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Doug Ford names Amy Martin as PC candidate for local riding

By Jacob Fehr

ON Friday, Nov. 29, Ontario PC Party leader Doug Ford announced Amy Martin as the Ontario Progressive Conservative (PC) Party's candidate for the riding of Haldimand-Norfolk in the next provincial general election. Ms. Martin is Norfolk County's incumbent mayor and served as Ward 6 councillor from 2018-2022.

"I'm incredibly honoured to be the Ontario PC candidate in the next provincial election. Haldimand-Norfolk is a vibrant, growing community and I am excited to leverage my local government experience and deep understanding of our community's needs to be a strong and effective voice at Queen's Park," Ms. Martin told the Maple Leaf.

"My vision for Haldimand-Norfolk is one where our communities thrive—

where we strike the right balance between preserving our unique rural identity and embracing growth and innovation. I will work to expand access to local health care, support the agriculture sector and cut red tape for small businesses while keeping costs down—like the gas tax cut so families can keep money in their pockets. I know this government is focused on building Ontario so I will continue to advocate for infrastructure improvement and more homes that meet the needs of our growing community. Most importantly, I'm committed to being accessible and responsive, ensuring that the people of Haldimand-Norfolk feel connected to their provincial government."

She explained why she thinks now is the time to move from municipal to provincial politics.

"After six years in municipal govern-

ment, I've seen firsthand how critical it is for Haldimand-Norfolk to have a strong voice at the provincial table. While I'm proud of the progress we've made at the municipal level, many of the challenges our community faces—like health-care access, infrastructure funding and economic development require strong partnership with the provincial government.

"Serving as mayor has been an incredible privilege and I've worked hard to fulfill the goals I'd set out to achieve. Stepping into provincial politics offers an opportunity to take those efforts further for the benefit of our region. I plan on building on the foundation of my time as mayor and making sure Haldimand-Norfolk has the representation it needs at Queen's Park."

In the Ontario PC Party's announcement, Premier Ford praised Ms. Martin for

> See AMY MARTIN on page 16



Amy Martin, currently in her first term as Norfolk County mayor, was named the Ontario Progressive Conservative candidate for Haldimand-Norfolk riding.

Festive RIDE program underway in Norfolk



Norfolk OPP Staff Sergeant Catherine Braceland questions a driver during a recent Festive RIDE stop.

Photos and interview by Earl Hartlen

ONTARIO Provincial Police's Festive RIDE program to stop impaired drivers is now underway and runs until New Year's Day across Ontario. Norfolk OPP Constable and media relations officer Andrew Gamble said, "the goal is quite simple: it's removing impaired drivers from our roadways."

"There really is no safe level of consumption when it comes to alcohol, drugs, or a combination of the two and driving, so if anybody anticipates consuming either of those substances, we're asking them not to drive. There will be an increased police presence on our roadways here in Norfolk County and across the province of Ontario," said Const. Gamble.

He said the annual campaign is an initiative led by the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police in collaboration with the OPP and all police services across the province. RIDE programs can occur at any time 24 hours a day, seven days a week. "The message we're trying to get across is that we can't be everywhere, but we can be anywhere," said Const. Gamble.

"So please, make the right decision. Don't operate a motor vehicle if you're impaired. Have a plan to get yourself home, maybe spend the night, but getting behind

the wheel while impaired should never be an option," he said.

If a member of the public suspects somebody is operating a motor vehicle while impaired, local police are asking them to call 911.

"It is a crime just like any other, we lean on members of the public to report crimes,

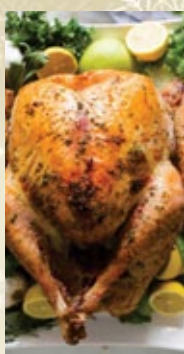
and impaired driving is not excluded from that," said Const. Gamble.

Senior Norfolk County OPP officers, including Detachment Commander Inspector Andy Tait launched this year's campaign on November 21 with a Festive RIDE stop along Highway 3 in Simcoe near the Norfolk OPP detachment.



Senior officers of Norfolk County OPP including Detachment Commander Inspector Andy Tait are shown during a recent Festive RIDE stop on Highway 3 in Simcoe.

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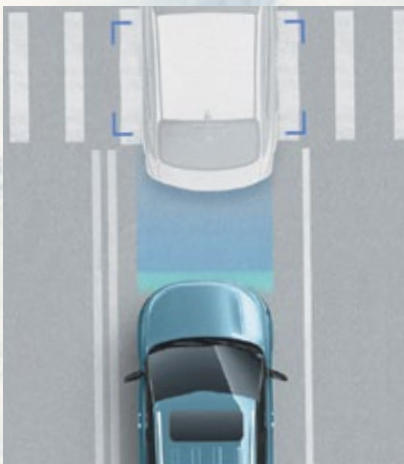
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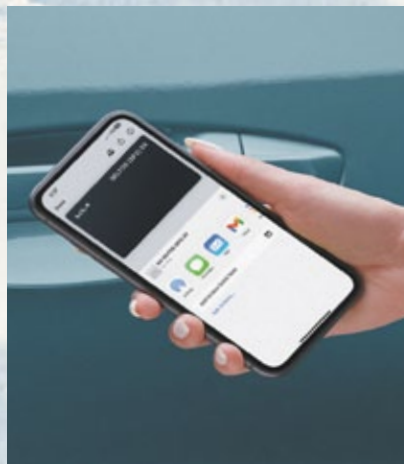
Seltos X-line model shown.



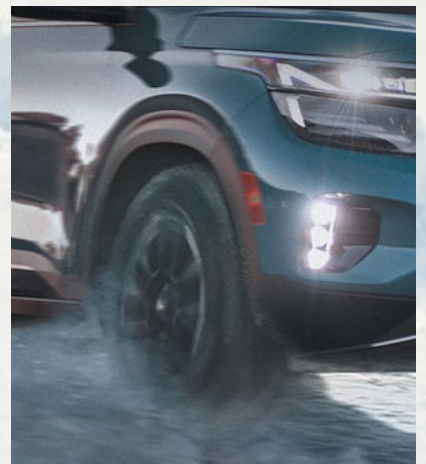
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Councillors showed no interest in discussing ideas for marina's future at recent budget meeting

JIM Dover tried to get county councillors talking about the future of Port Dover Harbour Marina.

But in councillors' eyes, the budget meeting on Nov. 21 wasn't the right time.

For less than 10 minutes, councillors politely listened to Mr. Dover speak on behalf of the Port Dover Waterfront Preservation Association, made brief discussion and moved on with their agenda.

On Oct. 9, councillors voted not to sell county-owned marinas in Port Dover and Port Rowan.

At that time, councillors said the two marinas must pay their own way with no subsidies from county taxpayers.

How that's done may depend next year on results of a recreation master plan and a review of county facilities.

In the meantime, council and staff

have cut \$6.4-million from \$21-million in proposed upgrades for the two marinas over the next 10 years.

They also plan to raise fees at the two marinas and stop using part of Port Dover's annual surplus to help lower property taxes.

The waterfront preservation association wants to maximize public use of the Port Dover marina property and up to two kilometres of shoreline.

But councillors didn't bite on the group's ideas to generate more revenue and make improvements.

The association, along with other stakeholders, will be consulted when the time comes next year, Port Dover councillor Adam Veri said in an interview.

The two marinas must be sustainable and benefit taxpayers countywide, Coun. Veri said.



Shown at left is Jim Dover speaking to a recent council budget meeting. Councillor Chris Van Paassen and Councillor Adam Veri are seen around the council table.

United Way of Haldimand and Norfolk opens funding applications for non-profits

THE United Way of Haldimand and Norfolk announced last week that it is now accepting funding applications from non-profit organizations for the 2025-2026 funding year.

George Araujo, the United Way's executive director, said funding is available for programs targeting their three main focus areas: All That Kids Can Be, From Poverty to Possibility, and Healthy People, Strong Communities.

Non-profit organizations serving the communities of Haldimand, Norfolk, and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation can apply for funding at the United Way website at www.unitedwayhn.on.ca. Applications for funding are being accepted until Friday, January 17, 2025. All United Way funding must go directly to registered charitable organizations.

The United Way says its funding decisions are "community driven and community focused. Each year a group of



local volunteers representing various sectors in Haldimand and Norfolk form the Allocations Committee. Using their knowledge and first-hand experience, they allocate funds to the programs that will meet the most urgent needs of our community."

According to its latest annual report, the local United Way's allocations to member agencies included \$15,000 to Community Support Centre Haldimand-Norfolk; \$10,000 to Dalhousie Place; \$20,000 to Haldimand-Norfolk REACH; \$17,803 to Norfolk Association for Community Living; \$15,000 to Norfolk Community Help Centre, and \$19,000 to True Experience Supportive Housing.

The 2024 board of directors for The United Way of Haldimand and Norfolk include president David Sykes, treasurer Arlene Bakmazian, secretary Corey Clarysse, and directors Leslie Maracle, Rob Page, Lindsay Van Paassen, and Daniel Bouwmeister.

