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FOAM-FILLED FUN: Children play in the foam during the final Fridays in the Park event of the summer at Jack Downing Park in Shelburne on Aug. 28. The free community series featured live entertainment, family activities and local vendors throughout the summer. Please see more photos on Page 2.

Dufferin County event explores Indigenous history, ongoing impact of colonization

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**

The County of Dufferin is commemorating the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation later this month with a Community Conversations event.

The event will focus on Indigenous history most Canadians were never taught and what it asks of us now. The conversation is titled, “13 Square Miles: My Cree Ancestors and How Colonization Still Shapes My Life — and Yours.”

The event takes place at Grace Tipling Hall on Thursday, Sept. 24, just six days before the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation & Orange Shirt Day.

The event will get underway at 6:30 p.m. and conclude at 8:30 p.m.

“Dufferin County is proud to present its next Community Conversations event in honour of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation,” said Dufferin County Warden Lisa Post.

“As we continue to work towards Reconciliation, we must all focus on learning, unlearning, reflection and action. The County encourages community members to join us as we learn more about the Canadian history

most of us were never taught, discuss how colonization continues to shape our lives and consider what we can do to create a more equitable community for all in Dufferin.”

In reference to the upcoming conversation, the county said, “Under the terms of Treaty 9, Chapleau Cree First Nation should have received close to thirteen square miles of reserve land. In 1907 it received 267 acres (less than half a square mile) — and some of that was under water.”

Jennifer David, a member of Chapleau Cree First Nation and author of a newly completed history of her community, will trace five generations of her family through the fur trade at Moose Factory, the “half-breed” inland traders, the arrival of the railway, the signing of the treaty and the Indian Act.

She will follow that history to the two kitchen tables where ordinary people decided they would not let Canada dictate their identity or their lives.

“Dufferin County may seem far from northern Ontario but you’ll see that my own family’s experiences with the fur trade, the Indian Act and a treaty carry threads about colonization that have impacted, and continue to impact, Indigenous Peoples across



STOCK PHOTO

COMMUNITY EVENT: An orange shirt is pictured ahead of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day on Sept. 30.

Canada, including in Dufferin County,” David said. “How do we reconcile with our own history to create a better, shared future?”

Registration is required to attend. Residents can register for the event by visiting: eventbrite.ca/e/national-day-for-truth-and-reconciliation-tickets-1998809591294



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FINAL FRIDAY IN THE PARK: Families gathered at Jack Downing Park on Aug. 28 for Shelburne's final Fridays in the Park event of the summer, enjoying an evening of live entertainment, family activities and local vendors. The finale featured a performance by Elvis The Magician, a foam party, roaming characters and a live reggae performance by Errol Blackwood, giving residents of all ages plenty to enjoy. The free Friday evening series, now in its fourth year, brought hundreds of residents downtown throughout the summer with a mix of music, children's entertainment, interactive activities and other attractions.



Headwaters Teddy Bear Clinic invites children to explore health care through play

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**

Children and their stuffed animals will have an opportunity to learn about health care through the Teddy Bear Clinic at Headwaters Health Care Centre (HHCC) on Saturday, Sept. 19.

The free event will run from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the hospital (100 Rolling Hills Dr., Orangeville).

The Teddy Bear Clinic has been held since 1998 and is designed to help children become more familiar with health-care settings through hands-on activities, exploration and play.

"The Teddy Bear Clinic is a wonderful way to help children and families feel more comfortable with the hospital environment," said Annette Jones, vice president of Patient Services and chief nursing executive at HHCC. "Through hands-on learning

and play, children can build familiarity and confidence, helping reduce anxiety and create positive memories that may make future health care experiences less intimidating."

During the clinic, children can guide their stuffed animals through a simulated hospital journey that includes triage, diagnostic imaging and a checkup with a Headwaters health-care professional.

The experience will also include a visit to Teddy Pharmacy and a lesson on handwashing techniques at Teddy Hygiene.

Other activities will include a petting zoo, where children can meet animals, as well as opportunities to interact with police officers, firefighters and Dufferin County Paramedic Services.

Children can also participate in Teddy Crafts by painting a river rock for the hospital gardens and taking one home as a reminder of the clinic experience. Face paint-

ing and games will also be available.

A barbecue will be available as well, with nominal fees applying to food and beverages. Proceeds raised will directly support pediatric patients at Headwaters.

"There's nothing quite like seeing a child proudly guide their teddy bear through the hospital and discover all the different ways we care for our patients," said Juliann McArthur, manager of Patient Experience and lead organizer of the Teddy Bear Clinic.

"Seeing the hospital come alive with curiosity, creativity, and laughter is what makes this event so special. We're excited to welcome families for a day filled with fun, learning, and opportunities to con-

nect with the many people who help care for our community."

Families are encouraged to bring their favourite stuffed animals and a blanket to enjoy the Teddy Picnic and barbecue while taking part in the day's activities.

The event is open to the public. Pre-registration is available online but is not required.

For more information or to pre-register, visit: headwatershealth.ca



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FILE PHOTO
TEDDY BEAR CLINIC: A teddy bear is pictured ahead of the Teddy Bear Clinic at Headwaters Health Care Centre on Sept. 19, which helps children become more comfortable with health-care settings through hands-on activities and play.



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Shelburne Fall Fair returns for 159th year with new attractions

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Shelburne Fall Fair is returning this month, bringing three days of agricultural exhibits, competitions, family activities and entertainment to the Shelburne Fairgrounds.

The Shelburne District Agricultural Society will host the 159th annual Shelburne Fall Fair from Friday, Sept. 18, to Sunday, Sept. 20.

Organizer Sue Peterson said that the agricultural event continues to showcase the region's agricultural heritage while providing activities and entertainment for residents of all ages.

"The Shelburne Fair is a longstanding agricultural fair, and we are in our 159th year," she said. "We celebrate livestock, home craft competitions, and family-friendly entertainment. We feature a variety of activities and agricultural displays."

Peterson said the fair has also become a significant part of the Shelburne community, showcasing the region's agricultural heritage and fostering connections among farmers and residents.

This year's theme is "Harvest, Honey, & Home," which will be incorporated throughout the fair's exhibits and home craft competitions. Participants will have opportunities to enter a variety of categories, including arts and crafts, baking, canning, photography, junior fair projects and other exhibits.

Livestock and agricultural events remain central to the weekend, with beef cattle, horses, and other agricultural displays featured alongside competitions and demonstrations.

The fair will also include a premier tractor display, which is new for this year's event, as well as the return of the horse pull competition. Other activities throughout the weekend include bicycle races, tractor and garden tractor pulls, a dog show, pancake breakfasts, ambassador games and a variety of vendors and food options.

Peterson said families will also have access to a Kids Zone sponsored by Stella Jones. The area will feature bouncy castles and other activities and will be available at no additional cost to fair attendees.

"The Kid Zone is a mass area of bouncy castles, and we always try to bring new ones to the fair so that it's something new for those that come," she said. "Stella Jones in Shelburne has been a huge platinum sponsor for us, and they have been for the last handful of years."

The Power Wheels demolition derby, introduced in recent years, will also return. It will take place ahead of the main demolition derby, which closes out the weekend's activities.

Other returning attractions include the exhibit hall, where visitors can view entries from local residents, along with a range of agricultural and family-oriented competitions.

The fair is organized and operated by a board of volunteers, with additional volunteers helping throughout the weekend. Organizers say new volunteers are always welcome, particularly as the community continues to grow and new residents discover the annual event.

The fair has also seen an increase in new faces over the past several years as more residents attend for the first time.



FILE PHOTO

FALL FAIR FUN: Horses compete in the horse pull during last year's Shelburne Fall Fair at the Shelburne Fairgrounds, one of several agricultural events featured throughout the annual three-day celebration.

With events taking place throughout Friday, Saturday and Sunday, organizers are encouraging residents and visitors to check the full schedule and plan their weekend around the activities they want to see.

"Over the last two or three years we have seen more new faces to the fair," Peterson said. "Each year, we get more... We are excited about that, and we love having new faces at the fair. We love having them ask us questions throughout the fair."

"It's just a fun-filled weekend with some-

thing for every family member to enjoy. There's something going on throughout the whole fair. Walk around and look at all the crafts, all the exhibits, and more. There's lots of food vendors, there's non-food vendors, all kinds of stuff," Peterson added.

The Shelburne Fall Fair will take place at the Shelburne Fairgrounds, with admission required at the gate. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$8 for kids.

