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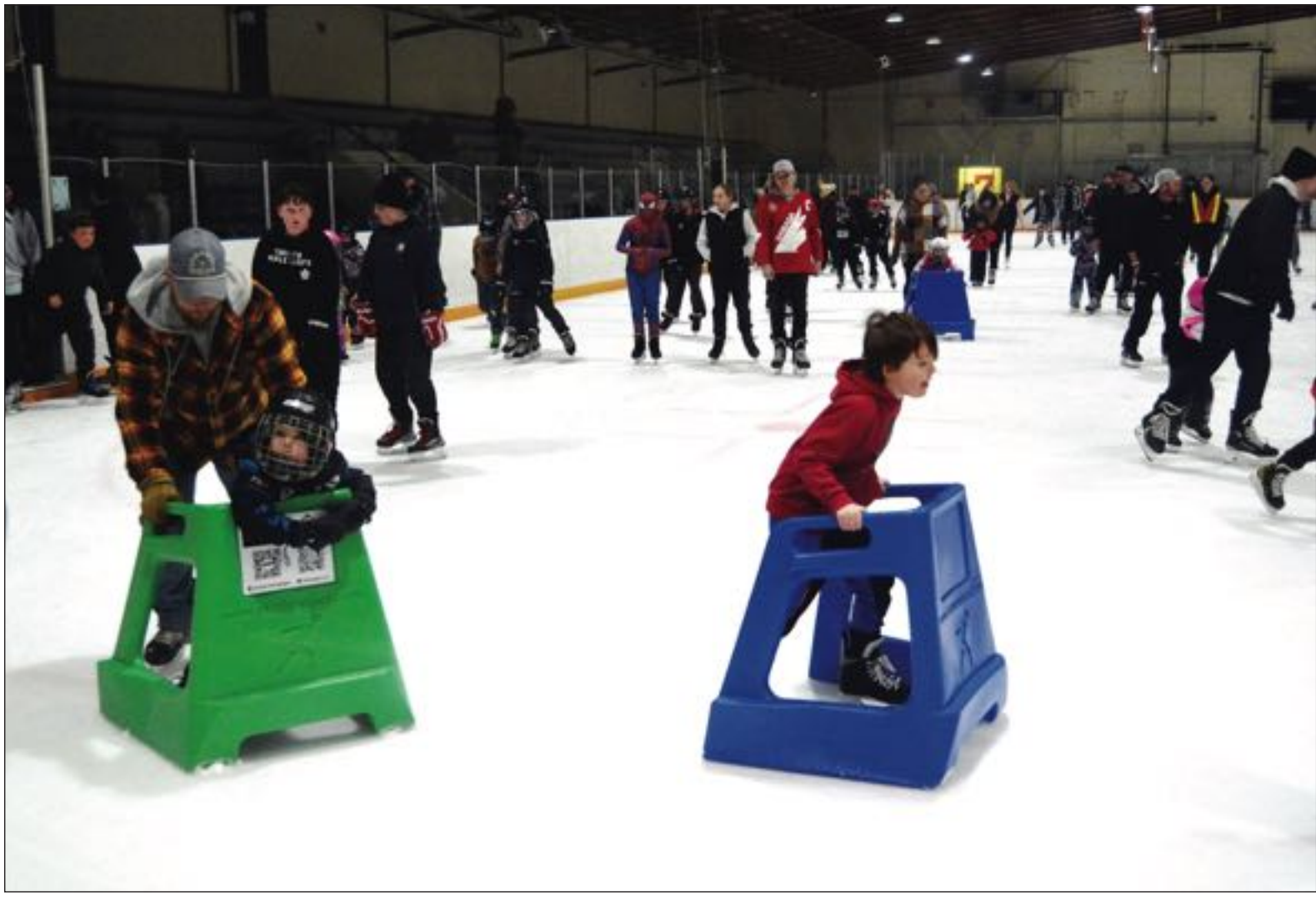
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BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

FAMILY FUN: The Family Day holiday brought out many local residents to the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex in Shelburne on Saturday, Feb. 16, to enjoy some fun time on the ice. Sponsored by Shelburne Family & Chiropractic & Wellness, Main Street Dental, and Shelburne Optometry, the event was very popular, with many people turning out for the free skate. Turn to Page 8 for more photos.

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Ontario allocates funding for Shelburne Water Pollution Control Plant rehabilitation

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

Ontario is investing millions of dollars into critical infrastructure improvements in the Town of Shelburne, committing \$12.5 million toward the rehabilitation of the community's Water Pollution Control Plant.

Shelburne Mayor Wade Mills welcomed the funding announcement, highlighting its importance for the town's infrastructure planning and long-term sustainability.

"The Town of Shelburne extends our sincere thanks to the Ontario government for awarding us \$12.5 million in funding," he said. "This incredible investment by the province in our small town infrastructure not only helps ease the financial burden of this major capital project, it is critical to our continued provision of safe and reliable waste treatment systems in our community."

Municipal leaders say the project will play a key role in supporting Shelburne's continued growth by ensuring core infrastructure keeps pace with rising demand.

Investments in water and wastewater systems are also seen as essential to enabling new housing development and maintaining environmental standards.

Located in Shelburne, the Water Pollution Control Plant treats wastewater and protects local water quality.

The facility has been identified as requiring significant repairs and upgrades to maintain reliable service and meet future demand. Municipal officials have noted that undertaking a project of this scale would have placed considerable financial pressure on the town if it had been required to cover the full cost independently.

The funding announcement was shared in a Jan. 31 press release from Dufferin-Caledon MPP and Ontario Minister of Health Sylvia Jones, outlining provincial support for essential upgrades to the facility.

"This \$12.5 million investment in Shelburne's Water Pollution Control Plant will strengthen the reliability and safety of essential wastewater services for the community," Jones said. "This investment reflects our government's commitment to

maintaining and upgrading the core infrastructure communities rely on every day."

The province's contribution aims to address aging infrastructure while helping ensure Shelburne can continue to provide safe and effective wastewater treatment for residents and businesses. According to the release, the funding will support rehabilitation work designed to improve system reliability, maintain environmental protections, and help accommodate future community growth.

The \$12.5 million investment is being delivered through Ontario's Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program's Health and Safety Water Stream (MHIP-HSWS).

The program was established to help municipalities strengthen critical water infrastructure, support housing development, protect communities during extreme weather events, and ensure access to safe drinking water and wastewater services.

Provincial officials say the program is intended to help communities modernize essential systems while reducing the financial burden on local taxpayers.