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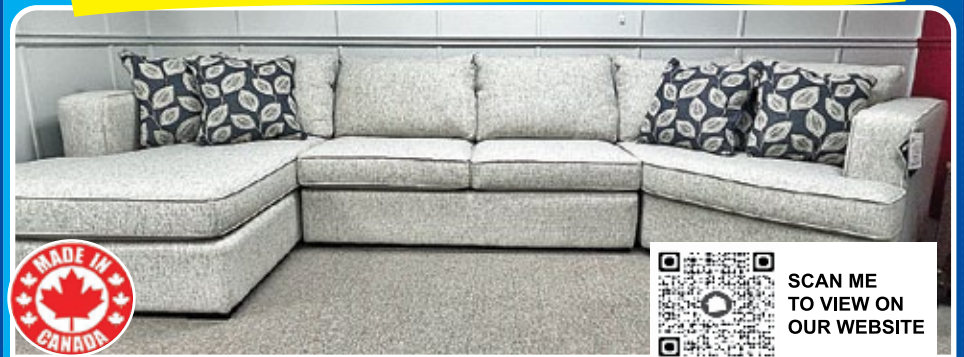
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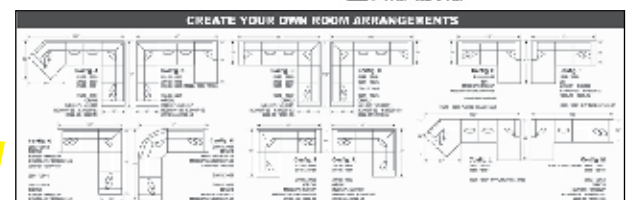
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VIEWPOINT

Port Dover Maple Leaf

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RIDE campaign on now through the holidays

THE holidays are often a season of fun, bringing us time to spend with loved ones, gatherings to attend, and many merry activities to enjoy. As Edward Pola and George Wyle put it in their song of the same name, "It's the most wonderful time of the year."

Of course, we all want to be safe travelling wherever we need to go this season, and we want the same for our neighbours, friends, and family. It's in that spirit that the Ontario Provincial

Police (OPP) is again conducting its annual Festive RIDE (Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere) campaign around the province.

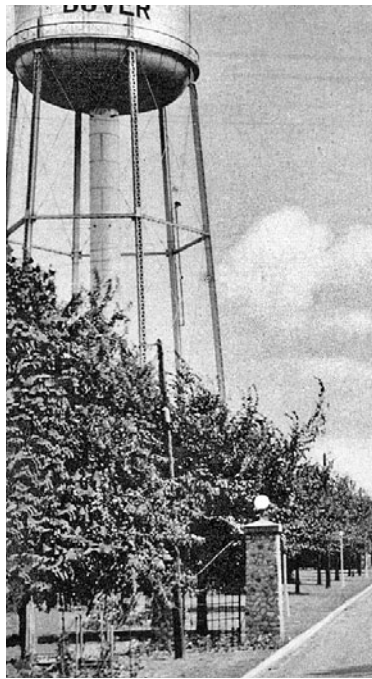
The initiative, which is on now to New Year's Day, seeks to remove impaired drivers from roads during the Christmas season. Drivers should expect increased police presence on the roads 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Removing impaired drivers from roads helps keep us all

safe, ensuring more people will be home with their loved ones for Christmas this year. Norfolk County has had zero impaired driving fatalities in 2024 after one occurred last year, but OPP has laid 113 impaired driving charges in the community.

It's crucial to remember that it's never safe to drive while impaired by drugs or alcohol. If you plan to become impaired, always make arrangements to avoid driving.

LOCAL HISTORY.



The original Port Dover water tower was in Memorial Park where St. Andrew Street joins into Main Street.

Top pay at H-N Region \$5.28/hour in 1974

65 Years Ago November 1959

About 80 youngsters attended the Hallowe'en skating party in the arena, sponsored by Port Dover Lions Club. Best fancy dressed couple was Andy Gay Schneider and Louisa Budweth; best comic couple were Ron and Ross Hagen; best girls' fancy dress was Marlene Robinson; best boys' fancy dress winner was Leslie Broker; girls' comic, Ann Struthers; boys' comic winner Glenn Spain and youngest in costume, Stephen Mummery, age 18 months.

In 1959, John McKinley of Port Dover was named president of the Southern Ontario Minor Hockey Association at a meeting held in Norwich. Don Smith,

also of Port Dover, was named secretary.

Chief of police Ivan Irwin reported little damage resulted from Hallowe'en pranks. Some children pulled a United Dairies horse-drawn milk wagon from the dairy to the public school.

A nomination meeting for Port Dover council for 1960 was held with 75 present. Mayor Harold Schneider was accorded another term as mayor for 1960-61 by acclamation. Charlie Quanbury received an acclamation as reeve and George A. Bush as deputy reeve. Town councillor Bev Schram announced he would retire from local politics and not seek re-election.

Woodhouse Township Reeve Chas. E. Booth was unopposed

for reeve for 1960. Township Council received acclamations also electing Murray Walker as deputy-reeve; councillors John Pow, Walter Wallis and Roy W. Sheppard.

William Belbeck, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jos. Belbeck, returned to Canada following two years' service with the Canadian occupation troops in Germany.

50 Years Ago November 1974

Those placing wreaths at the Powell Park cenotaph on Remembrance Day from local schools were: Doug Pepper and Suzanne Chambers representing Port Dover Composite School; Diane Phillips and Randy Hammond for Port Dover Public School;

Kevin Walker and Michele Simpson for Doverwood Public School; Terri Kutrowski and Dave Skinner for St. Cecilia's School.

Haldimand-Norfolk regional government workers received pay boosts in 1974. The pay levels of outside workers performing regular labour increased from \$3.05 per hour to \$4.45 per hour. Council agreed to increase the maximum hourly wage from \$3.60 up to \$5.28 per hour.

Port Dover Composite School 1974 Ontario Scholars were: Michael O'Dwyer, Louise Van Paassen, Melody DeFields, Mary Burbidge, Marilyn Gray, William Jelsma, Lutgarde VanEeckhaute, and Ronnie VanDam. Valedictory address was given by Paul Stetson.

Norfolk nets Rural Economic Development funds

AMY MARTIN



Mayor, Norfolk County

NORFOLK County recently welcomed Ontario's Minister of Rural Affairs, Lisa Thompson, for a visit that reinforced the province's commitment to supporting rural communities. During her visit, Minister Thompson announced a significant investment of \$116,050 in Rural Economic Development (RED) funding for Norfolk County. This partnership will drive the county's innovative "Future Ready Norfolk" initiative, which aims to strengthen local businesses, retain a skilled workforce, and create a more inclusive economy.

This partnership demonstrates the province's dedication to bolstering economic growth and sustainability in rural Ontario. Norfolk County is proud to contribute funds to maximize the impact of this initiative, ensuring that tax dollars are working harder to benefit businesses, residents, and the broader community.

The announcement took place in Norfolk County Council Chambers, where Minister Thompson highlighted the importance of fostering resilience in rural

municipalities. She noted how RED funding has acted as a catalyst for revitalization across Ontario, supporting businesses and downtown areas in creating vibrant local economies. She also emphasized the success of Norfolk's unique application for RED funds from a program that receives more applicants than it can fund.

Minister Thompson's connection to Norfolk County extends beyond formal announcements. She has attended the Norfolk County Fair and Horse Show for two consecutive years, even joining in the 4-H goat pen—a testament to her enthusiasm and hands-on approach to rural life.

Following the funding announcement, the Minister embarked on a tour of Norfolk County (along with myself, Councillor Columbus, Councillor Veri and Norfolk County staff including John Regan, director of economic development, and CAO Al Meneses) to gain firsthand insight into its challenges and opportunities. Stops included Norfolk Street and county-owned property on Pond Street in Simcoe, providing a clear view of rural issues. The tour also addressed one of rural Ontario's most pressing issues: homelessness.

Minister Thompson visited an encampment in downtown Simcoe, a stark reminder of the growing homelessness crisis facing rural communities across



Minister of Rural Affairs Lisa Thompson announces RED funding investment for Norfolk. Shown in photo are, left to right, councillors Chris Van Paassen, Alan Duthie, Doug Brunton, Mike Columbus, Linda Vandriessche, Adam Veri, Minister of Rural Affairs Lisa Thompson, and Mayor Amy Martin.

Ontario. Local leaders shared their experiences and outlined the county's efforts to address root causes, including housing insecurity and lack of access to support services. Minister Thompson listened attentively and expressed empathy, vowing to explore provincial resources that could assist Norfolk County in tackling this complex and urgent issue.

The visit also highlighted Norfolk County's entrepreneurial spirit, with a stop in Delhi to tour thriving local businesses. The Minister, joined by Sue Descheemaeker and Mark Spence of the Business Improvement Area (BIA), visited several key sites:

- The Little Local, a specialty store showcasing local artisans and a favourite holiday shopping destination for the Minister.
- Sentry Property Group, where significant renovations are

underway to create opportunities for new businesses.

- Mike's Subs, a local staple offering delicious, high-quality food.
- Capital 33 Lounge, a popular destination where the Minister enjoyed a meal and learned about its impact on the community.

These visits showcased the innovation and resilience of Norfolk's business community, illustrating how small businesses are vital to the county's economic stability and growth.

The Future Ready Norfolk initiative represents a comprehensive approach to economic development, focusing on:

- Business Retention and Expansion: Supporting local businesses to thrive in a competitive market.
- Workforce Development: Addressing labour shortages

and ensuring a skilled, adaptable workforce.

- Inclusivity: Creating a welcoming environment for newcomers, including underrepresented groups in the local economy.

This project, enabled by RED funding and Norfolk County's financial commitment, demonstrates a forward-thinking strategy to revitalize the community. By aligning efforts with provincial resources, Norfolk County is positioning itself as a leader in rural economic resilience.