To see the full schedule and information, go to: shelburnefair.weebly.com

Two Shelburne car washes broken into, police seek public's help identifying suspects

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers are investigating two break and enters at separate car washes in Shelburne. Investigators believe the same two suspects are responsible for both incidents.

On Aug. 22, between approximately 2:30 a.m. and 3:10 a.m., two males wearing face coverings and gloves attended a car wash on Industrial Road and gained entry by using a power tool to cut through the service door.

Once inside, the suspects gained access to the office and stole cash before using an angle grinder to gain access to a coin machine, where additional cash was stolen.

The suspects also stole tools from a workbench in the service area before leaving the business through a rear service exit.

The investigation determined that the same two suspects then attended a second car wash on Centennial Road between approximately 3:10 a.m. and 3:30 a.m.

The suspects again used an angle grinder to cut through the service door and gain access to the business. Once inside, they used the same method to gain access to a change machine and stole cash before leaving through the same door they had used to enter.

The suspects are described as two males who were wearing face coverings, dark-coloured work gloves and backpacks. One male was wearing a blue plaid jacket, while the other was dressed entirely in black. One suspect was seen with a bicycle, while the other was carrying a longboard.

The investigation remains ongoing. Anyone with information, including video surveillance or dash camera footage from the area around the time of the incidents, is asked to contact the Dufferin OPP at 1-888-310-1122. To remain anonymous, contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SUSPECTS SOUGHT: Dufferin OPP are asking for the public's help identifying two males believed to be responsible for break-ins at two Shelburne car washes on Aug. 22

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OPINION

Gripping about the void to a soundtrack by The Who

“I’m singing this not because it fits in well / with the chords I’m playing / I can’t pretend there’s any meaning here / Or in the things I’m saying.”

Those are lyrics from The Who’s song *Getting in Tune*.

Roger Daltrey recently spoke about the ills of social media. He’s the bloke who sang in The Who back in a time when music seemed to matter more, and it had been an important voice in the world, regardless of who was singing.

The Who, for any Generation Zers who aren’t familiar, famously wrote about teenage rebellion, the alienation of youth, and conflict between generations (that’s me, that old man shaking a fist in the air and griping about those kids and their music today). The Who was part of the storied British Invasion of music to North American ears and culture.

Daltrey told an English newspaper that social media has gotten everybody screaming at each other online but nobody’s listening. The new world of social media seems to be, in his eyes, destroying civilization. He likened social media to a platform for

people to scream at each other, but there’s nobody listening even as they’re screaming and being screamed at.

“You can hear it in the street / See it in the dragging feet.”

Those are words from the song *Relay*.

Counting Likes and smiling emojis on social media posts and tallying so-called friends, even though many are people that haven’t been spoken to in years, is being content in the online world even though it means dragging feet in the real world.

Daltrey said social media is destroying civilization. I don’t know about that, but disillusionment has filled the chasm between the promise or hope of technology and how we’re using it.

It’s become difficult to even detect tone. Once you could hear through the nuance of language some of the meaning of what’s said. But all that’s lost now in the shortly worded blurbs that pass for communicating. The emoji hieroglyphics lack what’s conveyed by a human voice and what’s highlighted by a furrowed brow or a look in the eyes.

“Freedom tastes of reality/I’m free, I’m

free/And I’m waiting for you to follow me”

Those are lines from the song I’m Free off the album Tommy. And it’s best heard on the Live at the Fillmore East 1968 album.

The rise of vastly improved technology was lauded as a means to free information and expanded horizons. I don’t mean this to be a Ted Kaczynski screed against technology, but people have become more alienated even as we were supposed to have been brought closer through an immediacy of contact afforded by social media.

“Don’t cry, don’t raise your eyes/It’s only teenage wasteland.”

I recently read something. And-gasp-it was found on the internet.

“The iPhone launched in 2007, when the oldest Gen Zers were 10,” according to the PEW Research Centre. “By the time they were in their teens, the primary means by which young Americans connected with the web was through mobile devices, Wi-Fi and high-bandwidth cellular service. Social media, constant connectivity and on-demand entertainment and communication are innovations Millennials adapted to as they came of age.

“For those born after 1996, these are

largely assumed.”

The report went further: Recent research has shown dramatic shifts in youth behaviours, attitudes and lifestyles – both positive and concerning – for those who came of age in this era.

“What we don’t know is whether these are lasting generational imprints or characteristics of adolescence that will become more muted over the course of their adulthood. Beginning to track this new generation over time will be of significant importance.

“I’m happy when life’s good, and when it’s bad I cry/I got values but I don’t know how or why”

That’s from the song *The Seeker*. What’s sought is your soul in a darkening world. One’s identity, I suppose, or a place in the world. That’s something that spans the generations. Here’s another lyric that suits the argument that society missed its mark with social media: “Meet the new boss/Same as the old boss.”

That’s *Won’t Get Fooled Again*. Yeah, only if.



JAMES MATTHEWS
THE BUSTLE IN THE HEDGEROW

Nancy Roman Telescope

Last Sunday (Aug. 30) a Falcon Heavy rocket delivered the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope onto a direct transit trajectory to its permanent home at the Lagrange Two Point (L2) 1.5 million km. from Earth. In 100 days, it will reach its station, power up, and start observing the universe.

Astronomers will use it to try to understand the nature of dark matter, which makes up most of the mass in the universe (but some say may not even exist).

It is expected to find up to 100,000 new exoplanets circling other stars, and may be able to spot ones even smaller than Mars. Current methods can only see much bigger ones.

It will test a new technology called a coronagraph that may one day be able to detect life on some of those planets by analyzing the light reflected from them. It would be nice to have a better answer to scientist Enrico Fermi’s famous question “Where is everybody?”

The Nancy Roman telescope reflects well on the human race and particularly on the United States, which has devoted a great deal of money over several generations to

seeking scientific answers to such questions. However, it cannot be denied that there is another side to the coin.

We are marking a couple of anniversaries this month. It has now been four and a half years since Russian president Vladimir Putin launched an unprovoked surprise invasion of Ukraine, and half a year since U.S. president Donald Trump launched an equally unprovoked surprise attack on Iran.

The ‘anniversary’ device is a bit shabby, admittedly, but it is justified because the other parallels between the men are so strong. Both launched their attacks in the confident but utterly ignorant expectation that victory would come in days or a few weeks at most. Both are now trapped in wars that they cannot win, but also cannot find an exit from.

Quibbles are always possible about such sweeping statements, of course. Putin would certainly lose power and probably lose his life if he gave up his war now, but Trump could still ‘declare a victory’ and walk away intact. Only his overweening pride keeps him looking desperately for a ‘win’ that is not available.

There’s nothing new about this kind of behaviour. History offers us hundreds of examples, and if you could expand your sample to include the numberless little groups of hunter-gatherers who fill our long-forgotten pre-history then you would probably find hundreds of thousands of scaled-down examples of the same sort of behaviour.

In fact, primatologists are now finding similar behaviours, even the same apparent psychology, in our closest biological relatives, the chimpanzees (who also fight wars). But let’s stick with humans, and admit that a great deal of our culture still derives from our long hunter-gatherer past.

Well, of course it does! How could it ever have been different? It’s perfectly legitimate to visualize Trump and Putin as scantily clad warriors with bones in their noses, as long as you remember that there’s an invisible bone in your nose too. Moving from tiny bands to big civilizations was probably a good idea, but there was bound to be a lot to sort out.

There has even been a suggestion that we are now encountering the Great Filter, the notion that intelligent civilizations may emerge on many planets in a universe with so many bazillions of stars, but that most of them are too weighed down by the baggage of their past to adapt to their new cir-

cumstances.

It doesn’t have to be a specifically ‘hunter-gatherer’ past, but every intelligent species (if any) must have a pre-civilized past before it develops a civilization. If it retains some behaviours that were useful in that past but are potentially lethal in a high-tech civilization, then the Filter takes them out.

Our own now-almost-global civilization is in a multi-generational transition from what you might call Late Hunter-Gatherer (human sacrifice, slavery, nuclear weapons) to something more appropriate to our current state of knowledge and social skills. It’s only natural that almost everything comes as a mixed bag.

Like the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope, for instance. Its origin was a project for the US National Reconnaissance Office for a new spy satellite that would practically be able to read a newspaper from orbit – typical H-G stuff. A number of prototypes were built before the project was cancelled in 2005.