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FEATURED ITEM



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County approves \$52.7 million budget with nearly 4 per cent levy increase

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS

Dufferin County officials believe this year's budget will stay the course toward its objectives even as it puts fiscal responsibility at the fore. The county inked its 2026 operating and capital budget during a special meeting on Feb. 11. The spending plan has residents of the county's eight municipalities pay an additional \$16.20 for every \$100,000 of assessed property value. That levy is in addition to individual municipal and education taxes.

The initial draft budget, which would have kept services and programs on par with the previous year, had an almost seven per cent increase after accounting for 1.17 per cent growth.

The total tax levy to support service deliv-

ery in the approved budget is \$52,705,255. It results in a net taxpayer impact of 3.88 per cent after growth on the county's portion of the tax bill.

Aimee Raves, the county's finance manager and treasurer, said Dufferin County aims to advance its Corporate Strategic Plan, but not all goals are achievable within current financial constraints.

"As a result, some initiatives have been deferred or scaled back, and sustaining existing programs and services remains challenging," she said.

The levy includes a \$7,910,244 capital investment toward the purchase or replacement of assets, strengthening the county's financial position, and preparing for future contingencies, as well as operating, capital, and special initiatives.

"The 2026 budget maintains essential county services and programs, supports priority initiatives under the county's strategic plan, and introduces some items that will allow the county to invest in the community's future," according to a press release.

"The county will continue to work to achieve important plan objectives while keeping fiscal responsibility top of mind and mitigating the financial impact on Dufferin taxpayers."

Money has been earmarked to support the Health and Human Services Hub and to design and construct a new operations centre. The county will work toward implementing its housing strategy and the Road Safety Master Plan.

Lisa Post, the county's warden and Oran-

geville's mayor, said Dufferin County finds itself in the same financial straits as other communities in Ontario and throughout Canada. That is, all levels of government are challenged to balance strategic objectives with fiscal responsibility.

The 2026 budget will help the upper tier address housing and homelessness, health, and community safety while keeping financial sustainability top of mind.

Sonya Pritchard, the county's CAO, said the spending plan outlines some of the challenges faced at the upper tier.

"With a strong focus on mitigating the financial impact for our taxpayers, we will continue to invest in Dufferin's future and provide the services and programs that our community members rely on," Pritchard said.

Upper Grand District School Board updates expectations of students on no-bus days

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

No-bus days, typically caused by inclement weather, will no longer be considered days off, and students are expected to make their way to class if possible.

The Upper Grand District School Board (UGDSB) has made significant changes to its guidelines regarding buses and winter conditions in Dufferin. Previously, many treated bus cancellations as a day off for most students. The curriculum was slowed, or previous lessons were revisited, because most kids were absent.

That will no longer be the case.

A new campaign by the UGDSB wants parents and students to know that, going forward, the curriculum may continue regardless of whether buses run.

Heather Loney, communications and public relations manager for the UGDSB, framed the situation as an awareness campaign rather than a change in practice.

"The Every Day Counts campaign, specif-

ically around schools on no-bus days, isn't a change in guidelines or policy," she said. "Rather, the aim of the Every Day Counts campaign is to ensure families and students know that schools are open and learning still can happen on no bus days. And that students are welcome to attend when it is safe to do so."

Loney said that it's not a binary change, and inclement weather and other factors will continue to be considered. If many students are absent for any reason, the curriculum can still be reduced or paused if necessary.

"As always, educators use their professional judgment when determining what to plan and teach during a lesson," she said. "There are often times when many students in a class are away or absent for a variety of reasons, including inclement weather. In these cases, it would not be unusual to reduce the amount of new material being taught or to focus more on consolidating previously learned concepts."

Peggy Bond, chair of the Parent Involvement Committee at Orangeville District

Secondary School, noted that a factor in this change was a concern from the schools about students losing valuable learning time on no-bus days.

"We had a lot of no bus days in January," she said. "I think it was up to nine or 10 in January, and then I think we had two in December. So, in our board here, we lost 11 learning days."

She also said this raised concerns about what it might mean for higher-grade students looking to pursue post-secondary education.

"There was a definite learning loss to these students," she said. "Which, in the higher grades, means that they might be going to university a little less prepared than people in other geographic areas that don't lose these days."

The goal of this change is to ensure the larger student body doesn't fall too far behind due to inclement weather.

Students who reside within the school's walking zone will be expected to attend on bus cancellation days, while students who



rely on buses will not.

Students who walk to school and do not get to school will be marked with unexcused absences, while bus students will automatically have excused absences.

Ultimately, the Upper Grand District School Board's goal with the campaign is meant to strike a balance between maintaining consistent learning and recognizing the realities of winter travel in Dufferin County.

While families are encouraged to prioritize safety when deciding whether students can attend, officials hope the renewed emphasis on attendance will help minimize disruptions, preserve valuable classroom time, and ensure students remain on track academically.

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OPINION

Superstar

She had a beautiful three-octave contralto voice that was easily recognizable and well-suited to the style of music she performed.

Karen Carpenter was the female half of the '70s pop duo, The Carpenters, who, along with her brother Richard, charted several top hits of that era.

Richard was the genius behind the music. He wrote and arranged the tunes they recorded and performed.

Karen thought of herself as a drummer first, unusual for a woman at the time, but she was talented with the sticks and played drums on all of their albums.

When she tried singing, it was apparent to everyone who heard her that she had a natural ability to sing and had a beautiful voice. She was encouraged to take a step out from behind the drums to be the main focus of the band.

The Carpenters became Karen and the 'other guy.'

The Carpenters had a squeaky-clean image, and their manager and those around them promoted this image of the all-American, fresh-faced, pop duo.

Their music was hard to define. In an era of metal bands, glam bands, and Alice Cooper, The Carpenters performed ballads with sappy themes and an instru-

mental background.

I had a friend who came from a rather strict religious family. No pop music, especially rock music, was allowed in the home.

However, my friend's parents allowed her to have The Carpenters' albums and their easy listening sound.

That's how goody two-shoes their image was.

The thing about The Carpenters during that era was that no one would admit they liked The Carpenters. No one would admit they owned a Carpenters album.

The pop duo sold millions of records to a fan base that would not admit they were fans.

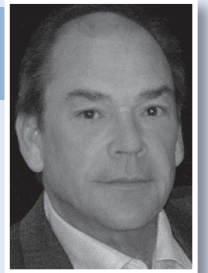
There was a rumour that a McDonald's restaurant was going to be built near where I live. At first, a lot of people seemed happy about that.

However, when a person posted a query on the town's Facebook page asking when the restaurant was supposed to arrive, there were nothing but negative comments.

Everything from "I would never eat there," to "we don't need that kind of restaurant here," was posted in reply.

Did you ever notice that no one admits they like going to McDonald's?

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



Yet it's probably the largest restaurant chain in the world and still expanding, so someone is buying Big Macs and Quarter Pounders.