Minister Thompson's visit reinforced the importance of collaboration between municipalities and the provincial government, and we are so very appreciative of her time and investment in Norfolk County.

Note: she was sent home with a variety of apples from our friends at the Fruit Growers' Association and a Folk toque!



OPG owns property in Nanticoke. Shown above is a portion of the massive site of the former Ontario Power Generation's Nanticoke thermal generating station on Lake Erie just east of Port Dover. At its peak, the coal-fired station had eight units producing 500 megawatts with a total capacity of 4,000 megawatts of electricity. The final units were shut down in December 2013. The two smokestacks were imploded in February 2018 and the last sections of the building demolished in August 2019. Now, solar panels on a portion of the site have the capacity to generate 44 megawatts of electricity into the existing transmission system. *Photo by Earl Hartlen & pilot Brent Smith*

How will proposed energy project impact Nanticoke?

BOBBI ANN BRADY



Queen's Park Report

WE have heard the warnings about Ontario's demand for electricity, and according to Ontario's Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO), the province's demand for electricity is forecast to increase by 75 per cent by 2050—this is equivalent to adding four and a half cities the size of Toronto to the electricity grid.

This growing energy demand stems primarily from Ontario's rapid increase in population, new manufacturing facilities, advanced technologies like artificial intelligence (AI) data centres, the electrification of industry, and the charging energy required for electric vehicles.

It seems the Government of Ontario is now taking steps to develop options for new energy generation to meet rising energy demand. On November 27, Energy and Electrification Minister Stephen Lecce announced he asked Ontario Power Generation (OPG) to begin discussions with Indigenous, community, and municipal leaders on three of its existing sites.

OPG is Ontario's largest en-

ergy generator and owns properties at Wesleyville in Port Hope, Lambton in St. Clair, and Nanticoke in Haldimand County. These three sites are already zoned for electricity generation, have proximity to transmission, and are all in Southern Ontario, within the areas experiencing significant population growth.

Prior to the announcement, the Minister and I had two productive conversations, and he assured me this is an initial step to determine community support for all types of new energy generation, including nuclear. I trust the Minister will work with our community as we have a long-standing positive working relationship.

I was heartened the Minister invited Haldimand County Mayor Shelley Ann Bentley to attend the announcement in Toronto. Mayor Bentley said she is looking forward to working toward a project that will benefit the people of Haldimand County.

"I was pleased to be part of Minister Lecce's announcement... Haldimand County has the site and the infrastructure to produce new energy generation. The creation of a new fund of up to \$50-million for our county, as well as an additional municipal property tax, employment in all sectors makes sense for Haldimand. I look forward to working with all involved to provide this economic development to our county," Mayor Bentley said.

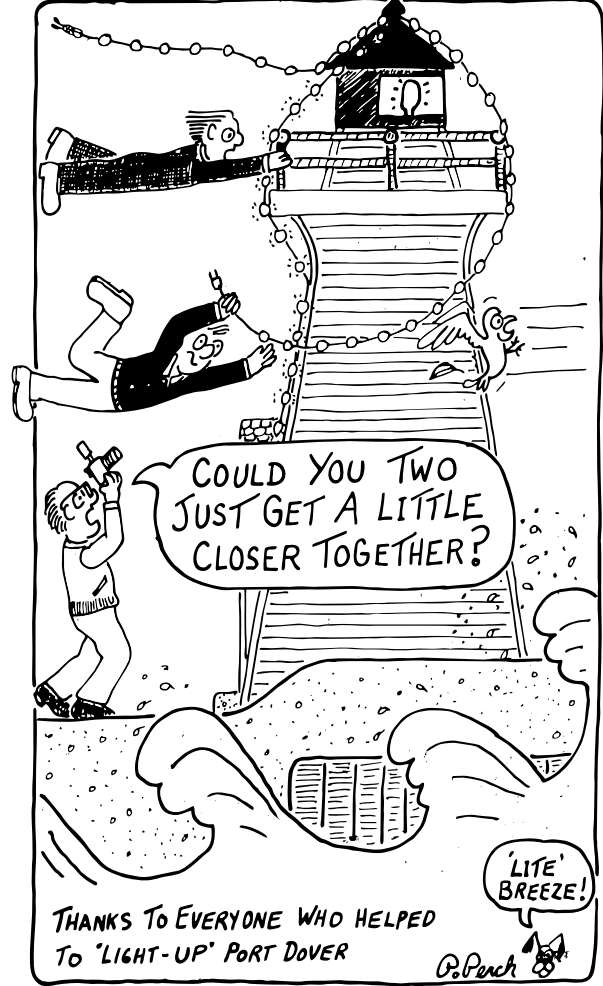
While the Minister's announcement did not specify the type of energy generation for each site, he did say that all types are being examined, including nuclear. I've maintained that the industrial park should be reserved for industry and to provide good-paying jobs to people in our community.

Last week, I reached out to you all asking that you write to a list of cabinet ministers to let them know your thoughts on Haldimand County's request—the request of five councillors—for a Ministerial Zoning Order (MZO) that would green-light the development proposal, which could eventually see upwards of 40,000 people living within the industrial park. That list of cabinet ministers should now include Energy Minister Lecce (MinisterEnergy@ontario.ca).

While we were discussing the announcement, I was extremely candid with Minister Lecce regarding the development. He understood my concerns with the idea of having a city surrounded by heavy industry, and now the idea of nuclear is in that mix.

I think the government now has a decision to make. Do they issue an MZO for housing they can build in many other areas of Ontario, or do they move forward with an energy project that will provide more good-paying jobs, long-term economic spinoffs, and the certainty Ontario can meet its energy demands?

SOMETHIN'S FISHY BY PETER PERCH



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Lynn Valley Voices present concert this Sunday at Grace United Church

THE Lynn Valley Voices have been rehearsing since September for their Advent concert “Wintersong,” which is coming to Port Dover this Sunday afternoon.

Janice Ketchen, founder and director of the 23-voice ensemble, told the Maple Leaf that the group will be sharing some beautiful, relaxing holiday music in anticipation of the busy Christmas season.

“Advent is a time for peace and reflection leading up to Christmas, so the music we are present-

ing is full of images of flickering candlelight, peaceful snowy scenes, and the remembrance of past holidays with loved ones. We reflect on the true meaning of Christmas without all of the brashness and commercialism that the season has become. The music we share expresses the joy and harmony people feel toward one another at this time of year,” Ms. Ketchen said.

The repertoire includes music from movies like *Home Alone*, *Anastasia* and *Harry Potter*.

There will also be one carol that the audience can join in singing. Accompaniment is provided by pianist Linda Bonadeo-Boll and a flautist will add light flourishes to the choral pieces.

Admission is by donation so no ticket is required. The first performance was held last Sunday at St. James United Church in Simcoe. A second performance is being held this coming Sunday, December 8, at 3:30 p.m. at Grace United Church, 18 Chapman St. W. in Port Dover.



Janice Ketchen leads the 23-voice Lynn Valley Voices at a recent rehearsal for the ensemble’s Advent concert “Wintersong” taking place this Sunday afternoon at Grace United Church at 3:30 p.m.



Shown above, back row, from left, are Sue Goble, Kathy Caskenette, Michelle Grummett (100 Women Who Care), Amelia & Candice Vanhie (chairperson of the board), Wendy Spence (treasurer), Sarita Free (director and 100 Women Who Care member), and Vanessa Gignac (secretary). In front are children from Norfolk Little People’s Daycare.

Improvements on the way to Norfolk Little People’s Daycare from 100 Women Who Care

By Kathy Caskenette

AT the November meeting of 100 Women Who Care Norfolk, the successful recipient of \$18,500 was Norfolk Little People’s Daycare located in Langton. Candice Vanhie presented on behalf of the Daycare (sponsored by Sarita Free, member). The other two charities selected to present were Waterford SkatePark, presented by Kerry Bockenholt (sponsored by Jill Chuli, member) and HN Women’s Services, presented by Ashley Malo.

The Little People’s Daycare is a licensed daycare that currently has 56 preschool aged children enrolled with close to 150 preschoolers on the waitlist. The daycare

also runs before and after school programs.

With this donation, the daycare will install a comprehensive security system, install an entry “buzz-in” system, improve accessibility and add large awnings at their entry doors. These improvements will ensure the staff, parents and young people have a safe and accessible location to go to each day.

100 Women Who Care Norfolk has donated more than \$670,000 to 42 local Norfolk charities since 2014, helping thousands of Norfolk residents. The local chapter has more than 180 members. For more information visit www.100womenwhocarenorfolk.ca.

Special Olympics honoured Cliff Butler and Wayne Smith



Shown at left are two outstanding members of the Simcoe Special Olympics community. Cliff Butler on the left and Wayne Smith on the right.

Cliff and Wayne recently received awards from Special Olympics Ontario for their 35 years of service. Cliff and Wayne took over in 1989 and created the Special Olympics Simcoe community. The program started with five-pin bowling and soon grew into 10-pin bowling and swimming and now offers bowling, basketball, floor hockey, swimming and golf.

Cliff and Wayne offered their thanks to all the volunteers and sponsors. They said they would have never been able to create such a program if it wasn’t for all the additional support in the community.

Special Olympics Simcoe is dedicated to enriching the lives of area individuals with intellectual disabilities through the power of sport.

Earl Hartlen’s

2025 Calendar

A Port Dover calendar featuring local photography by Earl Hartlen

Plus, many popular Port Dover events are included on the calendar!