Soon afterwards, the NRO told NASA that it had some high-resolution optical telescope hardware available for free. NASA said yes, please, and \$4 billion and twenty years later there it is.

Everything is mixed. Don’t despair.



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COMMUNITY VOICES

Shelburne Food Bank prepares for fall with call for community support

How hard is it to believe that the end of summer is on the horizon, and yet for the Shelburne Food Bank, we are glad it is!

This summer was hard for many families in our community. Rising costs, longer stretches between paydays, and the ongoing impact of economic uncertainty meant more neighbours than ever needed help putting food on the table.

At the food bank, we felt those pressures every day through increased demand for groceries, more requests for assistance, and the reality that food insecurity doesn't pause when the weather changes. Our team of volunteers worked tirelessly to keep food moving from our shelves into the hands of the people who needed it the most. But even with all that effort, summer brought a lot of challenges.

More families struggling to meet basic needs. There is higher demand for non-perishable items and fresh produce. In addition, there has been a growing strain on the resources that make our services possible, combined with a decrease in donations over the summer months.



In moments like these, we are reminded how powerful the community can be. Every donation, whether it's food or funds, helps ensure that families can access the nutrition they need.

As we move into the 'ber' months — September, October, November and December — we remain hopeful. We believe this season can be better and not just because the calendar changes but because the community shows up again and again. Fresh produce from many gardens has been coming weekly to the food bank, and we are so grateful!

Fall often brings new challenges. Back-to-school expenses, shifting household budgets and the start of months where assistance needs can continue to grow. That's why we

are asking for your help now so that we can prepare, plan and respond.

Thanks to the Rotary Club of Shelburne, over 200 new backpacks with lunch kits and water bottles went out to our neighbours!

Thanksgiving is fast approaching, and our thoughts turn to turkeys! We are again calling on our local businesses to help make this Thanksgiving brighter by sponsoring turkeys for families in our community. If your business is interested, we'd love to hear from you! Please email us at shelburnefoodbank@gmail.com.

The Shelburne Food Bank is running a 50/50 draw with the grand prize of \$3,750 being drawn on Nov 21! You can support us by getting your ticket from a volunteer!

On Oct. 3, the Rotary Club of Shelburne and CDDHS will have a town-wide food drive followed by Pumpkinfest.

On Oct. 18, the Shelburne Lions Club and the Rotary Club of Shelburne have organized a Smoked Turkey Dinner at the Legion from 5 to 7 p.m. with all proceeds donated to the food bank. Tickets are \$25 and \$15 for children. It includes music by Whiskey and Wild-

flowers. Tickets are now on sale.

Halloween Haunt in the Park returns on Oct. 23, 24, 30 and 31 — another annual fundraiser for the food bank by the Little Family.

Nov. 21 will be the third annual Nutcracker Gala held at the Shelburne Golf & Country Club. Already 80 per cent sold out, this festive evening of food, entertainment, silent and live auctions and good fellowship is another very fun collaboration between the Rotary Club of Shelburne and the Shelburne Food Bank.

Need more info? Just email us at shelburnefoodbank@gmail.com and ask!

We welcome everyone to participate in one of these many ways to support the food bank this fall.

As we head into the fall, we're choosing hope and choosing to believe that with your help, we can serve more people, provide more food and strengthen our impact where it matters most. Let's work together for a stronger fall. We're ready.

Now we need you!
This week's community voice column was provided by Ardith Dunlop from the Shelburne Food Bank.

Headwaters earns Using Blood Wisely designation, renews EQI accreditation

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

Headwaters Health Care Centre's Laboratory department has earned a national Using Blood Wisely designation, while its Diagnostic Imaging team has renewed its Echocardiography Quality Improvement (EQI) accreditation.

The Using Blood Wisely designation is awarded by Choosing Wisely Canada and Canadian Blood Services to hospitals that demonstrate appropriate blood transfusion practices. The EQI Program assesses a facility's ability to perform high-quality echocardiography testing and supports quality improvement, standardization and patient safety.

"We are incredibly proud to be recognized through both the Using Blood Wisely program and EQI Accreditation," said Kim Delahunt, Headwaters president and CEO. "These achievements reflect the dedication, expertise and compassion of our staff, physi-

cians and volunteers, and their commitment to delivering safe, high-quality care for our patients and community."

The Using Blood Wisely program is intended to ensure blood transfusions are used when clinically necessary. Appropriate use of transfusions can improve patient outcomes while helping to preserve Canada's blood supply.

"Blood transfusions are often life-saving treatments but transfusing more blood than necessary is not beneficial and can sometimes cause harm," said Dr. Theodora Ruijs, director of Headwaters' Laboratory. "The Using Blood Wisely program helps hospitals compare their practices against national benchmarks and ensures patients receive the right care at the right time."

The designation places the hospital among nearly 200 hospitals across Canada that have demonstrated consistent, optimal and appropriate transfusion practices through the program, according to Headwaters.

"Using blood wisely is embedded in our daily practice, from careful inventory management and monitoring usage trends to ongoing education and review to ensure every transfusion is appropriate and patient-centred," said Colleen Hillier, manager of Laboratory Services. "For our team, this designation is an important acknowledgement of our expertise and commitment to providing high-quality care, and it reinforces how our behind-the-scenes work directly impacts patient safety and outcomes."

Headwaters transfused 972 units of blood to patients requiring transfusion support in 2025.

The hospital's Diagnostic Imaging program has also renewed its accreditation through Accreditation Canada's Echocardiography Quality Improvement (EQI) Program.

The renewed accreditation confirms that Headwaters continues to meet Accreditation Canada's requirements for high-quality echocardiography services. For patients,

the accreditation provides reassurance that echocardiograms are performed by qualified professionals using nationally recognized standards, supporting safe, accurate and reliable cardiac diagnostic testing.

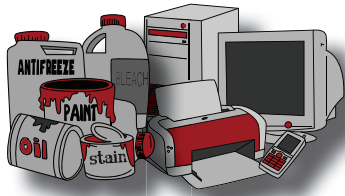
During the 2025-26 fiscal year, Headwaters' echocardiography team performed 1,775 echocardiograms, providing diagnostic information to support patient care and clinical decision-making.

"We are making to receive EQI Accreditation at Headwaters," said Sherry Farrow, senior diagnostic imaging technician. "This achievement reflects the dedication of our echocardiography team to excellence, continuous quality improvement and delivering the highest standard of patient care. Most importantly, it provides reassurance to patients that they are receiving safe, high-quality care from a skilled and experienced team."

Headwaters first achieved EQI accreditation in 2021. The renewed accreditation is valid until November 2029.

hazardous & electronic waste event COMING SOON!

Date: Saturday, September 19, 2026
Time: 8am-3pm
Location: Mulmur Public Works Yard
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Electronic waste includes audio equipment, cameras, computers, home entertainment equipment, phones, and household electronic items, including lamps, alarm clocks, microwaves, toasters, and small appliances.

Limitations No waste from industrial, commercial, or institutional sources. No white goods/large appliances (including any appliances with freon). No garbage, or recycling. No unidentified/unknown materials. No drums of materials.

Visit dufferincounty.ca/waste for updates and a full listing of acceptable materials & limitations.
Final event for 2026: October 31

See website for details on hours & locations for each scheduled event.

Dufferin County residents, including Amaranth, East Garafraxa, Grand Valley, Melancthon, Mono, Mulmur, Orangeville and Shelburne can attend any of these events.



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Collections for the day of the holiday and the rest of the week will be shifted to one day later.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August 30	August 31	September 1	September 2	September 3	September 4	September 5
double up	LABOUR DAY	September 8	September 9	September 10	September 11	September 12
	September 13	September 14	September 15	September 16	September 17	September 18
September 13	September 14	September 15	September 16	September 17	September 18	September 19

Monday
ZONE

Tuesday
ZONE

Wednesday
ZONE

Thursday
ZONE

Interruption
no collections

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Government of Ontario invests \$4 million into Headwaters hospital

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

The Ontario government is investing more than \$4 million in Headwaters Health Care Centre to support hospital operations, reduce wait times and complete critical infrastructure upgrades.

The funding was announced Aug. 28 by Dufferin-Caledon MPP and Ontario Deputy Premier Sylvia Jones during a visit to the Headwaters Hospital in Orangeville.

Of the \$4 million in funding, \$2.4 million will support Headwaters' core operations, helping the hospital respond to patient needs, reduce existing wait times and address inflationary pressures across the organization, according to the province.

