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Thursday, March 27, 2014

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SAP'S RUNNING AT TERRA COTTA

There was a sweet taste in the air at Terra Cotta Conservation Area over the weekend. The annual Sweet Taste of Spring event was held, with maple trees and their products playing a leading role. Josie McNaboe, a volunteer at the conservation area was making treats from maple sugar and snow for Avani Raval, 5, of Glen Williams and Tomas Nikolic, 7, or Terra Cotta. Turn to page A9 for more sweet scenes.

Photo by Bill Rea

CAMP calling for EA on Melville Pit proposal

By Bill Rea

The Province is being asked to help in the fight against the Melville Pit.

About 30 people were on hand for the latest meeting last Wednesday of Citizens Against the Melville Pit (CAMP), and among other things, they were asked to help circulate a letter, addressed to Environment Minister Jim Bradley, requesting an environmental assessment (EA) for the proposal.

Caledon council, in December, voted to support the application of Olympia Sand and Gravel Ltd. to recognize the roughly 291 acres at Lots 27 and 28, Concession 2 in west Caledon (just north of Melville) for extraction. The move came after councillors heard from more than a dozen delegations voicing opposition to the proposal.

Councillor Doug Beffort was the only one to oppose the motion. He stated at the time the data was incomplete, especially concerning water issues.

Sam Asher, who chaired last week's meeting, which was held in Alton, said foes of the pit have been very pleased

with the support they have been getting so far. There were two town hall meetings, held in Orangeville and Alton late in February. "It was very successful," she said.

But she also said there a lot of people in the area who are not aware of the campaign in

said Orangeville Mayor Rob Adams has expressed concern that his municipality wouldn't be getting levies from the development, even though trucks are going to be using the Orangeville Bypass.

CAMP has already indicated it plans to appeal the Town's approval to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB), and Asher observed that officials in Orangeville have not shown interest in being party to that, although there is dialogue.

Asher commented that water is a key issue, both with Orangeville and Peel Region, and that involves both quantity and quality. One man pointed out water has been an issue with golf courses going into the area, adding that large water-consuming operations eventually have an impact on the supply.

There were also questions about who would be responsible if locals wells are impacted from the pit.

One man charged he's not against operations like this, but argued they belong in northern Ontario.

Those at the meeting were

urged to help circulate a petition, addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. The

See 'Support' on page A6

Celebrate Earth Hour at Palgrave Church

Palgrave United Church will be hosting a family celebration of Earth Hour this Saturday (March 29) from 8 to 9:30 p.m.

The event will include three varieties of fondue, and music provided by local talent.

Donations will be accepted to cover the costs.

The church is at 34 Pine Ave. in Palgrave.

Quote of the week

"I think that it's pretty small potatoes, compared with what they have to do."

Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones, commenting on the government's plans to freeze MPPs' salaries until the budget is balanced.

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opposition to the pit, or even the pit itself.

There have also been meetings between CAMP and the Town of Orangeville. Asher

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Town of Caledon gearing up for Earth Hour this Saturday

The Town of Caledon has participated in Earth Hour since 2008, and is gearing up again for its 2014 campaign.

Last year, Caledon residents and business community shaved seven per cent off their electricity consumption by turning off their lights.

The Town will participate in this year's Earth Hour March 29, from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. The activities will include turning the lights out at Town Hall, Cheltenham Community Centre, Alton Community Centre, Victoria Parks Community Centre, Caledon Village Place, Inglewood Community Centre, Lloyd Wilson Centennial Arena, Margaret Dunn Community Centre, Mayfield Recreation Complex (Pool) and Caledon Centre for Recreation and Wellness (with the exception of security lights).

"I am inspired by the continued dedica-

tion of Caledon's residents, businesses and municipal staff on their involvement in this campaign," said Mayor Marolyn Morrison. "We are fortunate to be part of such an environmentally-conscious community. I look forward to seeing the outcome of this year's Earth Hour in Caledon."

In celebration of Earth Hour, which has a call to action on climate change, the Town would also like to invite all to attend a free screening of Chasing Ice March 29, at 3 p.m. at Landmark Cinemas in Bolton. This award-winning documentary captures the journey of James Balog, an environmental photographer and previous climate change skeptic, on his assignment for National Geographic to capture images of the Earth's changing climate. David Courier, Sundance senior programmer, said "If there was ever a film that needed

to be on the big screen, this is it."

Those who would like to attend this movie screening are asked to register on-

line at www.caledon.ca/chasingice

Seating is limited and pre-registration is required.

Secrets of friendship considered at next week's Lifetree Café in Caledon

The secrets of lasting friendships will be explored at the next session of Lifetree Café.

The program, entitled Friends for Life: 10 buddies — 38 years — One week a year, will feature the filmed story of a group of guys who have remained friends 20 years after graduation from middle school.

The session will take place this coming Wednesday (April 2) from 7 to 8 p.m.

"Our lives have gone lots of directions," commented Rodney Stewart, one of the original group of middle-school buddies. "Marriages, divorces, addictions, the death of family members, successes and failures — we've walked through them together.

We have what many people wish they had: long-standing friendships."

Participants in the program will have the opportunity to discuss the factors involved in making and keeping friends, as well as the benefits of long-time friendships.

Admission to the 60-minute event is free. Snacks and beverages will be available. Lifetree Café is at St. James' Anglican Church, 6025 Old Church Rd.

Lifetree Café is a place where people gather for conversation about life and faith in a casual coffeehouse-type setting.

Questions about Lifetree may be directed to Mark Tiller at 905-584-8506 or mark.lifetree@gmail.com



CHOCOLATE ANYONE?

Cindy Taylor hosted For the Love of Chocolate at The Exchange in Bolton recently. Chocolate lovers came out to learn all about homemade desserts featuring their favourite ingredient, chocolate.

Photo by Angela Gismondi

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Most stunt drivers caught in Caledon are from out of town

By Bill Rea

When it comes to police activity in Caledon, things were somewhat quieter between 2013 and the previous year.

Inspector Tim Melanson, detachment commander of Caledon OPP, recently delivered the regular quarterly report,

Long guns found

A man and woman from Caledon, both 44, are facing charges after Caledon OPP recovered a quantity of long guns from a home in town.

Police report the Street Crime Unit and the Emergency Response Team, along with members of the Tactical Response Unit and Provincial Weapons Enforcement Unit executed a warrant Feb. 5.

The pair have been charged with unauthorized possession of a firearm and unauthorized possession of a weapon.

covering the last three months of 2013 to Caledon council. There were some notable changes in the numbers.

The excessive speed at which some people drive continues to be a concern for the local police. Melanson said there were seven drivers charged in October with going faster than 50 km-h over the posted speed limit. They were all men, and only one of them lives in Caledon. Four men and one woman was charged in November, and one of those people was a Caledon resident. Two men were charged in December.

