





# OPEN HOUSES THIS SATURDAY MARCH 14TH

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BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

**SWEEPING MILESTONE:** The Shelburne Curling Club hosted an open house on Saturday, March 7, to celebrate its 100th anniversary. Members of the public were invited to visit the club and see what the sport is all about. A group of youth receives some instruction before giving it a try. See Page 3 for a full story and more photos.

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## Food for You marks one year of free weekly meals

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A community meal program in Shelburne is marking a milestone after quietly serving hundreds of residents over the past year.

The Food for You program, hosted at Trinity United Church, recently celebrated its first anniversary after launching in early March 2025. The weekly initiative provides free hot meals every Wednesday evening, welcoming anyone who wants to attend, whether they need food, companionship or simply a night without cooking.

The program was originally started by a group of local volunteers, including Marci Lipman, Sandra Gallagher, Shelley Doney, Ann McAlpine, Sabine Rohner-Tensee and Betty Harmony.

Lipman said the idea grew out of conversations during the COVID-19 pandemic about increasing food insecurity in the community and rising use of the Shelburne Food Bank.

"During COVID, I was stuck in my house up here in Shelburne, and I started walking with a couple other ladies, and some of them belong to this church," she said. "We talked about a lot of people attending the food bank in Shelburne, and that more and more people were having to use the food bank to feed them and their children."



JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

**A YEAR OF MEALS:** After a year of service in Shelburne, Food for You remains committed to providing more than just an evening meal. It's looking to provide a welcoming group dining experience for anyone who needs food and good people to talk to. Food for You emphasizes the community aspect as just as important as the food aspect.

Continued on Page 5

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# Applications open for Dufferin County's 2026 Experimental Acres Program

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

The County of Dufferin is encouraging farmers to apply to the 2026 Experimental Acres Program by March 27.

"Experimental Acres provides Dufferin farmers with educational and financial support to de-risk new practices that improve yield, soil health, carbon sequestration and overall sustainability," reads a county press release. "The program is intended to champion farmer-led discovery, with small-scale experimentation that can link to larger funding opportunities."

There are three Experimental Acres funding streams.

The Living Roots and Green Cover Stream focuses on maintaining soil cover, as this helps reduce soil erosion from wind and precipitation. This could include cropping, intercropping and introducing new crops into the rotation.

The Innovation Stream provides funding to projects that benefit soil health and don't fit into other categories. Tarping to reduce tillage intensity, planting a tallgrass prairie, and winter crop rotation are all eligible projects for the Innovation Stream.

The third funding category is the Integrating Animals on the Farm Stream, which includes financing to support rotational grazing, silvopasture, and bale grazing. Animals bring many benefits to soil health and car-

bon storage.

"Experimental Acres brings farmers and partners together in a shared learning journey to advance sustainable agriculture. The program supports practices that strengthen climate resilience while improving soil health, protecting water resources, and increasing biodiversity," Sara MacRae, manager of climate and energy at Dufferin County.

During the past three growing seasons, Experimental Acres has supported a variety of producer-led projects. These projects include suppressing plant competition with ducks, implementing espalier methods, creating natural pesticides, companion planting, cover crops, and green manure.

"Dufferin County continues to invest in a strong, innovative agriculture sector. Through the Experimental Acres Program, farmers gain early-stage support to test new ideas, build momentum, and position themselves for future funding while scaling up regenerative approaches on their farms. The Experimental Acres Program is grounded in respect for farmer expertise. We know that every farm is different, and real progress comes from solutions designed by producers that reflect practical, on-the-ground realities," said Dufferin Warden Lisa Post.

To view past projects, visit [dufferincounty.ca/county-services/climate-and-energy/experimental-acres](http://dufferincounty.ca/county-services/climate-and-energy/experimental-acres)

"Successful applicants can expect to re-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ceive prompt reimbursement of costs to de-risk their trial, and for soil testing and result analysis, research support from staff, and information about related events and pro-

grams," the county explained.

To apply for the program, which accepts submissions until March 27, visit [tinyurl.com/ExperimentalAcres](http://tinyurl.com/ExperimentalAcres)

## Dufferin County creates Citizen's Guide to help residents understand Official Plan, future growth

In September, Dufferin County was excited to announce that after many years of engagement and consultation, it had completed its Municipal Comprehensive Review process.

But what is a Municipal Comprehensive Review?

"A Municipal Comprehensive Review is the process a municipality takes to update its Official Plan to plan for and accommodate growth," says Rajbir Sian, director of planning and development at Dufferin County.

"Dufferin County is expected to grow to approximately 100,700 people and 40,900 jobs by 2051 – an increase of 32,300 people and 14,100 jobs since 2021," adds Rajbir. "The County's approved Official Plan provides policy direction on how land in the community should be used, and based on the Province of Ontario's Provincial Planning Statement, lays out what the future of the community should look like to ensure that Dufferin is a complete, healthy and sustainable community."

While an Official Plan may not seem to directly impact the daily lives of community

members, it is incredibly important for all Dufferin residents. The Official Plan provides critical direction on growth management and land use decisions from a broader, more holistic upper-tier land use planning lens, which directly impacts all eight local municipalities in Dufferin County.

"The Official Plan is basically the blueprint for Dufferin's future. It establishes county-wide growth targets and settlement areas, protects areas for local economic development activity, ensures that prime agricultural lands are strengthened and viable, and preserves the natural heritage and rural character of Dufferin," says Liam Morgan, manager of planning at Dufferin County. "We want our community to understand where Dufferin is going, and what the Official Plan means for them."

"That's why we have published the Citizen's Guide," says Rajbir. "Residents, developers, local planning staff and others are welcome to read the entire Official Plan. But this guide is meant to clearly communicate points of interest related to the Official Plan in an accessible and digestible format."

The County also wants its community

members to understand that planning at the local, lower-tier municipalities is different than what the County is responsible for as the upper-tier level of local government.

The lower-tier municipalities are who developers would go to with a planning application they want reviewed and approved. The County sets the framework that all development in Dufferin should adhere to and provides overall guidance to the lower-tier municipalities as part of the planning application review process. The lower-tier municipalities make decisions off the framework established by the County. Together, Dufferin and the local municipalities manage growth in Dufferin with a focus on health, sustainability, the economy and a high quality of life.

### What is the Citizen's Guide

Dufferin County's Citizen's Guide is a condensed copy of the County of Dufferin Official Plan. It provides users with a points-of-interest version of the Official Plan Policies in effect for the County.

### Highlights include:

- Growth projections – growth in the County will be managed by focusing and promoting growth within settlement areas, optimizing the use of existing infrastructure, developing complete communities, and protecting the natural environment and agricultural areas
- Economic development – the Plan focuses on specific types and scale of economic activity in the local environment best suited to their success, and relies on the local municipal official plans to identify and protect for areas of economic development activity
- Housing and affordability – the Plan has guidelines around Additional Residential Units and Garden Suites to promote more affordable housing in Dufferin

• Prime agricultural areas – lands designated as Prime Agricultural Area are intended to preserve and strengthen the continued viability of Dufferin's agricultural community. Agricultural areas accommodate a diverse range of agricultural uses

• Rural lands – rural lands are intended to protect the natural amenities and rural character of the county while providing opportunities for rural and other agricultural uses and resource-based activities, and recreational and tourism opportunities

• Natural heritage system – a Natural Heritage System has been mapped to support a comprehensive, integrated, and long-term approach to planning for the protection of the County's natural heritage and biodiversity

"Over the past few years, Dufferin County has been working towards the goal of improving its communications," says Liam. "We hope that the Citizen's Guide will help our community understand what the County is responsible for in terms of planning. And we hope that it helps answer any questions about the main amendments of our Official Plan and what they mean for Dufferin now, and into the future."

Up next, the County is required to undertake an additional Official Plan Amendment to ensure conformity with any policies that were added or modified in the new Provincial Planning Statement from the Province of Ontario. The County is currently in the process of retaining a consultant to undertake the amendment exercise.

Questions about the Citizen's Guide or planning in Dufferin? The County's Planning and Development team is here to help. Community members, planners and other stakeholders can reach out to [toplaner@dufferincounty.ca](mailto:toplaner@dufferincounty.ca)

The Citizen's Guide, Official Plan and more information on planning policies can be found at [www.dufferincounty.ca](http://www.dufferincounty.ca)

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Fundraising Incentives for ALL Plungers  
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# Shelburne Curling Club celebrates 100 years with an open house

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

To celebrate 100 years as a local club, the Shelburne Curling Club hosted an open house on Saturday, March 7, and welcomed the public to try getting out on the ice sheets to see what the sport is all about.

Curling has been played in Shelburne since the 1880s, when people played on local frozen ponds.

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

The current club building was built in 1962 on O'Flynn Street.

With over 160 members, the club is thriving and active, but it still would like to see more residents come out and enjoy the sport.

The open house was a chance for anyone interested in the sport to get out on the ice and try throwing some rocks and sweeping.

There was a good turnout of people who had never played the sport before, including quite a few youth who came with their parents.

All newcomers were given instructions by club members to help them learn the sport's techniques and nuances.

"We have a really good mix of people on the ice today," said Shelburne Curling Club vice president Lindsey Metz. "We have some little kids and mix of people who have never curled before playing with people who have curled before. Everyone is really helping each other out. Today is our 100th year celebration for the Shelburne Curling Club, and we're trying to get more people introduced to the sport and trying the sport."