\$20

Calendars are available at:

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Supporters of a proposal to build pickleball courts in Turkey Point display signs during a recent county budget meeting on Nov. 21. Port Rowan Coun. Tom Masschaele and Waterford Coun. Kim Huffman are in foreground. Port Dover Coun. Adam Veri and Delhi Coun. Mike Columbus are on the opposite side of the council table.

Turkey Point community divided over building pickleball courts

By David Judd

THE ball is in county council's court.

Council will decide, possibly next year, whether Norfolk will spend up to \$200,000 to build pickleball courts in a Turkey Point park.

The community is divided over the project.

On one hand, 400 residents have signed a petition calling for council to build pickleball courts next year at the entrance to the community at a county-owned park at the bottom of the hill on Turkey Point Road.

On the other hand, many residents don't want to lose Turkey Point's only public green space to pickleball.

And they warn about daylong pickleball noise — the thwacking of plastic balls on plastic paddles sounding like pistol shots — troubling neighbours up to 700 feet away.

Coun. Chris Van Paassen, the councillor who represents Turkey Point and area, served up a third option last week.

He suggested not building courts in Turkey Point. Instead, renovate an old tennis court in Vittoria and save money.

All three options were on display at a county council meeting last Thursday.

About three dozen supporters of the Turkey Point Pickleball Committee — its logo a turkey wearing a cap and sneakers and holding a pickleball paddle and ball — filled benches and held up signs on two sides of the council chamber as their spokesballs asked council to build pickleball courts in Turkey Point next year rather than in 2026 as listed in Norfolk's capital plan.

A smaller group spoke against building courts in Turkey Point Park. They would prefer Norfolk put money toward other improvements in the park.

They also worried about noise.

Coun. Van Paassen half-jokingly said he would make everyone unhappy by suggesting Vittoria's dilapidated tennis court be refurbished for pickleball.

Councillors made no decision last Thursday.

They're waiting to see recommendations of a recreation master plan expected early next year.

In the meantime, \$120,000 continues to be in Norfolk's budget forecast to build Turkey Point pickleball courts in 2026, subject to change at council's

discretion.

Pickleball is one of the world's fastest growing sports.

It combines elements of tennis, badminton and table tennis.

Invented in Washington state in 1965, it is popular with seniors who find it easy to play and a good way to make friends.

Norfolk has pickleball courts in Port Dover, Simcoe, Waterford, Courtland, Langton, Port Rowan, Pinegrove and Waterford.

A county website also lists Vittoria, although Coun. Van Paassen says Vittoria's one tennis court has deteriorated faster than expected, has holes and needs refurbishing for an estimated \$280,000 in 2025.

The six-member Turkey Point Pickleball Committee wants new courts in Turkey Point done right, Doug Johnson told county councillors last Thursday.

Mr. Johnson pointed to Tillsonburg's three "gold standard" courts that have proper nets and surface finish.

Similar courts in Turkey Point could be built in May and June for \$200,000, he said.

Norfolk has budgeted \$120,000 for Turkey Point in 2026. The pickleball committee would help raise \$80,000 to provide the \$200,000 for gold standard courts.

If Turkey Point's courts are built in the park's green space, the closest neighbour would be 165 feet away.

That's not far enough, according to neighbours.

Closest homes should be 500 to 700 feet away, said resident Rick Koudys.

"I don't want to live down the street from non-stop noise," he said.

Former Haldimand mayor Ken Hewitt, who has lived in Turkey Point since 2015, encouraged council to follow a partnership approach to install pickleball courts.

The people who want courts should help pay for them, he said.

The third and best option for all taxpayers might be to redo Vittoria's tennis court as three Tillsonburg-style pads for pickleball, Coun. Van Paassen said.

Norfolk's 2025 capital plan budgets \$280,000 to refurbish Vittoria's tennis court.

Coun. Van Paassen said he would hate to see green space lost in Turkey Point Park.

He also wondered if there was "weird infrastructure" underground in

the former trailer park.

In an interview, Coun. Van Paassen said he understood if Turkey Point pickleballers refuse to help raise funds for courts in Vittoria.

Council will look at a recreation master plan in the first quarter of 2025, CAO Al Meneses said in an interview.

Does Norfolk want facilities everywhere or to focus them in certain communities? Mr. Meneses asked.

Will the plan offer what people want or what they can afford?

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Purrfect Companions of Norfolk Caring for abandoned cats goes on day and night



Brenda Cameron is hand feeding one of the many kittens brought to Purrfect Companions of Norfolk without a mother.

By Stephanie Wilson

I'm going to deviate slightly from the topic of the environment in this article. This time I'd like to talk about cats.

Now, I love cats. I always have. I always tell people that the only thing between my becoming the crazy cat lady, is my husband. As it is, we have two beautiful fur babies.

About three years ago, I started volunteering at Purrfect Companions of Norfolk (PCON), which is where we adopted our two cats. I have really had my eyes opened. We've likely all seen cats wandering around our community without giving it too much thought. Probably somebody down the street's cat, right? Maybe, and maybe not. As it turns out, there are many cats who have no home, who have been abandoned by irrespon-

sible people into the harshest of conditions.

During COVID, as you may have heard, many folks adopted pets to help relieve their loneliness. That sounded like a good idea until COVID was over and everyone went back to work, or just got tired of the animals.



Many cats in Norfolk have been abandoned.



The Purrfect Companions of Norfolk shelter for cats is full!

Many pets have been found abandoned, sometimes with litters, simply discarded like so much garbage. Colonies of cats are formed, with many of them not spayed or neutered, resulting in more and more cats.

Since COVID, some veterinary costs have soared. As a result, the pets are abandoned when people can't afford to keep them. It is estimated that about \$200,000 leaves Norfolk County because there is no low-cost clinic here. A low-cost clinic would help ensure that cats are spayed and neutered to keep the population down.

About 20 years ago, a woman named Brenda Cameron felt pity for cats who were not being cared for. She began rescuing cats, using her garage to shelter them. Twelve years ago, she opened a shelter in Delhi. Since then, many cats that have been found have been surrendered to the shelter. Now, there are over 500 cats under its care. Some are in cat cafés, some in foster care, but most are at the building in Delhi. There are many volunteers who clean cages and litter boxes, provide food and water, clean floors, and socialize the cats so that they will hopefully get adopted.

Brenda works day and night, very literally, trying to save every cat that she can. Some come in almost dead, but she will do everything in her power to save them. Sadly, they don't always make it. Spring is the very busiest time, as that is when cats have litters. Litters are sometimes found outside, sometimes with no mother cat. Many of these kittens are starving or dehydrated or diseased, and need constant care. (As I write this, a new litter of kittens just a few days old with no mother has been surrendered to the shelter. Brenda will be up every two or three hours feeding these babies.)

PCON gets *no* funding from the government, despite many requests. Many volunteers work tirelessly raising money to pay for the cost of caring for these cats. The rescue centre also counts on donations from the public. Besides government funding, what is desperately needed, as stated above, are low-cost veterinary clinics.

So how does this relate to the environment at all? Hundreds of cats on the loose have to eat. One of their main food sources is birds. If you remember one of my earlier articles, our native songbirds are disappearing at an alarming rate. This is one of the reasons.

So what can we do to alleviate this problem? Adopt a cat from a shelter. Have your pets spayed or neutered, donate to a shelter, volunteer, sign petitions to insist that government (including Norfolk County) provide grants to these shelters, and push for low cost spay/neuter clinics. A lot of people and pets would be so grateful.

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Grand Erie students' recent EQAO results show more math success

LOCAL PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS' RESULTS STILL TRAIL PROVINCIAL SUCCESS RATES

By Jacob Fehr

ON Sept. 30, Grand Erie District School Board (GEDSB) published data regarding its 2023–24 Grade 3, 6, and 9 students' Education, Quality, and Accountability Office (EQAO) test results. EQAO tests assess students in reading, writing, and mathematics.

Compared to students' EQAO data from the 2022–23 school year, the 2023–24 results demonstrate an increase in the percentage of GEDSB students who met or exceeded the provincial standards in mathematics at all three grade levels. These increases follow GEDSB's implementation of a Math Achievement Action Plan (MAAP) aimed at improving students' achievement in math at the start of the 2023–24 school year.

As was the case with the board's 2022–23 students' EQAO results, the percentages of GEDSB students in Grades 3, 6, and 9 who met or exceeded the provincial standards in each assessment area in the 2023–24 school year are lower than the percentages of students who met or exceeded those standards across Ontario during the same year.

The tables below show a comparison with each figure representing a percentage of students (GEDSB or Ontario-wide) meeting or exceeding provincial standards in an area of assessment at a particular grade level.

Grade 3 students

meeting or exceeding provincial standards

	GEDSB 2022–23	GEDSB 2023–24	All Ontario 2023–24
Reading	63%	62%	73%
Writing	52%	54%	65%
Mathematics	50%	52%	61%

Grade 6 students

meeting or exceeding provincial standards

	GEDSB 2022–23	GEDSB 2023–24	All Ontario 2023–24
Reading	77%	74%	84%
Writing	74%	70%	84%
Mathematics	37%	41%	50%

Grade 9 students

meeting or exceeding provincial standards

	GEDSB 2022–23	GEDSB 2023–24	All Ontario 2023–24
Mathematics	39%	41%	54%

For the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test taken in Grade 10, GEDSB pupils had a participation rate of 87 per cent compared to the provincial rate of 92 per cent. The percentage of first-time eligible GEDSB students who were successful was 76 per cent, the same as in 2022–23, and the success rate for all English-language schools was 85 per cent, the same as in 2022–23.

