at the end of every day to remove the grime, dirt, and ash that fell out of the sky from factory smokestacks, choking the life out of the town's residents. The local residents shrugged it off as a part of life.

I just finished reading an essay by a woman who grew up in a county under the Soviet Union. She has since relocated to the West.

She described living under the 'warmth of collectivism' as it was described by their Soviet oppressors. Homeownership was

not allowed. You lived where the authorities told you to live.

You had no choice when it came to employment. You were given a job, and you had to do it whether you liked it or not. It was your job for life. Private enterprise was illegal, and those who attempted to earn a living through self-employment were punished.

Travel was very restricted, even within the socialist world. If you had an interest in visiting the west, you would be in serious trouble. All information was a government-approved version of reality. Even if you witnessed an incident and spoke about it as a witness, you would be considered a 'problem.'

There was a general feeling of fear in Soviet-controlled society. They learned what not to say. The walls had ears and so did your classmates.

Lining up to buy consumer goods is what she described as a 'national sport.'

You had to line up to buy food, shoes, furniture, books, and a decent winter coat.

Often, people stood in a line just hoping something they needed might become available.

Quality in any product did not exist. Since the state controlled everything and produced everything, you would have to

be happy with sub-standard products.

The mindset of the population was that of fear all the time. If one person messed up, everyone was punished. If one person said the wrong thing, everyone was threatened.

This type of fear trains people to become their own police agency – and not in a good way.

Bananas were a big thing. They arrived hard and green, and people learned to wait until they ripened.

The writer stated that bananas were proof that 'somewhere out there, beyond your grey daily reality, normal life existed.'

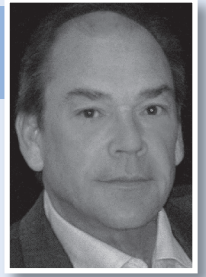
Yes, we have freedoms we take for granted.

Upon the completion of the U.S. Constitution, statesman Benjamin Franklin was asked if they had created a monarchy or a republic.

He replied, "A republic, if you can keep it."

That was a warning to citizens that they are the ones responsible for maintaining a free society. It is also up to Canadian citizens that we remain free from oppression, at any cost.

**BRIAN LOCKHART**  
FROM THE SECOND ROW



## Greenland: Maybe an invasion (and maybe a backlash)

The Crazy Gang are high on the 'brilliant success' of their Venezuela caper and looking for new targets. Like Alexander the Great, Donald Trump weeps because there are no more worlds to conquer. But wait! Actually, there are still lots of places to conquer.

Colombia is right next door to Venezuela and the US fleet is already just offshore, so how about taking down President Gustavo Petro? "He's a sick man who likes making cocaine and sending it to the United States, and he's not going to be doing it very long," according to The Donald (who is lying about Petro.)

"Operation Colombia sounds good to me," Trump said on Monday. He also name-checked Mexico ("Something will have to be done about it"), Iran ("We are locked and loaded and ready to go!") and Cuba ("It looks like it's ready to fall"). But any of these 'missions' would require lots

of planning and moving military assets around. He wants another hit right now.

Instant triumphs tend to be smaller and less rewarding (arresting Russian-registered tankers in mid-ocean, for example). There is only one whole country on his list that Trump could conquer in one week from a standing start: Greenland. Which may be why Steve Miller, White House Deputy Chief of Staff, moved it to the top of the hit-list on Monday.

As a former colony that is still a self-governing part of the Danish kingdom, Greenland is not yet a completely sovereign state. But it can hold a referendum on full independence whenever its 57,000 people want, so it sort of qualifies as a country. Only a trophy country, but you would still get points for conquering it.

If I were completely ignorant of military matters, I would now copy and paste several paragraphs of White House hogwash

explaining how strategically important Greenland is. I'd say that the Russians and the Chinese are casting lascivious eyes on the Arctic because there's valuable minerals there, and the sea lanes are opening up because the glaciers are melting.

Indeed, on Sunday Trump insisted that Greenland is "so strategic right now, it's covered with Russian and Chinese ships all over the place. We need Greenland from the standpoint of national security."

No, they don't. Greenland is a region of zero strategic importance. I spent some time on Greenland's west coast recently (Ilulissat), and Russian and Chinese ships were conspicuous by their total absence.

Greenland was briefly important strategically 60 to 70 years ago, when interceptors and radar stations based there might shoot down nuclear-armed Soviet bombers on their way to North America. Then the technology shifted to ballistic missiles that fly through space, and the number of troops on American airbases in Greenland dropped from 10,000 to 200.

If Washington wants to base more troops there now, it has only to ask: the treaty says it can have an unlimited number of bases and troops in Greenland. Similarly, if it wants some minerals, just negotiate a contract, start digging (and pay for them).

As for the 'sea lanes' across the Arctic, Russia's 'Northern Sea Route' connecting the Pacific to the Atlantic is getting busier. The 'Northwest Passage' around Greenland and northern Canada, however, will get little traffic until the ice is almost all gone (20+ years from now), because all the remaining ice tends to get trapped amongst Canada's Arctic islands.