While one of the ice sheets had a serious match underway, the other three were filled with people learning to throw a rock at the target. The recent Winter Olympics showcased the sport, and as a result, the timing worked well with the local anniversary, sparking interest in the sport locally.

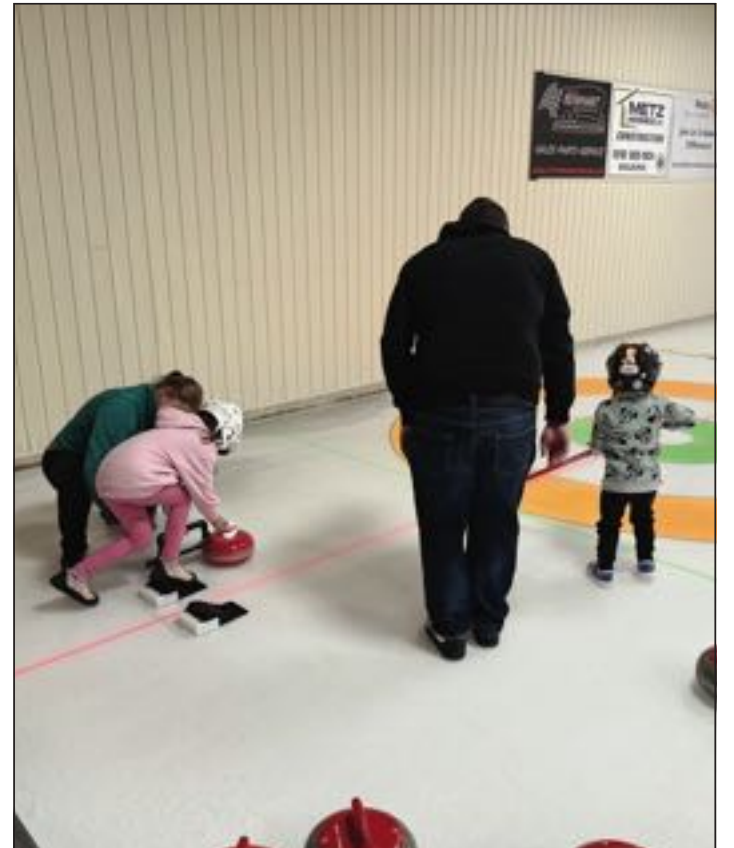
"We wanted to have members of the public trying curling, maybe grow our membership, and to show people how fun it is," Lindsey said. "There's a good mix of people out there. We have members out there that are teaching them. We have a 'learn to curl' clinic at the beginning of the year. It's a six-week course. We also have other members who are stepping up today just to help."

The open house was a great opportunity for anyone who has ever driven by the club and wondered what it was all about to get out on the ice and give the sport a try.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**CENTURY CELEBRATION:** The Shelburne Curling Club marked its 100th anniversary on March 7, with an open house where participants could try curling and learn more about the club. The club was founded in 1926 with an indoor ice sheet at the site where the Shelburne Legion is now, while the current club is located on O'Flynn Street.



# Fifth Annual Shelburne, Dufferin and Area Job Fair coming to Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Town of Shelburne will host its fifth annual Shelburne, Dufferin and Area Job Fair on April 23, bringing together employers and job seekers from across the region for an afternoon of in-person recruitment and networking.

The event will take place from 1 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex (CDRC) in Shelburne.

Organized by the town's economic development office, the job fair aims to connect local businesses with potential employees while supporting the development of local workforces throughout Dufferin County and surrounding municipalities.

Now in its fifth year, the job fair has grown into a significant local employment event. According to organizers, more than 650 visitors attended the 2025 event.

Carol Maitland, economic development officer for Shelburne, said this year's event is set to be even more significant than last year, promising more opportunities and connections. She also thanked this year's sponsor, Senco, for its support.

"Every year this event gets stronger," she said. "There's something powerful about putting employers and job seekers in the same room, connections get made that just wouldn't happen any other way. I'm proud to bring this back for a fifth year and excited to

have Senco on board. If you're hiring or looking for work, April 23rd is the day to be at the CDRC."

The event is designed to provide opportunities for face-to-face conversations between employers and job seekers, offering an alternative to online applications and allowing attendees to make direct industry connections with hiring managers.

The event is open to all backgrounds, including students, newcomers to the area, skilled trades workers and professionals.

Attendees are encouraged to bring resumes, and some employers may conduct interviews on-site during the event.

The job fair is being delivered in partnership with the Centre for Career and Employment Services at Georgian College and the Upper Grand District School Board. Representatives from both organizations will be present to provide information about employment resources, education pathways and training opportunities.

Employers from a range of industries are invited to participate. Booth spaces are available for \$90 plus HST and include an eight-foot display area, a table, two chairs, and refreshments for up to two representatives.

Spaces are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Employer setup will take place from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. ahead of the public opening at 1:00 p.m.



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**LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES AWAIT:** The 2025 Job Fair drew 650 guests looking to find employment and to network with industry experts in the area. This year's event, the fifth annual job fair, is looking to maintain that momentum. All employers and job seekers are encouraged to attend and bring their knowledge and connections to Shelburne.

Admission is free, and no pre-registration is required for job seekers. For more information, email [ed@shelburne.ca](mailto:ed@shelburne.ca) or go to <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/employers-wanted-2026-shelburne-dufferin-area-job-fair-tickets-1980107880975>

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**Sunday March 29, 2026**  
**Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex (CDRC)**  
**Centre Ice**  
**Registration: 2pm, Plunge: 4pm**

# OPINION

## The Olympics

I used to love watching the Olympics. Other than Wide World of Sports, which used to air sometime around 4 p.m. on Saturday afternoons, it was the only time you could watch events like ski jumping, bobsledding, the luge, and downhill skiing. As a kid, I was fascinated by the ski jumpers who rode down a perilous track to the end of the jump before flying through the air, and finishing like they were taking a walk in the park.

I'm sure the reality of it was that the jumpers are probably pretty nervous before every jump, because after all, there is an inherent risk of injury in that sport.

However, for a spectator, it was a great sport to watch – even if I've never seen it live.

The winter sports are different. It's not like there are minor bobsled leagues or a local luge track, and there aren't many places you can visit the local ski jump hill and sign up for lessons.

For the Summer Olympics, I pretty much liked watching all the sports.

I have always thought that the running events are the purest form of sport. You don't have a puck or ball to handle, you're not throwing anything, and you don't have teammates.

During a running race, it's all on the competitor. All that training, all that coaching, and all those diets they follow to keep them healthy comes down to one person, on their own.

Either you run faster than the other person, or you don't.

The Olympics are all about finishing first. No one ever remembers who won the bronze medal.

Guys like Mark Spitz, the American swimmer who won an incredible seven gold medals at the Summer Olympics in Munich in 1972, returned home as a national hero.

Canada has hosted the Olympic Games three times - the 1976 Summer Games in Montreal, the 1988 Winter Games in Calgary, and the 2010 Winter Games in Vancouver.

Hosting the Olympic Games is a huge challenge for the host city. You either have the venues, or you have to build them.

You need appropriate stadiums for track and field and team sports. You need Olympic-style pools, an equestrian park, and other outdoor venues for various sports.

For the winter games, obviously, you have to be in a region that has both mountains and snow. If you don't have a bob-

sled run, you will have to build one.

You have to have a place for the Olympians to stay, so now you have to build a small city to accommodate several thousand people from a lot of different countries, and that's just for the competitors.

On top of that, you will have to accommodate thousands of officials and everyone involved in running the Olympic Games. And of course, visitors to the games will also need a place to stay.

It's a logistical nightmare, but they manage to pull it off.

It seems to be a prestigious thing to host the Olympic Games, but what does it all really mean?

A check of many former Olympic sites shows that many of them have simply been left to fall into ruin.

The Montreal Olympic Games were a notorious financial disaster. No cities ever seem to come out ahead after hosting the Olympic Games.

Maybe it's time to build permanent venues rather than allow the notoriously corrupt International Olympic Committee to play its political games and select a new city every four years.

Just build an Olympic venue with all the needed athletic stadiums, pools, and

equestrian parks, and an Olympic village to host the athletes. If every country participating in the Olympic Games contributes to the venue's maintenance, it wouldn't cost very much to keep it alive.

The athletes go to the Olympics to compete. Why would they care which city the games are held in?

For the Winter Olympics, find a suitable mountainous area with abundant snow. Having a permanent Olympic site would greatly benefit the town or city where it is built through jobs and tourism.

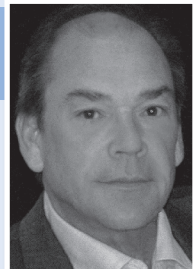
Between Olympic Games, the venues could host other world-class sporting events.

A permanent venue would also eliminate all the political crap that goes into selecting a city and the cost of putting a bid together in the first place.

Every other sport on the planet has a permanent home. You don't see the Toronto Maple Leafs announcing they will be playing home games in Kingston this year.

If you build a permanent Olympic Games venue, they will come.

**BRIAN LOCKHART**  
FROM THE SECOND ROW



## Trump in a trap

Donald Trump is caught in the trap that he helped to build, and he is starting to flail against his fate. His 'war of choice', 'Operation Epic Fury', was supposed to end in "unconditional surrender" by Tehran in just a few weeks, but if Trump ever had a plan beyond 'use massive force' it isn't working.