The Maple Leaf contacted GEDSB's senior manager of communications and community relations, Ryan Strang, with questions about the board's 2023–24 EQAO data.

The following are the Maple Leaf's questions and the GEDSB's responses. All responses came from Mr. Strang, except where noted.

Q&A with GEDSB

Q: According to the board's media release from Sept. 30, the percentage of GEDSB students in Grades 3, 6, and 9 meeting or surpassing provincial standards in reading, writing, and mathematics is lower than the percentage of students meeting or surpassing the provincial standards for those testing areas across Ontario. Why is this the case? Does the board have an explanation for its students' performance relative to that of all students in the province?

"Grand Erie is committed to achieving stronger outcomes for its students by taking proactive steps to enhance reading, writing, and mathematics. This year's results show continued growth in Grand Erie's journey of academic excellence with a collective effort by educators, administrators, instructional coaches, support staff, system staff and leaders," Mr. Strang said.

"Staff are to be commended for their outstanding commitment to student achievement every day in classrooms across the district," said JoAnna Roberto, GEDSB director of education. "We'll continue to focus on innovative strategies and professional learning opportunities centrally and school-based to cultivate an environment where all students reach their full potential."

Q: What does GEDSB think of this fact? Is it a problem or a symptom of other problems?

"The board aims to ensure instructional strategies and assessment tools enable educators to understand and adapt to their students' individual strengths and needs. The board is focused on strategies to support learners and close any learning gaps relative to provincial standards," Mr. Strang said.

Q: GEDSB students' EQAO results show substantially less success meeting or surpassing the provincial standards in mathematics than in reading and writing. However, the results also demonstrate improvement in achievement in mathematics across all grade levels between the 2022–23 and 2023–24 school years. Last year, the board launched its Math Achievement Action Plan (MAAP) to help improve students' achievement in mathematics. Does the board attribute its students' improvement in math last year to the implementation of its MAAP? How does the MAAP help students? What impact do you expect it to have over time?

"It's a result of Grand Erie's journey to academic excellence. Guided by the Grand Erie [MAAP], the collective effort by dedicated administrators, system and support staff and educators for their outstanding commitment to student achievement every day in classrooms is evident in the increasing EQAO results."

Q: Why are GEDSB students (and/or, broadly, students across all of Ontario) struggling to meet or exceed provincial standards in mathematics in particular?

"Math learning and achievement is a focus and a priority for Grand Erie and we

continue to demonstrate growth year over year increases to close the learning gap."

Q: Beyond the MAAP, what strategies or plans does GEDSB have to help students meet or exceed the provincial standards in EQAO assessment areas? How will those strategies or plans help?

"Grand Erie will continue to focus on professional learning grounded in the Ontario Math Curriculum and evidence-based and responsive instructional and assessment practices aligned with Grand Erie's Annual Learning and Operating Plan."

Q: [We] noticed some small decreases in the percentages of students meeting or exceeding the provincial standards in reading for Grade 3 and reading and writing for Grade 6. Does the board expect to see the percentage of its students meeting or exceeding provincial standards fluctuate each year? If so, is there a range of expected or negligible fluctuation between years, and what might that range be?

"We always keep the following at the core of our work, this is a provincial standard assessment, and our goal is to meet the needs of each cohort of students. Analyzing the data is also essential when it comes to growth over time that focuses on student achievement. There are several factors, including differences in the student cohort, and changes in curriculum or assessment methods."

Q: Can parents help their children succeed at EQAO testing? If so, how can they best help their children succeed?

"Yes, parents and caregivers play a key role in to help their child prepare and succeed in EQAO assessment and in their child's learning journey. Parents and caregivers can encourage to support their child at home and in schools, connections to daily school learning habits, maintain a positive and supportive attitude toward schoolwork and open conversations regarding testing to reduce anxiety, focus on fundamental literacy and numeracy skills through everyday activities, such as cooking or shopping, and prioritize rest and well-being."

"Grand Erie promotes and distributes monthly math newsletters with families to support at home learning and each school reaches out to families making home school connections through math nights and other events that enhance the relationship."

Q: What's the board's message to families regarding last year's EQAO results?

"These are the results of a focused and committed approach to curriculum and foundational skills responsive to student needs for them to succeed. We will continue to learn and lead by supporting and implementing innovative strategies and professional learning opportunities to cultivate an environment where all students reach their full potential."

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Sailors did everything but score in 1-8 loss to Streetsville Sunday

By Jan Dean

THE Sailors have hit injury season which meant a short bench for their Dec. 1 Junior C hockey game against the Streetsville Derbys in Port Dover Arena.

As if that weren't enough, the Sailors still seem snake-bit when it comes to scoring. They're shooting but can't seem to will the puck into the net.

In the first period, the Sailors were in control of the puck and the pace of the game for minutes at a time.

Despite those efforts, the only scoring came from Streetsville.

At 5:18 in the first period Streetsville's Liam McFarland scored on a power play. Then at 6:57 Streetsville's Colin Day scored to put the score at 0-2.

In the second period, the streak continued with Streetsville's Andre Minakakis scoring at 2:14, Dylan Kelly at 8:37, and Cole Dann at 10:38 to put the Derbys up 0-5 over two periods.

It wasn't as if the Sailors weren't trying. They took 33 shots in the first two periods—but Streetsville goalie Carver Monroe stopped every one of them.

Again, the scoring came from Streetsville for the third period when Dylan Kelly scored 31 seconds into the period and

Evan Camara at 8:04. The team's final goal of the game came from Brody Baughman at 17:31 to give the Derbys a final score of 8.

In that third period the Sailors threw everything they had at the net and nothing went in until 19:13 when Sailor Aiden Thorne scored short-handed with an assist from Matt McRuer.

The game ended 1-8 for the Derbys. Sailors goalie Alex Csizmadia got the loss after stopping 47 of 55 shots.

Over the course of the game the Sailors actually outshot the Derbys 56-55. Penalties were few and far between for both teams.

"It's frustrating right now because we controlled the ice from the centre to the zone," said Sailors Asst. Coach Shayne Leith. "We just have to keep working to get through this."

Though Leith says that coaching is rewarding and fun, he admits scoring slumps like this are tough to get through.

That was something Sailors forward #9 Aiden Thorne could agree with.

This is the Waterford native's first season with the Sailors. He is also one of the younger Sailors—just days away from turning 17.

"We controlled the ice for so much of the game but the puck never bounces our way," said Aiden. "We just have to keep plugging."

He said he just drove the net when he scored and with the help of teammates he saw the puck go through the goalie's pads.

"When it all works it's fun but that goalie was blocking everything," he said.

The grade 12 student is planning to go to university to become a physiotherapist.

Unfortunately, the Sailors also didn't have great luck in their two weeknight games.

On Thurs., Nov. 28, the Sailors played against the Dundas Blues. In a game plagued by mutual antagonism, fights and penalties the Sailors lost 3-8.

The Sailors were cited for 15 infractions for 38 penalty minutes while Dundas com-



Always in motion: Port Dover Sailors Junior C hockey games can be intense.



Sailor #9 Aiden Thorne scored the team's only goal in Sunday's home game.

mitted 11 infractions for 29 minutes.

The Sailors didn't fare much better on Friday night (Nov. 29) in Dunnville when the Mudcats won 8-5 in a game with fights and friction.

The Sailors took 10 infractions for 22

minutes while Dunnville took 14 infractions for 33 minutes.

The Sailors were badly outshot in Dundas but in Dunnville shots on goal were almost even.

The one commonality all three games showed was numeric. The Sailors allowed 8 goals against in each of those games. They can't win when they hand their opponents that kind of an edge.

The Sailors play next on Sat., Dec. 7, at 4:30 p.m. in Glanbrook against the Glanbrook Rangers.

On Sunday, Dec. 8, the Dunnville Mudcats will face off against the Sailors in the Port Dover Arena at 2 p.m.

That is also when the Port Dover Sailors will be raffling off a gobble-load of turkeys and collecting donations for the Port Dover and Area Lifeline Foodbank. Bring a non-perishable donation for the Food Bank and get a ticket for the turkey raffles. Those draws will happen every period of the game.



Sailors asst. coach Shayne Leith said, "We just have to keep working to get through this."

Winners at Jarvis Lions Club Turkey Raffle fundraiser

ON Thursday, Nov. 21, Jarvis Community Centre was filled with local residents attending the Jarvis Lions Fish Dinner and Turkey Raffle. Over 300 people enjoyed a great meal in the company of friends and family served by the members and volunteers of the Jarvis Lions Club.

The club's annual Turkey Raffle took place during the dinner. All proceeds from the raffle will benefit the new Norfolk Haldimand Community Hospice being planned just outside of Jarvis.