Prior to having a Walmart nearby, I was at a dinner with a local business group when the topic of Walmart coming to town was brought up.

One woman in particular expressed her dismay at having a Walmart in town.

"I would never go to a Walmart," she said, opining that she just couldn't visit that type of store.

A few months after the store opened, I visited and passed an aisle, where, sure enough, I saw that same woman perusing the shelves.

I thought of going up to her to say 'hello', but decided not to embarrass her when she was shopping incognito in a store she doesn't like.

No one ever admitted they bought their clothes at K-Mart. Even though that retailer is long gone, it was at one time a huge business.

But no one would ever admit to shopping there.

You never heard anyone say, "Hey Bob, nice shirt," with the reply, "Thanks, I got it at K-Mart!"

I was at a private dinner one holiday,

and as we sat down to eat, the host's mother mentioned the place settings. She then mentioned loudly that her daughter had bought all the dishes at Dollarama.

The host was mortified that her guests knew they were using plates that cost \$1. Although they looked nice, there was nothing wrong with them.

No one ever admits they bought anything at a Dollarama, or any other dollar store, yet every time I'm there, the store is busy.

I'm not sure why many people are reluctant to admit they like a certain food or shop at a particular store. Are they trying to impress others by implying they bought that new sofa at a high-end furniture store when they actually purchased it on layaway at a 'Furniture is Us' discount store?

I freely admit I like both a Quarter Pounder and a Big Mac.

I just bought a big screen TV from Walmart, and I'm a regular shopper at Dollarama.

And yes, I do have one old Carpenters album.

You can't beat Karen singing Superstar.

NATO 1.0 is dead: Long live NATO 2.0

Every year at this time the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), the world's most powerful alliance for the past 77 years, holds a conference in Munich to examine its state of health.

The one just past was really a wake, but it played out more like the immortal Dead Parrot sketch from Monty Python, in which a customer (John Cleese) enters a pet shop with a cage containing a dead parrot (a Norwegian Blue) and says:

"This parrot is definitely deceased, and when I purchased it not half an hour ago you assured me that it's total lack of movement was due to it being tired and shagged out following a long squawk."

Shopkeeper: "Well he's...he's, ah...probably pining for the fjords."

Cleese: "He's not pining. He's passed on...He's a stiff. This parrot is no more. If you hadn't nailed him to the perch, he'd be pushing up the daisies. THIS IS AN EX-PARROT!!!" And so too with NATO, though it is still nailed to its perch.

The psychodrama raging beneath the surface at the Munich conference was an argument among the European members of NATO about whether the United States could still be trusted. Some insisted that the old alliance could survive. More thought that it will have to be NATO 2.0 or no alliance at all.

Observers from the US Democratic Party promised the conference that Trump will be gone in three years and the old American security guarantees will be revived. "I think the Europeans sighed with relief because it was saying that Europe is important, that Europe and America are very intertwined and good allies," said Kaja Kallas, the European Union's chief diplomat.

But most EU leaders have lost the faith. The German Chancellor, Friedrich Merz, said bluntly that "The United States' claim to leadership has been challenged and possibly lost." Echoing Canada's Prime Minister Mark Carney, he said that

the "rules-based world order no longer exists," and that "a deep divide has opened between Europe and the United States."

France's President Emmanuel Macron agreed: "Europe is rearming, but we must now go beyond" to become a unified major power. It can only achieve that if it can act like a single country, of course, but Trump is giving it a strong incentive to learn how.

Starting with US Vice-President J.D. Vance's anti-European tirade at last year's Munich conference, we have had US air strikes on Iran and five other countries, the subjugation of Venezuela, American complicity in the genocide in Gaza, and above all Trump's threats to invade Greenland, which is part of the Kingdom of Denmark, a NATO member.

Curiously, Greenland was what tore it, and most NATO leaders now understand that Trump's America is at best an unreliable ally and sometimes openly hostile. Nor are they confident that the United States will remain a country where governments change hands democratically, so they have to plan for the worst.

It's not really a huge crisis. The existing NATO is an ideal template for a successor alliance that includes most or all of the existing members except the United States. If Canada dared to stay in, they wouldn't even have to change the name. The new alliance would still have ample numbers, wealth and weapons to deter any Russian attack.

Filling the gaps that remain when Amer-

ican troops all leave Europe would take some years, but the risk is really quite small. Russian military resources are too heavily committed to conquering Ukraine at the moment to embark on a war with all of western and central Europe as well.

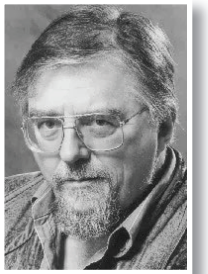
As hegemony go the United States was a relatively benevolent one (there has never been a truly benevolent one), and we will doubtless come to regret Donald Trump's decision to dismantle it prematurely. But NATO 2.0 is probably the least bad alternative for the 'West'.

The one real uncertainty is nuclear deterrence. Britain and France both have their own nuclear weapons, but Germany, the richest and most populous EU country, has none. There would also be huge pressure in Poland to get its own nukes if the US nuclear guarantee is void: Poles don't trust Russia, for good historical reasons, and they are very exposed.

That's why it was good news, in the context, when Chancellor Merz revealed at the conference that he is in "confidential talks" with the French president on creating a joint European nuclear deterrent. In terms of nuclear proliferation, that would be the least harmful outcome.

As for NATO 1.0, it is dead, although it may persist as a polite fiction for some time. It has "kicked the bucket, shuffled off the mortal coil, rung down the curtain and joined the choir invisible." But its soul goes marching on.