Melanson told Councillor Doug Beffort

Stunt driving charge

on west side

Caledon OPP reports a 27-year-old Georgetown man faces stunt-driving charges after being stopped on the west side of town Feb. 20.

Police stated an officer was conducting speed enforcement on Winston Churchill Boulevard shortly after 8 p.m. south of Highpoint Sideroad and saw a southbound Jeep Cherokee going at high speed. The officer determined it was going 126 km-h in a posted 70 zone.

The man was charged with racing. The vehicle was impounded for seven days.

enforcement is part of the effort when dealing with that kind of speeding. But he also stressed the fact that a lot of these people are commuters passing through town.

Addressing the statistics for the entire year, Melanson said the total number of occurrences was down in 2013 from 2012 by a little more than four per cent, from 19,295 to 18,474.

There was an increase in the number of sexual assaults reported, from nine to 16, but assaults were down from 165 to 158.

Robberies were also down from six to two and break and enters declined from 113 to 99.

Melanson pointed out the number of impaired drivers dropped from 118 to 99, and three-day licence suspensions was also reduced from 107 to 84. Melanson thought the use of programs like Home-James contributed to those figures.

There was a drop in the number of charges under the Highway Traffic Act, from 21,078 to 18,187, or about 13.7 per cent. He added they plan to increase enforcement in that regard.

The number of complaints through the Roadwatch program also increased from 499 to 602.

The state of commercial motor vehicles using Caledon roads continues to be a concern. The number of hours police devoted to enforcement increased by more than 50 per cent, to 2,258.75 in 2013. There were 2,674 trucks stopped, up from 1,891 the previous year, and Melanson 322 of them were taken out of service, as opposed to 101 in 2012. There was also a substantial increase in the number of cases of defective equipment in the truck inspections, from 222 to 451.

Beffort was also interested in gravel trucks in town, wondering if they are

within the required weights. Melanson said police often go to weigh stations as part of traffic management to make sure the load rules are being followed. He added if they're not, those operating the weigh stations can be held accountable too.

Councillor Rob Mezzapelli was pleased to see so many declining numbers. "That's good news," he said.

He also said there have been calls for more of a police presence in the community. Melanson told him the detachment has a specific category for foot and bike patrols, and there will be a definite number of hours devoted to that once the weather improves.

Mayor Marolyn Morrison was concerned about the increase in defective equipment on trucks. "That really bothers me," she told Melanson.

He pointed out three times the number of trucks were pulled off the road.

"That is a definitely not a good thing," he added.

Morrison wondered if the problem was more with independent truckers, as opposed to companies. She said most of the trucking companies using Caledon roads are pretty careful.

Melanson said he would get statistics.

Charged with disqualified driving

A 54-year-old man from Scarborough faces charges of driving while disqualified after he was stopped in Bolton March 4.

Caledon OPP reports officers were conducting speed enforcement at around 10 a.m. in the area of Coleraine Drive and Healey Road. They stopped a Ford truck and found the driver was disqualified. The man was also charged under the Highway Traffic Act.

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Nick deBoer will seek re-election

By Bill Rea

There is lots of work that still needs to be done in Caledon's Wards 3 and 4, and Nick deBoer wants to be part of it.

He has declared that he will be seeking another term as area representative for Caledon East and old Albion Township on Town council in this fall's municipal elections.

"There are a number of jobs that still need to be completed," deBoer said, including the provision of youth and recreation programs. He also said a lot of work was started in the last term by himself and his late wife Donna to establish girls and

women's hockey in the community and he thinks the area council seat is a good place to complete that work from.

"I think I enjoy representing the community," he commented, adding he's been impressed with the amount of support he's received over the last couple of years.

If successful, this will be deBoer's fourth term on council.

"An election is an election," he commented, reflecting on his chances. "The people have the opportunity to decide if you've done a good job. We'll find out. I'm more than willing to wait until what ever happens."

Citizen's group hosts forum in King on environmental plans

The future of Ontario's protected green spaces may very well depend on the fate of three very important pieces of legislation. To that end, the Concerned Citizens of King Township (CCKT), with support of other environmental groups, is hosting a presentation and round-table discussion April 9 at the Kingbridge Conference Centre and Institute in King City.

The Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, Greenbelt Plan and Niagara Escarpment Plan are all up for review in 2015 as mandated in the respective Acts which brought them into effect.

This first event of its type will educate and empower attendees to understand the success of these conservation plans to protect land, water and quality of life, and the steps all can take to ensure their protection and enhancement. It will bring Ontario's three predominant environmental coalition action groups together with guest speaker Ontario Environmental Commissioner Gord Miller and an expert discussion panel.

Schomberg resident Greg Locke, chair of CCKT, will be event moderator.

"This event is really the first of its kind," he said. "The three coalition groups representing each plan have never been under one roof before to discuss this common theme. The Kingbridge Centre has provided us their state-of-the-art facility — this is outstanding. And CCKT has never before been able to promote so broadly before: The London Publishing Corp.'s (Citizen) partnership with us to advertise our event in the majority of its community newspapers, and online, gives our event considerable reach, appropriately as the three plan areas represent a sizable portion of southern Ontario."

"We want to celebrate these plans, because for the most part they've been enormously successful in curtailing runaway urban sprawl and other forms of industrial development, threats to water and resource quality and extraction," he added. "We can thank numerous predecessors for

championing these causes . . . Many Ontarians don't know these stories and the profound protections we have in place; we want to educate this history and relevance. Yet we've been criticized as being 'early in the game' to start discussing the reviews."

"Regional governments have started fact-finding and recommendation-gathering processes from local municipalities, commonly conducted without any community engagement or input, not to mention council review and approval" Locke observed. "As innocent as this seems, these initial points become firm, and it's hard to change them later."

"Gord Miller is a most learned and opinionated expert in the environmental field in Ontario, rightly so as Commissioner of Ontario's Environmental Bill of Rights," he remarked. "Did you know we have such a thing? It's unique and it's been successful in part to Gord's staunch defence of it. His ability to reach out in venues like this one to inform and engage, yet in a non-partisan way. Gord will set up the evening for us with his talk."

There will be an discussion panel lined up to field questions from the audience.

Erin Shapero of the Ontario Greenbelt Alliance (OGA), Debbe Crandall of Save the Oak Ridges Moraine (STORM) and Bob Patrick, president of the Coalition on the Niagara Escarpment (CONE), are on-the-ground experts on these plans. David Donnelly will be the fourth panelist. He's a staunch environmental lawyer and advocate, and will provide a very sober layer to the discussion, particularly advising attendees how to engage institutions in these matters.

"STORM is thrilled to be a part of this evening organized by Concerned Citizens of King Township," said Crandall. "It's amazing, 25 years ago people from across the Oak Ridges Moraine gathered here in King City and formed this new group called Save the Oak Ridges Moraine Coalition. So it's quite appropriate for CCKT to be hosting a gathering of people and groups from across the Greenbelt to send a clear message that we're still in the business of protecting our land, water and rural communities. Here's to the next 25 years."

