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SAM ODROWSKI PHOTO

FREEZIN' FOR A REASON: Dufferin OPP Detachment Commander Insp. Michael Di Pasquale (left) joined Special Olympian Ryan MacBean (second from left), Polar Plunge mascot (second from right) and Dufferin OPP Provincial Const. Jeff McLean (right) at the OPP's Orangeville station on March 10. The group is looking forward to participating in the Dufferin OPP's 2026 Polar Plunge at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Centre next Sunday, March 29. See full story on Page 3.

Share the Bounty and RBC team up for Community Breakfast and Food Bank Drive

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

A community-focused partnership between RBC and local charitable organization Share the Bounty delivered a successful weekend breakfast event on March 15 at the Shelburne Legion, combining a free hot meal with a substantial food bank drive for those in need.

RBC sponsored the event, building on previous connections. The bank provided funding while volunteers came together to serve local residents facing food insecurity.

Pam Kelly, the event organizer, explained that this collaboration was born from a previous contact at RBC.

"Royal Bank essentially reached out and asked us to set up an event that they sponsored," she said. "That came about from our Christmas dinner, because the manager had been to our Christmas dinner, and she was there with her two daughters and her mom to help out, actually. I just love the idea that we're giving back to the community and building connections."

The event offered a free breakfast to anyone in need, with attendees also encouraged — but not required — to contribute non-perishable food items and essential goods for the local food bank.

"So, this event over the weekend, you

could just come in, get a good meal if you need one, and then we're also collecting items to donate to the food bank," Kelly said. "This is what Share the Bounty does. We run meal programs, and we also try to give back to the community, as well."

In total, volunteers served 144 free breakfasts and ensured that all helpers were fed. The team included three RBC staff members, three representatives from the Shelburne Legion, Branch 220, and additional volunteers from Share the Bounty, reflecting a broad base of community support.

Kelly led by example during the event, donating items herself.

"I personally donated \$320 worth of diapers to the food bank," she said. "The food bank is always crying out for diapers in the larger sizes, so I took it upon myself to purchase some for them."

In addition to the many donated items, organizers also collected \$600 in cash, which will be reinvested directly into the community.

Share the Bounty also runs two regular meal programs each month at Westminster Church in Orangeville and frequently responds to emergency requests with improvised food baskets. The organization focuses on providing healthy, freshly prepared meals rather than relying solely on



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FEEDING & FUNDRAISING: With volunteers from RBC, the Royal Canadian Legion and Share the Bounty, free meals were distributed to those in need and donations were collected for the Shelburne Food Bank. The free meal program was sponsored by RBC, with management previously having attended Share the Bounty events and expressing an interest in getting involved.

processed options. The menu changes by event, ranging from hearty dishes like beef stew to mac and cheese, made possible by access to a commercial kitchen.

Organizers say they are eager to collaborate with more community groups and partners who are interested in expanding their support networks.

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Shelburne updates its proclamation and flag-raising policy

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

Shelburne council has approved a new policy aimed at modernizing how the town handles proclamations, flag raisings and half-masting requests.

The Proclamation and Flag Raising Policy was adopted during the March 9 council meeting, replacing the town's 2017 Flag Protocol Bylaw.

The update is intended to create a clearer, more flexible process for recognizing community events, cultural celebrations and

awareness campaigns.

Town staff noted the municipality regularly receives requests from community groups seeking proclamations or flag raisings. The new policy brings these procedures under a single framework to better streamline receiving and responding to requests.

Organizations requesting a proclamation must now apply at least four weeks in advance and demonstrate a connection to community awareness, charitable causes or cultural recognition.

Political, commercial and religious promotions are excluded.

Proclamations will continue to be issued by the mayor and shared through the town's website, council agendas and social media.

The policy also formalizes how flag-raising requests are handled at the courtesy flagpole at Jack Downing Park. Applications will be reviewed by the Clerk's Office and must show a connection to Shelburne while aligning with the Ontario Human Rights Code.

Town staff say the updated framework is designed to ensure fair and equitable access while at the same time preventing inappropriate or conflicting requests.

During the discussions, the council raised

questions about recognizing events such as Black History Month and honouring military service members or veterans, with staff responding that the new policy follows federal and provincial guidance on half-masting while allowing for some local discretion as well.

The policy also clarifies procedures for installing and removing flags and outlines when half-masting may occur, including for former council members.

The debate among council was brief, and the policy was approved, replacing the previous bylaw.

Shelburne approves \$1.5M upgrade to restore Well No. 1 pumphouse

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

Shelburne council has approved a \$1.5 million project to upgrade the town's Well No. 1 pumphouse, a move aimed at restoring the facility to service and strengthening the municipality's overall water supply system.

During the March 9 council meeting, municipal engineering representatives outlined plans to resolve water quality issues that have kept the well offline since 2019.

According to the report, elevated turbidity was linked to problems with the pumphouse's chlorine contact tanks, which reduced treated water clarity and prevented the facility from operating.

The proposed solution will replace the existing tanks with a new, large-diameter watermain chlorine contact loop, designed to improve treatment performance and address turbidity concerns.

The project also includes electrical and control system upgrades, minor building improvements and the installation of an

outdoor standby generator to support continued operation.

Once construction is complete and final approvals are secured, the pumphouse is expected to return to service and contribute treated water back into Shelburne's municipal system, helping to improve long-term capacity and reliability.

The town issued a request for proposals for the work in December 2025, with submissions closing on Feb. 12. Seven contractors bid on the project, with proposals ranging from approximately \$1.5 million to \$2.1

million.

Council awarded the contract to Avertex Utility Solutions Inc., the low bidder, at a cost of \$1,519,786.50 plus applicable taxes. The bid was consistent with the project's engineering estimate and reflects the contractor's experience with similar local work.

Funding for the project includes \$1.1 million in carryover support from the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, \$340,000 from the 2026 municipal budget and \$79,786.50 from the town's water reserve funds.

Dufferin OPP's 2026 Polar Plunge to bring Canadian spirit to local ice rink

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**

"Don't think, just jump."

Those are the instructions that long-time polar plunge and Special Olympics athlete Ryan MacBean shares when asked for advice on participating in the Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police's 2026 Polar Plunge for the very first time.

The annual plunge, which fundraises for Special Olympics Ontario, will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. on March 29 at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Centre ice rink.

"We are the only plunge in Canada, if not the world, that's actually doing it indoors, in a hockey arena," said Jeff McLean, a Dufferin OPP officer who's been organizing the plunge since its inception in 2017.

There's a Canadian theme for this year's event, since it's happening on an ice rink. Participants are encouraged to dress Canadian, with a costume contest for the best-dressed individual, group and Special Olympian. There's also a wrestling belt, awarded to the plunge's highest fundraiser.

MacBean, an Orangeville resident who's been doing law-enforcement-led polar plunges throughout the region since 2016, will be leading the charge at the local polar plunge on Sunday, March 29. He's looking to raise \$1,500 or more to compete at the Special Olympics National Games in Medicine Hat, Alberta.

He qualified to compete in the national games earlier this year in the 50-metre and 100-metre breaststroke categories.

To boost his fundraising efforts, he's teamed up with Insp. Michael Di Pasquale, Dufferin OPP Detachment Commander, who is participating in the polar plunge for his first time this year.