A further \$1.7 million will be provided through Ontario's Health Infrastructure Renewal Fund, which supports upgrades and repairs needed to maintain safe and modern hospital facilities.

At Headwaters, the infrastructure funding will support significant roofing upgrades across multiple sections of the hospital, modernization of building automation and control systems, and replacement of high-voltage electrical equipment.

The funding also builds on previous projects aimed at improving energy efficiency and sustainability at the facility, including heat recovery systems, high-efficiency condenser boilers, advanced controls and upgrades to the building automation system.

Headwaters President and CEO Kim Dela-

hunt said the investment is important to maintaining patient care and critical infrastructure at the growing community hospital.

"I would like to extend a very big thanks to our MPP and to the Ministry of Health," she said. "As a community hospital serving a growing region, maintaining a safe, modern, and reliable infrastructure is essential to our ability to provide high-quality patient care close to home."

"On behalf of our board, our staff, physicians, volunteers, and communities that we serve, I'd like to thank the Ministry of Health for its important investment in the future of healthcare at Headwaters Healthcare Centre," Delahunt added.

Jones said the investment at Headwaters is part of a broader provincial effort to increase funding for Ontario's health-care infrastructure.

"Under the leadership of Premier Ford, our government continues to make rapid investments to protect Ontario's health care system, taking bold and decisive action to make it easier for patients and their families to connect to the convenient area close to them, including by building, expanding, and modernizing our province's hospitals and healthcare facilities," she said.

"Today, I'm thrilled to share how our government is continuing to build all these programs by investing over \$4 million to support improved operations and reduce wait times here at Headwaters."

The funding is part of a \$1.1 billion provincial investment in Ontario's hospital sector



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FUNDING BOOST: Hospital staff join Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones and senior management at Headwaters, including hospital president and CEO Kim Delahunt and Board Chair Melodie Mason, to receive the ceremonial cheque of \$4 million from the Province of Ontario. The money will be invested to both upgrade and maintain the facility, and to also improve wait times and patient care.

announced through the 2026 provincial budget.

The province said the Health Infrastructure Renewal Fund represents part of a broader commitment of more than \$266 million for critical infrastructure upgrades and repairs at 126 hospitals across Ontario. Funding through the program has increased by 10 per cent annually since 2024.

The provincial government is also planning approximately \$64 billion in major health infrastructure investments over the next decade, including more than 50 major hospital projects expected to add approximately 3,000 new hospital beds across Ontario.

For Headwaters, the latest funding is intended to strengthen the hospital's existing infrastructure and operational capacity as it continues providing care to a growing Dufferin-Caledon population.

County of Dufferin looks to uniform means to assess data centre applications

Written By **JAMES MATTHEWS**

Dufferin County staff will begin reviewing the pros and cons of large data centres in the region.

Josh MacEwan is a long-time county resident and has been speaking to lower-tier municipalities about high-load facilities. He spoke to county council when it met Aug. 27 about the need for a common framework between municipalities to adequately assess applications for data centres.

No such applications have been received by any of the county's municipalities, but there have been a number of conversations about the possibility.

"There is no known data centre application in Dufferin today," MacEwan said. "This is about readiness, not panic."

Dufferin County municipalities need to have frameworks in place to govern data centres to ensure applications don't arrive before local bylaws have caught up. The question isn't whether those facilities are good or bad. Rather, it's whether the county has a shared framework by which applications can be weighed when one is proposed.

Data centres house computer servers and require cooling, a lot of electricity, backup power, and water resources. Data centres also have a large footprint.

Proponents support data centres because they can bring investment to municipalities and employment to local workforces. Opponents argue data centres strain electrical infrastructure, strain grids, take up a lot of land, and typically require a significant amount of water for cooling. Although centre's water use is limited to what's used in a closed loop.

So water use depends on the facility's design. But all designs require a lot of land and electricity.

Dufferin already coordinates cross-bound-

ary water through the joint municipal water management plan with Orangeville, Mono, Amaranth, and East Garafraxa.

Canada and Ontario are creating conditions for more large-scale AI capacity. A strategy at the federal level supports building or expanding commercial AI-specific data centres in Canada.

Ontario released a draft Data Centre Playbook in August alongside grid-connection rules. A provincial consultation is underway until Sept. 12.

These are also electricity-capacity proposals of roughly 7,000 megawatts of data-centre connection requests, which is more than a quarter of Ontario's peak demand.

Throughout Ontario, lower-tier municipalities are converging on the same issue from different angles. And, without a uniform framework, each is left to invent its own answers under pressure.

Orangeville's council has passed a motion in August requesting a comprehensive and balanced county review of data centre advantages and disadvantages, including groundwater and cross-boundary impacts.

In Amaranth, council directed its planning consultant to research a data-centre definition for its Official Plan update and asked that the county reflect it in its plan.

East Garafraxa and Melancthon sent delegations before county council requesting a county-coordinated readiness review. Each municipality presented their different local concerns from agriculture, headwaters, roads, servicing, but the same underlying gap.

"A proposal may be local in location but regional in impact," MacEwan said.

Orangeville Councillor Tess Prendergast suggested during that town's Aug. 10 council meeting that Orangeville should request the county undertake a comprehensive and

balanced review of the potential advantages and disadvantages of new data centre development proposals.

The review should include possible impacts on economic development, employment, assessment growth, electricity demand and capacity, digital infrastructure, data sovereignty, cybersecurity, groundwater resources, municipal servicing, land-use planning, regional infrastructure and cross-boundary impacts, to inform future planning decisions.

Large developments have implications for groundwater resources, electricity demand, municipal servicing, land-use planning, and regional infrastructure.

Orangeville relies entirely on groundwater for its municipal drinking-water supply, and planning decisions by neighbouring municipalities may have cross-boundary impacts on drinking-water resources, infrastructure, and municipal services.

Dufferin County also plays an important role in coordinating regional planning matters that extend beyond municipal boundaries and affect more than one municipality.

MacEwan supported Prendergast's notice of motion in August about regional water resources infrastructure. Economic benefits should be weighed against local and regional impacts before something like a data centre application arrives, he said.

County council agreed to support Orangeville's request for the county to undertake a comprehensive review of the advantages and disadvantages of data centres.



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Sale of Land for Tax Arrears By Public Tender
Municipal Act, 2001

Take Notice that tenders are invited for the purchase of the land(s) described below and will be received until 3:00 p.m. local time on October 22, 2026 at 157101 Highway 10, Melancthon, Ontario, L9V 2E6.

The tenders will then be opened in public on the same day as soon as possible after 3:00 p.m. local time at the Township of Melancthon Municipal office at 157101 Highway 10, Melancthon, Ontario, L9V 2E6.

Description of land(s): 164 Main St, Melancthon ON L9V 1X6; Legally described as LT 12, PL 34A; Melancthon [PIN 34139-0044 (LT)], Roll No. 22-19-000-001-13300-0000.

According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is \$522,000.00

Minimum tender amount: \$46,608.73

Tenders must be submitted in the prescribed form and must be accompanied by a deposit of at least 20 per cent of the tender amount, which deposit shall be made by way of a certified cheque/bank draft/ money order payable to the municipality.

Except as follows, the municipality makes no representation regarding the title to, existing interests in favour of the Crown, environmental concerns or any other matters relating to the land(s) to be sold. Any existing Federal or Provincial Crown liens or executions will remain on title and may become the responsibility of the potential purchaser. Responsibility for ascertaining these matters rests with the potential purchasers.

Pursuant to the Prohibition on the Purchase of Residential Property by Non-Canadians Act, S.C. 2022, c. 10, s. 235 (the "Act"), effective January 1, 2023, it is prohibited for a non-Canadian to purchase, directly or indirectly, any residential property, as those terms are defined in the legislation. Contraventions of the Act are punishable by a fine, and offending purchasers may be ordered to sell the residential property.

The municipality assumes no responsibility whatsoever for ensuring bidders/tenderers comply with the Act, and makes no representations regarding same. Prospective bidders/tenderers are solely responsible for ensuring compliance with the Act and are advised to seek legal advice before participating in this sale. The successful bidder will be required to retain a solicitor to complete the transfer on their behalf

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This sale is governed by the Municipal Act, 2001 and the Municipal Tax Sales Rules made under that Act. The successful purchaser will be required to pay the amount tendered plus accumulated taxes and any taxes that may be applicable, such as land transfer tax and H.S.T.

The municipality has no obligation to provide vacant possession to the successful purchaser.