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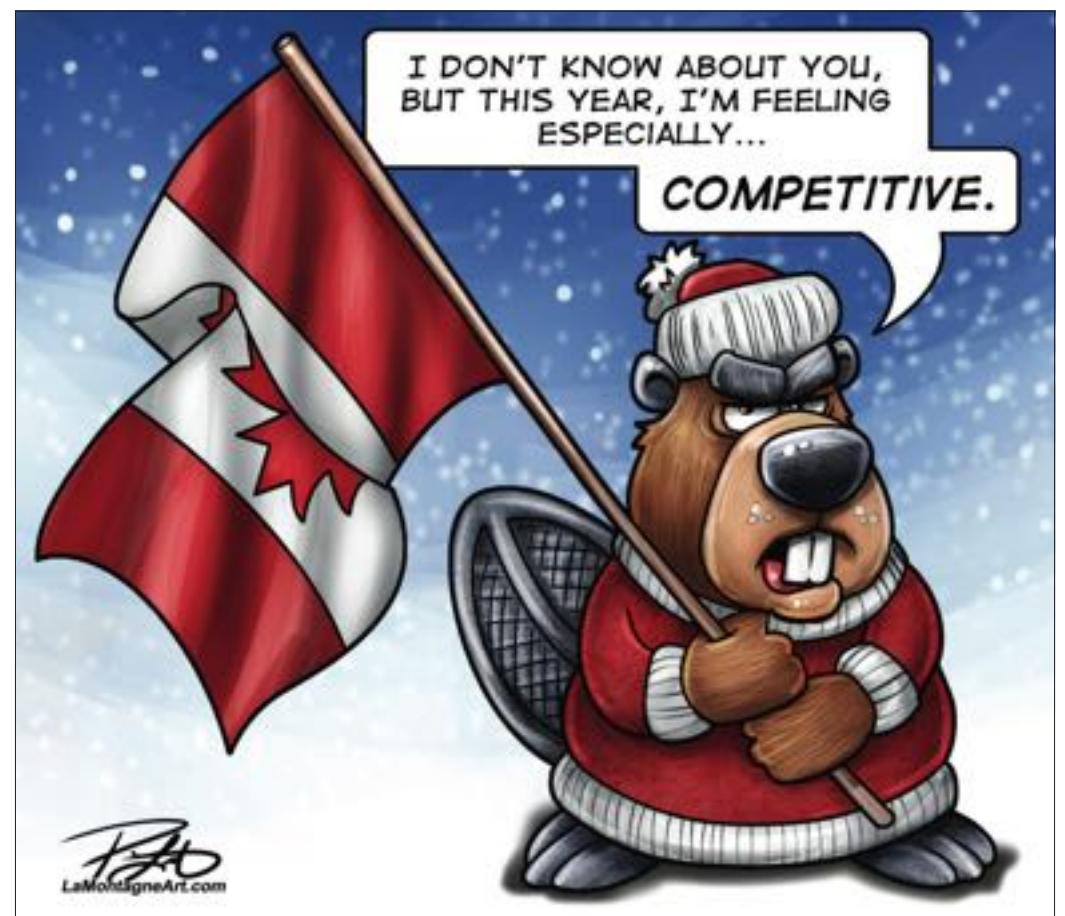
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COMMUNITY VOICES

Monthly Message: DBOT recognizes Nonprofit Appreciation Week

Every day across Ontario, non-profit organizations are quietly doing work that keeps communities strong by supporting families, feeding neighbours, creating spaces for connection, and stepping in where help is needed most. The third week of February is a chance to pause and say thank you.

Non-Profit Appreciation Week – this year, falling between Feb. 15 and 21, is officially recognized through Ontario’s Non-Profit Sector Appreciation Week Act (Bill 9, 2021), and helps to celebrate the nearly 850,000 people who work in Ontario’s non-profit sector.

These are the individuals who show up every day with compassion, creativity, and commitment, often behind the scenes, making a real difference in the lives of others.

This week exists for a simple but powerful reason: to recognize just how much non-profits contribute to our communities, our economy, and our overall quality of life.



From health care and housing to arts, culture, and social services, non-profits touch nearly every corner of the province. Their impact is felt not just in times of crisis, but in the everyday moments that help communities thrive.

The creation of Non-Profit Appreciation Week was championed by MPP Daisy Wai, with strong support from organizations like

the Bhayana Family Foundation and the Ontario Nonprofit Network (ONN) — a collective effort to ensure the sector’s contributions are formally and permanently recognized.

Non-Profit Appreciation Week is an invitation for all of us to acknowledge the people doing this vital work. Whether it’s a quick note of thanks, a public shout-out, or simply taking a moment to reflect, it’s a reminder that stronger communities are built by people who care, and Ontario’s non-profit sector is full of them.

Town of Shelburne seeks public feedback on concept design of new Hyland Village Park

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

In a new survey launched by the Town of Shelburne, local residents, particularly those who already live in Hyland Village, are encouraged to voice their opinions on how they’d like the new park to be designed.

This new park has already been zoned, and some initial infrastructure is already in place, such as bathrooms and pathways. However, the amenities and other details are up for debate, and the town wants to hear what local residents would like to see built at the park.

Construction is set to begin in the summer of 2026, with the goal of opening in the fall.

Complete the survey by Sunday, March 15, to have your say on how the park should be designed.

Among the considerations for this park is the possibility of a playground. Nothing is currently concrete, but if there is a serious public demand for a playground section for the park, the town is open to exploring this option.

The planned Hyland Village Neighbourhood Park will be located near Barnett Drive and Stewart Street and is intended to serve the growing residential community in the surrounding area.

Municipal officials say the space is being designed as a local gathering place that supports recreation, leisure, and community connection for nearby residents.

Through the survey, residents can share feedback on potential features and park design priorities. The town is seeking input on which amenities would best meet the com-



New Neighbourhood Parks

Hyland Village Park — Facility Fit Concept Plan

1. Existing park washroom building/sanitary pumping station (unassumed)
2. Existing driveway and parking area (3 spaces) (unassumed)
3. Planned multi-use park pathways/trail connection between Main Street, Stewart Street and Barnett Drive
4. Planned tree plantings
5. Proposed junior and senior children’s playgrounds
6. Proposed benches or armourstone seating areas
7. Proposed park shelter/shade structure/gazebo
8. Proposed basketball/multi-use court/outdoor ice rink
9. Potential future spray feature
10. Potential future community garden

munity’s needs, including recreational spaces, seating areas, landscaping elements, and other features that contribute to an accessible and welcoming environment.

According to the town’s project page, community input will play an important role in guiding the final design. Feedback gathered from the survey will help staff determine which features to prioritize as the project

moves forward into the design phase ahead of construction.

Neighbourhood parks are typically designed to provide convenient access to outdoor recreation for residents within walking distance, while also offering spaces for families, children, and individuals to gather and stay active.

Residents interested in participating in the

consultation can complete the survey online through the Town of Shelburne’s public engagement platform. Town officials encourage residents to submit their feedback before the March 15 deadline to help shape the future of the Hyland Village Neighbourhood Park.

To view the form online, go to haveyour-sayshelburne.ca/hyland-village-neighbourhood-park.

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COUNCIL 2026 DATES February 23, March 9 & 23, April 13 & 27 (Virtual), May 11 & 25, June 1 (virtual) & 22 (Virtual), July 13 & 27, August 24, September 14 & 28, October 5, December 14



FROZEN PIPES

Frozen pipes can be a serious inconvenience and may even stop water from flowing into your home. If you suspect a frozen pipe, the first step is to locate the frozen section.