"I'm looking forward to the opportunity to jump alongside with Ryan and raising money for a very worthy cause in our community," said Insp. Di Pasquale.

McLean has been a central figure in organizing the Dufferin Polar Plunge since its original launch in 2017, under the Shelburne Police Service (SPS). He was also involved with the SPS's Law Enforcement Torch Run, held prior to his first plunge.

It was actually MacBean who inspired him to first take the plunge all those years ago.

"When I originally started doing Torch Run initiatives, I had no connection to Special Olympics. It was at the first Torch Run that I met Ryan and [his dad] Kevin," said McLean. "Just seeing Ryan out at the events and seeing him compete inspired me to want

to give back and long-term friendships have grown out of it."

Describing his first polar plunge, McLean said, "It's definitely shocking when you hit the water," but it's all about having the right mental state and attitude.

"It's mind over matter, where as long as you're in the right mindset, then the human body can do anything," he added.

Over the past few years, the OPP's polar plunges have averaged 75 plungers and 300-400 spectators.

McLean said the numbers are inspiring and show what a small community can accomplish when it comes together to support a good cause.

He said he would encourage everyone in the community to support the event and donate, ensuring Special Olympic athletes like MacBean can succeed.

Funds raised help cover the costs of training athletes, travelling to competitions, and purchasing uniforms.

The Dufferin County community has stepped up to support the Special Olympics through the Dufferin OPP's Polar Plunge for the past several years. Since 2017, the community has raised over \$300,000.

Special Olympics is the charity of choice for the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police. The Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics is a key global fundraiser that has ensured the longevity and success of the Special Olympics over the years. Over \$1 billion has been raised worldwide since the run launched in 1981.

Special Olympics Ontario leadership has often stated that without the Law Enforcement Torch Run, the games would not be able to operate in certain regions or at their current level.

There are over 50 registered Special Olympics athletes in Dufferin County and more than 23,000 across Ontario.

MacBean is among those 50 registered athletes, spending three days a week in the gym and three days in the pool to train for the Special Olympics. MacBean said he enjoys being competitive and likes to win, which is why he trains so hard throughout the week.

His dad, Kevin MacBean, said he's incredibly proud of his son and grateful for the support he receives through the Special Olympics.

"We're just thankful to the law enforcement and OPP that put on this event to help Ryan achieve his goals and enrich his life," Kevin said.

FILE PHOTO

CHILLY DIP: A pair of brave plungers submerge themselves in frigid waters to fund raise for Special Olympics Ontario last year. Dufferin OPP's 2026 Polar Plunge will return on March 29, from 4 to 6 p.m. For the very first time, the plunge will be held on open-ice inside the Centre Dufferin Recreation Centre. The theme this year is "Canadian" and participants are encouraged to dress up.



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OPINION

I didn't vote for this!

The thing about democracy is that you are able to vote for the person you want to represent you in municipal, provincial, and federal government.

At the municipal level, you are voting for a person you hope will do a good job of making sure your area of town is taken care of when it comes to potholes and having the streets plowed. You also hope they will listen to your voice when the city or town makes major decisions about spending your tax dollars on things like parks and infrastructure.

At the provincial level, you enter the world of party politics where decisions could have a major impact on your life.

Things like healthcare, new highways, and government spending become very important, and these decisions have a major impact on the provincial economy and, thus, your quality of life and standard of living.

At the federal level, the stakes are huge. The federal government controls the national economy, trade with other countries, foreign relations, and whether or not your son will be drafted into the military during some kind of international crisis.

"Democracy is the worst form of government, except for all the others," is a quote attributed to former UK Prime Minister Win-

ston Churchill.

I agree with that statement. I believe the parliamentary system of government is the best form of government currently in use on the planet.

Parliamentary government allows debate and does not place absolute power in the hands of a single person. The resignation of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in January 2026 is a good example of parliamentary government in action.

The republican system used in the US is not bad, and may come in second place, but the US is not a true republic. It's a democracy.

The mechanics of that statement are a whole other column.

The one failure of parliamentary governments is that you don't have the ability to vote directly for the prime minister.

However, if you did vote directly for the PM, the system wouldn't work as it does. How can you elect one person as the PM if his party only holds a minority in Ottawa?

Most people, it seems, favour one political party. Although based on election results, many people do change their vote over the years.

It is likely you vote for a particular party based on its ideology – sort of – and the campaign promises about what they hope

to achieve over the next four years if elected.

Recently, several Conservative MPs have switched teams, moving from the Conservative caucus to the Liberals.

Some political analysts see this as an attempt by the Carney government to lure Conservatives across the floor to ultimately secure a majority in parliament without an election.

For a sitting MP to switch parties AFTER an election is a betrayal of their constituents who voted for them based on their party affiliation.

It's no different than paying a paving company to do your driveway, then having them change their mind after completing half of the job – while keeping all the money.

An MP who abandons a party after an election should be required to resign immediately, as they no longer represent the voters who elected them.

I'm not sure what kind of reaction took place in the ridings of the three MPs who changed teams. There doesn't seem to be much news on that; however, I'm pretty sure those who voted for a Conservative member aren't happy about seeing their vote reduced to a meaningless X on a worthless piece of paper.

If someone enters the election as a member of a political party, then they are obli-

gated to carry through with the policies of the party for which they were elected.

If, for any reason, they have changed their mind or have reservations about the party that nominated them to run in that riding, the honourable thing to do is resign – not change teams.

There are no legal boundaries to an MP crossing the floor; they can switch parties at any time.

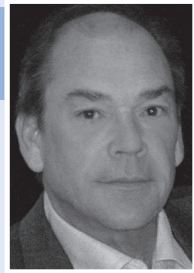
With the Carney government so close to a majority, they will only need a couple more MPs to make the switch to control the House.

This, of course, raises the question: Did the Carney government approach these defecting MPs and make them a lucrative offer?

It doesn't seem very logical that a person would go to all the trouble of seeking a nomination, running an election campaign, speaking to, and making promises to their constituents to gain their trust and vote, then suddenly wake up one morning and think it's a good idea to cross the floor.

At the very least, there should be an immediate by-election and let the voters decide.

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



The fire this time

In 1953 Ray Bradbury, an American writer, published a book entitled simply 'Fahrenheit 451'. It was a novel about an American fireman in a not-too-distant future who realised that he was doing his job all wrong – because his job was to burn books, which were banned in that future America. (451°F is the temperature at which paper catches fire.)

The book got a lot of attention and won some major prizes, because it was the time of the second Great Red Scare in the United States: anti-Communist witch-hunts, Senator McCarthy's Congressional hearings, and of course book bans. But Bradbury's 'fireman' hero secretly reads the books, learns the truth, and ends up working to preserve knowledge.

Just what we need right now, in fact, and the ideal hero for our redemptive tale is Russell Vought, Donald Trump's Director of the Office of Management and Budget. He was a lead author in the 'Project 2025' plan for transforming the US government

into a tool of the hard right, and he urgently needs to be redeemed.

Vought's current project is to destroy American climate science, which he regularly refers to as "climate alarmism" or "climate fanaticism". He is currently taking point in an official drive to break up or close down all the climate-linked scientific institutes that receive federal government money in the United States. (If the facts don't suit your politics, just erase them.)