On the other hand, if you just need 'threats' as cover for your imperial ambitions, there are plenty of experts who can find them for you at a modest price. Trump relentlessly broadcasts their 'findings'.

Given the servile posture (or just sheer laziness) of most American media, if Trump invades Greenland he would probably get away with it at home. However, he would not get away with it abroad.

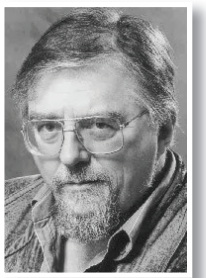
The Russians and the Chinese would be happy to see the US invade Greenland, but for America to seize the territory of a country that has been a loyal member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) for 77 years is a very bad look.

"Nobody's going to fight the United States militarily over the future of Greenland," said Steve Miller confidently, and that's true. American air and naval power would quickly overwhelm any attempted Danish defence of Greenland, and there's no point in getting people killed for nothing.

However, the political and strategic impact would be immense. "If the United States decides to militarily attack another NATO country," warned Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen, "then everything would stop. That includes NATO and therefore post-Second World War security."

A post-NATO alliance including every country except the United States would probably reform, but the enemy would be different. That might even be enough to shock American voters into starting the fightback in the mid-term elections in November. Or am I just clutching at straws?

**GWYNNE DYER**  
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We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Periodical Fund of the Department of Canadian Heritage.

# COMMUNITY VOICES

## Monthly Message: A fresh sign on the same door at Streams

January has a reputation for being loud. It arrives with fireworks, bold proclamations, fresh planners, and the kind of optimism that can feel like pressure if you're just trying to get your boots on and find the other mitten.

But life in our community is rarely loud. It's steady. It's early mornings and school drop-offs. It's long workdays. It's winter roads and grocery lists, and the quiet bravery it takes to keep showing up for your people.

So instead of a "new year, new everything" message, this month I want to offer something more honest.

A new year is less like a reset button and more like a doorway.

You're still you when you step through it. Your story doesn't get erased at midnight. You simply enter the next room carrying what you've learned, what you've survived, what you're still healing, and what you're still hoping for.

And in that spirit, Streams is stepping into a new room too.

### A new name, the same heartbeat

Over the past few years, we've been listening closely to families, to youth, to the community, and to our own mission. We've watched what lights kids up. We've paid attention to what makes them exhale. And we've noticed how often young people tell us the same things in different words: they feel safe, they feel proud of themselves, and they feel free to create.

That feedback is sacred to us. It's also clarifying. And it's part of why we're moving forward with a name and brand update: Streams Community Hub is becoming Streams Creative Hub.

Same mission. Same heart. Same kids filling the building with laughter, courage, and the occasional glitter trail that shows up days later like a friendly ghost. What's changing is how we're presenting ourselves, so our name and visual identity match what we've grown into.

We are a hub, yes. But we are also, very specifically, a home for creativity, the arts, imagination, and confidence built through making and doing. We want our name to say that plainly, especially for new families who have never walked through our doors yet.

Think of it like putting a clearer sign on the building, not because we became something different, but because we want more people to recognize what's already happening inside.

### What you can expect

If you've been around Streams for a while, you'll start noticing small changes rolling in, a little at a time.

First, the sign. At some point this year, the front of our building will get a refresh so it reflects our new operating name: Streams Creative Hub.

You'll also start seeing a refreshed look

**streams!**  
creative hub

appear in the places we "live" online, including our website, social media pages, email newsletters, and program materials.

(You'll notice our new logo alongside this piece.) This will happen gradually, not overnight. Rebrands are a bit like renovating while still cooking dinner in the same kitchen: you keep serving the meals, you just paint a wall when you can.

And then there's the behind-the-scenes stuff that nobody cheers for, but everyone benefits from: forms and invoices, email signatures, and yes, even cheques.

Here's the key thing to know: our legal name is still Streams Community Hub. That's the registered name of the charity, and it isn't changing. Streams Creative Hub is our new operating name, so you may see both names side-by-side for a while during the transition.

If you're writing a cheque, supporting a fundraiser, or looking us up officially, you may still see Streams Community Hub. If you're registering your child for a program, following us online, or spotting our signage, you'll increasingly see Streams Creative Hub.

### Why this matters

In a small town, word of mouth is basically our community newsletter. We love that. But we've also learned that clarity matters, especially online.

A parent searching for a program shouldn't have to decode what we do. A family new to Shelburne shouldn't have to guess whether we're for them. A young person looking for a place to belong shouldn't have to wonder if they're allowed to take up space here.

So this refreshed name and brand identity is our way of saying: Creativity lives here. Young people matter here. You're welcome here.

And before I sign off, I want to celebrate the person who helped bring this new look to life: Kolby DeMille. Kolby's design work is sharp, thoughtful, and full of intention, and it means a lot that he's a young creative who was born and raised right here in Shelburne. He's committed to proving that world-class design doesn't have to come from "somewhere else." He's also the resident graphic designer at Town Tees, our social enterprise partner, so if you see him, congratulate him, or keep him in mind if you need design support.