PREVENTING FROZEN PIPES

- Keep indoor temperature above 8°C near pipes.
- Seal leaks and keep garage doors closed.
- Insulate exposed pipes and drain outdoor faucets

THAWING A FROZEN PIPE

If a pipe freezes inside your home:

- Turn on the nearest tap
- Warm the pipe starting near the tap.
- Use safe methods like warm towels or a space heater (to heat the room, not the pipe directly)



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU, SHELBURNE!

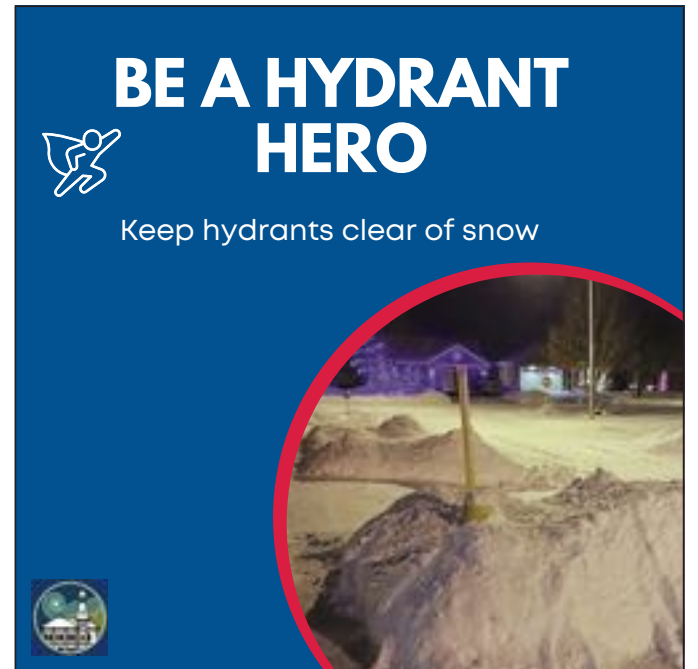
The Town of Shelburne is designing a brand-new Hyland Village Neighbourhood Park, and we're asking residents to help shape the future of this community space.

Whether you live in Hyland Village or visit nearby parks, your input matters.

Tell us what features, amenities, and playground elements are most important to you and your family. Please complete the survey by Sunday, March 15, 2026.

To learn more and to participate, visit:
www.haveyoursayshelburne.ca/hyland-village-neighbourhood-park

Your feedback will help us develop design concepts and plan for construction anticipated to begin this summer.



WORKING TOGETHER

Help keep our community safe this winter by clearing snow from fire hydrants and catch basins.

In an emergency, every second counts. By keeping fire hydrants visible and accessible, you ensure that emergency services can respond quickly.

Clearing snow from catch basins helps prevent street flooding and icy road conditions, making our roads safer for everyone.

Let's work together to keep our neighbourhood safe and sound!

For more information or visit shelburne.ca

SHELBURNE, DUFFERIN & AREA

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Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex (CDRC)
200 Fiddle Park Lane, Shelburne ON

APRIL 23 | 1:00- 5:30 PM



DCCBA AND THE TOWN OF SHELBURNE PRESENTS

A BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

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A POWERFUL COMMUNITY EVENT THAT CELEBRATES CULTURE, HISTORY, AND BLACK EXCELLENCE


The Dufferin County Canadian Black Association (DCCBA) is proud to announce our 6th Annual Black History Month Celebration in partnership with the Town of Shelburne!

This year's event builds on the Government of Canada's theme "30 Years of Black History Month: Honouring Black Brilliance Across Generations - From Nation Builders to Tomorrow's Visionaries."

Keynote Speaker - Master T; MC: Moy Fung
Performance by Richie C and Dianne James
African Drumming and Dancing by Ankhoden

February 21 from 6PM – 8PM at Grace Tipling Hall, 203 Main Street E, Shelburne

Eventbrite Link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dccba-6th-annual-black-history-month-celebration-tickets-1981202639427?aff=oddtcreator>



WINTER REMINDERS

WINTER MAINTENANCE	BY-LAW REMINDERS	DAMAGED GRASS
<p>Winter maintenance is performed under a priority system. Primary roads such as Greenwood St, Fiddle Park Lane, Simon St and Victoria St will be cleared first, followed by residential streets, crescents and courts. Please allow 24 hours after a snowfall before requesting service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not push snow onto the road. • Place bins on your property, not on roads, sidewalks, or snowbanks. • Clear hydrants and drains <p>For questions or concerns: jkaske@shelburne.ca 519-925-2600 ext. 261</p>	<p>NOISE #52 - 2022</p> <p>Noise is managed at the municipal, provincial and federal level</p> <p>This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal noise • Amplified sound (such as music) • Construction noise (out side of hours 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.) <p>ANIMAL CONTROL #15 - 2018</p> <p>Pet owners are reminded that they must pick up after their dogs and keep them on a leash at all times unless they are in a designated leash-free zone.</p>	<p>Grass near the sidewalk and along the boulevard can become damaged during winter maintenance efforts.</p> <p>Damage to Town grass will be inspected and repaired in the Spring. Please report damage to the Town's Operations, Parks and Facilities Clerk with your address and details to ensure it is logged for repair.</p> <p>Please remember that boulevards are owned by the Town and should not have any permanent landscape features.</p> <p>Report damage to the Town online. Visit shelburne.ca/Concern/</p>

DO YOU HAVE A CONCERN?
REPORT YOUR CONCERN ONLINE AT SHELBURNE.CA/CONCERN/

SPORTS

Shelburne Curling Club to celebrate 100th anniversary with open house

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

If you have ever driven by the Shelburne Curling Club and were curious about curling, you will have a chance to try it yourself when the club hosts an open house to celebrate its 100th anniversary in March.

Curling has been played in Shelburne for a long time. Local records show the sport was played on local ponds as early as the 1880s.

Playing on a frozen pond provided all sorts of challenges for early curlers. From bumpy ice to freezing weather conditions, curlers put up with a lot to enjoy their sport.

The Shelburne Club was established in 1926 with an indoor ice sheet at the site where the Shelburne Legion now stands. For several years, the Legion and the Curling Club shared the building.

The Curling Club built its own facility at the current O'Flynn Street location in 1962.

It has four curling sheets and a club area with big windows so people can watch the action on the ice.

Curling is a sport that you can enjoy for a lifetime.

Children like learning the sport, and many

recreational curlers play well into their later years.

The Shelburne Curling Club will open its doors to the public during the anniversary celebration and give everyone a chance to try the sport.

"We are going to have open ice for those who have always thought, 'maybe I could try curling,'" explained Shelburne Curling Club Vice President Lindsey Metz. "This is the day to bring people out and see if they want to try curling. It's open for anyone who wants to come in. We have all the equipment. They only need to have really clean shoes. Kids need helmets. We will get some games started. We want it to be a really nice, relaxed day that everyone can enjoy."

