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COMMUNITY

Meet the Centre Dufferin students blazing a path for change in Shelburne By Alexandra Heck ☐ Orangeville Banner

Friday, March 8, 2019

within her high school.

massive change.

It was a rude comment that sparked Janine Beckford's interest in social justice

to her French teacher in frustration about the comment. Madame Rose, she remembers, suggested she join the social equity group.

The Centre Dufferin District High School (CDDHS) student remembers ranting

Beckford soon learned she wasn't alone. When Kejuana Apple-Wayne moved to Shelburne from Brampton, it was a

She was in middle school at the time and was confused by the fact that she'd be going to elementary school, only to move on to high school the next year.

"In school I didn't know what to expect," she said, explaining that she was used to being able to get around with public transit, visit friends and more.

"It was a pretty hard jump for me," she said.

Apple-Wayne said the culture shock of moving to a small town had her continuously trying to put Brampton in Shelburne.

"I remember being the only person of colour in my class," added Alyiah Davis, who moved to Shelburne from Mississauga in elementary school. "Nobody looks

like me." **Related content**

Shelburne by far the most ethnically diverse area of Dufferin County

the school.

diversity."

us."

that must be done to catch up.

Davis, Beckford and Apple-Wayne are just three students from the black chapter of Centre Dufferin District High School's social equity club, which

Escaped slaves,

of early Dufferii

history

This year marked not only the first year the Town of Shelburne made an official declaration of Black History Month, but the local high school celebrated as well. The three students remembered always having Black History Month

worked to put on a series of events and celebrations for Black History Month.

celebrations at the schools they used to attend, and launched full force in planning dances, music, food, anti-racism seminars and a culminative assembly.

we're present," said Davis. "Show pride in our culture." When the group started planning, interest snowballed with other students in

"We worked to do something for our community to show that we're here and

"Black History Month is not for black people, it's for all of us," said CDDHS principal Wendy McIntosh-Clodd. "I think they're shining a positive light on

She said that the Ontario education curriculum has historically missed important contributions from minorities in society and there is important work

The black chapter of the social equity group highlighted historic figures in Canadian history, like Viola Desmond, who was recently printed on Canadian

"There's holes in our knowledge," she said. "A lot of that history wasn't taught to

\$10 bills. "No one knew about her," said Apple-Wayne, who remembers asking her mom

The group will continue to host culture days throughout the year and work toward a larger, public event for Black History Month next year. "We still have a lot of work to do," said Davis. "It doesn't matter what place

after seeing the new bill for the first time, "Why didn't we know about this?"

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Alexandra Heck is a reporter with the Brampton Guardian and Mississauga News, reach her at aheck@metroland.com.

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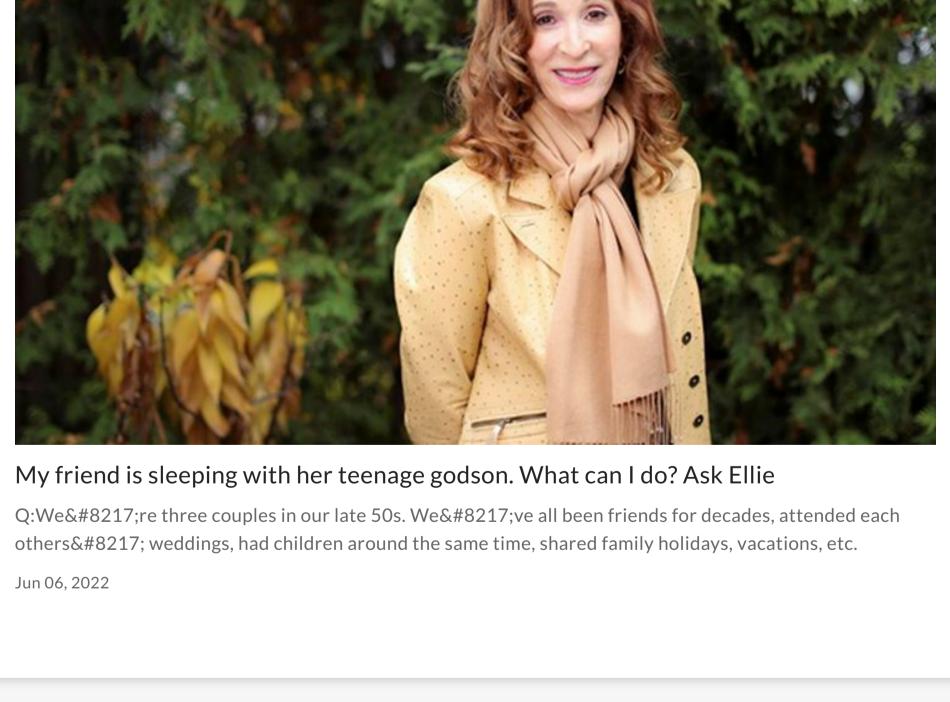
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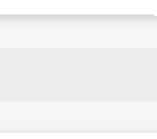
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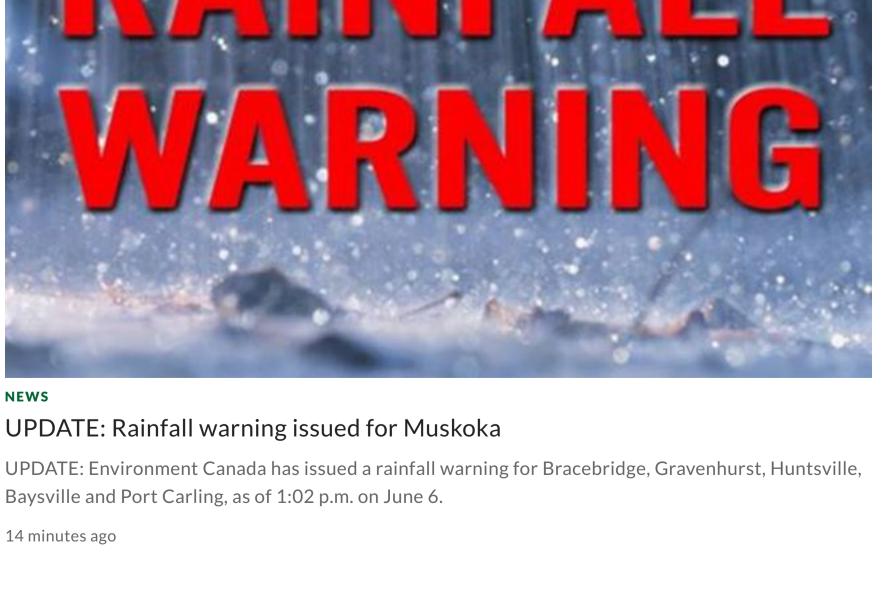
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