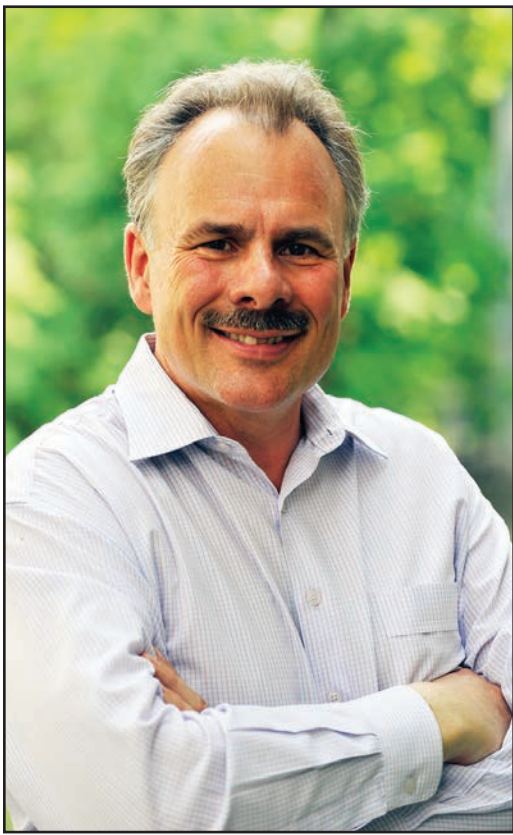
"Ontario's Greenbelt has been working for the past nine years to protect agriculture in the province as well as protect land, air and water for all Ontarians," Shapero observed. "The Ontario Greenbelt Alliance's work focuses on protecting, strengthening and growing the Greenbelt. Sharing information and helping empower and engage communities is a key part of our work as we lead up to the 2015 review."

"Moraines are glacial deposits and only 12,000 years old," Patrick commented. "The Niagara Escarpment has been doing the same thing for 450 million years. Moraines and the Niagara Escarpment are the collectors and the source of the water flowing toward the Great Lakes. The quantity and quality of our fresh water supply depends on the Oak Ridges Moraine and the Niagara Escarpment. We need to learn what local residents wish to see changed during this plan review process."

"Developers and the aggregate industry hate these three plans and are lobbying hard now to scrap them," he added. "Ontario's Places to Grow Plan has increased the pressure to develop on lands now protected to some extent by these three plans. Do we want more roads or safe drinking water? This is what it's really getting down to."

The schedule for the night includes a reception from 6 to 7 p.m., followed by Miller's presentation at 7:15. The expert panel Q&A discussion runs 8:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Admission is free, but CCKT would like those interested to register to get an idea of attendance. For more, visit cckt.ca



Gord Miller

Construction tools stolen

A laser level and tripod were reported stolen from two commercial trailers parked on a property on Coleraine Drive.

Caledon OPP reports they were informed of the theft shortly before 7:30 a.m. March 3. Their investigation revealed the trailers were broken into sometime between 5 p.m. March 1 and 6:30 a.m. March 3. Locks were broken to get in.

Police are asking anyone with information about this incident to contact them at 905-584-2241 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

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Support for CAMP still sought

From page A1

body of the document stated the proposal would turn hundreds of acres of farmland and woodlots into an industrial site. It also pointed out the pit will close to schools and residential areas, endangering water supplies, polluting air and increasing truck traffic.

"We demand that the Province of Ontario support its citizens and stop the Melville pit," it concluded.

The letter to Bradley, which CAMP is asking people to sign, expressed concerns that regulations in place offer sufficient protection.

"I do not believe that the Aggregate Resources Act protects the environment," the letter read. "I am also concerned that the Ministry of Natural Resources does not have the personnel or the interest in ensuring that its many interests in ecology, including woodlands, endangered species and significant wildlife, merit equal protection when aggregate resources are involved."

The letter went on to request the EA "to ensure there is appropriate provincial review and scrutiny of this proposal before its planning goes any further."

As well, the letter addressed issues of water, stating Olympia has not done any pump tests to ensure it's available; aggregate recycling, wondering how it would be regulated on site; and air pollution from the fine dust particles that would be released in the air.

CAMP member Paul Bunt pointed out this property sits in the one area of the

Credit River watershed in which water quantity is an issue.

He also said calls like this for an EA aren't always successful, but they were a couple of years ago with the opposition to the proposed massive operation in Melancton. A lot of calls for an EA this time could do some good.

He also stressed that just having the people at the meeting send out letters wouldn't cut it.

"Tonight is the start of a campaign across the community," he declared. "We need to flood the Minister of the Environment with these letters."

Asher also said there had been a meeting with CAMP and Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) staff earlier in the week. Asher reported it was a very positive session, adding they were happy to hear CAMP's position. She also said she spoke as a concerned resident who has supported CVC for years, and she was concerned the conservation authority had not received more input. "This is quite huge," she observed.

She also said CVC was clear that they have not regulatory authority over aggregate applications. They can comment, and Asher said she has not yet seen their comments.

She also stressed the need to reach out to local politicians. As well, the group needs to raise money to hire experts.

"We need to do that as a community," she said. As well, she pointed to the need for volunteers.

"Our campaign is ramping up," she said. "We're on a really positive track right now."



Soup and snow in Palgrave

The ravages of winter were staved off Sunday at Palgrave United Church. The celebrations included sampling of different soups, prepared by Jon Love, Satya Robinson, Fiona Ferguson, Ann Roxburgh and Laurie Oakley.

Photos by Bill Rea



There were opportunities to make some creative decorations in the snow outside the church. Alicia Wedgbury of Bolton watched as her daughters Kate, 2, and Anna, 6, worked with the colours.

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Gary Cascone will try again for council seat

By Bill Rea

It didn't work the last time, but Gary Cascone is giving it another try.

Cascone has announced he will be running for the Ward 5 (Bolton) Regional seat on Caledon council.

He unsuccessfully sought election to the seat in 2010, but he said he's undaunted.

"I think it's time for a change," he remarked. "I think it was before, but no one believed it."

Cascone said there's transparency currently lacking, adding if elected, he'd open a constituency office in Bolton, and make it available to the area councillor too.

Cascone said he's feeling confident about his chances.

"I declared way too late last time," he commented. "I'm going to try to work as hard as I can and win the confidence of people."

MASSIVE blow-out sale March 27th - 31st Everything at Chez Thrift & The ReUstore is 60% off!

(The ReUstore is closed March 30th & 31st.)

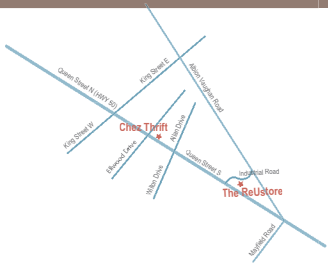


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Town News



To promote awareness of Earth Hour and climate change, The Town would like to invite you to join us for a **FREE** screening of Chasing Ice

Date: March 29, 2014
 Time: 3:00 p.m.
 Location: Landmark Cinemas in Bolton.
 Space is limited. If you would like to attend this movie screening please register early online at www.caledon.ca/chasingice

For more information on Earth Hour, visit www.earthhour.org or e-mail the Town at environment@caledon.ca.