If you attend, it is important to bring a pair of clean shoes that you haven't worn outdoors or at the Club. The Club needs to protect the integrity of the ice, and that includes keeping foreign objects off the ice sheets.

The Shelburne Curling Club is a thriving local organization with around 170 members, and they are always looking for new members.



FILE PHOTO

MILESTONE: The Shelburne Curling Club will be celebrating its 100th anniversary by inviting the public to the club to give curling a try. The open house will take place on Saturday, March 7.

"We'll have members that will be out on the ice for people who want a tutorial," Metz explained. "We'll have someone who can show the basics, and you can go from there."

The Shelburne Curling Club's 100th anniversary open house will take place on Sat-

urday, March 7, beginning with open ice at 3 p.m.

At 5 p.m., there will be a 'closest to the prize' contest.

The party continues in the evening with food and music from The Curling Stones.



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTOS

COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER: It was an afternoon of fun at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex in Shelburne during the Family Day holiday on Monday, Feb. 16. Local residents enjoyed a free skate on the ice courtesy of three local businesses. (Middle top photo) There were also prizes for lucky winners. Kari and Courtney from Main Street Dental, Alexandra from Shelburne Family Chiropractic & Wellness, and Krupa from Shelburne Optometry greeted visitors at the prize table.

Special Olympics Polar Plunge moving indoors at CDRC for this year's chilly event

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

If you ever wanted to use the phrase 'shiver me timbers' in a sentence at an appropriate time, you'll get your chance during the annual Dufferin-Shelburne Polar Plunge, where participants will jump into a freezing pool in support of a good cause.

The Polar Plunge raises funds and aware-

ness in support of Special Olympics Ontario and helps athletes achieve their goals of competing. This includes year-round training and events for athletes with intellectual disabilities.

Plungers seek sponsorship for their chilly efforts and enter as individuals, organizations, businesses, or groups of friends who like to take part while wearing costumes.

This year, the plunge will move indoors to the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex in Shelburne.

"This year's Polar Plunge will be the first and only plunge to be held indoors," explained organizer Jeff McLean, Provincial Constable with the Dufferin OPP. "We are hosting it at the Shelburne Arena at centre ice. This allows for the participants to be able to plunge in the cold atmosphere, while ensuring the event is not cancelled due to inclement weather."

Unpredictable weather caused the event to be cancelled twice last year when conditions made travel to the outdoor venue unsafe.

"This year, we have set the theme as 'Canadian,'" Constable McLean explained. "This will also allow the participants to interpret this however they wish, but we do request that it remain family-friendly, and participants are encouraged to interpret it in a pos-

itive way. Once again, there are prizes for best costumes for individual, team, and best dressed Olympian. We are again awarding the Frozen Belt. Last year, Cole Carlson, a Special Olympic Athlete from Dufferin, won the belt as the top fundraiser for Dufferin County."

The wait for your turn to plunge will be a little more comfortable this year at the indoor venue, thanks to change rooms and no cold wind blowing across the event.

The Dufferin Polar Plunge will take place at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex in Shelburne on Sunday, March 29.

Registration starts at 2 p.m., with the Plunge getting underway at 4 p.m.

You can register online at polarplunge.ca/dufferin.

This is a chance to have a lot of fun, try something new, and help raise funds for a good cause that will benefit the community



FILE PHOTO

CHILLY DIP: The annual Dufferin Polar Plunge in support of Special Olympics Ontario will once again give local residents the chance to take a dip in freezing cold water for a good cause. This year's event will be held indoors at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex on March 29.

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i'm lovin' it



ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

WILLIAM VERDUIN

A lifelong basketball player, Centre Dufferin District High school junior point guard William Verduin brings a lot of experience to his team.

"I like the competition, the athleticism it takes, and the skill," William said of why he likes the sport. "I like having a team you can rely on and help each other on the court."

William also plays club basketball with the Orangeville Hawks.

TEAM: CENTRE DUFFERIN DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL ROYALS JUNIOR BASKETBALL
POSITION: POINT GUARD

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Hearts Wide Open for Autism fundraiser coming to Shelburne Legion

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Hearts Wide Open for Autism is preparing to host a community Euchre tournament, offering residents an affordable and engaging way to support local children and youth with special needs.

The event, held at the Shelburne Legion on March 28, is designed to be accessible in the current economic climate, with a modest \$30 entry fee instead of a higher-priced dinner fundraiser format. Participants will enjoy card play, light food such as sandwiches, and the chance to compete for prizes for first, second, and third-place euchre players.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and games start at 6 p.m.

Deanna Avison, founder of Hearts Wide Open for Autism, said that this year's euchre tournament is the first they have run, and is designed to remain accessible to everyone.

"For 10 years we did a big mystery dinner theatre at the Shelburne Golf and Country Club, and that's how we raised quite a bit of money," she said. "But with the economy changing, I thought it was time to take a different avenue, so we're doing a Euchre tournament instead. People can more easily afford \$30 than a big meal, and with things the way they are, it just felt like time for a change."

The Euchre night is the latest evolution of Hearts Wide Open for Autism, which began as a small, grassroots initiative more than a decade ago.

Since its founding, the organization has raised approximately \$123,500 for local causes, directing funds to the Upper Grand Learning Foundation's special education programs in Shelburne schools, Special Olympics, and, most recently, the Orangeville Wolves special needs hockey team.

A core principle of the group is ensuring that funds go directly to programs for chil-

dren rather than to administrative overhead.

Behind the initiative is Avison, known in the community as the "autism grandma."

Her work began after her twin grandchildren were diagnosed on the autism spectrum.

"I started it because I had, at the time, way back, two grandchildren, twins, actually, that were diagnosed with autism," she said. "I kind of went on a mission many years ago. I went to the town and had the flag raised for the awareness of autism, which comes on April the second. I asked if they would carry on my legacy, and every year, raise the flag in for autism awareness, and that was granted."

"I wasn't satisfied with just that. I wanted people to be aware, to participate, so I founded Hearts Wide Open for Autism," Avison added.

Motivated by love and daily involvement in their lives, she has championed awareness through annual autism flag raisings and now ongoing fundraising events.

Working closely with her daughter, Sherri-Lyn Ferguson, who manages much of the behind the scenes organization and online promotion, Deanna continues to build a small town network with an outsized impact for local families.

The euchre tournament will also feature a silent auction and raffles, with support from long standing community sponsors including GP Carpentry, M&M Food Market in Orangeville, Laura Lee and Grant Laverty, Main Street Family Dental in Shelburne, the Mullin Group, Shelburne Family Chiropractic, Brown & Self, All Pro Roofing and Fifth Avenue Dental.