His primary target is the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), the 'jewel in the crown' of American climate science: 830 climate scientists and engineers in a purpose-built building in Boulder, Colorado. Since its creation in 1960 to do research projects bigger than any single university could handle, it has certainly fulfilled its promise.

This week (16 March) is the deadline for proposals for the disposal of various parts of this world-famous institute, whose personnel, equipment and possibly even

records will be scattered to the winds. (And the bids will never be disclosed, so no last-minute billionaire angel can swoop in and buy NCAR up as a job lot. This is stake-through-the-heart stuff.)

Some of NCAR's assets may end up in good hands. The supercomputer will probably go to the University of Wyoming, its severe weather research may go to the University of Oklahoma, and a Virginia-based contractor called Lynker is interested in taking over its space weather research.

However, climate scientists will no longer have first call on these research assets, and lots of research that promises no obvious near-term profit will simply be abandoned. Above all, the collegiality and cross-fertilisation of having 830 intelligent and dedicated people with the same research interests in the same building will be lost. There's nowhere else like that.

All other government-backed climate research in the United States is also facing destruction.

the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the world-renowned Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory at Princeton University, NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies: they are all on the Trump administration's hit list.

It doesn't mean that a couple of thousand American climate scientists will be begging on the streets. The best ones will be snapped up by universities and institutes abroad, especially in Germany, Scandinavia, the United Kingdom and Australia (where you are already tripping over emigré American scientists in the better universities).

The younger and more adventurous ones may go farther afield, to big countries like Brazil, India, Indonesia and China where governments are scrambling to build up their climate science communities as the threat of catastrophic climate damage come ever closer (for there is where it will hit first and hardest).

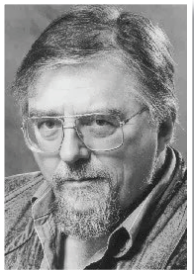
Of course, there are still many hundreds of climate scientists in American universities, but their prominence in the international community is fading fast. Only 46 U.S.-based scientists were chosen as authors for key Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports this time, down from 210 in the previous cycle.

The greater loss for the rest of the world is NCAR, the single biggest node for climate research in the world. Only the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research in Germany (300 researchers), the Met Office Hadley Centre in England (200 researchers), and the Climate Change Research Center (300 researchers) of the Institute of Atmospheric Physics in Beijing even come close.

Numbers matter. Critical mass matters too. It's already clear that making it through the next half-century without a climate calamity that radically changes the living conditions on this planet will be a near-run thing. The rest of us cannot afford to lose the Americans.

In the meantime, somebody give Russell Vought a book that isn't the Bible. He might learn something, even though he is a self-avowed 'Christian nationalist.'

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Inter-county transit system routes begin to take shape

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS

Preliminary findings show a number of benefits of a unified transit network across four counties.

Dennis Kar, a partner at Dillon Consulting Ltd., told Dufferin County council on March 12 that a transit system across Dufferin, Bruce, Grey, and Wellington counties is a boon toward a seamless experience across regions.

It boosts ridership and minimizes transfers.

The four counties and Saugeen Mobility and Regional Transit (SMART) are assessing the feasibility of a unified regional transit

network.

“Demand for transit across the region continues to grow, driven by population increases, an aging demographic, and rising living costs,” according to a report to council. “At the same time, many communities have limited or no public transit options, and travel between counties without access to a personal vehicle remains challenging.”

Consults have been assessing service needs, evaluating opportunities for service integration, and identifying a governance and implementation framework for a potential regional network.

A key focus of the study is exploring opportunities to better coordinate and inte-

grate the region’s existing transit services.

This includes examining how shared resources, such as vehicles, scheduling and dispatch systems, trip-booking platforms, administrative functions, and customer service tools, could contribute to more efficient, consistent, and sustainable service delivery.

“Outside of Orangeville, if you want to travel locally within your environment or even connect to an inter-community corridor, you have limited options to do that,” Kar said.

A unified transit study identified primary and secondary destinations.

Among the primary destinations are Guelph, Orangeville, Owen Sound, Colling-

wood, and the GTA via Guelph and Orangeville.

Secondary destinations include Shelburne, Fergus-Elora, Listowel, Hanover, Bruce Power, Meaford, and the Blue Mountains.

A number of commuter routes were identified within the area of those destinations.

“As part of this work, it was also important to develop a vision and guiding principles for what transit should look like should it be implemented,” Kar said.

Basically, he said, that describes what exactly is hoped to be achieved.

“Connecting communities,” he said. “Building a better future through a seamless, multi-modal transit network.”

County of Dufferin CAO announces plans to retire

Dufferin County announces that after 15 years of dedicated service as the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), Sonya Pritchard is retiring from the organization at the end of 2026.

“During her time with the County of Dufferin, Pritchard exemplified a true dedication to public service, Dufferin residents and County staff,” said Dufferin County Warden Lisa Post. “Under her leadership, the County has managed significant change and growth while honouring its rural and agricultural roots, and provided quality services to foster a thriving, equitable and resilient community for all.”

Post added, “We are grateful for her guidance, vision and commitment for the more than two decades she held leadership roles here. On behalf of county council and staff, I wish her all the best in her retirement.”

Pritchard first joined Dufferin County in 2001 as county treasurer for five years. She

then moved on to the Town of Orangeville as director of Parks and Recreation before returning to Dufferin County as CAO in 2011.

She has spent almost 27 years in municipal service. Over the years, she has built strong community partnerships with numerous organizations, including Headwaters Communities in Action, Services and Housing in the Province, and Headwaters Health Care Centre.

Pritchard developed community housing, led the county through the challenges of the COVID pandemic, oversaw the initial development and current renewal of the Edelbrock Centre as a Health and Human Services Hub, and implemented hundreds of strategic plan initiatives.

She also served as treasurer for the Western Ontario Wardens’ Caucus, a not-for-profit organization representing 15 upper- and single-tier municipalities across approximately

300 communities, and is currently a director with the Ontario Municipal Administrators Association.

“I want to express my sincere gratitude to County staff for their dedication, passion, and the integrity they have brought to their work, and to County Council for their support and collaboration over the years,” said Pritchard. “I am immensely proud of everything we have accomplished together for our community. We have strengthened services and built an organization rooted in collaboration, accountability, innovation, compassion, and courage. It has been a privilege to serve as your CAO.”

Dufferin County has immediately begun recruitment for the CAO position and has retained Waterhouse Executive Search to lead the recruitment process. Pritchard will continue through the recruitment and the transition phase to a new CAO.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

LIFETIME OF PUBLIC SERVICE: Sonya Pritchard has announced she is retiring as CAO of the County of Dufferin at the end of the year. After 15 years in the role and 27 years in municipal service, she leaves behind a legacy of dedication to the public service.

Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival to feature top-tier roster of Canadian talent

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS

The 22nd Annual Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival is taking over Orangeville from June 5 to 7, featuring over 40 acts performing the very best of both genres.

For the 13th consecutive year, the Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival has maintained its place on Festivals and Events Ontario’s annual Top 100 list.

The award-winning festival will continue to be a celebration of blues and jazz music, while once again transforming downtown Orangeville into the region’s largest music festival and event venue.

The three-day event attracts 30,000 to 40,000 attendees and generates around \$2.5

million in economic activity for the area.

“On behalf of the Festival Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers, we are thrilled to present another three-day weekend of exceptional music and events for thousands of local residents and visitors,” said Festival Board of Directors President Nancy Claridge.