Turkey winners

Here are the names of winners of the 100 turkeys as provided by Jarvis Lions Club—Paul Fulson, Fisherville; Cathy Novena, Port Dover; Richard Johnson, Caledonia; Ashley Rafuse (2), Jarvis; Winston Sardine, Hagersville; Angela McBride, Jarvis; Mike Arnold, Simcoe; Nikki Montague, Jarvis; Steve Jackson, Caledonia; Pat McClung, Caledonia; Norm Barry (2), Haliburton;

Debbie Rielly; Carole Phibbs (2), Matheson; Sam Miller, Jarvis; Barb Harrop, Caledonia; Alan Williamson, Jarvis; Linda Barker (2), Port Dover; Ester Van V., Selkirk; Marv Bartlett, Hagersville; Lisa Nigh, Jarvis; Greg Lougheed, Jarvis; Aaron Henry, Jarvis; Rob Anderson, Simcoe; Sandra Sardine, Hagersville; Richard Johnson, Caledonia; Madison O'Halloran; Jeff McCarthy (2)-Townsend; Jen Hancock, Wilsonville; Terry Dosser, Jarvis; J. Bassett, Nanticoke; Bryan McKeen, Jarvis; Cam Cripps, Ballinafad; Kristen Law, Jarvis; Ron Francis, Simcoe; Dan Lawrence, Caledonia; Ryan Young, Caledonia; Kelly Udell, Jarvis; Trevor Crozier, Hagersville; Jim Vynckier; Rick Freeborn, Hamilton; Joyce Moore, Villa Nova; Deb Brooks (2), St. Catharines; Nancy Kett (2); Maddie McBride, Jarvis; Laurel Nelson, Wilsonville; Wendy McBride, Kitchener; Paul Brown, Selkirk; Darlene Field, Mount Hope; Leola Mummery; Chad Staats, Townsend; Tina Russell, Jar-

vis; Jim Adams, Simcoe; Donna Church, Selkirk; Reg Schweyer; Deb McKeen; Bill Doyle, Simcoe; Len's Auto (2), Jarvis; Catherine Southworth, Selkirk; Pat Doyle, Hagersville; Mark Lantz, Jarvis; Candice DeJardine, Simcoe; Andrea VanBentham, Hagersville; Deb Johnson, Selkirk; Sawyer Stone, Jarvis; Deb Innes, Selkirk; Chad Curtis, Woodstock; Barry Devons, Hamilton; Dona Colville, Simcoe; Barb Gee, Hagersville; Marie Graham, Jarvis; Jack Roberts, Hagersville; Laurie Carmichael; Barry Devins, Hamilton; Sheila Phibbs, Jarvis; Chloe Nash; JoJo Besenyodi, Port Dover; Brome Rasse, Jarvis; Wayne Vaillant, Jarvis; Amillia Lindsay, Selkirk; Paul Found, Simcoe; Steve Jackson, Caledonia; Scott Hill, Jarvis; Ernie Bigelow, Jarvis; Keith Vanderbilt, Hagersville; Harry Phibbs, Matheson; Steve Burrows, St. Catharines; Diane Marr Dove; Barry Devons, Hamilton; Derek Demeyere, Simcoe; Jean Ausher, Jarvis; Dianne Miller, Jarvis; Tara Brotz, Simcoe.

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DOUGLAS, Allan – On November 25th, 2024, the great wizard sat himself down onto his motorcycle and took his last ride into the sunset.

Allan was a man with many qualities and talents; one of which was his 40 years as a Master Electrician, retiring from the University of Waterloo. During his time on earth, he enjoyed many hobbies including fishing, gardening and tinkering with his newest toy to name a few. He was the person someone would go to if they had a problem—he always had an answer. Allan was an animal lover; anyone who knew him knew of the love he had for his “kids.” His beloved Bailey, Gemma and Gargoyle were his shadows, following close beside him every step he took, keeping him company when he needed it and providing him with joy.

Allan is predeceased by loving parents Shirley (Pamplin) & Henry Douglas, sister Sharlene (Shar) Douglas, and brother Tom Douglas. Survived by his loving daughter Hannah (Cody McEwan), his moon and stars, and the light of his eye, to live on his legacy. As well as his caring brother and sister, Bruce Douglas (Shari) & Crystal Gignac (Pat). Allan was the fond uncle of Loretta, Thomas and Natasha.

Allan was a friend of many, always knowing someone no matter where he was. May his memory live on through the lives of who he has touched.

To honour Allan, donations can be made to the following organizations in his name: Niagara Dog Rescue or Ride for SickKids. Personal condolences may be shared at www.smithleroy.com.

Lois Gordon



GORDON, Lois Eileen – Peacefully at Norfolk General Hospital, Simcoe, on Friday, November 29, 2024, at the age of 88 years. Loving mother of Sandy Rogers (James), and Pam Boufford (Norval). Loving and proud grandma of Melissa Barber-Hong (Arty), Jason Barber (Elissa), Carina Boufford and the late Matthew Boufford. Adoring great-grandmother of Benjamin, Kingston, Fiore, Aiden and Jakob. Daughter of the late Cecil & Marion Davis. Sister of Kathleen Herkimer and the late Millie, Shirley, and Roger. Lois will be missed by her many nieces and nephews and cousins.

Lois was active in her community. She was a long-time member of the Assembly of Friends where she acted as Secretary for 32 years! and also taught Sunday School. She was also a member of the Janet Bonney friendship group and a past vice-president.

Playing Hoss (Not Euchre!!) with the Selkirk Seniors Card Group, where she was a past president, was always a highlight of her week. Monday afternoons were set aside for attending the Port Dover Lions Club “Show and Shine” where she would socialize and enjoy the music. Elvis was her favourite!

Lois also had a profound interest in gardening and was a lifetime member of the Port Dover Horticultural Society, where she acted as Secretary.

The family would like to thank the medical team at NGH as well as those involved in the care that she received at home for their compassion and understanding.

The family will honour her life with visitation at Hyde & Mott Chapel, R.H.B. Anderson Funeral Homes Ltd., 60 Main Street South, Hagersville, on Thursday, December 5th, from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Funeral service will be held on Friday, December 6, 2024, at 11 a.m. Interment Hagersville Cemetery. As an expression of sympathy donations may be made to the Diabetes Association, Canadian Cancer Society or the charity of your choice. www.rhbanderson.com.

Rick Leney



LENEY, Richard Douglas Sr. 1945 – 2024

Passed away peacefully on Saturday, November 30, 2024, at the Adam's Centre in St. Catharines at the age of 79.

Beloved husband and best friend of 58 years to Adelma (Del). Dear and loving father of Kimberley Leney (Chris Lachnit), Richard (Ritch) Leney (Pearl Lieu) and predeceased by his daughter Lehanne (1970). Cherished grandfather of Melanie, Trevor (Ana), Devon, Braiden (Cassie) and step grandfather to Kevin (Kelsey), Justin (Christine), Jason (Erin), Tiffany (Austin) and Ash-Lee. Step great-grandfather to Shane, Addisyn and Anya. Dear brother of Dennis (Elaine). Predeceased by father Parker (Spud) and his mother Gladys. Also forever missed by his many nieces and nephews.

Rick was employed with Bell Canada for 30 years, retiring in 1995 at the age of 50. After retirement, Rick held several jobs as well as owned his own business.

In 2001 he was hired by Lewis & Krall as a Home Health Serviceman until 2015. For many years he coached, refereed and was on the executive of Pelham Minor Hockey. He was a member of the Fenwick Lions Club and transferred to the Fonthill Lions Club.

In later years he coached his grand boys at Welland Minor Hockey. Rick enjoyed playing hockey, waterskiing, snowmobiling and camping while introducing all to his kids and grandchildren. Rick and Del travelled coast to coast in Canada, to Florida, Hawaii and Alaska.

The family would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to the caring team at the Adams Centre for the outstanding care and compassion Rick was given while in their care.

The family will receive friends at the PELHAM FUNERAL HOME, 1292 Pelham Street, Fonthill on Wednesday, December 4th, from 7 – 9:00 pm and on Thursday, December 5th from 10 – 11:00 am followed by a memorial service to honour Rick's life beginning at 11:00 am. A reception will follow at the Fonthill Legion, on Hwy 20, Fonthill.

As an expression of sympathy donations may be made to the Fenwick Lions Club, Fonthill Lions Club or to the Niagara Health Foundation.

Condolences can be shared at www.pelhamfuneralhome.ca.

Rowna Mathyk



MATHYK, Rowna Sandra – Passed away peacefully on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at Gardenview Long-Term Care facility in Townsend, in her 80th year. Predeceased by her parents, Catherine and George Miller. Beloved wife and life-partner of 59 years Douglas Mathyk. Cherished mother of Marc (Raquel) and Scott (Begum). Loving grandmother to Maya Lucia. Rowna will be fondly remembered for her dedication to her family and her zest for life, which touched the hearts of all who knew her. Raise a glass of gin and tonic in her honour at 3 p.m., whenever you wish because “You're still the one...” Cremation has taken place. SERENITY BURIAL & CREMATION SERVICES INC., 361 Main Street, Port Dover (226) 290-9093 have been entrusted with the arrangements. In lieu of flowers, donations in Rowna's memory can be made to Purrfect Companions, 19 Brantford Rd., Delhi, Ontario N4B 1V5.

A very special thank you to all the wonderful and kind souls at Parkview Meadows Christian Retirement Village/Gardenview Long-Term Care who cared for and comforted Rowna. Online condolences may be left at serenityburialandcremation.com.

Patricia Ann Courtnage
nee: Schneider

March 3, 1939 – November 30, 2024

At Norfolk General Hospital, Simcoe on Saturday, November 30, 2024, at the age of 85 years. Wife of the late William Courtnage. Loving mother of Bruce & Tammie. Dear grandmother of Skylar, Ashley, and Brooke. Daughter of the late Harold & Marjorie Schneider. Sister of Tony (deceased) & Betty Schneider, Bruce Schneider, and Gay Brzozowski & Sandy Smith.