Trump managed to 'decapitate' much of the Iranian regime in the first hour of the American-Israeli sneak attack. (For the second time in a year, the United States attacked while still in peace talks with Iran.) However, this massacre of the old leadership class only ensured that a younger, smarter generation of true believers would lead Iran's resistance struggle.

Knowing a bit about the cult of martyrdom in Shia Islam, I am even tempted to speculate that Ayatollah Ali Khamenei knew that the US might strike that meeting and held it anyway. At any rate, it gave regime supporters more martyrs (killed by infidels) to celebrate, including the new Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei's

father, mother, wife and son.

Mojtaba was a hard-liner anyway, having fought as a 17-year-old volunteer in the Iran-Iraq War. (Saddam Hussein's Iraq invaded Iran with US encouragement and support in 1980-88.) There is almost zero probability that Iran's new leadership will seek a peace deal with the US and Israel – and no good reason that it needs to.

The American staff officers who planned Operation Foolish Fantasy counted up all Iran's worn-out fighters and decrepit warships and creaking logistics and concluded that they couldn't hold their own in a fight with America and Israel for even two weeks. Nobody asked if that was the fight they had to win.

The Iranian planners, well aware that they couldn't win a stand-up fight with Israeli hi-tech weapons, considered where they did have leverage and decided that fossil fuels and Western economies were their enemies' vulnerable flank. Stop the flow of oil and gas, Western economies will tank, and they'll have to make a

deal with the ayatollahs.

(I am assuming here that after the murder of several tens of thousands of civilian protesters in the streets of Iranian cities in January, nobody is going to try another uprising until the regime is clearly, irrevocably losing. It's a long way from that now.)

So: oil again. Fifty years after the first oil embargo brought the West to its knees, you'd think that the powers-that-be might have switched to a less vulnerable energy source, but, you know – "the money's good and I just want to make my pile and then we can all switch to a safer, cleaner, closer source of energy..." Repeat for fifty years.

Can the United States and its allies break Iran's closure of the narrow Strait of Hormuz, which is currently stopping 20% of the world's oil and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) traffic from entering or leaving the Persian Gulf? Technically, yes. Indeed, France's President Emmanuel Macron has suggested a multinational naval operation to do exactly that.

But Operation Blind Rage may not be the best answer either. The price of oil has almost doubled and the world economy is sliding into a major recession. Fighting might sink ships in the narrow channel and block it that way. And in the middle of it all is Donald Trump, unable to stop what he started and beginning to realise that he has been had by Binyamin Netanyahu.

We will never know whether Netanyahu genuinely believes there is a nuclear problem with Iran, but we can be certain that the Israeli intelligence services (and the American ones and everybody else's too) have assured him that Iran is at least five years away from deliverable nuclear weapons.

Netanyahu first warned that Iran would have nukes "in three to five years" in 1992. He has repeated the warning at frequent intervals, saying it was one, two, three or at most five years away. But it was just a useful fiction: nobody takes 34 years to make nuclear weapons if they are serious about it. Consider Pakistan. Consider North Korea. Consider Israel itself.

The lie was useful because it enabled Netanyahu to portray Iran as a threat not just to Israel (which it was) but also to rich and powerful Western countries. His goal has always been to draw those countries into a direct conflict with Iran, and with Trump he has finally succeeded.

To escape again, Trump would have to accept that he has been wrong, so probably not. The likeliest alternative, unfortunately, is for Trump to decide that the solution is yet more force. Perhaps including 'Boots on the Ground', because it will be hard to make the Strait of Hormuz safe without controlling the Iranian islands on the north side of the Strait.

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# COMMUNITY VOICES

## Monthly Message: What March Break makes possible at Streams

Monthly Message: What March Break makes possible at Streams Community Hub

March is such a strange month, especially in Canada.

The snow is half melted, half clinging on for dear life. The days are a little longer, but not quite warm. School is in full swing, but everyone is just a bit tired.

Right in the middle of it all sits March Break.

For some families, it is a long-awaited pause. For others, it is a logistical puzzle: Who will watch the kids? How do we keep them busy? What can we afford?

Underneath all of that, there is something else: possibility. A whole week of it.

At Streams, we think a lot about what to do with that kind of time. Not just how to fill it, but how to honour it.

Because March Break is not only a break from school. It can also be a break from routine, from labels, from "I'm not that kind of kid," and "I could never do that." It can be a window for trying on something new.

In our March Break programs, I have watched this play out in quiet, powerful ways.

A child who has never picked up a paintbrush spends an afternoon experimenting with colour and suddenly discovers they love blending blues and greens until it looks like the ocean. Another who has been constantly told that they are "too loud" finds a place where volume is not a problem, it is

presence, and it belongs in a script or a song.

Some kids arrive with a clear sense of what they want to do. Others show up because a parent or guardian just needed somewhere safe and positive for them to be for the week. Both are welcome. Both matter.

What I love about March Break at Streams is that it gives room for both rest and stretch. There are moments of silliness and laughter, when the main goal is just to enjoy being together. There are also moments where a facilitator gently nudges a child to try something that feels a little outside their comfort zone. Reading a line out loud. Sharing an idea with the group. Finishing a project, they are tempted to abandon halfway through.

None of these moments are huge on their own. But together, they add up. Midway through the week, you start to see small shifts. Kids who walked in on Monday in withdrawal from not having their devices are suddenly deeply focused on a canvas, a script, a piece of fabric, or a set of ingredients. Children who did not know each other at all are trading jokes or cheering each other on. You hear things like, "I never thought I could do that," or "Can I try again?"

That is the opportunity I see inside March Break. In a world that tells children to hurry, keep up, perform, it offers a brief window

**streams!**  
creative hub

where the goal is to explore, create, and connect. To let their minds and hands work in a different way. To experience what it feels like to be in a space that is safe enough to take small risks.

And for us as adults, it offers an opportunity too.

An opportunity to see our children in a new light. To notice how brave they are when they step into a room full of strangers. To notice how kind they can be when they welcome someone who is new. To listen to the way they talk about what they did that day, and pay attention to what lights them up.

It is also an opportunity for us as a community to decide what we value.

When a local business sponsors a program slot, or a donor gives so that a child can attend on scholarship, they are saying, "We believe this kind of week matters." When a parent chooses an arts camp instead of just more screen time, they are saying, "Your development and creativity matter." When volunteers and staff show up early, stay late, and steady the edges of the day, they are saying, "Your sense of belonging matters."

At Streams, we do our best to make sure that March Break is not only about keeping kids occupied, but about opening doors. We offer programs in creative areas like art, performance, music, and culinary skills, and we

work hard to remove barriers through subsidies and scholarships whenever we can.

Because underneath all of it is a simple belief: given the chance, children will surprise you.

Give them time. Give them tools. Give them a safe, welcoming space, and they will show you new sides of themselves. Curiosity you did not know was there. Patience you were not sure they had. Gentleness with others. Pride in their own work.

This March Break, whether your child spends it at Streams, at home, with family, or somewhere else entirely, my hope is that you will be able to see and celebrate some of those small surprises. The moments that hint at who they are becoming.

And if you are someone who believes, as we do, that these opportunities should be within reach for every child, there are a few ways you can help:

You can enroll a child or share our March Break offerings and upcoming programs with a family who might benefit. You can support our scholarship fund by becoming One of 1000, our campaign to find 1,000 monthly donors giving \$10 a month so we can keep saying "yes" when cost is a barrier.

Most of all, you can keep believing that what happens in one week in March can echo far beyond it.

Because sometimes the most important growth does not happen in the big, shiny moments. It happens in the ordinary ones: in the middle of the year, in the middle of

## Shelburne's Food for You Program celebrates one year of serving the community

Continued from Front

Statistics discussed through a public health food access committee suggested that roughly one in four households in Dufferin County experience food insecurity, prompting the group to find a way to help.

"We heard the statistics, which is that one in four households in Dufferin County is food insecure," she said. "One in four households, that's a lot of people, a quarter of the population. When we found out the church kitchen was getting certified, we said, 'Why don't we cook a meal once a week for anyone who wants to come?'"

The program operates on a simple principle: no cost and no questions asked. Guests can eat inside the church hall, take meals home or pick up food outside if they prefer.

Over its first year, volunteers estimate the program has served well over 1,000 meals, with weekly attendance typically ranging from about 16 to 30 people. While numbers fluctuate with the seasons, the organizers have worked to keep the program consistent, rarely missing a Wednesday.

Community support has played a major role in keeping the effort running.

Local businesses and organizations have

donated food and sponsorships to help cover meal costs, including contributions from the Shelburne Golf and Country Club, Cobs Bread and other local sponsors.

Looking ahead, organizers hope to expand community involvement by encouraging more businesses to sponsor weekly meals and participate in serving.

"We are looking for local sponsors, local businesses, to help sponsor a meal, and we're asking for about a \$200 donation to feed people for an evening, that kind of thing," Lipman said. "We're learning how to manage the food situation, but everyone should know about us, we're not a secret in

the community... and so if we can include other people in the community, businesses and other people like that, then it's a full circle. It's a circular economy, as they say. We all can help each other."

Seasonal events such as summer barbecues and holiday dinners are also planned as the program enters its second year.

For the volunteers behind it, the goal remains simple: offer a place where anyone in town can share a meal and feel welcome. As Food For You enters its second year, the objective remains unchanged – to be a positive light in the community, serve good food, and share good times.