EARTH HOUR

PARTICIPATE IN EARTH HOUR 2014: SATURDAY, MARCH 29 8:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

JOIN THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY EARTH HOUR 2014: SATURDAY, MARCH 29 8:30 p.m.



Last Call for Community Green Fund Applications

The Town of Caledon invites local Caledon, not-for-profit or volunteer groups to submit a funding application to the Town's Community Green Fund. Community Green Fund projects must have a clear environmental focus; engage the community; outline clear and specific results; provide measurable results and support the Town's environmental policies. Maximum funding requests are \$5,000.

The application deadline is March 28, 2014.

For project funding, only a letter of intent is due at this time.

The required letter of intent template and other application material is posted on the Town's website at www.caledon.ca/greenfund

Groups are strongly encouraged to contact the Town's Energy and Environment Section at 905.584.2272 or via environment@caledon.ca to discuss your project ideas.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of intention to stop up, close and declare surplus, part of unconstructed road allowance for the purpose of allowing a wayside pit.

TAKE NOTICE that at its meeting on April 1, 2014, the Council of The Corporation of the Town of Caledon will consider a by-law to stop up, close part of Unconstructed Road Allowance for the purpose of allowing a wayside pit, more particularly described as:

Part 1 on Plan 43R-35720, prepared by John F.G. Young, Young & Young Surveying Inc.

The meeting will be held at the Town of Caledon Town Hall, 6311 Old Church Road, Caledon East, Ontario on April 1, 2014 at or about 9:30 a.m. Anyone wishing to be heard regarding this matter should contact or make written comments to the Clerk's Office located at the Town Hall, 6311 Old Church Road, Caledon East, Ontario (Telephone 905.584.2272 or Fax 905.584.4325) on or before 4:30 p.m., March 31, 2014.

The proposed by-law and plans showing the said lands may be viewed at the Clerk's Department located at the Town Hall, 6311 Old Church Road, Caledon East, Ontario any weekday during regular business hours between 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.



8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Caledon Centre for Recreation and Wellness
 14111 Regional Rd. 50, North, Bolton
 905.857.3313



For more details please visit www.caledon.ca/recreation

Tenders, Quotes & Proposals

REQUEST FOR TENDER 2014-13

Exterior Ramp & Stair Reconstruction
 Inglewood Community Centre - 15825 McLaughlin Road
 Closing Date: April 9, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. local time

REQUEST FOR TENDER 2014-19

Resurfacing of Various Rural Roads
 Closing: April 10, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. local time

The Town of Caledon Requests for Tenders, Proposals and other public solicitation documents will be advertised and available for electronic download from the Bidding.com bid portal at www.bidding.com/caledon or may be obtained from the Town of Caledon, 6311 Old Church Road, Caledon Ontario L7C 1J6, Corporate Services Department, Purchasing & Risk Management Division, Lower Level.

www.bidding.com/caledon



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Recreation Memberships

New Options Available



Effective April 1, 2014 a new town-wide membership structure will be introduced to provide enhancements:

- Unlimited Wellness
- Ultimate Fitness
- Water & Ice
- Public Access



For more details please visit www.caledon.ca/recreation



Volunteer Firefighter Recruitment

Caledon Fire & Emergency Services is recruiting Volunteer Firefighters for the following stations:

- Alton (Station 301)
- Caledon East (Station 303)
- Cheltenham (Station 304)
- Inglewood (Station 305)
- Palgrave (Station 306)
- Mono Mills (Station 308)
- Caledon Village (Station 309)

Come to an orientation meeting for more information:

LOCATION:

Caledon East Fire Station
 6085 Old Church Rd.

DATES:

April 14, 2014
 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
 April 26, 2014
 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Visit www.caledon.ca/recruitment for additional information

Caledon Day

Saturday, June 14, 2014



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Arts & Entertainment



Tribute to Don Messer will be performed Sunday by Scott Woods Band

By Bill Rea

Don Messer's Jubilee was one of the most popular TV shows in Canadian history, and a tribute to that show will be presented this coming Sunday in Caledon East.

Renowned Canadian fiddler Scott Woods and his band will be performing at Caledon Community Complex. It is a fundraiser for Caledon East United Church.

Known as The Fergus Fiddler, Woods appeared locally a couple of years ago, but it's a whole new show he'll be putting on this time.

"It's a different show every time we go out," he said.

He stressed this will not be an attempt to impersonate Messer. "It's basically just a loving tribute to the music," he said.

"We're trying to really bring back almost a simpler time of life."

Messer represented a period when there was less electronics in music, and that's what Woods said he wants to bring back — "You went to an old-time dance



Scott Woods

and heard old-time music," he said.

Woods, 43, had been playing since he was four, with plenty of success to show for it. He has twice won the Canadian Open Fiddle Championship, as well as the Canadian Grand Master Fiddle Championship.

He is also known affectionately throughout Canada as "The Flippin' Fiddler" — a nickname earned as a result of a running somersault he does while playing his fiddle without missing a beat.

It's a busy time for Woods and his band. Sunday's show is among more than 50 performances scheduled between now and the end of June all over the country. And almost all the concerns are in support of churches, charities or some sort of community group.

Woods said they got into that practice almost by accident, not long after his father died in 2003. His mother, who played piano with the band, had indicated a desire to go on mission trips, suggesting the band do more benefit concerts. They did about a dozen in 2004, and the word got around, and they did about 80 the following year.

"Too be quite honest, it's a win-win," he said, pointing out the band members get to perform the music they love, while helping to raise money for various worthy causes.

Sunday's show will start at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for children aged six to 12. They can be obtained at Davis Feed and Farm supply, or by calling Betty at 905-584-2189 or Joanne at 905-584-2118.

Elvis and Mavis — one person's conflict with the big issues

By Constance Scrafeld

How long is long enough?

That seems to be the question that confronts Elvis in the upcoming play, *Elvis and Mavis*, at Theatre Orangeville.

A drama written by Jeff Pitcher, this piece questions the cost of severe economic divides and the answers to those divides that one man might select. Set in the early 1990s in Newfoundland, the story presents Elvis, whose life so far has not been easy and who is finally so "pissed off" with the way in which his home province and his fellow citizens are being treated by the powers that be that he decides to get their attention — for sure — by blowing up the Churchill Hydro Dam in Labrador. Only a renegotiation of the heavy handed contract that has been struck between Newfoundland and Quebec will appease and restrain Elvis from his purpose.