“This incredible event is made possible with support from the Orangeville Business Improvement Area, local businesses, the Town of Orangeville, government funding agencies, our featured performers, and the enthusiastic audiences who attend.”

This year’s headliners at the TD Mainstage and Opera House include Miss Emily, Emilie-Claire Barlow, Paul James Band and Blackburn Brothers. Additional featured art-

ists include Steve Marriner, Durham County Poets (Quebec), The Sugar Darlings, and Vinyl Paradise.

There will also be a Jazz Society Big Band Tribute to Sinatra, featuring John Amato, that won’t disappoint.

“We are especially proud to highlight an incredible roster of Canadian artists. With over 40 acts scheduled, the 2026 festival will feature some of the finest talent in blues and jazz music,” said Larry Kurtz, festival founder and artistic director.

“Our headliners have won major awards such as Juno’s and Maple Blues awards. You will be treated to some of the finest talent in the country. There is great diversity in the bands and performers and with three stages,

there is something for most musical tastes.”

Performances on the TD Broadway Stage are free to enjoy, along with the Classic Cars Blues Cruise on Broadway and the Blues & Bikes Show & Shine Event. There is also the Broadway Ramble, featuring over 35 food and artisanal craft market vendors, as well as workshops at the Mill Street Branch of the Orangeville Public Library.

Tickets to the Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival go on sale Saturday, March 21, and provide access to both the TD Mainstage and Opera House. Weekend passes are \$40 and single-day passes are \$15 for Friday, \$30 for Saturday and \$10 for Sunday.

Visit orangevillebluesandjazz.ca to purchase a ticket once they go on sale.

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Report to Shelburne council shows shift toward proactive bylaw enforcement

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

Shelburne's bylaw enforcement activity in 2025 reflects a growing emphasis on proactive inspections and early compliance, alongside continued response to resident complaints.

Council received the Municipal Bylaw Enforcement 2025 Year in Review at its March 9 meeting, which outlined key trends in enforcement over the past year.

While complaint-driven calls remain a core part of the service, the data indicated

to council that there was a clear shift toward preventative measures and routine patrols. Bylaw officers responded to 228 reactive calls for service in 2025.

Property-related concerns continued to dominate, with clean yard complaints accounting for 60 calls (26 per cent of the total). Parking issues accounted for 53 complaints (23 per cent), while noise concerns accounted for 39 (17 per cent). Miscellaneous issues represented 14 per cent of complaints.

Other categories were less frequent, including dog-at-large incidents (14 com-

plaints), animal waste (eight complaints), and both property standards and zoning issues (six complaints each).

Matters such as signage, park use, animal bites and protests each accounted for less than three per cent of calls.

In contrast, proactive enforcement made up the majority of bylaw activity.

Officers conducted 2,235 proactive inspections and patrols throughout the year – nearly 10 times the number of complaint-based responses.

Parking enforcement led all proactive efforts with 645 patrols (29 per cent), fol-

lowed by park patrols at 460 (21 per cent) and clean yard inspections at 417 (19 per cent). Together, these three areas represented nearly 70 per cent of proactive work.

Additional activities included 200 re-inspections, 139 school zone patrols, 125 sign removals, 101 general inspections and 82 animal investigations.

According to the report, the town is continuing its ongoing enforcement strategies, prioritizing education, visibility and early intervention to address issues before they escalate, while maintaining the capacity to respond to resident concerns.

UGOT brunch honours Occasional Teachers with awards on International Women's Day

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

The Upper Grand Occasional Teachers' (UGOT) Local marked International Women's Day on Saturday, March 7, with a community brunch recognizing the vital but often unseen contributions of occasional teachers.

Held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Trattoria Semplice in Orangeville, the event brought together educators, union leaders, community partners and local officials under the theme 'Together We Rise.' Food prepared by the staff at Trattoria Semplice was served for brunch, complete with dessert.

Four occasional teachers who identify as women or non-binary were selected by their colleagues for exemplifying leadership, advocacy, creativity and service in Upper Grand schools.

The program opened with MC Nitya Patel inviting attendees to reflect on International Women's Day as both a celebration of women's achievements and a reminder that equity is ongoing work.

"International Women's Day is celebrated around the world as a call to recognize the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women, and also as a reminder that equity is ongoing work," she said. "Today we gather not only to reflect on progress, but to celebrate the women in this room, the educators, leaders, artists and community builders whose daily work shapes futures."

UGOT President Nkese Charles-Campbell described the brunch as more than a social gathering, calling it a statement that visibility, community and partnership matter in public education. She reminded attendees of the important role occasional teachers serve.

"Occasional teachers step into classrooms with little notice, adapt with skill and compassion, and hold space for students with a professionalism that deserves to be celebrated," she said. "This morning, we have the privilege of recognizing three occasional

teachers whose dedication often unfolds quietly, but never without impact."

Three occasional teachers were formally recognized from the stage.

Simrin Chahal of Centennial Hylands Elementary School in Shelburne was honoured as a School Community Champion for her ability to build strong relationships, support colleagues and boost morale through thoughtful initiatives.

Giasmine Samaniego of Glenbrook Elementary School in Shelburne received the Heart of Education Award for creating inclusive, joyful learning spaces and offering consistent, individualized support to students.

Mulmur resident Jessie Steinberg, founder of LEAP Adventures, received the Guiding Light Leadership Award for leadership that extends beyond the classroom through programs such as drumming workshops that build confidence, voice and community.

In alignment with this year's International Women's Day theme, "Give to Gain," proceeds beyond event costs will support three women-led or women-serving organizations in Dufferin County: Family Transition Place, The Shoebox Project – Help Secure Her Tomorrow Campaign, and Streams Community Hub.

Campbell said that this event was a reaffirmation of the power of mutual support and what is possible with compassion, understanding and advocacy.

"This event reflects our belief that when we take care of our teachers, our teachers can take care of our students, and when we invest in women, our entire community rises."

For UGOT, its partners, and guests, the brunch signalled an ongoing commitment to make the work of occasional teachers visible, to invest in women and non-binary leaders, and to ensure that, in the spirit of "Together We Rise," the gains made in classrooms ripple outward through the entire community.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TERRIFIC TEACHERS: Teachers, support staff and local officials came together on March 7 to mark International Women's Day with the Upper Grand Occasional Teachers Local for a brunch event held in Orangeville. Several teachers were highlighted and awarded for their outstanding contributions to the educational sector, reinforcing the critical role that occasional teachers play in community support and learning development. From left to right: UGOT Past President Marina Howlett, President Nkese Charles-Campbell, Heart of Education Award winner Giasmine Samaniego and Nitya Patel, who MC'd the event.

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HOLLY FEST

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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

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

Starting in April, recycling in Dufferin County will be even more convenient with a new recycling cart.

Carts will be delivered in March and can be used as of April 1.

Learn more:
circularmaterials.ca/dufferincounty

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



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TOWN PAGE

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COUNCIL 2026 DATES March 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

WATER Sewer bills

Due **March 26**

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Curbstop Maintenance Notice

During the winter months, frost and shifting ground conditions can affect the alignment and overall condition of curb stops (water shut-off valves). As the ground thaws in the spring, your curb stop may require inspection or repair to ensure it continues to operate safely and reliably.