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# Amaranth declares emergency due to flooding of municipal building

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

The Township of Amaranth declared an emergency on the evening of March 8, due to rising flood concerns.

At 6:19 p.m., Amaranth issued a Declaration of an Emergency, signed by Mayor Chris Gerrits, notifying the community that flooding had occurred at the Township Municipal Office.

"The township has taken this step, most importantly, to ensure the safety and well-being of our staff and residents," reads the declaration. "During this emergency, council and staff are working to ensure that the municipality operates effectively and continues to provide essential services."

Township staff can be reached by telephone at 519-941-1007 or by email at info@amaranth.ca.

"Staff will endeavour to respond to phone messages and emails during regular working hours, but an immediate response may not be possible," reads the declaration. "Please consider using the drop box at the office for correspondence as it will be checked on a regular basis."

The Township of Amaranth website will post updates and notices regarding the emergency.

The Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA), which covers the southern and central parts of Amaranth, issued a flood statement on March 10. The GRCA noted

that warm weather and rain from March 5 to 9 have melted the snowpack, leading to ice jams and flooding.

"While the risk of ice jams is believed to be past, river flows remain extremely high," reads the GRCA's statement.

As of press time, Environment Canada issued a Special Weather Statement covering all of southern Ontario, including the Grand River watershed, with rainfall amounts of 20 to 40 mm beginning March 10 and continuing into March 11. This is likely to have raised river levels, and additional rainfall will further increase river flows.

"High flows and unstable ice conditions will increase the safety risk around rivers and streams throughout the watershed,"

reads the GRCA's statement. "The public is encouraged to exercise extreme caution around local waterways. Parents are reminded to keep their children and pets away from watercourses. The public is reminded to stay off ice-covered waterbodies, due to unsafe conditions."

In addition to Amaranth, Grand Valley has been heavily impacted by flooding.

"River flows have exceeded flood thresholds in Grand Valley and will continue to affect this area. The flood risk remains high due to the forecast rainfall. Municipal flood coordinators in Grand Valley have been advised to monitor conditions and take necessary actions," reads the GRCA's statement.

# Premier Ford visits Stevenson Memorial Hospital to launch redevelopment project

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Ontario Premier Doug Ford, along with local dignitaries and mayors of towns in the region, arrived at Stevenson Memorial Hospital in Alliston on Monday, March 9, to officially break ground for the hospital's redevelopment project.

The project is part of the government's plan to invest nearly \$60 billion in more than 50 major hospital projects across the province over the next ten years.

The government support of \$175 million marks a major milestone in the project.

"With more inpatient beds, expanded diagnostic and surgical services and an emergency department triple the size of the current one, the new Stevenson Memorial Hospital will connect more patients and families across Simcoe to convenient, world-class health care," said Premier Doug Ford. "Our government will continue to deliver on our historic hospital and primary care expansions, so families have reliable access to quality health-care services, no matter where they live."

The redevelopment of Stevenson Memorial Hospital will be completed by 2028 and include new and expanded acute care areas, the construction of a new, three-storey building that will more than double the size of the hospital, to approximately 147,100 square feet, as well as an increase in inpatient bed capacity by 20 per cent, providing more access to care to the community.

"With this investment, our government is protecting Ontario's health-care system and ensuring that more people in New Tecumseth and across Simcoe County can connect to convenient care, where and when they need it," said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and

Minister of Health. "This investment is another example of how we are investing in the health-care needs of communities, to deliver the highest standard of care for generations to come."

Work has already started on the hospital grounds, including a new helipad at the southeast corner. The new emergency department will be triple the size of the current department and will include expanded diagnostic and surgical services, as well as a brand-new birthing suite.

"This announcement represents far more than the start of construction. It reflects years of dedication from hospital leadership, foundation supporters, municipal and provincial partners and the many donors and community members who believed in the future of Stevenson Memorial Hospital. Together, their commitment has brought us to this moment," said Brian Saunderson, MPP for Simcoe-Grey. "This new hospital will strengthen health care for New Tecumseth and the surrounding region, ensuring that patients and families receive care in a modern facility designed to meet the needs of a growing community for generations to come."

The Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation has worked very hard over several years to raise funds for the hospital redevelopment through its 'Because of You' campaign.

"We all know that a hospital is much more than a building, it is the life saving technology inside it," said Sylvia Biffis, Chair of the SMHF Campaign Cabinet. "It is the compassion and the expertise of the entire team of world-class professionals who operate it – from the physicians and the nurses to the technicians, and the administrative and supportive staff, and our incredible volunteers. The shovels



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**DIGGING UP THE FUTURE:** Ontario Premier Doug Ford arrived in Alliston on Monday, March 9, to participate in the ceremonial groundbreaking of the Stevenson Memorial Hospital redevelopment project. Along with Premier Ford, breaking ground are Sylvia Biffis, Chair of the SMHF Campaign Cabinet; New Tecumseth Mayor Richard Norcross; Brian Saunderson, MPP for Simcoe-Grey; Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health; and Carmine Stumpo, Supervisor, Stevenson Memorial Hospital.

going into the ground today, are moving earth, but let us be clear, it is the people of New Tecumseth and South Simcoe who are moving mountains. Through your generosity, you are ensuring that families will not have to travel out of the region during their most vulnerable moments."

The hospital redevelopment project is expected to be completed by 2028.





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# SPORTS

## CDDHS Royals senior boys win District 4 basketball championship

Written By **BRIAN LOCKHART**

The Centre Dufferin District High School Royals senior boys basketball team are District 4 champions after winning the final game 57-49 over the Erin District High School Raiders.

The game was held at the gym in Erin on Wednesday, March 4.

This was an exciting game between two evenly matched teams that came down to a final three-minute battle at the end.

The Royals led through the entire game, but not by much.

Centre Dufferin was leading 14-12 at the end of the first quarter.

At the half, the Royals had a 5-point lead with 24-19 on the scoreboard.

When the third quarter ended, the Royals were ahead 42-33.

It was a determined and well-played fourth quarter by both teams that decided the game.

The Erin squad put out a huge effort to close the scoring gap. With just over a minute remaining on the clock, the Raiders had closed the gap to three points and were trailing 52-49.

It was in the final minute that the Royals got some insurance points to stay ahead and win the game 57-49 to claim the title.

“We started the season pretty slow and lost our first few games, but overall we kept picking it up, and overcame our ups and downs, and got what we wanted,” said Royals point guard Cooper Ferguson after the championship win. “In today’s game, the best part of our offence was finding the open space in the middle and getting to the basket. In the first quarter, we got to the basket every time. I think that was probably the best defence we ever played. We tried to limit their drive and cuts.”

With a minute left, and the Erin team determined to tie up, the Royals bench called a timeout.

“The coach told us we were meant for this moment and we were waiting all year



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTOS

**CHAMPIONS:** The Centre Dufferin District High School Royals senior boys’ basketball team is the District 4 champion after a 57-49 win over the Erin District High School Raiders in the championship game held in Erin on Wednesday, March 4.

for this, and we’ve got to show who we really are,” Cooper said. “Our plan was to keep our energy up, get our buckets, and throw the ball down so they couldn’t get any fast-break buckets.”

As District 4 champions, the Royals will now compete at the regional level at CWOSSA.



## Centre Dufferin Royals’ junior team competes in District 4 championship

Written By **BRIAN LOCKHART**

The Centre Dufferin District High School Royals junior boys basketball team competed in the District 4 championship game on their home court on Tuesday, March 3.

The Royals faced the Erin District High School Raiders in the final game.

They were the two top teams in the District this season, setting up a very competitive final game.

The teams had identical 7-1 records in the regular season.

Centre Dufferin eliminated Wellington Heights Secondary School in the semi-final round of the playoffs.

Erin dispatched Westside Secondary School from Orangeville in their semi-final game.

In the final game, the first half saw the teams trade hoops. The game was tied 12-12 in the first minute of the second quarter.

At the half, Erin had a two-point lead, with 22-20 on the scoreboard.

The Raiders pulled ahead in the third quarter, and when the buzzer sounded, the Erin team led 34-27.

The Royals put out a good effort in the final quarter, but they just couldn’t sink the baskets they needed to close the scoring gap.

The final score was 46-38 for the Erin team, who claimed the 2026 District 4 championship.

Despite the loss, the Royals’ players thought they put out a good effort against a strong team in the final game.

“I think it was a good season that ended badly,” said Royals forward Charlie French after the game. “I do think we could have done better, but it is, what it is. On offence, we did a good job of getting to the basket, we didn’t have too many turnovers. Our defence was good in this game, we were forced turn-overs, and played a good defence.”

Teammate Sam Verduin said he thought the team put out a good effort this year.

“I think our regular season was really good,” Sam said. “We came to compete and did our job, we just came up a little short in the playoffs. Today, I think on offence we did a good job of not giving up the ball. On defence we did really well cutting off pass-

ing lanes to make sure they couldn’t move the ball easily.”

As a junior team, the players still have two or three seasons of high school basket-

ball ahead of them, and players are already looking forward to next year.

The Erin team will now go on to compete at the regional level at CWOSSA.



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

**PLAYOFF BATTLE:** The Centre Dufferin District High School Royals junior boys’ basketball team takes on the Raiders from Erin District High School during the District 4 championship final game in the gym at CDDHS on Tuesday, Mar. 3. Erin won the game 46-38 to claim the District 4 title. Royals forward Sam Verduin scored a layup during the third quarter of the game.