A copy of the prescribed form of tender is available on the website of the Government of Ontario Central Forms Repository under the listing for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Tender packages are available online at www.melancthontownship.ca/municipal-services/public-notice/

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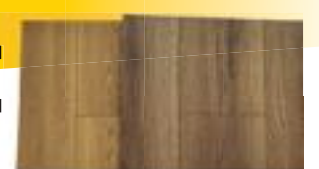


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Fore Honeywood Golf Classic returns to raise funds for Honeywood Arena

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Local golfers are getting ready to tee off for a good local cause, with the second annual Fore Honeywood Golf Classic – set to raise funds for improvements to the Honeywood Arena.

The tournament will be taking place Thursday, Sept. 17, at Shelburne Golf & Country Club. The event will feature a shotgun start format, with all proceeds going toward upkeep work on the Honeywood Arena, also known as the North Dufferin Community Centre (NDCC).

According to the Township of Mulmur, the

arena needs renovations to remain a safe and accessible community space. The facility serves as an essential community space and is the only building of its kind in the area.

“As the sole indoor recreation facility in the township, it serves as a vital hub for community activities,” the town said on its website. “The NDCC features a ball diamond, playground, open space, arena, and the versatile Norduff Room on its second floor. It hosts a variety of sporting practices, games, tournaments, and community events. With plans for a newly renovated facility, the NDCC aims to expand its programs and enhance recreational opportunities for Mulmur and surrounding residents.”

Planned improvements include essential repairs and new change rooms to better serve players and visitors.

Participants in the golf tournament will receive lunch at the turn, a golf cart and a swag bag, along with opportunities to take part in on-course contests and raffles. The event will go ahead rain or shine.

Community support for the fundraiser appears strong. The Township of Mulmur reported in its August newsletter that the tournament was nearly sold out, with just seven foursomes remaining at the time of publication.

Several sponsorship opportunities are also available. The online registration page lists

presenting sponsorships, gold sponsorships, swag-bag sponsorships and single-hole sponsorships, as well as individual player registration. A foursome registration and beverage-cart sponsorship were listed as sold out at the time of print.

The golf tournament is one part of a larger community effort to support the future of the Honeywood Arena.

The arena has also been selected as one of the beneficiaries of this year's Jim Cuddy Jam-boree, which takes place Sept. 3 in Mulmur.

For more information or to register for the golf classic, residents and businesses can contact the Township of Mulmur at info@mulmur.ca or 705-466-3341.

Barrie's Leones de Juda capture championship at inaugural Shelburne soccer tournament

Written By CHRIS PERROTTE

The Leones de Juda Soccer Club from Barrie's Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church won the first annual co-ed soccer tournament hosted by the Shelburne Seventh-day Adventist Church in collaboration with the Near North Regional Youth Association on Aug. 23.

The tournament was held at Greenwood Park in Shelburne, where the Leones de Juda club was one of the six teams that competed in this tournament. The other teams that took to the pitch were the Guelph Seventh-day Adventist Church, All 4 One from the Orangeville Seventh-day Adventist Church, and Tricity FC, which consisted of young men from Kitchener-Waterloo.

The 2023 Centre Dufferin District High School (CDDHS) Royals Soccer Team and the Shelburne FC Team are made up of men who play soccer together regularly at Greenwood Park. Leones de Juda defeated All 4 One from Orangeville 3-1 to win the championship.

Despite rainy weather, family, friends, and supporters from different communities and backgrounds came out to support their teams. They brought laughter, cheers, and fellowship as they watched from the sidelines of the soccer pitch.

“For us as the Near North Regional Youth Association of the Ontario Conference of

Seventh-day Adventists, hosting this tournament was about much more than soccer. It was an opportunity to bring young people, families, churches, and the wider community together in a positive environment where relationships could be built and, ultimately, where people could experience the love of Christ,” said Alessandro Coronado Pajuelo, spokesperson for the committee that organizes the tournament.

Each team consisted of up to 15 players ranging from ages 15 to 50-plus. Each team was guaranteed two games in the tournament.

The Shelburne Seventh-day Adventist Church was happy they were able to put together this event and to work with the Near North Region to make this tournament a reality.

“Our prayer is that this is only the beginning of more opportunities to serve, connect with, and support the people of Shelburne. We pray that God continues to bless the Shelburne community and that, through initiatives like this, people will know that the Seventh-day Adventist Church is here to serve, support our young people, and share the hope and love of Christ,” said Coronado Pajuelo.

Next up for the Shelburne Seventh-day Adventist Church is the Fall Fair that takes place from Sept. 18 to 20. They will have a booth set up for health checks.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

GOLD GLORY: Leones de Juda players celebrate their tournament victory after defeating All 4 One Orangeville 3-1 in the championship game. The Barrie-based team received gold medals for their first-place finish.

Shelburne's longstanding public swim program remains a summer community staple

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

For a long time, a trip to the pool at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex has been part of summer for many Shelburne residents.

The complex's public swim program has been running for many years and remains one of its most popular offerings, appearing regularly on the recreation schedule and continuing to draw strong participation.

Program coordinator Ashton MacDonald said that this summer, the pool once again offered a variety of ways for residents to make use of the facility, with programming

designed to accommodate different ages, interests and comfort levels.

“We have our lane swimming in the mornings and evenings for people who are wanting to get in the pool and exercise,” she said. “We also have swimming lessons that run every day through the pool for all ages all the way up to adult lessons. We also have our family and daycare swims, so that's open to families who want to come with their kids at a more quiet time where it's not so open to the public.”

Regular public swims, held from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., provide an opportunity for the broader community to enjoy the pool, along with adult and senior swims that offer quieter

periods without children in the pool.

MacDonald said that one of the newer additions is sensory swim.

“We also have a sensory swim, which was new last year,” she said. “We had a couple last year, and then we introduced some more timeframes this year, and it went pretty well. It's a quiet time for families to come, especially if they have children with additional needs, and they may want just that sensory-friendly, quiet space for them. This year, it actually went very well.”

The summer also included two free swims sponsored by Tim Hortons, giving residents an opportunity to use the pool at no cost. The Canada Day swim on July 1 benefited from warm, sunny weather and was particularly busy. A second free swim on Aug. 31 was affected by rain, but the complex hopes to offer more free swimming opportunities next summer.

On especially hot days, free swims can attract as many as 220 swimmers. The facility can accommodate roughly 110 to 115 people in the water at a time before rotating another group through, allowing large numbers of residents to participate.

The demand also reflects Shelburne's continued growth. With new residents arriving

in the community, recreation staff are seeing more people coming through the doors to learn about what the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex offers.

“We have lots of new faces coming in, which is great, and I love introducing people to all the different swim programs that we have,” MacDonald said. “A lot of people inquire about youth programs, not realizing that we also have some adult programming as well. We have lots of swim programs to offer.”

Even though the swimming program is wrapping up for the summer, the pool is only one part of that broader programming. Alongside swimming, the complex runs summer day camps, youth events, seasonal activities and adult programs such as drop-in pickleball.

With a seasonal team of approximately 20 lifeguards and 25 camp counsellors supporting summer operations, the complex becomes a particularly busy community hub during the warmer months.

As Shelburne continues to grow, the longstanding swim program remains an important part of the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex's role: providing accessible recreation while continuing to expand its programming to meet the needs of a changing community.

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

COOPER REED

Cooper Reed, the top scorer for the U13 Shelburne Vets, scored 13 goals in six games, including two in the final of the Ontario Lacrosse Association Festival Provincials held in Whitby, Ont. His goal-scoring prowess helped his team win gold at the tournament that ran from July 31 to Aug. 2.

“I love lacrosse because it is fun, and I like being with my friends,” said Cooper, who loves playing offence.

This winter, Cooper looks forward to doing some skiing at Blue Mountain and playing hockey for the Shelburne Wolves as a forward. His favourite position is centre out on the ice.

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County reinstates condo garbage rebate cancelled in June

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS

Dufferin County’s decision to axe the garbage rebate for condominium residents is not fair, according to at least one landlord.

Kim Jaspers-Fayer of Jaspers-Fayer Property Management wrote to the county in July in response to the rebate program’s cancellation. He also appeared before council when it met Aug. 27.

He said his complaint is about an issue of fairness.

“This [rebate] is not a handout for condominiums,” he said.

The \$25 rebate program was introduced by Orangeville in the 1990s before it was taken over by Dufferin County when the county assumed waste collection.

“The rationale for the rebate was that condo owners were paying for waste collection in their property taxes,” he said.