As we step into this new year, we're excited about what this clarity will make possible, not just in how we show up, but in how easily families can find us, understand us, and feel confident walking through our doors.

Thank you for being the kind of community that makes a place like this possible.

From all of us at Streams, we're grateful to be here, and grateful to be growing with you.

*By Juli-Anne James, Executive Director, Streams Community Hub*

## Dufferin Alzheimer's Society invites skates to be laced for awareness month event

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

January marks Alzheimer's Awareness Month across Canada, and the local contingent is using the opportunity to shine a light on the growing impact of dementia.

The Alzheimer's Society of Dufferin County will host a skating event Jan. 18. at the Alder Street arena from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. to encourage residents to learn more, get involved, and seek support when it is needed. Admission is \$10.

Lauren Culver, fund development man-

ager for the Alzheimer's Society, said the fourth edition of the annual event will feature skates and scones.

The event is also an opportunity to support residents in Dufferin County that are living with or affected by dementia. A diagnosis can be challenging not just for the individual, but also for family members, friends, and caregivers.

More than 1,500 people in Dufferin County are affected by the ailment.

"And those are just the ones that we know about," she said.

Alzheimer's Awareness Month aims to

amplify the voices of those living with dementia, reduce stigma, and connect people with local resources designed to help at every stage of the journey.

"There really is no road map, one size fits all for people living with dementia," Culver said.

Education remains a major focus for the Alzheimer Society of Dufferin.

Many people still believe Alzheimer's and dementia are the same thing, when in fact Alzheimer's is just one of more than 110 different types of dementia.

Culver said the organization offers a range

of programs designed to support both those living with dementia and their caregivers.

"We have a social program a few times a week where people living with dementia can come in and spend time with each other and our staff, which gives care partners a chance to do something for themselves," she said. "We also offer music therapy, care partner support groups, one-on-one support, and our public education coordinator is out in the community educating groups like police, firefighters and more about dementia and how to interact with people living with it."



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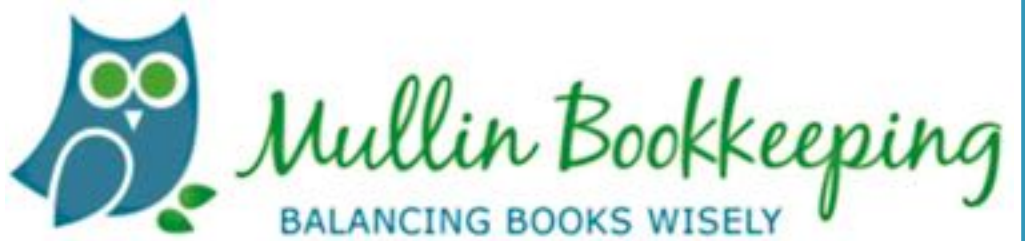
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## Attention Readers!

In this edition of the Shelburne Free Press, we pick up with the second half of the biggest stories that mattered to our readers between July and December 2025. With that, here's a look back at the year that was.

### July 3

- Streams Community Hub is hoping to address its sustainability and longevity in the local community with a new fundraising campaign. The youth-art focused charity has launched an extended fundraising campaign called One of 1,000, which looks to stir up 1,000 monthly donors from across Dufferin County to help sustain the charity for future generations.

### July 10

- The Museum of Dufferin's historic Corbetton Church has reopened following interior renovations and is now ready for the community to rent. The Corbetton Wesleyan Methodist Church was originally built in 1885. In 1925, the church became known as St. James United and served its community for 112 years until its closure in 1997.

- Aviation enthusiasts flew into Dufferin County for a special event commemorating the centennial anniversary of an aircraft pivotal to the history of aviation. Members of the International Moth Airplane Club, also known as the de Havilland Moth Club, welcomed historic aviation enthusiasts at Martin Airfield in East Garafraxa on Saturday (July 5) to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the de Havilland DH.60 Moth, a British two-seat touring and training aircraft.

### July 24

- Melancthon Against Quarries (MAQ) is preparing to take the next steps in opposing the construction of a below-the-water-table quarry in north Dufferin County. The grassroots organization announced in a newsletter on July 16 that they will be launching a letter-writing campaign in opposition to Strada Aggregate's application.

- A local not-for-profit group of quilters and blanketers is providing the warmth of handmade blankets to children and teenagers experiencing illness or difficulty in their lives. The Dufferin Chapter of Project Linus, established in 2023 by Christine Taylor, consists of dedicated individuals who craft the blankets at no cost to those who receive them. Since the chapter was formed, over 300 blankets have been donated in Dufferin County.

### July 31

- Shelburne Town Council has approved amendments to the budget process schedule for 2026 in response to strong mayor powers. During their meeting on Monday (July 28), the Shelburne Town Council received a report from Carey Holmes, director of financial

services, regarding the 2026 strong mayor budget schedule and recommended changes to the legislated timeline.

- Summer is in full swing and Shelburne youth have a new playground where they can swing, climb, and slide. The Town of Shelburne announced on July 28 that after three months of construction the newly upgraded Natasha Paterson Park playground is open to the community.