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**ATHLETE OF THE WEEK**

**JAYDEN FERREIRA**

“It’s my biggest passion, I play it every single day. I just like the sport in general,” said Centre Dufferin District High School Royals junior shooting guard, Jayden Ferreira, of why he likes playing basketball. “It’s a big team game. You can be the best player in the world, but if you don’t get along with your teammates, it will all crumble down to a mediocre team.”

Jayden hopes to continue with the sport after high school at the collegiate level.

**TEAM: CENTRE DUFFERIN DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL ROYALS JUNIOR BASKETBALL**  
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# Revitalized Grand Valley Community Centre reopens as modern community hub

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

The Grand Valley and District Community Centre has officially reopened following a major multi-year expansion and rehabilitation project, marking a significant milestone for the Town of Grand Valley and its surrounding municipalities.

Meghan Townsend, CAO for the Town of Grand Valley, welcomed guests and officials to the reopening ceremony.

"I'm very happy that all of you are here to celebrate this grand opening of the newly expanded and rehabilitated Grand Valley and District Community Centre," she said. "In 2019, members of the Grand Valley and District Community Centre board met with Town of Grand Valley staff to review a new opportunity to apply for funding to rehabilitate the community centre."

After the town applied to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program's Community, Culture and Recreation stream, they secured substantial federal and provincial support.

Throughout the overhaul process, the original ice surface, cooling system, change rooms and washrooms were upgraded.

Grand Valley Mayor Steve Solomon reflected on the enormous workload required to complete this project and congratulated not just town staff but also provincial and federal partners who helped see it through.

"I will thank Sylvia [Jones] and the Government of Ontario—Government of Canada, as they both came in with almost a million dollars each for this project, which is a real contribution to the cultural vibrancy of this town," he said. "The Government of Ontario—Government of Canada, decided that we were worthy of keeping an arena here, because it could have easily been gone. But now we do have a new place where the community can come and gather. Thank you all again for your work."

Phase one of the project, launched in 2021, focused on the core arena infrastructure. The concrete ice pad was replaced, the arena layout was redesigned with new boards, glass and player benches, and the piping system beneath the ice was upgraded.

Early accessibility improvements were also introduced to improve safety and ease of use for participants and spectators.

Phase two finalized the broader expansion of the facility. Six new change rooms, accessible washrooms and referee rooms were added, along with roof repairs, exterior wall insulation and resurfacing. The construction, which began in 2025, has now reached substantial completion, transforming the building into a modern, inclusive hub for sport and recreation.

The renewed arena is designed to better serve all age groups and reflects the growing demand for girls' and women's hockey by providing improved dressing room capacity and layout.

Local leaders emphasized that the project demonstrates the impact of collaboration among federal, provincial and municipal governments, as well as the dedication of the community centre board, contractors and arena staff.

Local MPP and Ontario's Health Minister Sylvia Jones was also in attendance to congratulate the completion of the project, and said that local health is directly impacted by

the availability of facilities such as this one. "I am very pleased that we were able to have three levels of government come together, and, of course, the community center board to have this project come to completion," she said. "In healthcare, I often get asked, what about the prevention piece? Well, this is the prevention piece. You know, we are making sure that we have facilities in our community for our young people, for our seniors, for our adults, to be able to continue

to stay and be healthy and do that in our own communities."

"So congratulations. I think it is a real indication of when governments of different levels work together, great things can happen."

With the grand opening complete, the facility is expected to host year-round activities, from winter skating and hockey to potential summer programs such as lacrosse, strengthening Grand Valley's role as a regional community gathering place.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES AWAIT:** Local community leaders and provincial representatives celebrate the reopening of the Grand Valley Community Centre after its overhaul. The work would not have been possible without the cooperation of all three levels of government providing funding. The building has new ice rinks, changerooms, bathrooms, and more,

the availability of facilities such as this one.

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## Inspire renovations, support the community: Orangeville Home and Garden Show to return

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**

As the weather warms and seasons change, many homeowners begin looking for creative ways to improve their home or backyard.

And there's no better opportunity to generate ideas than at the Orangeville Lions 26th Annual Home and Garden Show, featuring 165 vendors. Many of the booths will feature businesses specializing in renovations, home building, roofing, landscaping, and home improvement of all kinds.

The three-day event returns to the Orangeville Fairgrounds (247090 5 Sideroad, Mono) over the weekend of March 27 to 29. The show runs from 5 to 9 p.m. on March 27, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on March 28, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on March 29.

The funds raised through the home and garden show enable the Orangeville Lions

Club to take on community projects, donate to local charities, and support meaningful initiatives.

Yasmine Slater from the Orangeville Lions said attendees not only support the Lions Club but also the local business community.

She added that the event is a great opportunity to connect with other community members, old friends, and new businesses.

"It's just a great way to connect with your neighbours and people you might not see all the time," Slater noted. "Spring is upon us, everybody's getting ready to go outside, so what better way to get home renovation ideas flowing."

It's important to note that the entrance to the building that houses the home and garden show has moved this year. Attendees can enter through the front entrance on the north side of the building, rather than the side entrance used in the past.

Approximately 4,000 to 5,000 people are expected to attend the event over the three days it runs.

GSC Orangeville Take Home Meals and Catering will be running the food court this year.

As in past years, the home and garden show will feature a space dedicated to not-for-profit organizations, where attendees can learn more about what's in the community and how to get involved.

Volunteers are needed to ensure the show runs smoothly. Anyone looking to get involved or learn more about the Orangeville Lions Club can email [info@orangevillelions.org](mailto:info@orangevillelions.org).

"If any local high school students want to help out a local service club and connect with some really great minded people in the

community, we're always looking for volunteers," said Slater, who noted that contributing counts towards students' mandatory volunteer hours.

Several local businesses sponsor the show, helping to make it a successful fundraiser.

The Title (main) sponsor this year is Royal LePage RCR Realty; Diamond sponsors are Headwaters Fitness & Racquet Club, Country 105, Expedia Cruises Orangeville and Orangeville Nissan; Gold sponsors are Chartwell Retirement Residences and Hickory Dickory Decks; and Silver sponsors are Larry's Small Engine and TreadXperts – Tire Expert Service Network.

To learn more about the Orangeville Lions' 26th Annual Home and Garden Show, read next week's edition of the Orangeville Citizen, where we will feature a special section highlighting the event.

# VENDOR APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

ORANGEVILLE CITIZEN

# HOLLYFEST

A holiday artisan shopping experience

We're decking the halls once again and inviting unique, passionate vendors to join us in making HollyFest even more magical in its second year. After an incredible inaugural event, we're excited to welcome new businesses and continue growing Orangeville Citizen's signature holiday shopping experience.

If you're ready to showcase your products, connect with an engaged community, join a festive tradition in the making, we'd love to have you at HollyFest and share in the magic!!

**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](http://orangevillehollyfest.ca)



To apply to be a vendor at the show, scan the QR code, visit our website or email [shows@lpcmedia.ca](mailto:shows@lpcmedia.ca) for a vendor application form. Apply before June 1, 2026 and be eligible for early acceptance on June 26.

# Family Transition Place celebrates International Women's Day with community breakfast

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

Hundreds of community members gathered at Hockley Valley Resort on March 5 for Family Transition Place's annual International Women's Day Celebration Breakfast. The event combined celebration with fundraising to support services for women and families across Dufferin County and Caledon.

The morning event brought together community leaders, sponsors and residents for a program focused on recognizing the achievements of women while supporting programs aimed at preventing and responding to gender-based violence. Several local dignitaries attended the event, including Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones, Orangeville Mayor Lisa Post and members of municipal councils from across the region.

Lynette Pole-Langdon, executive director of Family Transition Place, welcomed guests to the event, highlighting the important role advocacy plays in daily life.

"On behalf of Family Transition Place, thank you for taking the time in your busy schedules," she said. "I know that your days fill up fast, and there are a million places for you to be, and there's lots of work for you to do. The fact that you've carved out time in your day, in your schedules, to be here, to support us and to celebrate with each other, we really, really appreciate that," she said.

"We are really fortunate to live in a community that has incredible people that are so generous, and so that's where I think it's important when we have businesses and individuals that show up to support events like this, that we give back and make sure we support their businesses."

Guests were treated to a gourmet buffet breakfast and a signature mocktail, while also participating in a silent auction and centrepiece auction. A series of games and prizes added to the atmosphere, with funds raised throughout the morning going toward Family Transition Place's programs and services.

During the program, members of Family Transition Place's youth education team spoke about their work in local schools and

the role it plays in preventing violence before it begins.

Travis Greenley, a youth educator with Family Transition Place, explained the focus of the education program and the goals of the young girls they work with.

"We are trying to talk to young people in schools today about healthy relationships to hopefully stop them from coming to the front door tomorrow," he said. "Through our programs, we want them to be strong, resilient and adaptable in the face of adversity. Can they make the world better for themselves and people in relationships?"

The program, which has been operating for more than 25 years, delivers classroom sessions for students from Grade five through Grade eight focused on building healthy relationships, empathy and confidence.

The presentations also highlighted research showing that girls can begin to doubt their intelligence at a young age, underscoring the importance of early education around self-esteem and identity.