Why Repairs May Be Needed

Curb Box Misalignment

Winter frost heave can cause the curb box to move, resulting in:

- The curb box sitting **too high or too low**
- The curb box becoming **tilted or twisted**
- The curb box **separating from the valve** underground

When this occurs, staff may be unable to properly insert the operating key to turn the valve. Realignment is necessary to ensure the curb stop can be accessed for maintenance or in an emergency.

Damage from Winter Conditions

Freezing and thawing can also cause:

- Cracked curb boxes**
- Bent internal rods**
- Damage to the curb stop cap** from snowplows or shovelling

These types of damage can prevent proper operation of the water shut-off valve and must be repaired to maintain safety and functionality.

If your curbstop requires repair, please contact water@shelburne.ca

Changes to Water & Sewer Collection Policy

On February 23, Council approved updates to the Town of Shelburne's water and sewer collection policy.

What this means for you:

- The Town will **no longer issue Final Notices**. Please use your regular statements to monitor outstanding balances.
- The Town will **no longer disconnect water service due to non-payment**.
- Any account that is **over 90 days past due** will be **transferred to the property tax account twice per year—in June and December**, before new tax bills are issued.

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SHELBURNE VOTES 2026 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

The Municipal Election will be held on **Monday, October 26, 2026.**

Community CLEAN-UP

APRIL 16 - 22

Join us for Community Clean-Up Week as we come together to help keep Shelburne clean, green, and beautiful!

Residents, schools, businesses, and community groups are invited to roll up their sleeves and take part in this town-wide effort.

[Visit Shelburne.ca](http://VisitShelburne.ca)

NORTHERN PERSPECTIVES III

BRIAN BLAKEMAN

SHELURNE TOWN HALL ART GALLERY

Exhibit: April 6 to April 24
Time: 8:30am-12:00pm and 1:00pm-4:30pm, Monday to Friday
Reception: April 12 from 1:00pm-3:00pm
Location: 203 Main Street East

A new chapter begins as Brian Blakeman returns with the third installment of his evocative landscape series, Northern Perspectives III.

Brian Blakeman

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COUNCIL 2026 DATES March 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

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MARCH 20, 2026
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SPORTS

Centre Dufferin athletes achieve success at OFSAA wrestling competition

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

Five Centre Dufferin District High School athletes competed at the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations wrestling championships this year and had good results over the two-day competition.

OFSAA wrestling was held at Peterborough Memorial Centre in Peterborough on March 3 and 4.

To reach the provincial level of competition, the athletes first had to qualify at local and regional events.

The top three competitors in their division in District 4 advanced to the Central Western Ontario Secondary Schools Association (CWOSSA) regional competition at Centre Wellington District High School on Feb. 23.

Only the top two from CWOSSA advanced to OFSAA.

Centre Dufferin had a good showing in the sport this season. Of the 15 wrestlers on the school team, five advanced to the top level.

Centre Dufferin wrestling coach Adrian Brown said he was very proud of the accomplishments of this year's wrestling team.

"Everyone won a match at OFSAA, which was fantastic," Brown said. "For two of our competitors, it was their first OFSAA competition, so for them to win matches was outstanding. The standouts were Abi Amsing – she won three matches on her first day, and then lost her first match on the second day, which placed her top 12 in the province."

He added, "Braydon McInroy went 5-0. On the first day, he didn't give up a single point against. On the second day, he pretty much rolled over the competition and won both of his matches in a pretty dominant fashion. We're very happy with the season. As far as the whole season goes, its the most wins per wrestler, wins per tournament, and the most medals we've ever brought home. This was only the second time ever that our school has won a gold medal at OFSAA."

Over 900 athletes from around the province competed at OFSAA wrestling this year.

The Centre Dufferin athletes who competed at OFSAA include:



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

WRESTLING WITH SUCCESS: The Centre Dufferin District High School wrestling team achieved strong results in the 2026 OFSAA Wrestling Championship at the Peterborough Memorial Centre from March 3 to 4. Braydon McInroy, a Grade 12 student who plays centre, won the gold medal in the 61 kg Boys Division. He is seen here with his coach, Adrian Brown, far left.

- Ava Dresar, Grade 10, competed in the 64 kg girls division. Ava went 1-2 during the competition.

- Kaitlyn Walker, Grade 12, competed in the 72 kg girls division. Kaitlyn went 1-2 in competition.

- Musa Mangat, Grade 11, competed in the 54 kg boys division. A returning OFSAA silver medalist, now up two weight classes, Musa went 1-2 in competition.

- Braydon McInroy, Grade 12, competed in the 61 kg boys division. Brayden won the gold medal in his division. This was Brayden's fourth time at OFSAA competi-

tion. Also competing at the university level for the past three seasons, he has competed at eight university tournaments.

Brayden suffered an ankle sprain a week before OFSAA but was able to adapt his game plan during competition.

"A week before at the regionals, I messed up my foot in the final," Brayden explained. "We were in a weird position and my ankle popped. I let it rest and tried to get it as good as it could be for OSAA, and I got the job done. The first day I had three matches and each of those went 10-0. The second day was

the semi-final and finals match."

Brayden won his final match 15-4 to claim the gold.

"It was a good experience at OFSAA," Brayden said. "We brought the most people we ever brought to OFSAA wrestling, so it was nice to have my teammates there."

Brayden will continue wrestling at the university level, with a goal of competing in the Olympics.

The Centre Dufferin District High School wrestling team had a successful season and is looking forward to next year's competition.

Local snow cross racer shares her plans to return to the sport after a 20-year hiatus

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

As a teenager, local resident Jamie Lee Higginson used to race her snowmobile in Snow Cross events around the province.

She gave it up after getting married and raising a family; however, sometimes when you really enjoy something, it sticks with you.

Jamie Lee recently decided to get back into the sport and has been tearing up the circuits this year. She races on both flat tracks as well as ski resorts around the province in the pro women's division.

At the end of the ski season, there is still a lot of snow on the hills, but due to the warmer weather, the snow is not suitable for skiing – but it is great for racing sleds.

"When I was a teenager, I used to race Snow Cross," Jamie Lee explained. "I started racing when I was 15. I raced professionally for four years, then I retired because I got married and had my kids. My last year racing was 2006."

Twenty years later, Jamie still had the competitive urge and spoke to her husband about getting back into the sport. He fully

supported her return to Snow Cross.

Returning to the sport, Jamie Lee found it had changed with updates to the sleds, new technology, and even how races are timed and monitored.

"A lot has changed in 20 years, it's not just the vehicles, but the track," Jamie Lee said. "We didn't have social media back then. Now things are live across all platforms, and there are a lot of advertisers, sponsors, and opportunities. When I bought my Snow Cross gear back then, I had to buy junior boys' clothing. Now the industry does have a lot of stuff tailored to women."

Despite being out of the sport for 20 years, Jamie Lee said the mindset of getting back into racing is 'just like getting back on a bicycle.'

She has the full support of her family, including her husband, son, and daughter, who all get involved in the races.

"We are our own little team, we call it Higginson Motor Sports," Jamie Lee added.

The Canadian Snow Cross Racing Association holds events around Ontario. It is a fun sport to watch as racers speed around the course. Racers accumulate points

during the season.

A typical race day includes two heats followed by a final race.