### Aug. 7

- Headwaters Health Care Centre (HHCC) has reached another milestone in bringing the community its first-ever magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) suite. The local hospital marked the official arrival and placement of the prefabricated unit that will house their new MRI suite. The unit, called a cassette, arrived at Headwaters Hospital shortly after noon on Tuesday (Aug. 5) and was lifted by a crane onto a foundation pad.

- Shelburne resident and Upper Grand District School Board (UGDSB) trustee Alethia O'Hara-Stephenson is stepping into a new role. During a special board meeting hosted on July 30, O'Hara-Stephenson, who represents the Town of Orangeville through the UGDSB, was elected as the new vice-chair.

### Aug. 21

- An accomplished singer and poignant songwriter recently brought the community together in support of local healthcare. The 20th Annual Jim Cuddy Jamboree came to the Lyric Pond in Honeywood on June 29 in support of the Headwaters Health Care Foundation (HHCF), and it was announced on Aug. 19 that it raised \$17,587.

- A pilot from Dufferin County is being recognized for her contributions and leadership in the aviation industry with a prestigious award. Heather Hills, a resident of Orangeville, has been announced as a recipient of the Rising Star Award from Northern Lights Aero Foundation (NLAF). Each year, the Northern Lights Aero Foundation (NLAF) grants the prestigious Elsie Awards, recognizing Canadian women who have made a significant contribution to aviation or aerospace.

### Aug. 28

- For nearly 20 years, Dufferin County veteran Chris Skalozub has run a local initiative to have Highway of Heroes stickers on every emergency service vehicle in the community. Skalozub started the Highway of Heroes decal initiative with his best friend and fellow veteran, Robert "Bob" Marston. The initiative



PETER RICHARDSON PHOTO

**JIM CUDDY JAMBOREE:** The 20th Annual Jim Cuddy Jamboree in support of the Headwaters Health Care Foundation returned on June 29 to the Lyric Pond in Honeywood. Cuddy, along with friends and fellow members of Blue Rodeo, performed to an appreciative crowd. Funds raised at the event support Headwaters in purchasing equipment and upgrades not covered by the government. The Jim Cuddy Jamboree was started in 2005 and has fundraised for various not-for-profit groups over the years.. [As seen in the Feb. 20 Shelburne Free Press.](#)

gets its namesake from the Highway of Heroes, a 170-km stretch of Highway 401 from the Canadian Forces Base in Trenton to Toronto, which pays tribute to fallen Canadian soldiers.

### Sept. 4

- Drivers travelling through the Town of Shelburne will want to keep a close eye on their speed or be prepared to pay a hefty fine. The Town of Shelburne is set to officially implement a speed enforcement program in the community as of Friday, Sept. 5. Shelburne Town Council received an updated report on the automated speed enforcement (ASE) program during their meeting on Aug. 25.

### Sept. 18

- Family Transition Place (FTP) is marking a milestone in the organization's history as it commemorates 40 years of providing support to the community. FTP was founded in 1985 by a determined group of community members committed to creating a safe space for families in transition.

### Sept. 25

- A Shelburne-based author is inviting readers to "roll" with him as he shares his experiences of growing up with a physical disability in his debut book. Mark Rodgers, a 21-year-old Shelburne resident, has self-published a children's book titled "Beyond the Chair," which details his experience with cerebral palsy and going through life with a disability.

- Headwaters Health Care Foundation (HHCF) has raised a record-breaking total of donations to support surgical care at Headwaters Hospital. The hospital foundation announced in a press release on Sept. 18 that they raised a total of \$925,000 at their 26th annual Headwaters Health Care Foundation Gala, which was held at the Hockley Valley Resort on Sept. 12.

- The Town of Shelburne is preparing to submit its comments and concerns regarding the proposed expansion of the Strada Aggregate quarry. During their meeting on Monday (Sept. 22), Coun. Walter Benotto asked to discuss communications from the Township of Melancthon regarding the Strada Aggregate quarry application. In the communications, the Township of Melancthon informed the surrounding communities that they had

been notified of the application submission by Strada Aggregates for a quarry operation within its existing 360-acre sand and gravel pit, and the 60-day commenting period under the Aggregate Resources Act (ARA) had commenced as of Sept. 11. Coun. Benotto raised concerns about the application, particularly the lack of information on how increasing traffic for the proposed operation would impact the Shelburne community.

### Oct. 2

- The Little Family's Haunt in the Park is rising up for another year of spooks, but will find itself in a new location. The 2025 Haunt in the Park will be held at KTH Manufacturing, located at 300 2nd Line, instead of Fiddle Park. The change in location is due to ongoing construction at Fiddle Park.

- The Shelburne Ethnic Group gathered to celebrate Navratri at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex on Saturday, Sept. 27, in a colourful and lively event. Navratri, meaning 'nine nights,' is one of India's most vibrant and spiritually significant festivals, dedicated to worshipping Goddess Durga and her nine divine forms.

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

### Oct. 9

- A new chapter is starting for the Shelburne Public Library. Shannon McGrady has been named as the new chief executive officer (CEO) of the local library following the retirement of current CEO Rose Dotten.