Funeral Service will be held at Hyde & Mott Chapel of R.H.B. Anderson Funeral Homes Ltd., 60 Main St. S., Hagersville on Thursday, December 5, 2024, at 11 am. (visitation 1 hour prior to service). Interment Hagersville Cemetery.

Information at www.rhbanderson.com. Notice was received at *Maple Leaf press deadline* and a complete obituary notice will appear in next week's *Maple Leaf*.

Stewart Patterson



PATTERSON, Stewart – I've sipped my last pint but don't let that stop you. On Tuesday, November 26th, 2024, I was sad to leave behind my loving wife of 32 years, Nancy, and my children Dylan (Josée) and Darby. Born in 1959, I arrived in Jarvis from Bangor, Northern Ireland, after my parents passed. I was 14 years old and came to live with my sister and brother-in-law—Prue and Elmar Steiner—leaving my big brother Henry (Linda) in Belfast, Northern Ireland. I was lucky to have my brothers-in-law Wayne (Gayle), Peter (Sherry) and Allan (Julie) Welsh along with many very awesome nieces and nephews in my life. The Jarvis Lions were my other Family and I look back fondly on the 37 years that I spent with such a great group of friends who supported a journey that took Nancy and I to many places within our district and throughout Ontario as Governor, and around the world as MDA Council Chair. After 30 years at Stelco with a strong advocacy for my Union brothers, I have since been retired for 15 years and enjoyed spending my time at the cottage, boating, skiing, playing cards, listening to Van the Man, and living it up with my family. Serving as the Ward 1 Councillor for Haldimand Council and advocating for our residents these last six years has given me a great sense of pride. I leave behind many friends that I will miss and have had the pleasure of toasting countless beverages with. Not sure how I accomplished all of this while being the grumpy sarcastic brute that I was. Come join my family at the Jarvis Community Centre in celebrating a final toast on Wednesday, December 4th, with greetings by my family at 3 p.m., a few words at 4 p.m. and the remainder of the time cheers-ing to a life well lived and enjoyed. Sláinte & Go Bruins! – the Stewman.

Arrangements entrusted to COOPER FUNERAL HOME, Jarvis (519-587-4414). If desired, donations to support the Norfolk Haldimand Community Hospice would be appreciated by the family. Friends are invited to send condolences and sign the Book of Memories at www.cooperfuneralhome.ca.



NOTICES

PERSONAL

DRINKING PROBLEM? Alcoholics Anonymous has a solution. **24 Hour Helpline** – 519-752-5981. Website – www.branterrie-aa.org; Email – portdovergroup@gmail.com.

SUPPORT GROUP

BREAST CANCER SUPPORT Group in Port Dover. For information, phone Susan at 289-456-7754 or email smbond44@gmail.com.

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DRAW WINNERS

COMMUNITY LIVING Access congratulates week #48 winner Kathy Smout of Port Dover, drawn November 29, 2024 – Cash Calendar winner of \$100. Complete winners at www.communitylivingaccess.ca. Community Living Access provides quality support to people with disabilities to live ordinary & extraordinary lives.

SILVER LAKE MARKET weekly basket winner for November 30 was Robert Johnston. The Market is Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. St. Patrick St., Port Dover.

ANNOUNCE your draw winners here. Call the Maple Leaf at 519-583-0112 for details.

HELP WANTED



Job Posting: Administrative Assistant

Norfolk Haldimand Community Hospice

The **Norfolk Haldimand Community Hospice (NHCH)** is seeking a compassionate **Administrative Assistant** to support our Psychosocial Bereavement Consultant, Executive Director and Board of Directors. This role involves a variety of administrative tasks to support our growing organization's hospice palliative care services in the Haldimand and Norfolk communities.

Location: Port Dover, ON

Status: Temporary Part-Time (20 hours/week)

Contract Duration: 6 months (Maternity Leave Coverage)

Compensation: \$17.20 – \$20.00/hour

Qualifications: Diploma in Business or Medical Office Administration (Preferred).

Schedule: 20 hours per week, Monday to Friday, in the NHCH office (Port Dover).

How to Apply:

Please send your resume and cover letter to **info@norfolkaldimandhospice.ca** by **December 31st 2024**. Only selected candidates will be contacted.

Norfolk Haldimand Community Hospice is an equal opportunity employer.

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NOTES.

Send your letters or notes to news@PortDoverMapleLeaf.com or deliver to 351 Main St., Port Dover

A viewpoint on PC candidate

ON Friday, I heard on local radio that Mayor Amy Martin had been appointed by Premier Doug Ford as the Progressive Conservative Party candidate for Haldimand-Norfolk. I read more in Saturday's Spectator.

This is the woman who, as deputy mayor, chose to blind side her former friend at a council meeting and then went on to run for and ultimately win the mayor's seat on a platform of consensus and harmony. In my world, if you chose to take an opposing stance from your superior you let that person know in advance. While the former mayor had her flaws, to my mind there was never any doubt as to her intellect and ability to identify critical county issues and the immediate actions that were required—regardless of whether it would cost her the popular vote.

Amy Martin was a quick study and she has continued following the measures introduced by her predecessor but I cannot name one achievement she can call her own that Doug Ford praised—infrastructure, healthcare, jobs.

She was also quick to see that the informative weekly columns in the Maple Leaf by our MPP Bobbi Ann Brady were extremely well received and has instituted her own, which I am amused to note have become wordier and more "look what I have done for you" over the months. Amy has already begun her campaign. Now, with limited experience, she sees herself able to make a difference as a Conservative as she prepares to abandon ship on Norfolk County constituents halfway through her term as mayor. Sometimes the argument against an Independent is that they do not have the influence of a party to make a difference but Bobbi Ann is a true collaborator across all party lines. Even though I might not see eye-to-eye with her on everything, she always represents the people of Haldimand-Norfolk and is not beholden to the party leader.

And remember, we might get relief from the Conservative turmoil at the next election if the Liberals or even NDP get in.

Anita Meinen
Port Dover

Sound Off

Call 519-583-0112
evenings 6 pm - 6 am
email news@
portdovermapleleaf.com

Everyone enjoys going down to the Dover beach and pier but if the cost to clean up garbage is that expensive maybe we could cut it in half. We could have a sign or two that says take your refuse home and even include garbage bags. Surely everyone has a waste bag they can use then take back home and throw it in their own municipal garbage. If the bill could drop from to \$15,000 from \$30,000 that would be a good start. I, for one, wouldn't mind taking a bag of my own refuse back home and putting it in my garbage. It was mine to start with and seems that would be a good stewardship thing to do.

I was reflecting on the past year and realized the Norfolk Tavern closed one year ago. On November 30, 2023, we raised our glasses for the last time and celebrated all the history and memories made between those walls. Of course more history and memories were made on that last night. I especially miss it when I see the empty parking lot and haven't found an equal replacement.

Is there a call-in number where we can let the people at the county know about stormwater management ponds in our neighbourhoods and the condition of them?

It seems to me like MPP Brady and Mayor Martin are opposite sides of a coin. Reading their respective columns back-to-back in the Nov. 27 Maple Leaf was almost as if they were comedically timed. Mayor Martin's column posed the question: "Should growth come before new services, or should improved services be in place to attract growth?" and MPP Brady followed up in her column with a clear and direct message that "growth is not paying for growth." Both women have their own point of view and whose side you fall on is up to you. Personally, I think you should have a plan for your dinner party before you start inviting over the neighbours.

How many people are actually trying to drive over the Marburg Road bridge? And how often? Yes, it would be nice to have that bridge in order again and open the road but, in case you forgot, Norfolk County has no money. Surely we don't need to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on

a bridge that is unnecessary for most people. The historic bridge should have been repaired long ago and it may still be standing today but it wasn't repaired and now it is gone. Moving another old bridge to that spot is expensive and not a good long-term solution anyways. I hate to say it but you can just leave five minutes earlier if you needed to cross that bridge.

I remember going to the Santa Sales when they were at Port Dover Public School. The tea room, the movie room, and the gym filled with handmade Christmas decorations of every variety. In a world filled with digital everything nowadays, I'm glad to see this tradition is still strong after 75 years. Though I'm not likely to be there, here's hoping the tradition lasts to 100 years.

A word of thanks to the Rotary Club of Norfolk Sunrise for their provision of the Little Libraries at various sites around Port Dover. These free community book exchanges are accessible to the public 24/7/365 and are cost free. At a time when books are increasingly pricey, and brick and mortar book stores are increasingly scarce, this is a good resource for those of us still addicted to the printed page. One final note on reading materials, though not free nor open all hours, Beach Reads here in Port Dover offers a wide range of books at reasonable prices and proprietors, Robin and Anthony, who know their business and are extremely accommodating to their clientele in every way they can be.

Prior to the mail strike I was getting my utility bills in the mail. I now have them sent to my email address. Won't be long before there will be no need for the post office.

I was very interested to read the mayor's comments about the need for a new hospital in the county. I assumed then—which was before I knew the mayor would be the local PC candidate—that this is not all pie-in-the-sky talk and that she had discussions with people who were in the know. Now, the situation is very interesting with Mayor Martin having been picked by the Premier to be part of his team. It adds some pressure to deliver also. We'll now see what happens.

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Sudoku

Plane English

FOOD.



This potato soup is good for the coldest of days.

Warm up with easy hearty potato soup

BABY it's cold outside! If you haven't already, it's time to dig out your warm woolen mitts and hats, and shift into soup mode!

