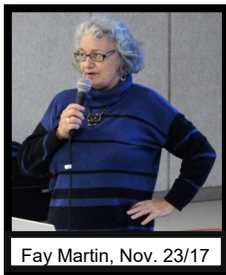


# COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Linking Hands Dundas County Newsletter—Volume 10

Winter 2017-2018

## Rural homelessness is real



Fay Martin, Nov. 23/17

Fay Martin returned to Dundas County November 23 to review the Rural Institute of Ontario (RIO)'s report, *Hidden Homelessness in Rural and Northern Ontario*.

Martin first came to North Dundas in October 2016 to gather information about homelessness here and in the surrounding communities. The data gathered was included in the RIO's report.

She confirmed that homelessness of all types—absolute, emergency, provisional, and at risk—can be found in rural

communities, even ours.

Absolute homelessness refers to those who are unsheltered, the ones who are visible publicly. Emergency homelessness refers to those who are being sheltered in short-term emergency housing, such as shelters. Provisional homelessness refers to those who are provisionally accommodated, such as those who are couch surfing, for example. Then, there are those who are at risk of becoming homeless.

The percentage of homeless (absolute, emergency, and provisional) is higher in rural areas at 9.7 per cent of rural population than it is in urban at 7.5 per cent of urban populations.

Rural homelessness differs from that of the urban area in other ways, as well:

there are fewer resources, larger distances, exposure to weather, social stigma, and no adequate mechanism for reliably measuring the prevalence of the issue.

Some may suggest the easiest fix is to move to an urban area. However, there are many disadvantages to being forced to leave your community for a new one, where the culture is potentially quite different. The top disadvantage being the loss of a nearby support network, family and friends who are usually there to help navigate life's hurdles. Being forced to relocate to a different community means leaving that network behind and facing those hurdles alone.

To find a link to the report and to learn more about hidden homelessness visit [linkinghandsdundas.ca](http://linkinghandsdundas.ca).

## Save the date for next year's EXPO

The first annual Linking Hands EXPO saw more than 300 people visit the Maple Ridge Centre March 15.

The purpose of the event was—and continues to be—to bring Dundas County residents face-to-face with the

agencies and organizations that provide the services and resources they want and need.

The second annual EXPO is set for Wednesday, March 14, 2018! Mark your calendars for this fun event!

### Project Warmth Dundas County

This year's local Project Warmth initiative, sponsored by Winchester BMR, saw Linking Hands, through its partners, distribute 180 single and 58 multi window insulation kits to families in need.

A recent Linking Hands Housing Survey showed that energy poverty has become a large issue for renters and home owners alike.

To cover the costs, Linking Hands continues to accept donations. Contact us for more details. (See page 4 for contact information.)

*"One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors."* - Plato

*"Democracy is when the indigent, and not the men of property, are the rulers."* - Aristotle

### Upcoming Elections in 2018

Dundas County's eligible voters will have two elections to prepare for in 2018, as the Ontario provincial election will be held on or before June 7, 2018 and the local municipal elections will be held Monday, October 22, 2018!

Who will be our next MPP? Who will represent our township or municipality for the next four-year term? It's up to YOU!

Linking Hands would like to challenge all voters to do their research and, then, vote, vote, vote!

Happy Face Nursery School is a non-profit early learning and child care organization providing high-quality licensed child care since 1974 for children aged 12 months to 12 years.

Our Board of Directors, executive team, and educators work collaboratively to ensure that the needs of every child are met. Children, families, and staff form strong relationships that are the foundation for quality care.

### LOCATIONS

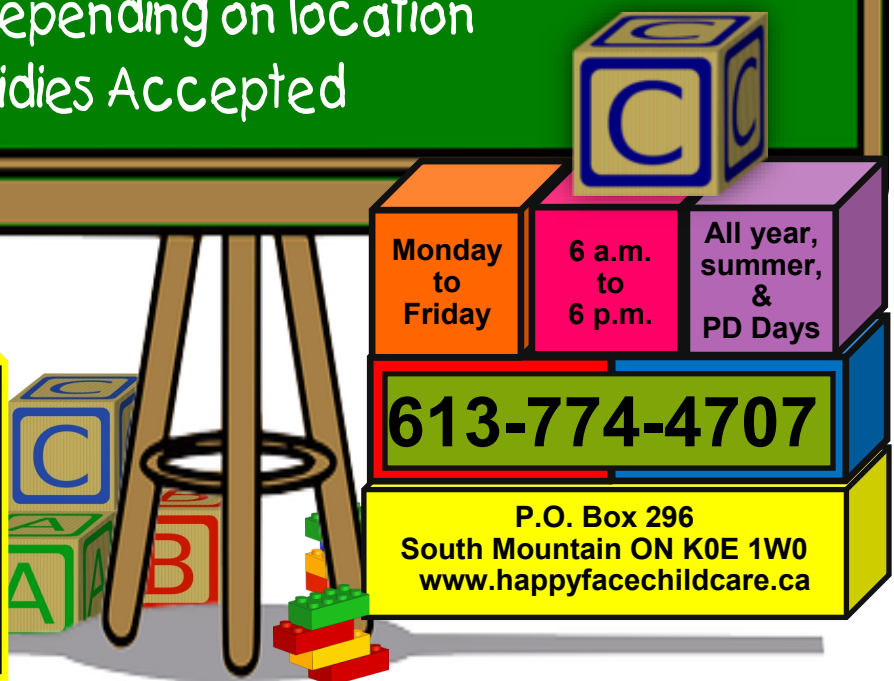
Chesterville  
Morrisburg  
South Mountain  
North Stormont  
Avonmore  
Williamsburg  
Winchester

### SERVICES

- . Toddler
- . Preschooler
- . Kindergarten & School Age
- Before & After School
- . Full day Kindergarten & School Age programs available during school holidays, PD Days, etc.