Through a series of lessons, activities, and discussions, the program encourages students to challenge stereotypes, understand consent, develop emotional awareness, and learn how to recognize both healthy and unhealthy behaviours in relationships.

Running programs like this one isn't cheap, but Greenley said it requires ongoing support to keep operating.

"This program has been going on for over 25 years," he said. "It is an unfunded program. Events like this, sponsors, donors, Family Transition Place's commitment has allowed us to continue to go up the river and make this impact, hopefully maybe break some of the cycle of violence that we've seen."

Ultimately, it is just one part of Family Transition Place's programming. They provide a range of services for women and children escaping violence or unhealthy relationships. These include emergency shelter, counselling, safety planning, outreach services and youth education programs delivered in schools throughout the region.

The organization serves communities across Dufferin County and Caledon and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

**SUPPORTING WOMEN:** Staff and supporters of Family Transition Place gathered at the Hockley Valley Resort on March 5 for their annual International Women's Day brunch event. With gourmet food, entertainment, and education, the brunch event was more than just a celebration of achievements; it was a commitment to supporting women, breaking down barriers, and fighting for a fairer, more equitable future.

relies on donations, sponsorships and volunteer support to maintain its programs and continue providing assistance to those seeking safety and support.

The brunch event was a powerful moment for supporters and staff to come together and celebrate what they have achieved so far, and a commitment to continue pushing forward to effect even more change for the future.

**WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT:** Lynette Pole-Langdon, executive director of Family Transition Place (FTP), welcomed guests to the International Women's Day Brunch at Hockley Valley Resort on March 5. She spoke about the important role advocacy and thanked attendees for taking the time to celebrate with FTP. International Women's Day was recognized globally on Sunday, March 8.



# From Green Team to Stage Crew: Volunteers needed for Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**

Orangeville's favourite festival is returning in early June, and volunteers are needed to make it a success.

The 22nd Annual Orangeville Blue and Jazz Festival (OBJF) will be held along Broadway and in Alexandra Park from June 5 to 7. Anyone looking to get involved is encouraged to express their interest to organizers.

"Volunteers are the backbone of the festival," said Norm Trudeau, OBJF volunteer coordinator.

"On average, I try to recruit 230 people across 14 different teams, which is no small task... We need everything from event staff, our food and beverage team, operations people and fundraising, to merchandise, and admissions."

He added, "Anybody who wants to volunteer between the ages of 14 and 95 can come and volunteer - I'll have positions for them."

There are two key dates for interested individuals to watch out for - April 21 and May 27. Volunteer orientation and training meetings will take place on both dates at the Orangeville Seniors Centre (26 Bythia St.), each starting at 7 p.m.

Roughly 50 per cent of OBJF's volunteers return each year and are put in key positions to run the festival, while the other half is made up of new recruits.

"They really are some of the greatest peo-

ple I've ever met," Trudeau said of the volunteers. "They're just wonderful. We're like a big family."

## Perks of volunteering

While volunteers generously give their time to the OBJF and make it possible, the festival gives back to them and provides them with great value as well.

"It really is a fantastic experience for any demographic," Trudeau said. "I've personally been a volunteer with the festival for 20 of its 22 years, and every year the experience has just been amazing."

He continued, "The real big advantage of being a volunteer is you get to be up close and personal to the music - and the music is what the festival is all about."

Larry Kurtz, OBJF festival director and founder, praised the volunteer experience, noting that people have made lifelong friends by getting involved.

"A lot of people have made lifelong friends by volunteering, so it's a good social aspect. You get to meet people in the community who are like minded and want to give back," he said.

Kurtz added that to reward volunteers, he puts together a celebratory appreciation party a few weeks after the festival. The event features live music, refreshments, and an opportunity to reconnect with fellow volunteers.

## Available volunteer positions

There are several different types of volunteer positions to be filled. OBJF organizers are seeking a leader for the festival's Green Team, which handles garbage, compost, and recycling.

The Merchandise Team and Fundraising Team also have positions open.

Experienced bar staff or people with a Smart Serve Certificate are needed on the Food and Beverage Team.

"We are expanding our Broadway Beer Garden this year, which is awesome, but we'll need more people for that," Trudeau said.

Individuals with sound, stage or emcee experience who can volunteer are of great value to the festival, helping to run its three stages.

Kurtz highlighted the volunteer Roust About Team, affectionately called the RATS, who assist with setup and teardown.

He also noted the Artist Hospitality Team, which looks after musicians as they get to the festival, setting them up with passes and meal vouchers.

## How to sign up

Anyone interested in volunteering, or looking for more information, can visit [orangevillebluesandjazz.ca/volunteer](http://orangevillebluesandjazz.ca/volunteer) to sign up or contact Trudeau by phone at 647-281-1575 or by email at [Norm@orangevillebluesandjazz.ca](mailto:Norm@orangevillebluesandjazz.ca).

"I would be more than happy to walk through the process of applying to become a

volunteer," Trudeau said. "It really is a fantastic experience. I can't say enough about how rewarding it is to get involved with this festival."

While anyone interested in volunteering is encouraged to express their interest in advance, volunteers will be accepted until the end of the festival; there is no cut-off date.

"If a person wants to become a volunteer, all they have to do go to our main Volunteer Centre at the gazebo in Alexandra Park, and we'll put you to work," Trudeau enthused.

High school students looking to complete their volunteer service hours while enjoying a fun local event are encouraged to get involved.

"It's a great experience for them. They get to work with experienced people, and see the festival from the operational aspect, not just being a patron," Trudeau noted.

Anyone who'd like to meet the team in person and learn more about the festival can visit them at two upcoming home and garden shows.

OBJF organizers will have a booth at the 26th Annual Orangeville Lions Home and Garden Show, which runs from March 27 to 29 at the OAS Event Centre on the Orangeville Fairgrounds (247090 5 Sideroad, Mono). The team will also be at the Erin Home and Garden Show from April 24 to 26 at the Erin Agricultural Society (184 Main St., Erin), seeking volunteers.

# Reduced load season now in effect across Dufferin County roadways until further notice

Reduced load season is underway in Dufferin County.

Launching on March 1, load restrictions will remain in effect until further notice. The load restriction is a maximum of five metric tonnes per axle.

"Reduced load restrictions help protect roads during the spring thaw when road damage is most likely to occur. The County

asks all road users to adhere to the road load restrictions to help protect its roads," said the County of Dufferin in a press release issued on March 4.

Load restriction updates can be found at [dufferincounty.ca](http://dufferincounty.ca). To access the Municipal 511 website, visit [municipal511.ca](http://municipal511.ca).

Dufferin Roads is no longer using X to communicate and will no longer be send-

ing e-blasts through Mailchimp. Road users are encouraged to access the Municipal 511 website for road condition and closure information.

The general Dufferin County account remains on X and can be followed at [x.com/DufferinCounty](https://x.com/DufferinCounty)

Dufferin Roads will begin to send information specific to its roads, including oper-

ational updates, significant weather events and information on reduced road load seasons, with a new informational e-blast beginning March 2026.

If you were previously signed up for the County's Roads newsletter and would still like to receive Dufferin Roads information, you can sign up at [tinyurl.com/DufferinRoadsSignUp](http://tinyurl.com/DufferinRoadsSignUp).

## OBITUARIES FOREVER IN OUR Hearts

### Remembering your loved one

Placing an obituary in one of our newspapers is a meaningful way to honour the life of your loved one and share their story with the community that helped shape them - including friends, neighbours, and colleagues from every chapter of their life.

An obituary becomes a lasting tribute, preserving memories, values, and accomplishments for future generations. It offers a moment to reflect on a life well lived and the love left behind. Most of all, it invites a community to remember together, to grieve, and to offer comfort and connection during a time of loss.

If you would like to place an obituary in the Shelburne Free Press, or one of our affiliate newspapers, contact Debbie at [debbie@lpcmedia.ca](mailto:debbie@lpcmedia.ca) or 519-925-2832

### JAMES "JIM" BERRY

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Jim, who died peacefully at Dufferin Oaks in Shelburne on Friday, February 27, 2026, at the age of 90.

Jim was the loving father of Nancy Andrew (Jim Weedman), Lynn Watt (Ken), Sheila Craig, and Jay Berry. He was the proud grandfather of Colleen Andrew, Devon Andrew, Norm Craig (Aria Huang), Tyler Craig (Melissa Cameron), Josh Watt, Jordan Watt (Jolene), Cassandra Berry and Cody Berry (Brittany Reid); great-grandfather of Rachel Watt and was looking forward to the arrival of Cody and Brittany's child. Jim will be fondly remembered by his sister, Diane Stephens. Predeceased by our mother, Helen Berry.

Cremation has taken place and a celebration of life will be announced at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate memorial donations to the Dufferin Oaks Long Term Care Home.



### In Loving Memory of RORY JOSEPH EDGAR SIEGEL

Rory Joseph Edgar Siegel, 32, passed away on February 25, 2026, at Brampton Civic Hospital.

Raised in Shelburne, Ontario, Rory was known for his humour and creative spirit. He attended Highland Heights Elementary School and Centre Dufferin District High School. Throughout his life, he faced personal challenges yet remained deeply loved by family and friends, who remember his politeness and kindness.

A talented artist, Rory was rarely without a sketchbook and dreamed of becoming a tattoo artist. He had a special love for animals and shared a close bond with his late mother, Debbie.

Rory will be missed by his father, John; his sister, Erin; and extended family and friends.