- The Little Family Haunt in the Park is putting the Town of Shelburne on the map for a must-stop destination for Halloween, as they received nationwide recognition. The event has been given the 2024 Best Canadian Walk-Through Haunt award from the Canadian Haunters Association.

### Oct. 16

- Headwaters Health Care Centre (HHCC) has officially opened Dufferin-Caledon's first-ever magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) suite after years of advocacy, community engagement, and fundraising. Staff members, volunteers, and community dignitaries gathered outside the local hospital on Tuesday



PETER RICHARDSON PHOTO

**FUN AT THE FALL FAIR:** The 158th Shelburne Fall Fair came to the community from Sept. 12 to 14 with the horse pull competition entertaining a large crowd. This year's theme was "Barns, Boots, and Bales," and attendees enjoyed a variety of agricultural displays, activities and competitions. There was tractor and ATV pulls, dog shows, bicycle races, a pancake breakfast and fun farm games, like potato sack races, egg spoon races, wheelbarrow races and round bale races.. [As seen in the Sept. 18 Shelburne Free Press.](#)

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(Oct. 14) for a special ceremony celebrating the grand opening of the Morningview Foundation MRI Suite.

• The Town of Shelburne is developing a commercial-grade kitchen for community use to help support the growth of local food entrepreneurs and small food processors. Carol Maitland, economic development officer for the Town of Shelburne, presented Council with a report on the development of the commissary kitchen at Fiddle Park during their meeting on Oct. 6. The project will see the existing 1,400 square foot kitchen at Fiddle Park transformed from an underutilized space into a professional-grade kitchen for local food entrepreneurs to rent.

**Oct. 23**

• A member of the Dufferin County Paramedic Service (DCPS) was recently recognized by the Governor General for his more than two decades of contributions to communities throughout Ontario. The Ontario Association of Paramedic Chiefs (OAPC) recognized 130 paramedics with the Governor General's Emergency Medical Exemplary Service Medal during a ceremony on Sept. 25. Among those recognized was Dufferin County paramedic John McMurray, who worked in paramedicine for 21 years.

**Oct. 30**

• Shelburne residents, library patrons, friends, family, and colleagues of the local library's longtime CEO, Rose Dotten, gathered at the library on Oct. 26 to pay tribute to her retirement. Dotten has been CEO of the Shelburne Public Library for 17 years, first assuming the position in 2008.

• Shelburne council has reviewed the 2026 draft budget and agreed to present it to a public meeting on Nov. 24. The budget briefing, headed by Carey Holmes, director of financial services and treasurer, was heard by council on Monday, Oct. 27, at a regular meeting. Holmes outlined the three budget framework

report recommendations presented to council on Oct. 6 to start the briefing. The town budget is looking at a suggested 5.4 per cent increase to the tax levy to account cover the costs of the running the municipality in 2026.

• Shelburne Council has approved a recommendation to seek funding for an Environmental Assessment for a proposed truck bypass. Recognized as an issue since at least 2003, the bypass discussion has passed through multiple hands over the past two decades. The town has highlighted semi-truck traffic as a known disturbance to residents and businesses. Before any construction of a bypass can begin, however, a comprehensive Environmental Assessment (EA) is needed. This assessment is estimated to cost \$1.2 million.

**Nov. 6**

• A local expert sounded the alarm about the proposed Strada Melancthon quarry project during a meeting at Horning Mills Community Hall on Nov. 4, warning a group of about 40 residents of the potentially destructive impact it could have. The proposed quarry has recently attracted significant attention, as Strada continues to push ahead with plans that hydrogeology research expert Garry Hunter said are untethered from reality.

**Nov. 13**

• It has been 80 years since Germany's unconditional surrender to the Allied powers, effectively ending World War II. On Tuesday, Nov. 11, the Town of Shelburne demonstrated its dedication to never forgetting the sacrifices Canadians made to achieve that victory. Local politicians, veterans, their families, and residents gathered at the Shelburne Legion Branch 220 to begin the morning with a service to remember the dead and honour the living. Veterans sat on stage, behind the crowd, and within, close to relatives or by themselves. Air Cadets from #164 Squadron waited nearby.

**Nov. 20**

• Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources and Forests (MNR) has put forward a proposal to change the Boyne Valley Provincial Park's size and hunting rules. In a document titled "Supplemental Document Supporting Environmental Registry of Ontario Proposal Notice Number 019-9306," the provincial government is planning a large overhaul of parks across the province, including here in Dufferin County. The Boyne Valley Provincial Park is set to have 496 hectares added to its regulated area, almost doubling its size. This land was previously acquired by the Ontario government in other deals. However, the Ontario government, through the MNR, is also considering per-



FILE PHOTO

**SUMMER FUN:** Shelburne hosted its third concert for its Fridays in the Park series at Jack Downing Park on July 11, featuring the Canadian Celtic rock band, Mudmen. They performed their original music along with covers of popular songs, like Spirit of the West's "Home for a Rest." The event also featured a local vendors market, face painting, balloon twisting and a Magical Wicked Experience. *As seen in the July 17 Shelburne Free Press.*

mitting hunting within the regulated areas, which include trails managed by the Dufferin Hi-Land Bruce Trail Club.