Jamie Lee races a Ski-doo snowmobile with a 600cc engine. Each sled is equipped with a transponder during a race to accu-

ately time each lap and speed.

The Snow Cross season in Ontario continues into April.

Jamie Lee has two more events this season in Kitchener and Sault Ste. Marie, before the circuit ends this year.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BACK ON THE HILLS: Local snow cross racer Jamie Lee Higginson is seen taking a jump at a recent race. She has returned to the sport after a 20-year hiatus. Jamie Lee competes at events around Ontario with the support of her husband and family. Snow cross takes place on flat ovals and ski hills.

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

JAYCEE AIKINS

A hockey player since she was just three years old, CDDHS Royals centre Jaycee Aikins brings a lot of experience to her team.

"I like everything about it. I put my heart into it every time," Jaycee said of why she likes playing the sport. "I just joined an AA team two years ago, so I got even more into it recently."

When she's not playing with her high school team, Jaycee plays hockey with the New Tecumseth Ice Cats AA team.

A well rounded athlete, Jaycee also plays rugby, baseball, and field hockey.

TEAM: CENTRE DUFFERIN DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL ROYALS GIRLS VARSITY HOCKEY

POSITION: CENTRE



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

SEMI-FINAL SUCCESS: The Provincial Junior Hockey League is moving into division championships after completing the semi-final round of playoffs. Eight divisions will battle it out for this year's championships. The remaining eight championship teams will go to the Schmalz Cup provincial championship playoffs. The Alliston Hornets take on the Orillia Terriers on Friday, March 13, at the New Tecumseth Recreation Complex in Shelburne. The Hornets won the series in four games and will face the Stayner Siskins in the championship final series.

Study shows much room for waste diversion in Dufferin County

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS

There are ever-evolving factors to be considered in waste management.

Dufferin County's long-term waste management strategy, developed in 2018, is a roadmap for waste reduction, diversion, and long-term disposal planning. Updating that will reflect changes in legislation and system performance and will include community input.

Lori Andrews, an associate at Dillon Consulting Ltd., provided county council with details on work to update the long-term waste management strategy during its March 12 meeting.

As part of continuing effective waste management programming, an updated strategy means assessing expansion of the organics program; exploring textile collection options; advancing waste reduction and reuse initiatives; exploring enhanced contamination-monitoring technologies; and assessing long-term disposal service options to mitigate cross-border dependency.

Andrews said Ontario's garbage is current-

ly trucked to Michigan. But that has become complicated with the recent trade difficulties with the United States.

At home, Ontario's landfill capacity is expected to be exhausted in about 10 years, she said.

A transition to producer responsibility under the Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act has shifted responsibility for residential Blue Box recycling and eliminated the county's access to recycling tonnage data.

That means a comprehensive diversion rate is no longer a feasible primary performance metric. So county staff will consider household waste disposed of, supported by waste audits, participation studies, and program monitoring tools.

Waste audits indicate that while the Green Bin program performs well, a sizable portion of materials currently disposed of as garbage remain recoverable, including organics, recyclables, and textiles.

"There's still a lot of potential for diversion," Andrews said, and added that about 46 per cent of disposed trash in garbage bags is materials that can be diverted through reuse

or recycling.

Primary barriers to diversion include sanitation concerns, infrastructure anxiety, and Blue Cart size and acceptability.

Andrews said other worrisome factors in attempts to promote diversion are illegal dumping of materials in ditches and back-road forest tracts, and what's called seasonal mismatch. That is mismatched yard waste.

Potential waste management avenues for growth include accepting more organic waste in the Green Bins, enhancing the textile collection program, and adopting curbside giveaway days of larger reusable items.

Councillor Gail Little, Amaranth's deputy mayor, asked about agricultural waste such as net wraps and plastic used in large volumes.

Melissa Kovacs-Reid, the county's waste services manager, said there is an option for collecting that material, but it comes with an associated cost.

"It's one of those areas where there hasn't been a lot of movement, unfortunately," Kovacs-Reid said.

Little suggested using bins in strategic lo-

cations across the county for such agricultural materials.

Coun. Darren White, Melancthon's mayor, said the county's long-term waste management strategy has two major problems that will likely persist.

He said there aren't enough Household Hazardous Waste Days and too few collection sites.

"Nobody wants to go and wait four hours to drop off three cans of paint," White said. "We continue to make them do it and then we wonder why things are showing up in ditches."

The second problem in his estimation is public access to drop-off places for household construction waste from renovations. White also noted that the price for somebody to bring refuse to the Orangeville transfer station is four times more than the cost of bringing refuse to other transfer stations.

"It's a captive audience, it's a captive market, it's a monopoly, it's ridiculous," he said. "I don't know how they (GFL) manage to get away with it other than you don't have a choice."

Review: Theatre Orangeville's *Murder at Ackerton Manor* delivers killer performance

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Murder at Ackerton Manor is a hilarious escapade that will keep you guessing with every turn and every twist.

Without spoiling Theatre Orangeville's latest production, it's hard to describe exactly what you're in for when you sit down to watch *Murder at Ackerton Manor*. It's obviously a murder mystery, reminiscent of Agatha Christie classics.

The story centers around the murder of the bombastic Roger Ackerton (Jamie Cavanagh), Lord of Ackerton Manor, who finds himself murdered rather dramatically by unknown forces shortly following a dinner party.

With no other options, the police are called, and an eccentric and specifically Belgian detective soon arrives, introducing himself as Pierre Pierrot (Jamie Cavanagh), assigned to solve the case.

With stormy weather and a warm body on their hands, he confines everyone to the manor. No one leaves or comes in until the case is resolved and the guilty party is arrested.

The detective has to work through an equally eccentric collection of characters who all have various connections to Roger Ackerton and potentially motives for wanting him dead. They include: the Butler, Curtis (Tyrone Savage), Ariadne Ackerton (Christy Bruce), Sterling the gardener (Tyrone Savage), one Bavarian professor (Christy Bruce) and a wealthy southern woman (Tyrone Savage).

The plot is a love letter to Agatha Christie's classic literature, blending subtle, distinct movements and lines with plot twists that'll

catch most off guard. You'll find plenty of subtle details layered throughout the story that might just give you some hints about the guilty party, and it is a joy to try to piece it together.

But all of that detail and nuance is compounded with another element, the chaotic comedy of Mel Brooks.

While each character is subtle and layered, they're also loud, eccentric and charming in their own way. Curtiss the butler is over-the-top British, Pierrot is stereotypical French, and their Bavarian professor is very German.

Put together, this wacky cast stumbles its way through a very serious murder mystery with tons of laughs and plenty of memorable moments that'll make you say "I should've seen that coming!" at nearly every turn.

That's the beauty of this play, and what makes it such a joy to watch. Done seriously, this story will have many more hints or noticeable details that would clue audiences into the killer earlier on, but each character is so wacky and over the top that you get more distracted by their larger-than-life personalities that you fail to notice they are still moving with a very distinct purpose.

More than a few blink-and-you'll-miss-it moments will fly by you, but that's part of the fun.

This is a murder mystery that doesn't take itself seriously, not at first anyway, but is still loaded with deliberate detail that one could enjoy as both a comedy and a mystery plot, or one could enjoy both at once.

What truly sold this production was the tremendous skill of the cast.