Cremation has taken place. A celebration of life will be announced at a later date.



### In Loving Memory of DR. JAMES ROBERT MACMILLAN SEPTEMBER 25, 1936 - MARCH 3, 2026

Dr. James Robert MacMillan passed away peacefully on March 3, 2026, at Campbell House, Hospice Georgian Triangle, with his children by his side. He was surrounded by the love and support of family and dear friends in his final days. Jim was a dearly loved father, grandfather, and physician whose life was defined by devotion to family and friends, a lifelong connection to his Scottish roots, and a legacy of compassion and kindness that touched thousands of lives throughout his decades of medical practice in Dufferin County.

He will be deeply missed and fondly remembered by all who knew him.

A celebration of Jim's life will take place on Sunday, March 29, 2026 at 1 p.m. at the Bear Estate in Collingwood. Arrangements entrusted to Fawcett Funeral Home - Collingwood. [www.fawcettfuneralhomes.com](http://www.fawcettfuneralhomes.com)



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

**APR 10TH - Antiques, Collectible and Quality Household Items**

**APR 17TH - Canvas, Carvings and Keepsakes**

**APR 24TH - The Springtime Tool & Equipment Sale**

**MAY 1ST - The Locked & Loaded - Handgun Auction**

**MAY 8TH - May 8th - Got Stuff? Claim This Prime Date for Your Treasures.**

**MAY 15TH - Strike It Rich: The Coins & Currency Auction**

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## MT. FOREST AG AUCTIONS LIVE "Spring" AG Consignment Auction Sale Of Tractors, Machinery, Equip., Misc., etc.

Located: East of Mt. Forest, on Southgate Rd. 04 Fire # 43853

On Wed. March 18th at 9:00 am

**TRACTORS, ETC.:** JD.7130 w/cab, PQ.4wd., 24 speed, 4 cyl. engine, 6760hrs.; JD.6430 Premium w/563 SL.ldr., 4wd., w/cab, 24 speed, PQ., 3 remotes, BKT 520-70R38 like new, 9110hrs. (engine rebuilt at 8400hrs.); CIH. MX 110 w/cab, 4wd., 7392hrs.; CIH. Puma 115 w/stoll ldr., 4wd., 7700hrs.; JD.2950, 4wd., OS., apx. 11,000hrs.; Agco 5680 w/640 quicke ldr., 4wd., 8000hrs.; JD.2120; Duetz 7807, 2wd.; 2023 Kubota SVL 97-2 Track ldr., 1150hrs. & extra tracks for snow; Giant 4548 Telehandler w/2800kg. Lift cap., 3030hrs.; 2012 mod. JD.329D trac ldr., w/bucket, enclosed cab, 2350hrs. **MACHINERY, EQUIP.:** **Tillage-** 26ft. & 32ft. New Roller Pro packer's w/lights; Crowsfoot 13 1/2ft., hydro. Lift packer; Bearcat 12ft. packer; JD. 450 seeddrill, 21run x 7 1/2DD. w/grass (plain grain); Melroe 20run seeddrill w/dry, liq., fert., & grass; JD.8250 seeddrill 18run, sing. w/fert., & grass; JD.8 row 7000 vacuum Vset end transport w/Dickey John monitor; NI.6 row compplanter precision units; New 15ft. No-till drill w/grain, dry fert., & grass; **Cultivators-** 26ft. DMI Tigermate w/3 bar coil tine harrow w/rear hitch & lights; CIH. Tiger Mate II, 28 1/2 ft. w/3bar harrows, new teeth (very good); 24ft. Case; IH. 19ft. vibshank w/3bar harrows; Vaderstaad 12ft., TA., s-tine w/harrows.; IH. 45 trail, 10ft. **Haying-** Hay handler H128 Merger (New); JD.24T sm.sq. baler; NH.315 sm.sq. baler; JD.336 shredder baler; 160ft. Forage King mow system w/4 drive units; **Feeding-** High cap. seed grain cleaner on trailer (220v); FarmK. grain cleaner w/8' auger; Champion elect. Hammermill w/5hp. motor; V700 calf scale **Harvesting-** MF.775 swather; Gehl 1060 Harvester w/7ft. pickup hd.; Elmer's 6"x21ft. fert. auger on wheels, hyd. drive, stainless; Wilmar 800 fert. spreader; **Wagons-** 2 Riverside 22ft. silage dumpers w/lights; Creekbank 30ft. mesh floor on 20t Horst gear, & lights; 2 Creekbank 30ft. mesh floors on 14t Horst gears w/lights & winches; New 30ft. on 14t Horst gear; 2 mesh top 30ft. racks on Horst gears; 24ft. wooden rack on Horst gear; 2 Martin throwers; Kilbros 375 gravity w/roll tarp; Gehl & IH. 110 forages; **Attaches-** New Baron Grapple w/Alo hookup; Alo HLA 8ft. reg. & Hi-volume buckets; 8ft. high volume ALO bucket; Quicke Q51 ldr., complete (off JD.6420); JD.740 SL.ldr., subframes, grill-guard; **Other Machinery, etc. -** Tubeline #450 SA. spreader; Jamesway Ultra-Trac 5700 Liq. Spreader, US-gals. steering axles, hyd. brakes, 540 pto. 850x50x30.5 tires; Lucknow 8ft. snowblower; CIH. 7500, 5 furrow vari-width plow; Kvermlid. BB.115, 5 furrow vari-width rollover plow w/coulters; Loadtrail 25ft. flatbed gooseneck trailer w/ramps, 10,000lbs. axles; 2014 Dumptrailer TA., 7ft.x14ft.; Big Jim logging winch; pair of 16.9x38 tires (80%); set of turf tires 16.9x24 & 13.6x16 (on JD rims); 30ft. silo roof; other machinery & equip., not listed. **STEEL, MISC., ETC.:** Tractor-Trailer load of New Seconds steel tubing, etc.; qty. cedar posts; 6pc. of 3ft.x4ft. Solarpanels w/24v battery; 1000 Blue sap pails w/lids; 3pth. belt pulley; BSM 40ft. locking head rail; qty. of milking equip. (for double 8 parlor); qty. of tiestalls, dividers, waterbowl; New elect. Chicken Plucker (Kitchener); New Mac Oil-wood combo furnace; picnic tables & planters; 8ft.x10ft. garden shed; some New Diamond bar gates 12ft.-16ft.; other gates; Autoseat buggy; used windows, doors; harness; bikes; tools; other misc. & wagon loads of small items.

**Notes:** Consign items - Please call Orvie L. Martin 519-323-3256 or Amos Beringer 519-323-1342 Receiving items from March 11 to 14 & 16th only! We reserve the right to accept or refuse items. **NO HOUSEHOLD or VEHICLES!! Starting Inside at 9:00am & both Outside Rings at 9:30am! TERMS:** Cash sale day, cheques with ID only. Lunch booth. **Sales Yard- 519-509-2828**, Loader available from sale day until Mar.21st **"NO FEED SALE that day!"** Owners, Auctioneers, Organizers not responsible for accidents, injury, deletions or loss of property sale day. All verbal announcements take precedence over written material.

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NO FRILLS, 101 2nd Line RR 1, Shelburne (by the mailboxes)

First Ave West (by train tracks/ new condo mailboxes)

Royal LePage RCR Realty, 126 Main Street East, Shelburne

Hornings Mills (by the Community Centre)

Dean Road, Mulmur (by news boxes)

Shelburne Canadian Legion (front entrance on 2nd Ave.)

Superburger, 506269 ON-89, Shelburne (Corner of Hwy 89 and 10)

Town Hall, 203 Main St E, Shelburne (inside Town Hall)

Trillium Ford, 506168 ON-89, Mono

CDRC, 200 Fiddle Park Lane, Shelburne (Box inside lobby)

Foodland, 824 Ojibway Rd, Shelburne

Caravaggio, 128 Main St E, Shelburne

Autocare Plus, 710C Industrial Rd, Shelburne

Roys Service, 635202 ON-10, Mono

Dynes Senior Building, 301 First Ave E, Shelburne

Town Milk & Variety, 516 Main St E, Shelburne (near New Orleans Pizza)

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# Two Mono residents charged with impaired driving on same day

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers have charged two Mono residents with impaired operation-related offences following two separate incidents.

On Feb. 25, at approximately 4:46 p.m., Dufferin OPP officers were dispatched to the area of 150 First Street after receiving reports of a female slumped over the steering wheel of a vehicle in a parking lot. Police attended the scene alongside other emergency services and located the driver.

After speaking with the individual, officers initiated an impaired driving investiga-

tion. Marie Macdonald, 37, from Mono, has been charged with:

- Operation while impaired - alcohol and drugs
- Use plate not authorized for vehicle
- Use plate not in accordance with regulations
- Fail to surrender permit for motor vehicle
- Possess unmarked cigarettes

On Feb. 25, at approximately 10:20 p.m., Dufferin OPP officers were conducting

general patrol in the area of County Road 124 when they located a vehicle in a ditch that had sustained significant damage. After speaking with the driver, officers initiated an impaired driving investigation.

Kristopher Erdei, 46, from Mono, has been charged with:

- Operation while impaired - alcohol and drugs
- Operation while impaired - blood alco-



hol concentration (80 plus)  
• Drive vehicle or boat with cannabis readily available

The accused individuals are scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville at a later date. Their driver's licence was suspended, and both vehicles were impounded.