Pre registration for the tournament is required so organizers can account for food and logistics in advance. Registration is handled through an online link available on the Hearts Wide Open for Autism Facebook page.

To register, go to: facebook.com/HeartsWideOpenforAutism

Mulmur Community Fund generates enough funds to begin offering grants in 2027

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Mulmur Community Fund is ready to bring lasting benefits to residents by supporting local recreation and cultural ini-

tiatives without drawing on the township's regular budget.

Created under the umbrella of the Dufferin Community Foundation, the fund will provide grants for projects that enhance the quality of life in Mulmur.

Gord Gallagher, founding chair of the Dufferin Community Foundation (DCF), said that, unlike traditional municipal funding, the Mulmur Community Fund is not intended to cover core government services.

"It's designed in general terms to enhance quality of life in Mulmur or for the residents of Mulmur Township, but it's not meant to subsidize any township-related or regular government-related things," he said. "So it's not strictly recreation, but extra things that fall a little bit outside of the normal government-funded things."

The fund targets extras that enhance amenities in small communities but are difficult to finance with tax dollars alone. Decisions on how the money is distributed will be made by a citizens' committee appointed jointly by Mulmur council and the DCF, ensuring local voices guide where support is directed.

"There are a lot of recreation related items that would qualify for funding from this – everything from trail development to perhaps tennis courts or pickleball courts that haven't been here before," Gallagher said. "The township is in the midst of a major fundraising effort to greatly renovate our arena in Honeywood, and I would imagine that there would be some of the things there that could be funded from this fund as well."

The fund was first initiated in 2021, but growth was slow until a recent focused campaign gave it a major boost.

Through direct email outreach to local residents and word-of-mouth promotion, organizers raised enough money to push the fund past its crucial \$25,000 threshold — the minimum balance required before grants can begin to flow.

"It didn't come together quite naturally at

first, and there wasn't any specific promotion for it... so it was very slow until it got this boost," Gallagher said. "If a fund is created but it lingers there, attracting not much in the way of attention or money, donations, for a period of time, it's going to be folded into something else, because it's unsustainable."

"That makes it all the more gratifying that we're now over that hurdle," he added.

Donations have come from both long-time supporters and new contributors who learned about the initiative through recent publicity and local newspaper coverage.

Now that the fund has reached that required goal, the next phase is about impact and visibility. Beginning in 2027, the invested capital will generate annual grant dollars that can be distributed over an extended period, providing long-term support for grassroots projects in Mulmur.

"The foundation model is that the money we raise is invested, and so we have an amount of money then to grant every year forever," Gallagher said. "So the amount of money we've raised is not going to be gobbled up in a year or two. It's invested, and we have small amounts there over years. So there can be some very long term effects as well."

As grants are awarded and publicly announced by the Dufferin Community Foundation, organizers expect community awareness – and further donations – to grow, helping the fund expand and increase what it can return to the township year after year.

For more information on the Mulmur Community Fund, go to: dufferincommunityfoundation.ca/mulmur-community-fund-donation/

adopt a cat

Diana

Diana is our absolute stunning 8 year old long-haired princess. She was brought to FCR to socialize and in the past two years we have seen her come out of her shell. She is a peaceful girl who would prefer a quiet home. She gets along well with other cats and can co-habit with dogs without issue. She truly wants a home where she can receive pets and lounge in a warm bed.

Adoption fee is \$275. She is spayed, microchipped, vaccinated, dewormed and flea treated.

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.

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

CHILDCARE

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

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OBITUARY

PETER (PETE) HERLIHY

A lover of nature and the arts, his photography showed the viewer a glimpse into the depth and perception that lived within him. Possessed of a calm intellect that never boasted, he willingly shared his incredibly in-depth knowledge of the natural world, the origins of language, and science of life with anyone who was curious.



He instilled a respect for nature in thousands of people over his decades of teaching as an outdoor educator at the Boyne River Natural Science School. This boundless enthusiasm for learning, coupled with his uncanny ability to remember seemingly everything he'd ever been taught in detail over his life earned him the well-deserved title of "Granddad Google" from his youngest grandchild!

Despite all the knowledge he stored about the world in his head, what shone through for all that met him was what he held in his heart and how he lived it. "My religion is kindness" he would say, and he lived his life true to those words, holding patience and gentleness towards others at all times, believing in the inherent good of people.

He is incredibly missed by his family, friends, and so many other people he has touched over his life. If you are one of them reading this today, please do something kind for someone in his honour, and remember the wonderful person he is and was.

Peacefully on Wednesday, February 11th, 2026 at the age of 90. Beloved former husband of Bronwen Herlihy (nee Roberts) (2024). Loving father of Nia Herlihy (Chris Pipka) and Rhian (2023) (Joe Oliveira). Cherished grandfather of Cody, Ryan, and Justine. Remembered by his sister Nola Wylie (nee Herlihy) of England. Pete will be greatly missed by many other relatives and friends.

Memorial visitation will be held at the Dods & McNair Funeral Home, Chapel & Reception Centre, 21 First St., Orangeville on Saturday, February 21st, 2026 from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm. Words of remembrance will begin at 1:30 pm.

A tree will be planted in memory of Pete in the Dods & McNair Memorial Forest at the Island Lake Conservation Area, Orangeville.

Condolences may be offered to the family at www.dodsandmcnair.com

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**Saturday, November 21, 2026 - 9am to 4pm; and
 Sunday, November 22, 2026 - 10am to 3pm**

Indoors at the Orangeville Fairgrounds, 247090 Side Rd 5, Mono

orangevillehollyfest.ca



To apply to be a vendor at the show, scan the QR code or email shows@lpcmedia.ca for a vendor application form. Apply before June 1, 2025 and be eligible for early acceptance on June 26.



Looking to showcase your business in the Shelburne community?

To reserve your spot in the Shelburne Recreation Guide Spring/Summer 2026 Edition, please contact Debbie Freeman.



PUBLISHED BY:



519.925.2832

deb.freeman@hotmail.com

debbie@lpcmedia.ca

Trenton man arrested for attempted murder following stabbing of two people

A 31-year-old man from Trenton, Ont. has been arrested for attempted murder, among other violent charges, following an incident in Orangeville late last week.

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers responded to a call for a disturbance at residence in Orangeville, where they found two people suffering from serious injuries.

The OPP's preliminary investigation determined that both victims sustained injuries consistent with a stabbing. One victim was transported to a Toronto-area trauma centre with life threatening injuries, while the other victim's injuries were deemed minor in nature.

An officer with the Dufferin Detachment of

the Ontario Provincial Police sustained minor injuries while arresting the accused individual.