He advises his wife Mavis of his intentions by telephone and she, understandably, is appalled and concerned. Rather than stay in Newfoundland, where the

natural resources are being drained by outside interests, Mavis wants to move to Ontario, to go back to school and get a job. While she is dealing with the possibilities she fears with Elvis' threats, she confides and is comforted by her neighbour Rose.

The three characters are presented to us by the talents of Darren Keay as Elvis, Jane Spence in the role of Mavis and Maria Dinn performing the part of Rose. All three of these fine actors are welcomed back to Theatre Orangeville, having each participated in a number of productions here.

Jane Spence told us in our preshow interview with this cast, "Mavis is a character to fall in love with — her life and her struggle and her relationship with Elvis. Jeff [Pitcher] has done a lovely job of weaving the past into the present."

"The play is very resonant of what's going on around us today," he added. "If you're banging your head against the wall — taking that kind of frustration, Elvis is you and your frustration. He wants to

make this protest — why? Because he's pissed off. But the why of the act of terrorism is just the skin of the onion. As we learn more about the characters, we unwrap the play."

"There's something in Newfoundland about joining the Confederation," Dinn, a native of Newfoundland, chimed in, "They are still so independent. There is a lot of pride there — what it means to be a Newfoundlander."

Dinn's connection with this play is intensely personal, as she lived in Newfoundland at the time of this story.

"My family struggled a lot and knew what that means to self esteem," she said. "Yet, Newfoundlanders are so proud to be Newfoundlanders. I always considered myself a Newfoundlander first and a Canadian second. I've lived now off (the island of Newfoundland) longer than I did on, but it's home."

She related the story that God created this beautiful but difficult place and, then, wondered who He would put there. So, He made people who were tough and special.

"People do want to leave because it is so

hard," she said, "but they're afraid."

David Nairn, who is directing *Elvis and Mavis*, remarked that he noticed a house here in Orangeville flying the Newfoundland flag along with the Canadian flag in front of their house.

"Those that have left tend to fly the Newfoundland flag," Dinn confirmed. "I see more Newfoundland flags wherever I go than any others."

Keay enlarged on the theme we had struck: "There's something different about Newfoundland and there is such a strong sense of community."

Bringing the themes of Newfoundland into the play, Nairn added, "Jeff captures the tremendous heart of Newfoundlanders. This is about the love of a person, a nation and home. And, of course, being in Newfoundland, there are moments that are very funny."

Elvis and Mavis is on at Theatre Orangeville from March 27 to April 13. Tickets at the Box Office at the Town Hall on Broadway and the Tourist information centre on Highway 10 at Buena Vista Road. By telephone at 519-942-3423 and online at www.theatreorangeville.ca

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Muir Family Band to perform in April

The Routes of Country Music will be explored April 25 as The Muir Family Band will perform in Caledon East.

Presented by Trinity Anglican Church in Campbell's Cross, the show will take place at St. James' Parish Hall in Caledon East.

The six-piece classic country band has been performing since 2004. The Routes of Country is their traveling history of country music theatre show, written by Brandon

Muir. It's a music-filled journey through time from the mountain music days, right up to modern "rockier" country music.

The parish hall is at 6025 Old Church Rd.

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children aged 12 and younger. They are being sold only in advance and can be ordered by calling the Trinity Church office at 905-838-1623 or Kathy Mauer at 905-584-2047.

194 McEwan Dr. East, Bolton
 905-857-2646
 Showtimes for Friday March 28 to Thursday April 3

Landmark CINEMAS

NEED FOR SPEED (PG) (LANGUAGE MAY OFFEND, VIOLENCE) DIGITAL PRESENTATION, STADIUM SEATING FRI-SUN, TUE 3:35
NEED FOR SPEED 3D (PG) (VIOLENCE, LANGUAGE MAY OFFEND) REALD 3D, STADIUM SEATING FRI, MON-THURS 6:35, 9:35; SAT-SUN 12:35, 6:35, 9:35
DIVERGENT (PG) (VIOLENCE) DIGITAL PRESENTATION, STADIUM SEATING FRI, TUE 3:25, 6:25, 9:25; SAT-SUN 12:25, 3:25, 6:25, 9:25; MON, WED-THURS 6:25, 9:25
NOAH (Not Rated) DIGITAL PRESENTATION, STADIUM SEATING FRI, TUE 3:30, 6:30, 9:30; SAT-SUN 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30; MON, WED-THURS 6:30, 9:30
MUPPETS MOST WANTED (G) DIGITAL PRESENTATION, NO PASSES, STADIUM SEATING FRI, TUE 3:50, 6:45, 9:20; SAT-SUN 12:50, 3:50, 6:45, 9:20; MON, WED-THURS 6:45, 9:20
CAPTAIN AMERICA: THE WINTER SOLDIER 3D (Not Rated) STADIUM SEATING, NO PASSES, REALD 3D THURS 8:00
THE LEGO MOVIE (G) DIGITAL PRESENTATION, STADIUM SEATING FRI, TUE 4:00; SAT-SUN 1:00, 4:00
300: RISE OF AN EMPIRE (18A) (SEXUAL CONTENT, BRUTAL VIOLENCE, GORY SCENES) DIGITAL PRESENTATION, STADIUM SEATING FRI-WED 6:50
MR. PEABODY & SHERMAN (G) (CARTOON/ANIMATION ACTION) DIGITAL PRESENTATION, STADIUM SEATING FRI, TUE 3:40, 9:10; SAT-SUN 2:45; MON, WED 9:10
NON-STOP (PG) (VIOLENCE, LANGUAGE MAY OFFEND, NOT RECOMMENDED FOR CHILDREN) DIGITAL PRESENTATION, STADIUM SEATING FRI, TUE 3:55, 7:00, 9:30; SAT 12:40, 7:00, 9:30; SUN 12:40, 3:55, 7:00, 9:30; MON, WED-THURS 7:00, 9:30
MR. PEABODY & SHERMAN 3D (G) (CARTOON/ANIMATION ACTION) REALD 3D, STADIUM SEATING FRI, MON-THURS 6:40; SAT-SUN 12:20, 5:00, 7:15
300: RISE OF AN EMPIRE 3D (18A) (GORY SCENES, BRUTAL VIOLENCE, SEXUAL CONTENT) REALD 3D, STADIUM SEATING FRI, MON-THURS 9:00; SAT-SUN 9:45

LANDMARKCINEMAS.COM



Sweet Taste of Spring at Terra Cotta

Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) hosted its annual Sweet Taste of Spring event at Terra Cotta Conservation Area over the weekend. There was lots of great stuff to attract the crowds. Pancake breakfasts were offered both days. Conservation Superintendent David Orr was among those hard at work at the grill.

Photos by Bill Rea



There were opportunities to learn about the process of boiling maple sap into sugar, and Brian Kristy of CVC was handling that.

Tilson's bill passes Senate committee

It was a satisfying time for Dufferin-Caledon MP David Tilson recently.

He announced the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs passed his private members bill protecting war memorials and cenotaphs.