None of the listed charges have been proven in court.

## Dufferin County snowmobile trails closed for the season

The snowmobile trails in Dufferin County are officially closed for the 2025-2026 season.

"We want to thank the Dufferin Drift Busters, Orangeville Snowmobile Club, and Hill-sburgh Snow Roamers for their hard work in maintaining the trails and providing an

excellent experience for riders this winter," reads a statement from Dufferin OPP.

"Please respect the landowners and stay off the trails until they reopen next season. Additionally, the rail line trail is also closed and will reopen for ATV use on May 1, 2026, weather permitting."

## Fire at Sugar Shack in Mono deemed non-suspicious

On March 9, at approximately 4:30 p.m., Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), along with local fire departments and other emergency crews, responded to a reported structure fire on 30 Sideroad in Mono.

Upon investigation, the fire was determined to be non-suspicious.

Anyone who may have witnessed the incident and wishes to speak with victim services is encouraged to contact Caledon/Dufferin Victim Services at 905-951-3838.

# Shelburne Public Library gears up for writers' meetup, March break events

The Shelburne Public Library is excited to launch a writers' meetup.

Join community champion, writer, and poet Brian Burns as he brings writers together to connect, share, and get inspired.

The writers' meetup is for adults and is held on the last Sunday of the month from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Community Room.

There are several other upcoming events at the Shelburne Library.

March Break Fun for Kids (March 17 to 20): Performances and programs all week long.

The BIG Book Sale (March 14 and 17 to 21): Fill a bag, make a donation!

Mindset Reset (March 28 at 2 p.m.): This event will feature Mind Alchemist Allan Hassoun.

Open Mic Night (April 24 at 7 p.m.): This event is for individuals 16 and up. Email splwriters26@gmail.com if you would like to perform in the Open Mic Night.

Small Town Big Ideas (April 25 at 2 p.m.): This event features author Antonio Michael Downing at the Museum of Dufferin. Tickets available via the Museum of Dufferin

Also, don't forget to visit our Seed Library, available while supplies last.

### Staff Pick of the Week

*The Grave Artist* by Jeffery Deaver and Isabella Maldonado is the Staff Pick of the Week.

A wedding reception is coming to a close in the Hollywood Hills when the blissful day is shattered by the death of one of the newlyweds. Though the incident appears to be an accident, Homeland Security Investigations agent Carmen Sanchez and her partner, security expert Jake Heron, discover that the tragedy is the third in a series of similar deaths and conclude that something far more sinister is at play.

The two uncover chilling evidence pointing to a serial killer who has taken evil to the next level. Dubbed the Honeymoon Killer, this man isn't interested in his victims but in creating his own macabre masterpiece from their graves—focused on the survivors and revelling in their grief. And now his dark obsession has turned to Carmen and Jake...

The Honeymoon Killer has decided they are the perfect next target. Take one out and delight as the other crumbles. Time is running out as a deadly game between predator and prey begins.

**Why Dave recommends it:** This thriller kept me on the edge of my seat. Tons of twists and turns, and a surprise ending. Any books I have read by this author have all been of the same calibre. Find *The Grave Artist* alongside all the other great new books at YOUR library. Don't forget to check out the selection of great books in our Kiosk at Foodland, too!

*This article was written by the Shelburne Public Library staff.*

## 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.

**FERAL CAT RESCUE INC.**  
519-278-0707

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**519-941-8254**  
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199 C-Line, Orangeville  
(Across from the local OPP station)

## Shelburne CHURCH DIRECTORY

### BETHEL BIBLE CHAPEL

419 Main Street East, Shelburne  
Sunday Services – 9:45am Lord's Supper  
10:45am Family Bible Hour, Sunday School  
Chapel 519-925-3910 or 519-278-0066  
www.bethelshelburne.com – All Welcome!!

## ABIDING PLACE FELLOWSHIP

www.abidingplace.ca  
519-925-3651

### SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00AM

*Mel-Lloyd Centre, Entrance "F" Door,  
167 Centre St, Shelburne*

*Pastor; Rev. Gord Horsley*

*Come and be Blessed*



### A FAMILY CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

10:30 a.m.  
Children's Church Available

Pastor Gavin Sullivan  
226-200-0843  
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Honey Garlic

**Fall Off the Bone® Back Ribs**  
1 FULL RACK OF RIBS 510 g - 680 g

CHOOSE FROM 4 VARIETIES.

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**Chicken Strips**  
680 g

Also available,  
Cheesy Nacho  
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\*Lowest price of the year is based on the current calendar year.

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**Breaded Haddock**  
7-10 PIECES 907 g

Also available,  
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**SALE**  
TRY WITH  
Tartar  
Sauce  
375 mL  
**5<sup>99</sup>**

Swiss

**SALE**  
**4<sup>49</sup>** each

**Bistro Chicken** 114 g

Choose from:  
• Ricotta & Spinach • Swiss

Parmesan

**Stuffed, Breaded Chicken** 142 g

Choose from:  
• Broccoli and Cheese • Kiev • Parmesan • Swiss

**SAVE \$3**

**14<sup>99</sup>** each

**Deep Dish Chicken Pie**  
907 g

**Homestyle Shepherd's Pie**  
907 g

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**19<sup>99</sup>** each

**Breaded Chicken Breasts**  
8 PIECES 907 g

Choose from 3 varieties.

Also available,  
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**Seniors Day Every Tuesday 10% off Regular Priced Items!**

**SALE**  
TRY WITH  
Chipotle  
Mayo  
Spread  
300 mL  
**5<sup>99</sup>**

Also available,  
Garlic Aioli  
Spread 300 mL  
**\$5.99 SALE**

**BUY 1 GET 1 50% OFF**  
Regular price \$19.99 each

**SAVE \$10**

**Chicken Nuggets**  
33-40 PIECES  
907 g

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**Lasagna**  
907 g

**BIG TREATS, BIG SMILES**

Original

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6 PIECES 450 g 2 Varieties

**SAVE \$2**

**15<sup>99</sup>**

**Blueberry Bliss Cheezecake** 600 g

**SAVE \$2**

**12<sup>99</sup>**

**Strawberry Cheesecake** 600 g

**BREAKFAST STARTS HERE**

**17<sup>99</sup>** **SAVE \$2**

**Mild Italian Sausages**  
8-9 PIECES 900 g

**6<sup>99</sup>** each

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4 PIECES 227 g

**4<sup>99</sup>** **SALE**

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600 g

**\*MULTI BUY\***  
**Buy 2 for \$8** Regular price \$4.99 each

Bumble

**19<sup>98</sup>** **SAVE**

**Blossoms**  
2 PORTIONS 230 g  
3 Varieties

**MIX AND MATCH**

**Apple Crisps**  
2 PORTIONS 228 g

**\*MULTI BUY\***  
**Buy 2 for \$10** **SAVE UP TO \$3<sup>98</sup>**

Florentine

**17<sup>98</sup>** **SAVE**

**Quiche**  
170 g 3 Varieties  
Regular price: \$5.99 each

**MIX AND MATCH**

French Onion

**Pot Pies**  
225 g - 250 g 2 Varieties  
Regular price: \$5.99 each

**Soups**  
255 g - 400 mL 5 Varieties  
Regular price: \$6.99 each

**PIZZA NIGHT**

**19<sup>99</sup>** **SAVE \$2**

**Mini Pepperoni Pizzas**  
16 PIZZAS 1.7 kg

**9<sup>99</sup>** **SAVE \$3**

**Flatbreads** 460 g - 515 g  
4 Varieties

**9<sup>99</sup>** **NEW!** **SAVE \$3**

**Gluten-Free Margherita Pizza** 330 g

**MEAL KITS** 840 g - 1.05 kg

**21<sup>99</sup>** **SAVE \$3** each

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Chicken Fajitas

Lemon Herb Chicken and Pasta

Also available,  
• **IT'S BACK!** Beef Stroganoff \$21.99 **SAVE \$3**

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• **NEW** Shrimp Fettuccine Alfredo • Chicken Stir Fry  
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• **NEW** Creamy Tuscan Style Chicken and Pasta  
• Creamy Rosé Chicken & Pasta

**SINGLE SERVES** 275 g - 340 g

Spaghetti Bolognese

Macaroni & Cheese

Three Cheese Pasta Bake

**4<sup>99</sup>** each **SALE**

**CHOOSE FROM 20 VARIETIES.**

Homestyle Shepherd's Pie

Beef Chili

**KID-FRIENDLY**

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**Mozzarella Sticks**  
15-21 PIECES 454 g

**9<sup>99</sup>** **SAVE \$3**

**Pepperoni Pizza Rolls**  
8 PIECES 460 g

**12<sup>99</sup>** **SAVE \$5**

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**NEW!**

**9<sup>99</sup>**

**Ginger Chicken Ramen** 417 g

LIMITED TIME ONLY

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**NEW!**

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**Chocolate Dipped Cheesecake** 600 g

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**NEW!**

**9<sup>99</sup>**

**Pork Chashu Ramen** 417 g

LIMITED TIME ONLY

**SAVE \$2**

**9<sup>99</sup>**

**Chicken Quesadillas**  
4 PIECES 600 g

**SAVE \$3**

**9<sup>99</sup>**

**Mini Franks in Pastry**  
15 PIECES 279 g

**SAVE \$3**

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680 g

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