• The Town of Shelburne has deactivated its automated speed enforcement (ASE) cameras after the Ford government passed legislation banning their use across the province last Friday. The cameras were only in use for 70 days in Shelburne before the pilot program was forced to end.

• The Town of Shelburne has officially submitted a formal response to Strada Aggregates Inc.'s application to expand and quarry below the water table, highlighting several local concerns. The Strada quarry has been a hotly debated topic since it first appeared, drawing sharp criticism from local residents, politicians, and environmental experts. Shelburne has specifically raised concerns about the amount of water the quarry will be drawing from the area.

**Nov. 27**

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

**Dec. 4**

• Changes are being proposed following the discovery that a local scrapyard was in possession of illegal items and in violation of various community bylaws. On Wednesday, Nov. 19, the Ontario Provincial Police executed a search warrant at Northern Iron and Metal in Melancthon. What they found was a plethora of illegal items. Melancthon Mayor Darren White said the town has had prior issues with the scrapyard, but this is the first time that arrests have ever been made.

**Dec. 11**

• 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.

• 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.

**Dec. 18**

• A petition against the proposed Strada Quarry in Melancthon is gaining traction locally. While the public comment period has officially closed for Strada's quarry expansion proposal, objections are still just as firm as ever, as local voices have promised to keep up the pressure on Strada and the Ontario government of Doug Ford. Nanci Malek, a local resident and community leader opposed to the quarry development, said that just because public comments are no longer being accepted doesn't mean people should be silent.

**Dec. 25**

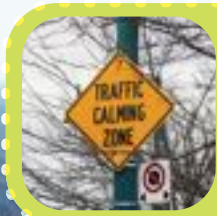
• The Dufferin Community Foundation announced on Wednesday, Dec. 17, its fall 2025 grant recipients. Shirley Boxem, grants committee chair, said these charities were chosen for their ongoing outstanding service to the community. The six charities chosen will receive grants ranging from \$2,000 to \$8,250 to support initiatives that range from socks for people in need to watershed education for kids, all uniquely important to the community. The grants will be used primarily for programs in 2026.



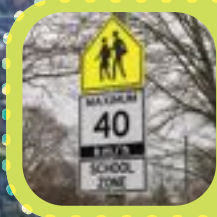
WE HAVE FUN PHOTOGRAPHY PHOTO

**TERRORS AND SCARERS:** Haunt in the Park returned to the community on Oct. 24 and 25, bringing with it a terrifying collection of experiences, from classics like Pennywise the clown to new experiences like Fallout's ghouls. 2025 saw Haunt in the Park being held at KTH Manufacturing while the regular venue, Fiddle Park, undergoes redevelopment. *As seen in the Oct. 30 Shelburne Free Press.*

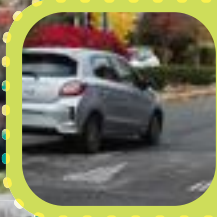
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# SPORTS

## Muskies to host charity game for Headwaters Health Care Centre

Written By **BRIAN LOCKHART**

They are Shelburne's Senior hockey team who deliver a lot of hard-hitting fast action for local fans when they host home games at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex.

This is the Muskies first season in the Ontario Elite Hockey League after taking time

off to regroup. They were welcomed to the OEHL this season along with Elora Rocks and Tillsonburg Thunder.

With a long history in Shelburne, the Muskies have always had a good fan base in town since their inaugural year back in 1977.

As a local hockey club, the Muskies are actively involved in the community.

They will be welcoming fans to a special night when they host their Shelburne Muskies Face-Off for Cancer game in support of Headwaters Health Care Centre.

Funds raised will go toward the oncology department at the local hospital.

On the ice, the Muskies will be up against the Lucknow Lancers for this special game.

There will be a Shelburne Minor Hockey U8 mini game between periods.

Along with hockey action, there will be a silent auction, a Shelburne Muskies Special Jersey auction, and a Fish Toss and Booster Club.

The Shelburne Muskies Face-Off for Cancer game will take place Jan. 16 at 8:30 p.m.

## CDDHS girls' varsity hockey team move into first place after tie

Written By **BRIAN LOCKHART**

The Centre Dufferin District High School Royals girls' varsity hockey team have moved into first place in the District 4 standings after winning two games and tying one during tournament play on home ice at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex Jan. 8.

District 4 girls' hockey plays the season with a series of tournament days where each team plays three games over the course of the day.

In the first game of the day, the Royals won 6-3 over Norwell District Secondary School with a come-from-behind win after going down 3-1 in the first period.

Royals right wing Ryleigh Horner scored four goals in that game, including a short-handed goal.

In the second game of the day, the Royals faced off against the Westside Secondary School Thunder from Orangeville.

The Royals were leading 2-1, but a late third period goal from the Thunder tied it and the game ended in a 2-2 tie.

"It was a pretty good game overall. We bounced back from the first period," said Royals' Ryleigh Horner of the first game against Norwell District. "We were down 3-1 coming out of the first. We bounced back and got it back in the second period and then just kept going."