"I appeared before the Committee two weeks ago to defend my bill and I'm grateful to the Senators for their work on this legislation," Tilson said last Thursday. "Protecting our war memorials and cenotaphs from vandalism and desecration is very important, especially to our veterans and members of the Canadian Forces."

During his appearance, Tilson was joined by Orangeville Legion Sergeant-at-Arms Chris Skalozub and retired Colonel Andrew Nellestyn of the Ottawa area. Both men made impassioned statements on the need to strengthen the penalties for this profoundly disrespectful offence.

"I was honoured to have these two veterans appear with me. It drove home the seriousness of this issue," Tilson said. "Our veterans and Canadian Forces members look upon such acts of desecration as a grave personal attack."

The bill adds significant penalties to anyone convicted of mischief against a war memorial, cenotaph or similar structure designed to honour those who have died as a result of war. A minimum fine of \$1,000 would be imposed for a first offence, with a two week jail term for a second offence and a thirty day jail term for third and subsequent offences.

Tilson added the Liberal Senators on the Committee attempted to gut the Bill by introducing amendments designed to remove the mandatory minimum fine. It is anticipated the bill will begin third and final reading in the Senate at some point this week.

Recognize a local leader with award from Headwaters Health Care Centre

Headwaters Health Care Centre (HHCC) is now accepting nominations for the Dr. David Scott Award.

Named after retired surgeon and life-long Orangeville resident Dr. David Scott, the award recognizes individuals or groups who have gone above and beyond to improve the overall health and wellness of the Caledon and Dufferin area and promote links between the hospital and the community.

The nomination deadline is April 30.

Since it was created in 2000, the award has been presented to a remarkable group of dedicated community members, including Elizabeth Birnie and Lorna Bethell (2012), Carol Riddell (2011), Dr. Dan Mallin (2010) and Larry Rankin (2009).

Last year's recipient was Bob Burnside, who was recognized for his outstanding contributions to the hospital, and economic development in the Caledon-Dufferin community through various initiatives and volunteer organizations.

Nominations for the Dr. David Scott Award will be evaluated by HHCC's Governance Committee of the Board of Directors. Nominees will be assessed based on the breadth of their community service, their achievements and the impact they have had on the community. The award will be handed out at the hospital's Annual General Meeting in June.

For more information on the award or to make a nomination, visit www.headwatershealth.ca/drdauidscottaward

Groves wants to return to council

By Bill Rea

Former councillor Annette Groves wants her old seat back.

The former Regional representative for Calderon Ward 5 (Bolton) has registered to run in this fall's municipal election.

"I've been asked by a lot of people to run," the long-time resident of Bolton commented.

Groves spent 10 years on council, serving at both the area and Regional levels. She ran for mayor in 2010, losing to Marilyn Morrison.

"I believe that I have the skills set and

the experience to do the job and do it well," she commented, adding she's been hearing calls for accountability that she said currently isn't there. She also said people are saying the community isn't being informed.

She also observed there's been concern that taxes have been going up over the last couple of years, with no corresponding improvement in services.

Groves is a partner in a walk-in clinic in south Etobicoke.

"I think I have a very good chance of winning," Groves said. "It all comes down to hard work."

MPPs' pay to be frozen

By Bill Rea

It looks like the salaries of MPPs are going to be frozen for a while longer, but Dufferin-Caledon's Sylvia Jones doesn't think it's going to amount to much.

According to a news release issued by the Province last week, the government has introduced legislation that would extend the current salary freeze until the budget is balanced, and that's slated to happen in 2017-18.

"This government will continue to take a determined and disciplined approach to eliminating the deficit while continuing to invest in services and programs that families rely on," commented Finance Minister Charles Sousa.

"I think that it's pretty small potatoes, compared with what they have to do," Jones observed, adding a move like this shows little interest in cutting government spending, and really accomplishes nothing. She said the Progressive Conservatives at Queen's Park have been calling for wage freezes throughout the whole sector in order to "slay the deficit dragon."

The release from the government pointed out compensation costs account for more than half of all Ontario government spending, either paid directly through the public service or as part of the government's transfer payments to universities, hospitals and other public sector partners.

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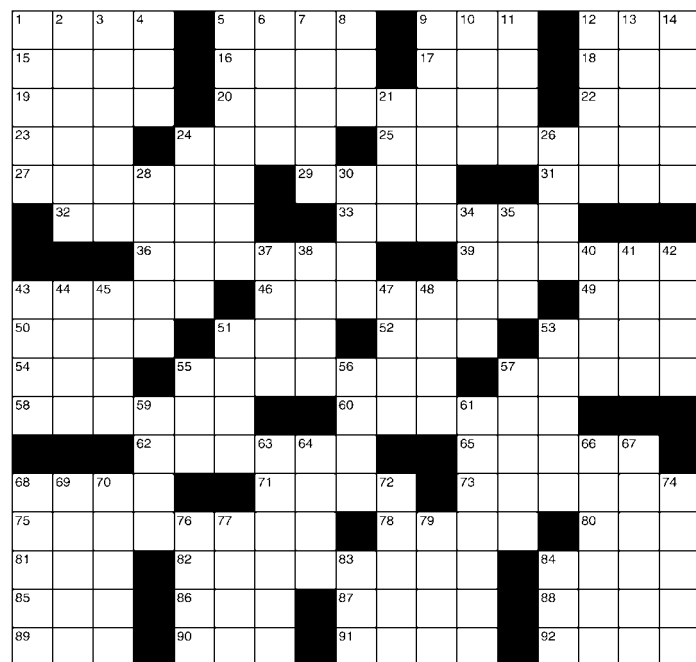
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5. Pound
9. Dangle
12. Toward the rear
15. Be adjacent to
16. Canyon sound
17. Dusk
18. Squabble
19. Pine product
20. Rake
22. Metal-bearing rock
23. "It ___ to Be You"
24. Excursion
25. Czech or Swahili
27. Gulch
29. Epochal
31. Spur
32. Dinghy support
33. Surround

DOWN

36. Sniff
39. Infant's shoe
43. Hornet's bite
46. Music player
49. Hem's partner
50. Southern corn bread
51. Fluid-filled pouch
52. Dregs
53. Meld
54. Three strikes
55. Skilled wage earner
57. Jewish feast
58. Sports prize
60. Unimpaired
62. Detest
65. Din
68. Tan
71. Flat fee
73. Common salt additive
75. Swindler

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78. Cowboy country
80. Slack
81. Rim
82. Place for a diner
84. Illuminating device
85. Summer fruit cooler
86. Cpl.'s superior
87. Incite
88. Architectural curve
89. Lacrosse team number
90. Child's treasure
91. Ran
92. Healthy

DOWN

1. Country cottage, to Yeltsin
2. On a ship
3. Frozen wasteland
4. Gobbled
5. Promise in marriage

6. Throb with pain
7. Shimmy
8. Scalding
9. Sake
10. Kiln, e.g.
11. Broken-off glacier
12. Bellowing
13. Do without
14. Blazer material
21. Tribe
24. Binding
26. Coiffure
28. Like sheep
30. Terrible smell
34. Clarinet's relative
35. Salmon for bagels
37. Slightly open
38. "The Joy ___ Club"
40. Bump
41. Release the pressure on
42. Water pitcher
43. X marks it
44. Travel
45. Penetrating preposition
47. Pizazz
48. Crooked
51. Kind of bean
53. Stinking
55. "___ Will Buy?"
56. Bearing
57. Move quickly
59. Addition symbol
61. Spice-rack item
63. Peace pact
64. Drove
66. Fodder
67. Molar's coating
68. Brilliance
69. Scold
70. Mellow
72. Spin
74. Banish
76. Once
77. NBC's peacock, e.g.
79. Trim
83. Pinch hitter
84. Tide or key

Solution on page A14

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Editorial

There are other ways to balance the Province's books

We live in rather cynical times, in which politicians, no matter what their political stripes, are considered fair game for any kind of shot.