So condo owners were diverting waste that didn’t have to be collected by the town initially and the county afterwards.

The rebate program cost the county less than \$11,500 for all condos. That’s against a total budget of about \$6 million.

Condominiums pay fees for garbage disposal. Residents of those units also pay for garbage disposal through their property taxes. That’s between \$250 and \$300 of their property taxes. He said there are as many as 1,000 such residents in Dufferin. And he said about 75 per cent of them are single women.

“They are paying twice for the same ser-

vice,” he said.

The county doesn’t offer a property tax discount. Instead, condo residents were offered the \$25 rebate, which had remained the same since the 1990s, even though the consumer price index “has doubled in that period,” he said.

“The rebate obviously only offsets a portion of the private disposal costs,” he said. “The elimination of the rebate would result in everyone’s condo fees increasing by over \$2 per month.”

Though a toonie monthly increase may seem trivial, Jaspers-Fayer said most condo residents in Dufferin County are seniors on fixed incomes. They’ve already seen significant increases in their condo fees since inflation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Brenda McCullagh owns a condo, pays taxes, and is a director on her condo board. She said she is bothered by what she saw during county council’s June 25 meeting.

“Clearly there needed to be more of a fact finding effort performed prior to a vote taking place, as there were a lot of questions and comments made before the voting,” McCullagh said. “To me, it looked like the councillors were not prepared to vote at that meeting.”

She wondered what facts the council used to form the foundation of its decision to discontinue the rebate program. She said the possibility of reaching out to condo taxpayers or their board of directors wasn’t mentioned during the June meeting.

“After all, they are paying for a service they do not receive,” McCullagh said. “I did hear a councillor address the word fairness. I agree (that) we need to be treated fair and equal.”

Councillor Todd Taylor, who is Orangeville’s deputy mayor, said the only way for county council to revisit the rebate cancellation issue would be for somebody who voted in favour to bring it back.

Taylor did just that and a little more. He suggested council rescind the decision to cancel the program and that the rebate be continued.

Coun. James McLean, who is Melancthon’s deputy mayor, said the issue is a question of taxation fairness for residents and he favoured reinstating the rebate program.

“They are the only residents in the county who are having to double-pay,” he said.

Further, McLean suggested that council consider increasing the rebate when it comes time to debate items for the 2027 operating and capital budget.

Coun. Darren White, the mayor of Melancthon, said when it comes to taxation fairness, likely every county resident could put forward a program for which they pay but don’t use.

“We can’t be bringing pieces back for discussion after we’ve made a decision,” he said, and added that he was happy to go with council’s wishes.

Coun. Philip Rentsch, Grand Valley’s deputy mayor, agreed with White.

“I would add that I pay \$12,000 a year in

property taxes for nothing,” he said. “I need absolutely nothing that this organization, this county, provides. I barely need anything that the (Grand Valley) provides.”

The rebate was cancelled because council sought ways to save money, he said.

“This is nothing,” Rentsch said. “This is a small subsidy, it’s nothing. But we keep doing it year over year, it adds up.”

McLean said the issue isn’t about a rebate to residents who choose to opt out of a service. Rather, it’s about residents who are not eligible for county garbage pickup.

“Imagine paying to access your local arena and then being told because of the street you live on you’re not able to access that arena,” he said. “So no you’ve got to pay to access an arena in Brampton. That’s what we’re talking about.”

In the end, council voted to reinstate the condo waste collection rebate’s elimination.

When asked to consider whether the rebate should be increased closer to the cost of living, Rentsch suggested amending the motion to include a rebate for residents who are taxed for snow clearing but don’t use the service.

Coun. Wade Mills, Shelburne’s mayor, said an amendment for a subsidy increase is moot if money for the increase has already been approved in the 2026 budget, as was previously stated.

Council agreed to ask staff to look into options for improving the rebate program and how they can be implemented next year.

Ontario provides funding to support Theatre Orangeville’s Summer Young Artist Festival

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Theatre Orangeville received nearly \$20,000 in provincial funding to support its 2026 Summer Young Artist Festival, creating opportunities for emerging performers while drawing audiences and visitors to downtown Orangeville.

The funding comes through the Province of Ontario’s Experience Ontario 2026 program, and was provided by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Gaming.

The program supports festivals and events that encourage people to explore Ontario communities, build connections and contribute to local economies.

Jennifer Stewart, artistic director of Theatre Orangeville, said programs such as the summer Young Company productions provide young people with more than performance experience.

“Programs like our summer Young Company musical and drama are about so much more than putting on a show,” Stewart said. “They give young people a place to discover

what they’re capable of, build confidence, take creative risks and experience the incredible feeling of creating something together. Support from Experience Ontario helps us create these opportunities, while at the same time, inviting audiences to experience the remarkable talent of the next generation.”

Theatre Orangeville’s summer festival gives young artists the opportunity to work alongside professional theatre practitioners while developing their performance skills and gaining hands-on experience taking a production from rehearsal to the stage.

The festival first launched back in July with the Young Company’s production of Into the Woods, which was very warmly received by audiences over the course of its weekend-long run. Families also gathered at Alexandra Park for KidsFEST, a free community event presented in partnership with the Downtown Orangeville BIA. The morning featured live entertainment, creative activities and opportunities for children and families to engage with the arts.

The festival continued through August

with the Young Artists Company production of Ken Ludwig’s Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery, a fast-paced comedic theatrical adaptation of Sherlock Holmes and his famous cases that drew very positive responses from audiences throughout its run.

Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones highlighted the role of arts and cultural programming in strengthening communities and supporting local businesses.

“Our government is proud to support local events and festivals in Dufferin County that foster community connections and support our local economy,” she said. “The funding for Theatre Orangeville’s Summer Young Artist Festival and Young Company programs exemplifies the significant contributions arts and culture programs make to the community, and the unforgettable experiences they create.”

Theatre Orangeville says the provincial investment helps provide valuable opportunities for the next generation of artists while bringing audiences into the community and contributing to Orangeville’s cultural and economic activity.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SUPPORT IN THE ARTS: Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones and Theatre Orangeville Artistic Director Jennifer Stewart pose with the ceremonial cheque outside the theatre hall on Broadway. The nearly \$20,000 in funding helped support Theatre Orangeville’s Summer Arts Festival.

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Handful of fall events coming to the Shelburne Public Library

The team at Shelburne Public Library and their community partners have a great line-up of programs planned for all ages this Fall. Visit the library's website or social media for more information and to register.

Programs for Adults

- **Get Crafty:** This recurring program is held on Tuesday afternoons from 1 to 3:30 p.m. (excluding Sept. 29)
- **Talk Books with Beverly:** This event will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 22 at 2 p.m.
- **Room to Bloom Speech Therapy Workshop for Caregivers:** This event will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 16 at 7 p.m. Learn about Room to Bloom Speech Therapy, a new community service offering speech-language pathology, ABA services and psychotherapy to children and families.
- **A Romance-Lover's Crafternoon** featuring local author Marina L. Reed: This event

will be held Saturday, Sept. 16 at 2 p.m. Join the library for an afternoon of romance, sparkle, and a little bit of spice!

- **Literacy Workshops:** Two workshops will be held on Saturday, Sept. 19. The first, Read It, Write It, Spell It, with Miniintel, will be at 12 p.m. This workshop will be followed by Let's Talk About Dyslexia with Joud Learning at 2 p.m.
- **The Singles Tax** with author Renee Sylvestre Williams: This event will be held on Sunday, Sept. 20 at 2 p.m. The Singles Tax offers actionable tips and expert insights to help solo earners build savings, retire confidently, travel wisely, and live comfortably.
- **Year-end Tax Planning with RBC:** This event occurs on Tuesday, Sept. 29 at 6:30 p.m. Explore strategies to help you maximize your retirement lifestyle while minimizing your tax burden.

- **Unseen Thing: The Mulmur Poltergeist** with author Christopher Dodd & Book Lore: This event takes place on Thursday, Oct. 1 at 7 p.m., sharing a true story that reclaims a forgotten chapter of Canadian paranormal history while exploring why such events refuse to fade, lingering in our folklore, our fears, and our enduring fascination with the unexplained.
- **Author Talk:** On Thursday, Oct. 15 at 5 p.m., travel writers Josephine Matyas and Craig Jones packed their camper van to drive thousands of kilometres and visit 150-plus music museums and historic sites to uncover the stories behind the music we love, including jazz, blues, rock and roll, and bluegrass.
- **Guided Community Hike at Splitrock Narrows Nature Reserve:** On Saturday, Oct. 24 at 10 a.m., the community is invited to join trail expert Carl and library staff on a guided

hike through a popular section of the Bruce Trail.