Horner said the second game of the day against Westside went well, but the team fell short in some areas.

"I think we could have moved the puck



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

**LEADING THE DIVISION:** The Centre Dufferin District High School Royals girls' varsity hockey team are in first place in the District 4 standings after taking on the Westside Secondary School Thunder from Orangeville during a tournament day at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex on Thursday, Jan. 8. The game ended in a 2-2 tie.

more and worked more as a team," Horner said. "We did get good shots on net and rebounds were good. We have to continue that in the next game."

Teammate Catelyn Clark, who plays defence, said the team has a lot of confidence on the ice this season.

"We're projected to make it to the play-

offs and have home ice," Clark said. "It gives us a lot of confidence to keep going. We're all very close. The second game today was a little slow and sloppy."

The third game of the day, had the Royals up against Erin District High School. The Royals won their final game of the day, leaving the ice with a 4-2 win.

The Royals are now in first place in the District 4 standings with a 5-0-1 undefeated record.

The Royals will be back on the ice during the next tournament day on Feb. 5. That tournament will be played in Palmerston with four teams each playing three games for the day.

## Junior C hockey moves into final stretch of the regular season with 10 games left

Written By **BRIAN LOCKHART**

As the regular season moves to the final ten games, the North Carruthers Division of the Provincial Junior Hockey League is seeing a battle for first place as Junior C teams put out their best effort to secure a good place in the standings before heading into the playoffs.

Across the province, eight divisions will be battling to see which teams are division champions this season before moving on to compete for the provincial Schmalz Cup.

The Alliston Hornets continue to lead the North Carruthers Division with 48 points and a 24-9 record.

The Hornets have maintained first place for most of the season. They dropped to second for a brief period when they went on a slump and the Stayner Siskins took over.

However, the Hornets rebounded and moved back into the top spot.

Alliston lost their last game to the Stayner

Siskins on Jan. 8, on Stayner home ice.

"It was a good game," said Alliston forward Gunner Kirk of the team's performance on the ice. "We came out hot and we scored the first goal. We fell off for a few minutes and they capitalized and got a quick couple of goals. The rest of the game was all us. We came back hard and tied the game up. It was a tight game."

The Stayner Siskins are in second place in the North Carruthers division with 45 points. After 31 games, the Siskins have won 22 times on the ice.

In third place, the Orillia Terriers are having a good season and are a big contender going into the playoffs. With a 20-9 record, the Terriers have proven they can win and they have won a game over every other team in the division.

The Penetang Kings are in the number four spot with 40 points and an 18-11 record including three overtime losses and one shoot-out loss.

In the middle of the pack, the Midland Flyers have 32 points, and the Muskoka Bears are right behind with 20 points recorded so far this season.

In the bottom of the standings, the Innisfil Spartans are in seventh place with 17 points

and eight wins after 28 times on the ice.

The Huntsville Otters have 17 points and eight wins after 30 games.


The final games of the North Carruthers regular season will take place on Monday, Feb. 16.




BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

**FINAL STRETCH:** With Junior C teams moving into the final stretch of the regular season, teams are putting out their best effort to secure a good spot in the standings. The Alliston Hornets are in first place in the North Carruthers Division. The Hornets took on the Innisfil Spartans at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre on Jan. 9. The Hornets won this game 7-4.

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**ATHLETE OF THE WEEK**

**RYLEIGH HORNER**

Playing hockey since she was just four-years-old, CDDHS right wing, Ryleigh Horner brings a lot of experience to her team.

"I like the competitiveness of it and always getting to meet new people and having fun with it," Ryleigh said of why she likes the sport. "It's fun to play at a high level."

Ryleigh scored four goals in one recent high school game.

Outside of school, Ryleigh plays hockey with the U18 AA Mississauga Hurricanes.

When the ice is out, Ryleigh likes to play ball hockey during the summer.

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- Outdoor Pool Deck Supervisor
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- 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](http://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](mailto: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

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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)

Your presence would mean so much as we honour her remarkable life and the legacy of love she leaves behind.

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## OBITUARIES

### PAUL RICHARD GRANT

Passed away at the Louise Marshall Hospital with his wife by his side, on Wednesday, January 7, 2026 in his 79th year.



Beloved husband of Sue Grant for nearly 58 years. Cherished father of Sean Grant and his wife Melinda. Adored Grandpa of Dawson (Mia) and Georgia (Griffin). Dear brother-in-law of Dan Bonner, and Dianne Whittington (Jim). Remembered by many nieces and nephews. Predeceased by his sisters-in-law Anne Bonner and Cathy Newton (Eric).

Paul was a talented woodworker and loved tinkering in his workshop, creating many treasured keepsakes for family and friends. He enjoyed the many fishing trips with his son, grandson and brother-in-law Dan. Paul will be remembered for his down-to-earth attitude and willingness to help others. He will be dearly missed by his family and friends.

Paul came to Salvation in the days prior to his passing; this knowledge brings great comfort to his family knowing he is at peace with the Lord.