Jamie Cavanagh brought a truly explosive presence to the stage that undoubtedly set up the play for success. His introduction as Roger

Ackerton was loud, obnoxious and demanding, a perfect introduction to the rich, egotistical victim not many people would mourn.

He plays a perfect British aristocrat in all his pompous glory, and projects his voice so well you'd think he was yelling at you in the back row to bring his dinner immediately.

This skill wasn't exclusive, as he brought a hilarious performance to Pierre Pierrot, the Belgian detective. Pierrot reminded me a lot of Inspector Clouseau from *The Pink Panther*. Somewhat clumsy, but dedicated.

Christy Bruce also brought compelling performances to her roles. Roger Ackerton's sister, Ariadne Ackerton, was a very three-dimensional character, embodying multiple overlapping goals and strategies into one very interesting woman.

From the moment you meet her, you can tell she has a lot of pieces at play, with many subtle details you'll have to observe for yourself. There's more to that woman than meets the eye.

Bruce's performance as the Bavarian professor was likely one of the wackiest and most entertaining parts of the performance. I imagine being told to throw on some lederhosen, don a thick German accent, and stroll on stage must have been as entertaining for her as it was for the audience. Every scene with the professor was hilarious.

Last but certainly not least, Tyrone Savage was a one-man army on stage. Juggling three characters on a good day is difficult, but doing all three in a fast-paced play is incredible work.

Savage did an expert job switching from an uptight, rigid butler to a dirty, slouching gardener, and then, of course, a woman in a bright

red dress. All three characters are so radically different and change so frequently that it would be easy to make mistakes, but that didn't happen once, at least not in my view.

Savage made each character memorable, funny, and dynamic, alongside the entire cast.

On one or two occasions, I did observe some of the accents getting away a bit, sometimes becoming difficult to understand or follow, likely a result of the accents being exaggerated by design. This led to a couple of minutes of slight confusion as I felt like I could have missed an important detail, with this being a mystery and a clue-based plot.

I think grounding the accents slightly when characters are emoting strongly, or yelling, would fix this issue easily, as it only really presented itself in those specific moments.

The set design was also impressive and well executed. For a moment, I felt like I really was dropped into a Victorian-era mansion and not sitting in a theatre chair. It felt warm, lived in, and dynamic.

All the furniture was utilized, rather than simply placed as decoration.

The actors made full use of the stage, moving to the very front edge, to the very back, and treated it like a real room, touching things and adjusting items. While that is barely noticeable at first, it adds an extra level of immersion that improves the overall visuals of the scene.

Overall, the production is extremely well crafted, with a brilliantly designed set supporting a larger-than-life cast that will leave you guessing and laughing.

Murder at Ackerton Manor is absolutely worth the watch, maybe even two viewings, so be sure to catch it while it's available.



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Shelburne Public Library continues book sale, offers free tax clinic

There is a lot happening at the Shelburne Public Library, including a seed library, a book sale, free tax clinics, and new adult programs.

A very big thank you to all who attended the launch of our seed library! We had over 75 patrons leave with free seeds just in time for the growing season. Thanks to generous donors, our seed library is still full and will be available while supplies last.

In other exciting news, there are three days left to visit our book sale (March 19, 20, 21). Fill a bag (or two or three) and make a donation. All proceeds support library programs and collections.

Do you have a modest income and a simple tax solution? Your library has partnered with the Dufferin Parent Support Network to pro-

vide a free tax clinic on Saturday, March 28, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Saturday, April 18, from 12 to 4 p.m.

To register, participants will need to complete a short questionnaire to determine eligibility and secure an appointment time. Visit the library to fill it out, or email frontdesk@shelburnelibrary.ca for the questionnaire link.

Save the date for these upcoming programs for adults. For events with a "*" registration is required.

- Get Crafty – Every Tuesday from 1 to 3:30 p.m.
- Mindset Reset with Allan Hassoun* – Saturday, March 28, from 2 to 3:30 p.m.
- Talk Books with Beverly – Tuesday, March 31, from 2 to 3 p.m.

- Writer's Meetup* – Sunday, March 28, from 1 to 3 p.m.

- Author Talk: How to Get Your Affairs in Order* – Saturday, April 11, from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

- Open Mic Night* – Friday, April 24, from 7 to 9 p.m. (Ages 16 and up are welcome)

Staff Pick of the Week

Greenwood by Michael Christie is the Shelburne Public Library's Staff Pick of the Week.

Why Amy recommends it: This is an epic saga about the Greenwood family and their struggles for survival against the backdrop of an intensifying climate crisis. Like the growth rings of a tree, the story expands and layers over multiple generations. It beautifully explores the ways in which love, lies, greed, and family secrets weave together over many

years and come to alter the course of each person's life in myriad ways, for good or for bad.

This book is a real journey, full of ups and downs that will tug on your heartstrings and remind you of the grandeur of family histories. The prose is beautiful, while the story flows with lots of action and twists to keep you turning the pages with eager anticipation. Bonus points that the author is Canadian, and the story centralizes the precious and life-sustaining role of Canada's forests in all our lives.

Give this book a try if you enjoy family sagas, historical fiction, nature, and/or contemporary themes.

This article was written by the Shelburne Public Library staff.

Bill C-22 embraced by law enforcement officials as way to help curb online crime

Written By MARK PAVILONS

Law enforcement officials across the province are welcoming changes contained in Bill C-22 (Part 2), that focus on electronic service providers (ESPs).

The Bill, Securing Access to Information (Bill C-22 – Part 2), aims to curb criminals who exploit the use of the "digital ecosystem" and carry out online crimes of various descriptions.

Public Safety Canada notes law enforce-

ment agencies and CSIS have worked for decades with "outdated laws that have not kept pace with our new technological and digital reality. As a result, investigations are missing critical information needed to generate leads or help identify and prosecute individuals or groups involved in serious criminal activities or national security threats. In some cases, investigations are abandoned due to these challenges."

Part 2 of the Bill C-22 does not create new authorities for law enforcement agencies and

CSIS to intercept communications or obtain information. It focuses solely on ensuring that electronic service providers (ESPs) are able to comply with existing legal orders, which are found in the Criminal Code, and the Canadian Security Intelligence Service Act.

Currently, Canada relies on a 1995 condition of license that only covers voice telephony despite vast technological changes, including the internet, satellite and messaging platforms. Law enforcement agencies and CSIS can obtain authorization, though a warrant or production order, to intercept communications or obtain information; however, there is no corresponding requirement for an ESP to actually establish and maintain a system capable of providing the communication/information in question. Furthermore, outside of voice telephony services, the support of ESPs to fulfill lawful access requests is entirely voluntary.

The Bill would require select ESPs, to develop and maintain the capabilities necessary to enable law enforcement and CSIS to effectively obtain communications and information they are legally authorized to have for their criminal and intelligence investigations, while respecting rights and freedoms.

Instead of requiring whole sectors, including small enterprises, to have the same capabilities in place, the proposed framework adopts a more targeted approach for technical capability development. Under the proposed Bill, there are two ways by which an ESP could be mandated to develop and maintain lawful access capabilities: ESPs designated as 'core providers' and through Ministerial Orders.

The Minister of Public Safety could issue a Ministerial Order (MO), subject to approval by the Intelligence Commissioner, to electronic service providers (ESP) compelling the development of specific capabilities. MOs would be based on operational needs, as threats evolve and new technologies devel-

op, and could be issued to both core and non-core providers. In deciding whether to issue an MO, the Minister must consider the same factors as the Governor in Council when making regulations for core-providers. MOs would be reviewable by the courts.