\*Services vary depending on location

\*\*Fee Subsidies Accepted



Monday  
to  
Friday

6 a.m.  
to  
6 p.m.

All year,  
summer,  
&  
PD Days

**613-774-4707**

P.O. Box 296  
South Mountain ON K0E 1W0  
[www.happyfacechildcare.ca](http://www.happyfacechildcare.ca)

# Poverty in Ontario: Is this the answer?

In early November, the Ontario provincial government released a 186-page report focused on addressing the province's diverse poverty issues.

*Income Security: A Roadmap for Change* is filled with both theory and statistics, forming the basis for a detailed 10-year plan that begins with helping those in deepest poverty in the first year and expanding to reach all those facing poverty by year two and three. The report's vision:

"All individuals are treated with respect and dignity and are inspired and equipped to reach their full potential. People have equitable access to a comprehensive and accountable system of income and in-kind support that provides an adequate level of financial assistance and promotes economic and social inclusion, with particular attention to the needs and experience of Indigenous peoples.



Diagram from Page 62 of Ontario's *Income Security: A Roadmap for Change*

To view the full reports from the articles above and below, and to find out how to provide feedback, visit our website and look for the "current affairs" tab:

[linkinghandsdundas.ca](http://linkinghandsdundas.ca)

## Ont.'s Plan for Seniors

The provincial government recently released the following report—*Aging with Confidence: Ontario's Action Plan for Seniors*. (left)

In addition to outlining things the government has done or is doing to sup-

port seniors, the report also mentions ongoing plans



to support seniors. The final two pages of the report include 15 questions on long-term care capacity and staffing. Readers are invited to share their thoughts—on the questions asked, as well as any matter not covered in the document.

## Farewell to Tea & Talk

The final Tea & Talk event was held November 21 at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Winchester, where SDG County Library's Christina Thompson showed participants how to create a decorative Christmas wreath using recycled books.

In addition to a great Lunch & Learn lineup, 2018 will include four major events covering topics that are of most interest to a

large portion of the Dundas County population, including its seniors.

Pictured below is participant Marie Thompson during the November Tea & Talk event.





# Change: We all have a part to play

Changing the world requires action on all our parts and if we want to see things get better, whether it's an end to poverty, homelessness, or some other societal ill, we need to take responsibility by doing whatever we can whenever we can, as best we can.

We need to hold society responsible for the state of the world, beginning with ourselves and our neighbours. Are we doing what we can to make our home, our community, and the world a better place? Are we living in an ethical

manner? Are we treating one another with love, kindness, dignity and respect?

This editorial began as an effort to encourage people to vote in the upcoming 2018 provincial and municipal elections.

But, with the state of the world, it has morphed into more than that; it's become more of a plea to become actively involved in creating a better world by being conscious of the choices we make on a daily basis in our personal and in our working lives. These choices can be

something as small as smiling at a stranger, saying "thank you" to a cashier or waitress, or remembering to put your empty Tim's cup into a trash can.

Going a bit deeper... if you're a landlord, are you providing your tenants with a safe affordable living environment? On the flip side, if you're a tenant, are you treating your landlord's property with respect and care?

As an employer, are you doing what you can to ensure safe working environments with living wages? Again, on the flip side, if

you're an employee are you doing the best job you can possibly do?

Our choices—words and actions—matter because they affect us and those around us, causing a ripple effect. One good deed begets another. Let's spread kindness and love.

**"When you do nothing you feel overwhelmed and powerless. But when you get involved you feel the sense of hope and accomplishment that comes from knowing you are working to make things better."**

- Maya Angelou

2018	SOUTH DUNDAS		NORTH DUNDAS	
MONTH	ORDER BY DATE	PICK UP DATE	ORDER BY DATE	PICK UP DATE *Not last Friday
JANUARY	Wednesday, January 3	Wednesday, January 10	Friday, January 19	Friday, January 26
FEBRUARY	Wednesday, February 7	Wednesday, February 14	Friday, February 16	Friday, February 23
MARCH	Wednesday, March 7	Wednesday, March 14	Friday, March 16	Friday, March 23*
APRIL	Wednesday, April 4	Wednesday, April 11	Friday, April 20	Friday, April 27
MAY	Wednesday, May 2	Wednesday, May 9	Friday, May 18	Friday, May 25
JUNE	Wednesday, June 6	Wednesday, June 13	Friday, June 22	Friday, June 29
JULY	Wednesday, July 4	Wednesday, July 11	Friday, July 20	Friday, July 27
AUGUST	Wednesday, August 1	Wednesday, August 8	Friday, August 24	Friday, August 31
SEPTEMBER	Wednesday, September 5	Wednesday, September 12	Friday, September 21	Friday, September 28
OCTOBER	Wednesday, October 3	Wednesday, October 10	Friday, October 19	Friday, October 26
NOVEMBER	Wednesday, November 7	Wednesday, November 14	Friday, November 23	Friday, November 30
DECEMBER	Wednesday, December 5	Wednesday, December 12	Friday, December 14	Friday, December 21*

## Contact Us

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