Programs for Teens

- **Teen Advisory Board (TAB):** This program takes place on Tuesday, Sept. 15 at 4:30 p.m. Are you between the ages of 13 and 17 and in need of community service hours? Our TAB group helps plan fun programs and events for teens.
- **Costume Nerf Battle:** This event occurs on Tuesday, Oct. 20 at 7 p.m. It's true! The library will be hosting another Nerf Battle! Show up in your costume and be ready for a battle spanning the entire bottom floor of the library.
- **Children's programming,** including our much-loved story time, LEGO Club, and more fun activities, resumes the week of Sept. 22.

Police seek public's assistance in identifying suspects in Circle K theft investigation

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers are seeking the public's assistance in identifying three female suspects involved in a theft at a Circle K store on Main Street in Shelburne. On June 26, at approximately 10 p.m., three female suspects attended the store and allegedly stole several alcoholic beverages before leaving the area. Anyone who may have information that could assist investigators in identifying the suspects is asked to contact the Dufferin OPP at 1-888-310-1122 and reference occur-

rence number E260896345. Information can also be provided anonymously through Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at ontariocrimestoppers.ca.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

WANTED BY POLICE: Surveillance footage shows two suspects Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police is looking to identify. Anyone with information on the suspects is asked to contact the Dufferin OPP at 1-888-310-1122 and reference occurrence number E260896345.





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

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Caravaggio, 128 Main St E, Shelburne

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Community Living Dufferin plans talent show for second annual fundraiser

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**

Community Living Dufferin (CLD) is preparing for its second annual Community for Community Living Fundraiser, set for Saturday, Sept. 19, with organizers hoping to build on the momentum of last year’s inaugural event.

The fundraiser will run from noon to 4 p.m. at CLD (065371 County Road 3), and will feature food, exotic animals, the CLD Shoppe, and a silent auction. The centrepiece of the afternoon will be CLD’s Got Talent, a variety show running from 1 to 3 p.m. in the organization’s sensory garden, featuring about 17 acts performed by the people CLD supports.

CLD executive director Diane Kite said the fundraiser was launched last year to raise both awareness and revenue for the organization, which supports roughly 150 peo-

ple with developmental disabilities across Dufferin County.

“It’s to raise awareness for the Community Living people we support, and to raise additional funds... to ensure that we can support the evolving needs of the men and women in our care and in the community.”

Kite said last year’s debut event, which featured live music from the Campfire Poets, drew a strong turnout, along with visits from Dufferin–Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones and Michael Parsa, the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services. Both are expected to return this year.

This year’s addition of CLD’s Got Talent marks the biggest change from 2025, Kite said, while the exotic animal exhibit is returning by popular demand.

“The exotic animals last year were a huge hit with people who attended, as well as the men and women we support,” said Kite.

As with last year, admission is free, but a donation to CLD and non-perishable food items for the Orangeville Food Bank is encouraged and appreciated.

“The food bank supports some of the men and women we support, so we’re asking that people recognize the Orangeville Food Bank along with CLD as part of admission, but there’s no specific amount required to enter,” Kite noted.

CLD isn’t working toward a specific dollar figure this year, but she said the organization has a clear use in mind for whatever comes in.

“We are looking to purchase new vehicles for CLD, wheelchair accessible vans, and they are very expensive,” she said. “Any monetary amount that we receive will go directly towards the transportation piece.”

Kite said the community’s response has been strong heading into this year’s event,

with more silent auction donations coming in than at the same point last year. The auction will go live following the fundraiser, with items showcased at the event before being posted online daily until everything sells.

Businesses interested in sponsoring the event can find sponsorship packages on CLD’s website, and those wishing to donate a prize for the silent auction can contact ebellassai@cldufferin.ca.

Kite said the event is family-friendly and open to everyone, regardless of their connection to CLD.

“It’s going to be a really fantastic day,” she said. “We’re really excited about CLD’s Got Talent, and it’s a family-friendly event. Everyone is welcome, and we look forward to seeing familiar faces, new faces, and we welcome everyone in the community to come out and enjoy a really wonderful afternoon.”

♥ OBITUARIES - FOREVER IN OUR *Hearts*

In Loving Memory of

HAROLD ELDON RITCHIE

Peacefully at Toronto Western Hospital on Sunday, August 23, 2026 at the age of 84. Beloved husband of 60 years to Margaret. Devoted father of Dave (Laura), Steve (Kim) and Susan (Dave). Proud grandfather of Tanner (Rachel), Lucas (Alexis), Jake (Keyra), Alyson, Rylan, Ella, Blair and Lyla and great-grandfather of Ashlyn. He will be lovingly remembered by his extended family and friends.

Harold was always active in the community, overseeing the care of the Honeywood Cemetery, supporting the Honeywood Arena and serving as a volunteer firefighter for over 30 years.

A Celebration of Life will be held in the Norduff Room at the Honeywood Arena on Sunday, September 27, 2026 from 1-5 p.m. If desired, donations to the Honeywood Arena (cheques made payable to the Township of Mulmur) or the Honeywood Firefighters Association would be appreciated as expressions of sympathy. Online condolences may be placed at www.jackandthompsonfuneralhome.com



In Loving Memory of

ROSELENA MARIE (RECKIN) LEMCKE

Passed away peacefully with family by her side at Dufferin Oaks on Tuesday, August 25, 2026 at the age of 90. Beloved wife of 61 years to Carman Lemcke. Devoted mother of Bruce (Brenda) and Bill (Jennifer). Proud grandmother of Bryan, Lindsay (Jon), Shawn, Greg (Amber) and Sherri (Joey). Step-grandmother of Vanessa (Ryan), Joel and Mikaela. Great-grandmother of Sullivan, Maeve, Aubree, Haylee, Raelyn, Brooklynn, Everly and Wesley. Step-great-grandmother to Ethan and Theia. Predeceased by her sister, Margaret and brother Carl. Sister-in-law to Albert (Wilma), Ivan (Florance), Isabell (Harold), Karl (Elaine), Allan and Morgan (deceased), Jean, Signa, Roy (Donna) and Hazel (Jim).

Rose married her husband Carman on September 29, 1956 and settled in Shelburne where they raised their two sons. Rose managed the concession booth at the old arena and later at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex for over thirty years. Rose was an active member of the Shelburne Trinity United Church, The New Horizons Club and the Dufferin Oaks Auxiliary.

A private family service will take place. Interment at Shelburne Cemetery. If desired, donations to Headwaters Health Care Foundation would be appreciated as expressions of sympathy. Online condolences and donations may be placed at www.jackandthompsonfuneralhome.com



In Loving Memory of

DARRELL “DARRY” THOMAS BAECHLER

Darrell “Darry” Thomas Baechler passed away at West Perth Village, Mitchell on August 17, 2026 at the age of 79 surrounded by family.

Beloved husband of Karol (nee Haynes), married on December 25th, 1983. Devoted father of Lindsay Baechler and her husband Jonathon McCormick, Casey Baechler and her partner Stefan Hebert, and Ashley Baechler. Cherished grandfather of Logan, Lincoln, and Lachlan. Brother of Marty (deceased) and his wife Karen Palmer, Lynda Allin (deceased) and her husband Jake, Dale (deceased) and his partner Val Mallough, and Jeff and his wife Rose. Uncle of Jacki, Jeremy, Mandy, Brittany, Jordan, and Justin and also remembered by their families. Predeceased by his parents Con and Betty Baechler. Missed by brothers and sisters-in-law and fondly remembered by nieces and nephews and their families.

Darrell was born and grew up in Goderich. He was a worldly and well-travelled man, and had a very successful career as a corporate travel agent. He also had an entrepreneurial spirit, and had a very successful business as a tax agent. Darrell was an avid movie fanatic and also loved live theatre. He was a big fan of music – notably the Beatles, Pink and Chicago. Cremation to take place. A Celebration of Life to be held on a future date. Memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer Society Huron Perth. A slideshow of Darrell’s life can be viewed, and online tributes can be made at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca.



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If you would like to place an obituary in the Shelburne Free press, or one of our affiliate newspapers, contact
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SUNDAY SERVICE
10:00AM

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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
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764213 8th Line
Melancthon, Ontario



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LOWEST PRICE OF THE YEAR*

*Lowest price of the year matches the lowest price of the year to date in 2026.