MOs are a powerful tool that allow the Minister of Public Safety to request a broad range of technical capabilities in a confidential way to avoid tipping off threat actors. The Intelligence Commissioner's role in MO approvals strengthens the framework by providing an external oversight mechanism. The addition of an annual report and parliamentary review, three years after the Act comes into force, further increases transparency.

Currently, law enforcement and CSIS may have the legal authority to obtain information from ESPs, but there are no laws that require ESPs to maintain a system that can effectively respond to requests. This means that despite having the requested communications and information in their systems, an ESP may be unable to provide it. This lack of technical capability has caused investigations to stall or not begin at all. The issue can be as simple as an ESP not having the secure infrastructure to transfer information to these agencies in a useable format. In other cases, they may not be able to retrieve the information within a certain timeline, or to ensure its accuracy.

Compliance enforcement under the current framework is extremely limited.

To promote compliance, SAAIA would create monetary penalties for contravening obligations under the Act. SAAIA sets out parameters for the issuance of administrative penalties, including in what amount and how an ESP can request a review from the Minister.

In addition to administrative monetary penalties, SAAIA also contains offences for contravening provisions.

Penalties are required to make sure that a regulatory regime can be properly enforced.

Proposals under Bill C-22 provide additional oversight and transparency.

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- 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
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 Location: Township of Melancthon Municipal Office, 157101 Highway 10
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Dufferin OPP respond to stunt driving, fatal collision, impaired driving incident

Stunt driving charges laid after driver strikes tree in Mono

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) recently issued a statement, reminding motorists that regardless of perceived driving abilities, public roadways are not a personal race track.

On March 12, at approximately 12:35 a.m., officers responded to a single motor vehicle collision in the area of County Road 7 (Hockley Road) in Mono. Initial investigation revealed the vehicle lost control while travelling at a high rate of speed and struck a tree.

As a result of the investigation, a 25-year-old male from North York has been charged with the following offences:

- Careless Driving
- Fail to Surrender Permit for Motor Vehicle
- Drive Motor Vehicle - Perform Stunt - Excessive Speed
- Driving Motor Vehicle with Open Container of Liquor
- Speeding 50+ km/h over the posted limit
- Drive Motor Vehicle - No Currently Validated Permit

• Owner Operate a Motor Vehicle Without Insurance

• Obstruct Plate

The 25-year-old male's vehicle was impounded, and his driver's licence was suspended.

None of the listed charges have been proven in court.

Two-vehicle collision in Melancthon results in death of 78-year-old woman

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers alongside Dufferin County Paramedic Services and local fire departments, responded to a fatal two-vehicle collision in Melancthon.

On March 11, at approximately 11:35 a.m., emergency crews were dispatched to the intersection of County Road 124 and County Road 21 following reports of a serious collision.

As a result of the crash, a 78-year-old female from Listowel was transported to a Collingwood-area hospital, where she was later pronounced deceased.

Anyone who witnessed the collision and wishes to speak to victim services, Caledon/

Dufferin Victim Services can be reached at 905-951-3838.

The investigation remains ongoing.

Anyone with information or dashcam footage of the incident is asked to contact the Dufferin OPP at 1-888-310-1122, or report anonymously through Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or online at ontariocrimestoppers.ca, with Incident Number E260323971.

Orangeville man charged with impaired driving following traffic complaint

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers have charged an Orangeville resident with impaired operation-related offences following a reported traffic complaint.

On March 13, at approximately 7:53 p.m., Dufferin OPP officers responded to a report of a possible impaired driver in the area of Oak Ridge Drive in Orangeville. Officers located the vehicle of interest and conducted a traffic stop. After speaking with the driver, officers initiated an impaired driving investigation.

As a result of the investigation, a 51-year-



old male from Orangeville, has been charged with:

- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)
 - Operation while impaired - alcohol and drugs
 - Fail to surrender insurance card
- None of the listed charges have been proven in court.



OBITUARIES - FOREVER IN OUR *Hearts*

In Loving Memory of LEONA PRENTICE



Passed away peacefully with family by her side at Campbell House Hospice in Collingwood on Monday, March 9, 2026 in her 93rd year. Beloved wife of 63 years to the late Norman. Loving mother of Terry (Maureen), Dana (Wendy), Lynnette (Dan) McIntyre, Paul (Jana) and Leanne (Jamie) Doig. Cherished grandma of Michelle (Skee), Heather (Diptesh), Carley, Andrew (Janelle), Ryan (Kristi), Jesse (Jill), Emma (Rob), Eric (Keith), Evan, Dakota (Jena), Dylan (Sierra), Jordan (Sophie), Zackary (Ellie), Leighton (Kyle), Aidan, (Paige) and Devan (Katie). Great-grandmother of Hana, Eleanor, Silas, Atlas, Makayla, Matthew, Nathan, Sophie, Sam, Savannah, Nicholas, Gracie, Sadie, Lauren, Brady and Blair. Great-great grandmother of Adelyne. Survived by her sisters-in-law Sonia and Audie and brother-in-law Bill. Predeceased by her grandson Kyle, her daughter-in-law Barb, her parents Cecil and Lena Henry, sister Gloria, brothers Mel (Leona), Elmer (Glady's) and Gord.

Leona was born and raised in Riverview. After her marriage to Norm in 1955, they lived and raised their family on the potato farm in Melancthon. Leona was passionate about her family, genealogy and her love of animals. She was an avid poet; joke teller and she loved to dance. She had a keen eye for fashion and never missed the opportunity to dress up for Halloween. Her compassion touched many lives, and she will be missed dearly.

The funeral service was held in the Jack & Thompson Funeral Home Chapel in Shelburne on Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. A come and go reception and visitation followed in the Warrior's Hall at the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 220 on Tuesday from 2-5 p.m. There will be a private family spring interment at Honeywood Cemetery at a later date. If desired, donations to Honeywood Arena or Honeywood Cemetery would be appreciated as expressions of sympathy. Online condolences may be placed at www.jackandthompsonfuneralhome.com.

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 or 519-925-2832

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Chicken and Pineapple Mini-Skewers 20 PIECES 500 g

Seniors Day Every Tuesday 10% off Regular Priced Items!

SAVE \$3 **14⁹⁹** **SAVE \$3** **9⁹⁹ each**

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

Hot Honey & Chicken Flatbreads 460 g - 515 g
Bruschetta
CHOOSE FROM 4 VARIETIES.

SWEET SENSATIONS

SALE **5⁹⁹ each** **27⁹⁹ SAVE \$2**

Mini Cream Puffs 250 g **Caramel Cream Puffs** 240 g

Mini Eclairs 12 PIECES 200 g **Lavaliçious® Chocolate** **Cakes** 2 CAKES 228 g - 280 g

Cheesecake Variety Pack 12 SLICES 1 kg

To view the full flyer, scan the QR code or go to mmfoodmarket.com

PROUDLY SERVING CANADIANS SINCE 1980

ALL PRICES IN EFFECT THURSDAY, MARCH 19 TO WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2026 UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED.
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CANADA

ORANGEVILLE, ONTARIO

BY THIS GUY!



Andrew Kohlen
Brewmaster