Thus the Provincial government's announcement last week that a salary freeze for MPPs, which has been in place for several years will continue, at least until the budget is balanced, is something they should be able to get away with. And the government is telling us to expect things to be balanced in the 2017-18 fiscal year.

Not many people are likely to lobby for a pay hike for any elected official, and not many politicians are likely to complain too vigorously.

But Dufferin — Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones had a point when she said the move will amount to "pretty small potatoes."

If government really wants to balance the books, there are two main ways to do it; either raise taxes or cut spending.

Although taxes, like death, are part of the reality we all must face and get used to as we go through life, none of us enjoy the thought of paying more, just as we don't like the thought of dying. But they are, alas, a necessity. But governments do have to be careful when it comes to tax increases, because politicians eventually have to face the electorate, and they sometimes will make it very clear that they will only stand for so much.

So that means cutting spending. True, government spending, for the most part, goes toward items that it's assumed people want. Fair enough, but if the money is not there to pay for it, then there's a problem, namely a deficit, that adds to debt, resulting in the hole that so many governments find themselves in.

It is true that governments sometimes find the need to go into the proverbial hole. For example, demands increase on the public purse during recessions, and items government (especially at the Provincial and federal level) tax a lot, like income and consumption, tend to decrease. So a deficit during a slumping economy is pardonable, provided the government concentrates on getting out of the hole when things improve.

The current unbalanced books, despite what some of the cynical among us might want to think, was not the result of people like MPPs or public sector employees being over paid. It was simply a case of government spending money that it didn't have when it didn't need to.

That's what has to be addressed in order to balance the books.

Our Readers Write

Tilson misleading the public

In the March 13 issue of the Citizen, an article's headline exclaims "Supporting long-term economic growth with historic \$53B New Building Canada Plan."

If you no longer have this edition, you can find it in the on-line version of the Citizen or as a press release from David Tilson.

On first read, the article seems a governing party puff piece congratulating itself on the marvelous job it is doing managing the country's infrastructure. Author David Tilson extols all the virtues of the past program and how it has created jobs and supported provincial, territorial and municipal infrastructure projects across Canada. He then states, "Over the next 10 years, the \$53B New Building Canada Plan will continue to focus on economic growth, job creation and productivity."

To use the word "continue" is at best a cynical ploy to mislead the public.

The fact of the matter is that the current budget slashes spending on the Building Canada Plan by almost 90 per cent, going from \$1.7 billion per year down to \$210 million beginning April 1, 2014. The Plan continues as a shell of its former self into the 2015-16 fiscal year. This is conveniently coincidental with the Harper government's plan to have a balanced budget for the next election. In fact, the new budget does not envision the Building Canada Plan returning to its most recent levels until the 2019-20 fiscal year, the election year after the next election and five budgets down the road. The bulk of the "\$53B New Building Canada Plan" then, envisions not the next government delivering on this plan, but the government after that. Finance ministers don new shoes with every annual budget to symbolize a fresh beginning on a new fiscal path. Budgets from 2019 to 2024 means a lot of new shoes indeed before we see the bulk of Tilson's "new" plan delivered.

The article starts off by saying "Our government understands that Canada's economy relies on efficient and effective public infrastructure," but at the same time they sacrifice this understanding for crass political purpose. This is a cynical attempt by Tilson to mislead the reader into thinking one thing is happening when the opposite is true. Voters deserve better treatment and more respect than this.

George denHaan
Director Communications
Dufferin-Caledon Federal Liberal Association

Editor's note — The article referred to in the March 13 issue of the Citizen was actually MPP David Tilson's weekly column. It is usually accompanied by a standing graphic, containing Tilson's photograph, but owing to an error during the production of the paper, it was left out. The fault is ours and we apologize for it.

It happened today

Air travel has had an enviable safety record for years, but things are not perfect. We're frequently reminded that aviation disasters do happen.

The worst in history was when a KLM 747 was trying to take off from Tenerife in the Canary Islands. It collided with a taxiing Pan American 747.

There 583 killed in that mishap (all 248 on KLM and 335 on Pan Am), which took place this day, March 27, 1977.

Caledon Citizen WEBPOLL
www.caledoncitizen.com

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Do you think the Toronto Maple Leafs are going to make the playoffs this season?

Results from last week's poll:
Do you plan to observe Earth Hour the evening of March 29?

a) Yes 50%

b) No 50%

The results of this poll are in no way considered to be valid or infallible.

Do you go to the website and cast a vote!



I won't watch basketball

There are a lot of people out there (maybe some of you reading this) who are sports fans.

It could even be argued that I'm one. And then we come to matters of degree. Some people enjoy just about any and all sports, while others tend to be more selective.

And there are people who are devout in their interest in sports, and then have it wane.

That happened to me several years ago. There was a time in my youth when I followed a lot of sports, but my interest fell off over time.

In some cases, my athletic heroes passed from prominence to colour commentary or some other level.

In my high school years, a good boxing match on TV (described by the incomparable Howard Cosell) was a great way to pass an evening, especially if the great Muhammad Ali was an active participant. But time passed, and so did Ali's dominance. I was able to cheer for a while for Larry Holmes, but it wasn't the same. I have vague recollections of watching about five minutes in subsequent years watching one of Mike Tyson's fights, but whatever magic there might have once been in the sport was history, once the Greatest was gone.

There was also a time, even when I had very little use for sports, that a good auto race on TV could make my day, especially the Indy style cars. My late father was well aware my interest in that particular sport, and never completely understood it (I think he believed those race car drivers were basically suicidal maniacs). I think the closest he ever came to appreciating the sport occurred early in 1979.