As a result of the OPP's investigation, Nathan Arseneault, 31, from Trenton, has been charged with:

- Attempt to commit murder
- Assault with a weapon
- Assault a peace officer

The accused was transported to Dufferin Detachment and will be held pending a bail hearing. None of the charges have been proven in court.

The police say there is no threat to public safety.

Shelburne Public Library encourages the community to recognize Black History Month

There are several meaningful ways to recognize Black History Month. Here are just a few ways to participate right here in Shelburne:

1. Read books – fiction or non-fiction – by Black authors and share your review with friends and family or on social media. At the library, we have several titles on display and are always happy to recommend your next read.

2. If you have young children, attend our weekly Story Times. Not only are we sharing stories by Black authors, but we have the privilege of hosting students from Centennial Hylands' Huskies of Colour as special guest readers. The goals of this student-led club are to develop confidence, leadership skills, and academic excellence.

3. Attend a Black History Month Celebration. On Saturday, Feb. 21, from 6 to 8 p.m., at Grace Tipling Hall, the Dufferin County Canadian Black Association (DCCBA) and the Town of Shelburne have planned a powerful community event celebrating culture, history and Black excellence. This all-ages event is free, and we hope to see you there.

STAFF PICK OF THE WEEK

Black Cherokee by Antonio Michael Downing is the Shelburne Public Library's staff pick of the week. In this story, Betty meets Queenie in a courageous coming-of-age story about a Black girl fighting for recognition in a South Carolina Cherokee community that

refuses to accept her ancestry as legitimate.

Why Molly recommends it: This is the first book I've read by this author, and after the first few pages, I slowed way down to savour it. Told between the 90s and mid-aughts from the perspective of Ophelia Blue Rivers, I was immediately drawn in because I also lived in South Carolina at the same time.

To say I was ignorant of the area's history is a profound understatement. In Black Cherokee, Downing winds a fictional (but historic) river tale of South Carolina around his readers in order to deliver a deeply North American story, coming of age in a time of great division.

Ophelia moves through her family and is moved around by them, but she tries to remind herself of how she is connected through them. I was impressed by Downing's adept writing of female characters and how he showed their greatness through their human faults. This book brings together two things I'm passionate about: truth and learning through ancestral narrative.

Save the date! Antonio Michael Downing will discuss his book in conversation with library CEO Shannon McGrady as part of Small Town, Big Ideas at the Museum of Dufferin (MoD) on April 25 at 2 p.m. Tickets are available via the MoD's website.

This article was written by the Shelburne Public Library staff.

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Choose from 7 varieties.

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INCREDIBLE PRICE
12⁹⁹

BETTER VALUE, NEW SIZE
680 g

OUR LOWEST PRICES ARE HERE!*

*Based on 2025 pricing.

INCREDIBLE PRICE
17⁹⁹

SAVE \$7

Breaded Chicken Breasts
8 PIECES 907 g
CHOOSE FROM 3 VARIETIES.

Also available, Chicken Breast Grills 8 PIECES 800 g \$17.99 **SAVE \$7**

INCREDIBLE PRICE
22⁹⁹

THESE PRICES WON'T LAST LONG!

SAVE \$7 each

INCREDIBLE PRICE
19⁹⁹

Breaded Haddock
7-10 PIECES 907 g

Battered Haddock
6-9 PIECES 680 g

MULTI-SERVE MEALS 850 g - 907 g

SALE
13⁹⁹ each
15 VARIETIES

Cabbage Rolls

White Cheddar Mac & Cheese with Bacon

Chicken Pad Thai

Butter Chicken

SALE
4⁹⁹ each

Pot Pies
225 g - 250 g
2 Varieties

Classic French Style Quiche
170 g
3 Varieties

SOUPS
255 g - 400 mL
CHOOSE FROM 5 VARIETIES.

SAVE \$2
4⁹⁹ each

French Onion

Wonton

SAVE \$3
14⁹⁹

Fall Off the Bone® Back Ribs
1 FULL RACK OF RIBS 510 g - 680 g
CHOOSE FROM 4 VARIETIES.

Honey Garlic

CHEER ON CANADA AT HOME

9⁹⁹ each

Pepperoni Pizza Rolls
8 PIECES 460 g
2 Varieties

SAVE \$3 each

Jamaican-Style Beef Patty Bites
500 g

Cream Cheese Cheese Stuffed Jalapeños
10-13 PIECES 360 g
2 Varieties

SAVE \$3

Lobster Mac & Cheese Bites
14 PIECES 252 g

Flatbreads
460 g - 515 g
4 Varieties

Mini Franks in Pastry
15 PIECES 279 g

Bruschetta

SAVE \$2 each

Sausage Rolls
26-28 PIECES 500 g

Buffalo Chicken Dip
450 g

Caramelized Onion Dip
450 g
LIMITED TIME ONLY

NEW!

Fried Battered Pickles
10-12 PIECES 390 g

FROM OUR KITCHENS TO CANADA'S TABLE

SAVE \$2
12⁹⁹ each

Wagyu Beef Sliders
9 SLIDERS x 51 g/1.8 oz

Boneless Rib Style Pork Cutlettes
6 PIECES 680 g

SAVE \$3
16⁹⁹ each

Montreal Smoked Meat
2 POUCHES x 200 g

Sirloin Beef Meatballs
60-70 PIECES 907 g

Sausages
8-9 PIECES 900 g
2 Varieties

Oktoberfest®

Pulled Pork
2 POUCHES x 340 g

SAVE \$3

Indian Party Packs
32-46 PIECES 576 g - 740 g
4 VARIETIES

14⁹⁹

EVERYDAY LOW PRICE
9⁹⁹

Lasagna
907 g

PREMIUM SINGLE SERVES
400 g

SALE
8⁹⁹ each
6 VARIETIES

Chicken Dumplings and Noodles

Italian Style Sausage and Penne

Korean Style Beef Noodles

SWEET VICTORIES

10⁹⁹

SAVE \$2

100% CANADIAN DAIRY

Mini Raspberry Cheesecakes
6 PIECES 300 g

Chocolate Chunk Cream Bars
850 g

SAVE \$2
17⁹⁹ each

Dessert Bar Variety Pack
675 g

SAVE \$5

Seniors Day
Every Tuesday
10% off
Regular Priced Items!

27⁹⁹

Slow Cooked Beef Pot Roast
907 g

Also available, Pork Pot Roast 907 g \$16.99 **SAVE \$5**

BUY 1 GET 1 50% OFF
Regular price \$14.99 each

SAVE \$7.50

MIX AND MATCH

Jalapeño Cheese Sticks
13-16 PIECES 454 g

Mozzarella Sticks
15-21 PIECES 454 g

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