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14⁹⁹

Breaded Chicken Breasts
8 PIECES 907 g

CHOOSE FROM 3 VARIETIES.

Crispy

Also available,
Chicken Breast Grills
8 PIECES 800 g **\$14.99 SAVE \$10**

SAVE \$10

24⁹⁹

Chicken Strips
27-33 PIECES 1.36 kg

Also available,
Breaded Chicken Fillets
15-25 PIECES 907 g **\$24.99 SAVE \$10**

Seniors Day Every Tuesday 10% off Regular Priced Items!

BUY 2, GET 1

FREE

SAVE \$17⁹⁹
MIX AND MATCH

Individual price: \$17.99 each

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

Tangy Barbecue

CHOOSE FROM 4 VARIETIES.

SCHOOL NIGHT DINNERS

SALE

16⁹⁹

Haddock Tenders
8-12 PIECES 454 g

Sauce included

SAVE \$3

16⁹⁹

Sirloin Beef Meatballs
60-70 PIECES 907 g

SAVE \$3

16⁹⁹

Supreme Homestyle Meat Loaf 600 g

SAVE \$3

16⁹⁹

Chicken Nuggets
33-40 PIECES 907 g

CATCH GREAT SAVINGS!

Breaded Haddock
7-10 PIECES 907 g

24⁹⁹ each

Battered Haddock
6-9 PIECES 680 g

SAVE \$5

SAVE \$3

PARTY SIZED DEALS

SERVES 6-8

Cabbage Rolls
1.81 kg

Deluxe Meat Lasagna
1.81 kg

Homestyle Shepherd's Pie
1.81 kg

26⁹⁹ each

SAVE \$3

WEEKEND BBQ FAVOURITES

SAVE \$3

29⁹⁹

Bacon Wrapped Beef Top Sirloin Steaks
4 STEAKS x 142 g/5 oz

SAVE \$5

14⁹⁹

Chicken and Pineapple Mini-Skewers
20 SKEWERS 500 g

GREAT BURGERS, GREAT VALUE

SAVE \$2

17⁹⁹

Angus Beef Burgers
6 BURGERS x 142 g/5 oz

SAVE \$2

17⁹⁹

Gourmet Chicken Burgers
6 BURGERS x 142 g/5 oz

INDULGE FOR LESS

SALE

8⁹⁹

Portuguese Style Custard Tarts
6 PIECES 450 g
2 Varieties

Original

SALE

5⁹⁹

Cakes
2 CAKES 228 g - 280 g
2 Varieties

Caramel Sea Salt

35+ GLUTEN-FREE OPTIONS

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22⁹⁹

Steakhouse Style Sirloin Tri-Tip
2 STEAKS x 200 g/7 oz

SAVE \$2

12⁹⁹

Wagyu Beef Sliders
9 SLIDERS x 51 g/1.8 oz

SAVE \$4

27⁹⁹

Country Style Chicken Breasts
6-10 PIECES 907 g

SAVE \$2

9⁹⁹

Cookie Ice Cream Sandwiches
6 SANDWICHES 600 mL
2 Varieties

Chocolate Chip

LUNCH FOR LESS

SINGLE SERVES 275 g - 340 g 22 VARIETIES

ONLY 4⁹⁹ each
SALE

Cabbage Rolls

Lasagna

Classic Beef Stew

Macaroni & Cheese

Chicken Pad Thai

Butter Chicken

IT'S BACK!



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\$176

WEEKLY

+ HST & LIC

\$16,616

+HST&LIC

\$0 DOWN

9.49%

FOR 24 MONTHS

O.A.C.

C.O.B \$1,641.82

2024 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 3500HD

STK# B7804 • 9,387 KM • HEATED/COOLED SEATS | HEATED STEERING WHEEL | HEADS UP DISPLAY | ADAPTIVE CRUISE CONTROL | WIRELESS CHARGING | BOSE SOUND SYSTEM | 360 CAMERA | WIFI HOT SPOT | XM RADIO | ONSTAR | SPRAY ON BED LINER | RAIN SENSE WIPERS.

\$339

WEEKLY

+ HST & LIC

\$94,359

+HST&LIC

\$0 DOWN

7.99%

FOR 84 MONTHS

O.A.C.

C.O.B \$28,905.14

2026 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 2500HD ZR2

STK# 23563A • 10,732 KM • 1 OWNER | ACCIDENT FREE | PERFORMANCE LIFTED SUSPENSION | HEATED/COOLED SEATS | HEATED STEERING WHEEL | WIRELESS APPLE CARPLAY/ANDROID AUTO | BOSE SOUND SYSTEM | WIRELESS CHARGING | DUAL ZONE AUTO CLIMATE CONTROL | HEADS UP DISPLAY | ADAPTIVE CRUISE CONTROL | AUTO HIGH BEAMS | XM RADIO | REMOTE START & MORE!

\$361

WEEKLY

+ HST & LIC

\$100,710

+HST&LIC

\$0 DOWN

7.99%

FOR 84 MONTHS

O.A.C.

C.O.B \$30,850.65

2019 CHEVROLET TRAVERSE

STK# 23628A • 171,272 KM • ONE OWNER, HEATED SEATS, REMOTE START, 360 SURROUND VISION, SUNROOF, WI-FI HOTSPOT, XM RADIO, ONSTAR, LEATHER SEATS, AUTO CLIMATE CONTROL, 20" WHEELS, POWER LIFTGATE, BOSE SOUND SYSTEM, TRAILERING PACKAGE AND MORE!

\$110

WEEKLY

+ HST & LIC

\$22,995

+HST&LIC

\$0 DOWN

8.99%

FOR 60 MONTHS

O.A.C.

C.O.B \$5,573.55

2024 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500 LTZ

STK# B7800 • 72,201 KM • ONE OWNER, ACCIDENT-FREE, HEATED AND VENTILATED SEATS, HEAD-UP DISPLAY, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, ADAPTIVE CRUISE CONTROL, SPRAY-ON BEDLINER, TRAILERING PACKAGE, WIRELESS APPLE CARPLAY, WIRELESS ANDROID AUTO, REMOTE START, AUTOMATIC HIGH BEAMS, XM RADIO, ONSTAR, DUAL-ZONE AUTOMATIC CLIMATE CONTROL, AND MORE!

\$204

WEEKLY

+ HST & LIC

\$56,716

+HST&LIC

\$0 DOWN

7.99%

FOR 84 MONTHS

O.A.C.

C.O.B \$17,373.90

2026 HONDA CIVIC SEDAN HYBRID SPORT TOURING

STK# 23489A • 13,883 KM • IN A STRIKING WHITE FINISH, THIS EFFICIENT FWD SEDAN OFFERS EXCEPTIONAL HANDLING AND A BALANCED BLEND OF STYLE, PERFORMANCE AND FUNCTIONALITY.

\$131

WEEKLY

+ HST & LIC

\$33,616

+HST&LIC

\$0 DOWN

7.99%

FOR 84 MONTHS

O.A.C.

C.O.B \$11,216.63

2024 CADILLAC XT4 SPORT

STK# B7812 • 85,800 KM • CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED, ACCIDENT-FREE, MIDNIGHT SKY BLACK METALLIC, BLACK LEATHER INTERIOR, 23.5K KM, TURBOCHARGED ENGINE, ALL-WHEEL DRIVE, 9-SPEED AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION, SPORT SUSPENSION, ULTRAVIEW SUNROOF, HEATED FRONT SEATS, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, WIRELESS APPLE CARPLAY & MUCH MORE!

\$164

WEEKLY

+ HST & LIC

\$48,617

+HST&LIC

\$0 DOWN

5.99%

FOR 84 MONTHS

O.A.C.

C.O.B \$10,930.36

2024 CADILLAC ESCALADE ESV 4WD SPORT

STK# 10876A • 62,726 KM • BLACK LEATHER INTERIOR, 6.2L V8, 41A, SPORT TRIM, 22-INCH ALLOY WHEELS, SURROUND-VIEW CAMERA, HEATED AND VENTILATED FRONT SEATS, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, PANORAMIC SUNROOF, NAVIGATION, PREMIUM AUDIO, ADAPTIVE CRUISE CONTROL, POWER LIFTGATE, FRONT AND REAR PARK ASSIST, AND MORE!

\$356

WEEKLY

+ HST & LIC

\$99,216

+HST&LIC

\$0 DOWN

7.99%

FOR 84 MONTHS

O.A.C.

C.O.B \$30,392.99

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