Somehow, in my 20s and 30s, I survived winters wearing the most impractical clothing. Not a sensible weather-wear item or piece of footwear ever darkened my door. Which was ok, because I was rocking a cool trendy coat and killer boots. But things changed. I had kids, entered middle-age and my winter wardrobe began including all things practical, cozy and comfy... woolly sweaters, thick fuzzy socks, warm waterproof boots. It just happened.

Most of you know that soup is my go-to comfort meal. There's nothing better than a delicious bowl of homemade soup on a cold chilly day, or any day for that matter! (Not to mention homemade is always better than soup from a can.)

This creamy, hearty potato soup is the ultimate comfort food that always hits the spot! Ready in an hour, start to finish, it's simple (the hardest part is peeling the potatoes), super easy (I love easy), and it's just the thing you need to warm you up on chilly days, all winter long.

HEARTY POTATO SOUP

Serves: 6
Cook time: 20-30 minutes

Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 tablespoon oil
- 2 large onions, chopped
- 1 large leek, sliced fine
- 3-4 cloves garlic, minced or finely chopped
- 8 large potatoes, peeled and diced
- 3 cups chicken stock
- 3/4-1 teaspoon Italian seasoning
- 2-2 1/2 cups milk
- 3/4-1 cup cream (or half & half)
- 1/4-1/2 cup sour cream (2 big dollops)
- Cheddar cheese, grated, for garnish
- Salt and pepper to taste

Directions

Melt butter with oil in a large soup pot. Add onions, leeks and garlic. Sauté until tender, but not brown. Stir in potatoes, chicken stock and Italian seasoning. Bring potatoes to a boil then reduce heat and cook gently, stirring often, until potatoes become tender and sort of "melt" into the soup. (About 20-30 minutes. The smaller the potatoes are diced, the quicker they cook.) Remove from heat.

Using a potato masher, blend potatoes to your preferred consistency. Stir in milk, cream, and sour cream. Return to heat and heat thoroughly, adding more milk or cream as needed.

Serve hot, garnished with cheese, season with salt and pepper, and with a freshly baked biscuit, slice of bread, or a sprinkle of croutons on top!

Soup may be kept refrigerated in an airtight container for 4-5 days. Reheat soup slowly on the stovetop to prevent it from curdling.

Although most soups freeze well, this isn't one of them. The potatoes and dairy tend to get grainy. Freezing isn't recommended unless this textural change doesn't bother you.



A couple went Christmas shopping. The mall was packed and soon the wife realized she had lost her husband. She called his cell phone to ask where he was.

Quietly he whispered, "Do you remember the jewellers we went into about five years ago where you fell in love with that diamond necklace that we couldn't afford, and I told you that I would get it for you one day?"

The wife, touched by the memory said, "Yes, I do."
He replied, "Well, I'm in the bar next door."

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Amy Martin announced as local PC candidate

> From page one

her local leadership and outlined some issues he expects to collaborate with her on.

“Amy Martin is a dedicated advocate and leader for her community and I look forward to having her on our team at Queen’s Park,” he said. “Working together, we’re going to continue fighting the Liberal carbon tax to keep costs down, investing in workers, building and improving infrastructure, roads and highways, and attracting better jobs with bigger paycheques for the people of Haldimand-Norfolk.”

TO TAKE SIX WEEK UNPAID LEAVE

In a statement on social media, Ms. Martin explained how her candidacy squares with her position as mayor.

“I will continue to serve Norfolk County as your mayor with the same commitment and dedication until the writ is dropped for the provincial election. At that point, I will take a six-week unpaid leave of absence to focus fully on campaigning and connecting with residents throughout the riding,” she said.

She also discussed the selection process that saw her named Haldimand-Norfolk’s Ontario PC Party candidate.

“The decision to run for provincial office was not made lightly. It followed a rigorous process conducted by the Haldimand-Norfolk Progressive Conservative Association to ensure the most suitable

candidate would stand for election. I am deeply grateful for the association’s diligence in evaluating candidates and for their confidence in my ability to represent Haldimand-Norfolk effectively.”

SELECTION PROCESS

Last Friday, the Maple Leaf contacted Haldimand-Norfolk Progressive Conservative Association president Jeff Miller to ask about the selection process.

When asked to comment on the association’s decision to name her its candidate, Mr. Miller responded, “The Association didn’t name her,” and directed further inquiries to Peter Turkington, director of communications for the Ontario PC Party.

Upon speaking to Mr. Turkington by phone last Friday, he requested that the Maple Leaf send him questions about the selection process by email. He did not answer those questions before press time.

On August 14, the Ontario PC Party released updated rules for candidate nominations. Section 6.2 of the regulations publication states:

“A riding association in respect of which a sitting PC MPP is not seeking the nomination shall strike a candidate search committee. The candidate search committee shall conduct a diligent and exhaustive search for Potential Contestants with potential to win an election, culminating in a written report. The search will consider a range of Potential Contestants with varied

backgrounds and qualifications.”

On October 2, Mr. Miller emailed an unknown number of recipients requesting nominations for candidates to represent the Ontario PC Party in the next election. According to the email, the association did not have a candidate search committee in place on that date, and the deadline for nominees was October 11.

Mr. Miller wrote in the email: “As we prepare for the next election, the Ontario PC Party has asked all ridings across the province to begin forming candidate search committees. The goal of these committees is to identify strong, committed individuals within our community who are interested in running as the Ontario PC candidate.

“We are calling on you, our members and supporters, to help us find potential candidates who are passionate about advocating for our riding and dedicated to representing our values at Queen’s Park.

“If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a candidate please email your interest to presidentnpc@gmail.com no later than Friday, October 11th, 2024. A committee member will be in touch...”

Ms. Martin is one of dozens of Ontario PC candidates affirmed by the party in the last two months, including many current MPPs. Ontario’s next election is scheduled for June 2026, but the Ford government may call it sooner.

While nearly all the party’s recent press

releases regarding other candidates in the next provincial election describe those candidates as having been acclaimed to run for the party, the release regarding Ms. Martin’s candidacy does not use the term “acclaimed.” Rather, it indicates that Premier Ford, as Ontario PC Party Leader, has “announced” her as the riding’s candidate.

Section 18.1 of the Ontario PC Party’s regulations states, “The Party’s Candidate for an electoral district shall be the Qualified Contestant who is acclaimed or is elected from among the Qualified Contestants for that electoral district at the applicable Nomination Meeting held in accordance with these Rules.”

However, section 6.5 states, “Notwithstanding [sections 6.1–6.4], the Provincial Nomination Committee, under instruction from the Leader of the PC Party of Ontario, may appoint up to a maximum of 10 candidates and as such, no candidate search is necessary.”

Moreover, Section 19.1 states, “Should the writ for a general provincial election or a by-election be issued prior to the nomination of a Candidate or, if in the opinion of the Provincial Nomination Committee, the issuance of such writ is imminent or there are other appropriate circumstances which warrant an expedited candidate selection process, then at the option of the Leader... a Candidate may be selected by the Leader in lieu of the nomination process set out in these Rules.”

The Shoebox Project seeks support to help local women



Port Dover’s drop-off location for donations to The Shoebox Project is The Dover Cheese Shop. Shown above is owner Jenny Ball who said “we were blown away by how well it went” during their first year doing a collection last year.

By Jacob Fehr

THE Haldimand-Norfolk-Brant chapter of The Shoebox Project for Women is once again collecting donations of shoeboxes containing items for local women facing homelessness. Stephanie Demeyere-Foucault, assistant co-ordinator for the organization’s local chapter, told the Maple Leaf about the group and its initiative.

“The Shoebox Project for Women is an unaffiliated, non-religious, Canadian charity that supports women experiencing or at-risk-of homelessness, and that celebrates diversity, builds awareness,

challenges stigma and promotes equity,” she said. “Our mission is to uplift and empower women who are experiencing or at-risk-of homelessness through in-kind support, education, and community participation.”

To support the initiative, community members could make a monetary donation online through the organization’s website or “fill a standard-sized, decorated shoebox with approximately \$50 worth of gifts and essentials that any woman might enjoy, and include a warm greeting or message of support,” the website stated.

Organization volunteers will distribute the shoeboxes of gifts to local women’s shelters and other agencies serving women affected by homelessness.

“Last year our chapter of Brantford, Haldimand, and Norfolk provided over 500 boxes to displaced women. Our goal [this year] is to do the same but unfortunately the need is way more than that in our area,” Ms. Demeyere-Foucault said.

Port Dover’s drop-off location for donations to The Shoebox Project is The Dover Cheese Shop. She said the organization is grateful to be supported by the store’s owner, Jenny Ball.

“This is our second year,” Ms. Ball said of collecting donations at her store. “Last year was our first and we were blown away by how well it went.”

She explained that Ms. Demeyere-Foucault asked her if she’d be willing to collect donations at her store last year, and “we were all over it.”

“I think it’s great. We’re a woman-

owned business and all women employees here and we want to support other women... we think it’s great to be able to supply a little something extra around Christmas for someone going through a bit of a rough period.”

Ms. Ball said that in 2023, her store collected enough shoeboxes for everyone on the chapter’s list. The deadline for donations this year was extended until December 6.

“We’re happy with the extension because they’re really starting to roll in now,” she said. “Last year, Dover had the most boxes... we really blew it out of the water last year so hopefully we can do it again this year.”

“Please feel free to drop off items or gift cards to The Dover Cheese Shop by December 6. We truly appreciate all the support,” Ms. Demeyere-Foucault said.

For more information about The Shoebox Project and its local chapter, visit shooboxproject.ca/chapters/hnb.

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