Private funeral arrangements entrusted to the England Funeral Home, Mount Forest. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society or the Louise Marshall Hospital Foundation. Donations and online condolences may be made at [www.englishfuneralhome.com](http://www.englishfuneralhome.com)



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ELIZABETH'S HOME CHILDCARE Unlicensed & Private in Shelburne will have 2 spots available January 1, 2026. Ages 1 to 4 years. Contact via e-mail [elizabeth.tozer@hotmail.com](mailto:elizabeth.tozer@hotmail.com)

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# Amaranth man faces charges in Shelburne break and enters

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS

A police search of an Amaranth home may have closed five break and enter and related fraud investigations.

OPP in Dufferin County executed a search warrant at the home on Jan. 10 and arrested a 40-year-old Amaranth man.

He is allegedly responsible for a spree of break and enters and fraud incidents from

December 2025 into early January 2026 in and around Shelburne.

Members of the Dufferin OPP Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU), in collaboration with uniformed officers, initially identified and arrested the individual in connection with two of the break and enters. Then further investigation linked the same individual to the other incidents.

The man has been charged with five

counts of break and enter to commit an indictable offence, two counts of possession of property obtained by crime under \$5,000, possession of break-in instruments, theft of a credit card, two counts of using the stolen credit card, and two counts of theft under \$5,000.

Seized by police from the residence was a stolen cash register from a pharmacy break and enter, stolen lottery tickets, and

clothing believed to have been worn during the offences.

The accused was held for a bail hearing in Orangeville.

Anyone with information regarding this incident or other suspected unlawful activity is asked to contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122, or Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or online at: [crimestoppersdm.com](http://crimestoppersdm.com)

## AMBER Alerts save lives: Your help could mean the difference for a child in danger

January 13 marked AMBER Alert Awareness Day, and the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is reminding Ontarians that AMBER Alerts are a call for the public's help to find a child in danger.

An AMBER Alert is an emergency broadcast that is issued in the event of a child abduction. It is only issued when the abducted child is believed to be at imminent risk of bodily harm or death.

When the alert is issued, the description

of the child (and, if available, the alleged suspect or involved vehicle) is immediately broadcast through television, radio and LTE-connected and compatible wireless devices via Alert Ready, Canada's emergency alerting system.

The issuing of an AMBER Alert is not taken lightly. Before an AMBER Alert is issued, specific guidelines must be met, and all of the following criteria must be satisfied:

1. The law enforcement agency believes a

child under 18 years of age has been abducted.

2. The law enforcement agency believes the child is in danger of serious bodily harm or death.

3. There is enough descriptive information about one or more of the following: the child, the abductor, and/or the vehicle, which is sufficient to allow the law enforcement agency to believe that an immediate broadcast alert will help in locating the child.

During an AMBER Alert, time is critical. If you see or hear an alert, you should watch for the child, suspect and/or vehicle described, and report tips or sightings immediately by calling 9-1-1.

Calling 911 to complain about an AMBER Alert is considered public mischief and may result in charges.

Learn more about AMBER Alerts and how you can help by visiting [opp.ca/AMBER-Alert](http://opp.ca/AMBER-Alert).

## Enjoy doing puzzles? Shelburne Public Library offers access to thousands of publications

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### RECOMMENDED READ

**Dear Edward** by Ann Napolitano:

One summer morning, 12-year-old Edward Adler, his beloved older brother, his parents, and 183 other passengers board a flight in Newark headed for Los Angeles.

Among them is a Wall Street wunderkind, a young woman coming to terms with an unexpected pregnancy, an injured vet returning from Afghanistan, a septuagenarian business tycoon, and a free-spirited woman running away from her controlling husband.

Then the plane tragically crashes.

Edward is the sole survivor.

Edward's story captures the attention of

the nation, but he struggles to find a place for himself in a world without his family. He continues to feel that a piece of him has been left in the sky, forever tied to the plane and all his fellow passengers. But then he makes an unexpected discovery. One that will lead him to the answers of some of life's most profound questions.

**Why Shannon recommends it:** I always seem to gravitate to books that are rich with emotional depth which is to say books that break your heart and then beautifully stitch it back together again. *Dear Edward* by Ann Napolitano is a poignant exploration of grief, the resilience of the human spirit, and how we continue to discover and redefine ourselves throughout our life.

Want to have your recent read recommended in our weekly column? Send your personal review to [frontdesk@shelburnelibrary.ca](mailto:frontdesk@shelburnelibrary.ca) (with subject - "Patron Pick") and we will pair it with the publisher's summary and then feature it in the Shelburne Free Press - everyone's favourite read!

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### CORRECTION

An article titled "Shelburne library reflects on 2025 changes and 2026 plans" that ran in the Jan. 8 edition of the Shelburne Free Press had an incorrect cutline attached to the image within the article. It should have read: New Shelburne Public Library CEO Shannon McGrady said the library was marked by changes and improvements throughout the year. Stepping into the CEO position after the retirement of Rose Dotten, McGrady wasted no time in getting to work and recognized a need to focus on expanding services and engaging youth in the community.

The Free Press apologizes for any confusion or inconvenience this may have caused.

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