I was watching the closing laps of the Daytona 500 on one of a couple of TVs in the house. Donnie Allison was defending a very slim lead over Cale Yarborough, and at the speed those guys were moving, slim leads are measured in nanoseconds. In the final lap of that 500-mile race, Yarborough evidently realized he had reached that "now or never" moment, and acted accordingly. The result was both his and Allison's cars ended up in the wall, meaning neither man won the race. Fortunately, neither was injured in the crash, although I can't say for sure if the same can be said about the fistfight that ensued in the aftermath. While the TV coverage was rather poor (remember, I was used to watching fights involving Ali, and speed sport journalists are more accustomed to wide-angle coverage), it still caught my attention, and that of my old man, who had evidently been watching in another room.

He strolled into the room in which I was sitting in a couple of minutes later, with a rather mischievous grin on his clock, asking me what had I thought of the fight.

My interest in the sport continued as long as I could cheer on the great Mario Andretti. Sadly (for me, at least) he retired. For a while, I thought I could transfer my attention to his son Michael, but again, the same magic just wasn't there. There were other reasons for me dropping my interest in sports as I got older. It is true that girls started becoming a more interesting diversion than the Leafs (especially considering the records they have compiled over the years). The reality was that until my wife and I started becoming an item, there were few females in my circle who were interested in sports, and even Beth's interest is limited (I haven't even bothered to try and interest her in the Indy 500).

There were other things, like the demands of work, that caused me to lose track of who was doing what in any particular sport.

But there were really two particular factors that all by killed my interest. I lost my use for professional athletes

after all the strikes and lockouts that disrupted so many schedules.

I found I had little use for gifted athletes living a reality I had only dreamed of making a couple of times my annual salary for essentially a day's work belly-aching that they were getting a bad deal. And I am very mindful that the labour-management turmoil that characterized last year's NHL schedule was management-driven, meaning a lockout. All of these guys are rolling in dough and they keep trying to nickel and dime each other, while their loyal fans get the hind end of the deal. Thus I lost patience with the whole concept of pro sports.

I was able to maintain some interest in amateur sports for a while, but that only lasted a couple of years. That stupid soap opera involving American figure skaters Tonya Harding and Nancy Kerrigan in the 1990s turned me off the whole thing.

But such feelings do tend to be cyclical, and I have found my interest in sports returning over the last little while.

These days, when I get home after working late, I frequently walk in the house calling out to Beth, "Who's winning?"

If I don't see the Leafs on TV when I approach it, it can only mean two things — either they're getting clobbered and Beth, in frustration, found a "chick flick" to watch (she's very good at finding such things), or the Leafs aren't playing that night (I'm not yet into it enough to regularly check the schedules).

I watched several events in the recent Olympics, and actually felt a bit of frustration that there were some events my work schedule kept me from watching.

I find myself looking forward to the coming baseball season, once the Leafs have finished, and that all depends on how far they get in the playoffs (notice the underscored confidence I express that they'll get in the playoffs).

And indeed, despite my rather cynical views about what the sporting world had come to, I still maintained some interest. I haven't actively followed the NFL in about 30 years, although I might turn on the odd game if I have some time to kill of a Sunday afternoon. Despite that, I usually make a point of watching the Super Bowl, usually with Beth's permission. She's not really into football (not to the level of hockey, baseball or figure skating), and she will occasionally ask me for clarification of what's taking place on the field (I reply, pretending that I actually know what I'm talking about). But the lady can appreciate the hype that is the Super Bowl with the best of them, and she can accept the fact that I might have some passing interest in the contest, especially if the Pittsburgh Steelers are involved. Besides, there's also some compromising when it comes to Super Bowl Sunday. I get to watch the game with little objection, and I forget to raise a fuss about her watching the half-time show, something I seldom could care less about.

And I have usually tried to make a point of being near a TV when it looked like the Stanley Cup was going to be presented, regardless of how mad I might have been at NHL labour and management.

But there are some sports I could not possibly care less about, basketball being one of them. There's a major tournament involving university teams south of the border that's currently drawing substantial attention. That's fine with me, as long as I don't have to watch it, read about it or hear about it. The fact that I'm currently writing about it caused me a certain amount of grief. I always hated the game as a kid, reading when it came up every year as part of gym class, and there is very, very little that could get me interested in it now. True, it is basketball that sparked the idea for this week's column, but I personally am impressed that I was able to wait until the last paragraph to mention it.



Bill Rea

Meals on Wheels March for Meals in the community

We have many outstanding community organizations in Dufferin-Caledon and they provide wonderful programs and services which we greatly appreciate.

These organizations include Caledon Meals on Wheels and Dufferin County Community Support Services (DCCSS) which offers Meals on Wheels. Last week, I had the opportunity to participate in the Community Champions Week as part of this year's North American March for Meals campaign.

Here in our community, Caledon Meals on Wheels has been delivering nutritious meals to clients for more than 25 years and they also offer a variety of other wonderful programs, such as social dining and wellness, friendly visiting and security programs across the Town of Caledon and in Orangeville. DCCSS works in partnership with Caledon Meals on Wheels in Orangeville and provides a hot and frozen meal program to clients throughout Dufferin County. In addition to the Meals on Wheels program, DCCSS offers 13 other excellent programs ranging from a transportation program, an adult day program and a service arrangement program (home help, home maintenance and respite care). The staff and management at Caledon

OTTAWA JOURNAL

David Tilson
MP Dufferin-Caledon



Meals on Wheels and DCCSS, together with the many exceptional volunteers, work hard to provide these invaluable programs and services to clients, to help them remain independent in their own homes and therefore, stay in our community.

Each year, both Caledon Meals on Wheels and DCCSS participate in the national March for Meals Campaign, which is a month-long event championed by the Meals on Wheels Association of America. This year, the Community Champions Week ran from March 17 to 21, and I was invited by Caledon Meals on Wheels to participate along with other representatives from our community, to deliver meals to homebound clients.

The aim of the March for Meals Campaign, including the Community Champions Week, is to raise awareness of senior hunger and to recognize the essential services provided by Senior Nutrition Programs across Canada. It's also an excellent opportunity for new volunteers to join Meals on Wheels organizations across the county to help them continue to succeed. It also presents an opportunity for Canadians to support these organizations with donations, to ensure Meals on Wheels may continue to deliver essential programs.

During the Community Champions Week, I delivered meals to constituents in Bolton with a Caledon Meals on

Wheels volunteer March 18. It was a pleasure meeting constituents and learning of their enthusiasm of the meal delivery program and appreciation of the exceptional volunteers who make it all possible. I saw, firsthand, the tremendous impact this program has on our community and this is reflected by the fact that in 2012, Caledon Meals on Wheels delivered 21,000 meals to over 450 clients throughout the Caledon and Orangeville area. In Dufferin, DCCSS delivered just under 7,000 meals to approximately 125 clients last year. I applaud Caledon Meals on Wheels and DCCSS on their leadership and dedication to the residents of Dufferin-Caledon!

If you would like to learn more about the programs and services offered by Caledon Meals on Wheels, please feel free to visit <http://cmow.org/> or call 905-857-7651 (Caledon area) or 905-584-2992 (Orangeville area). More information on volunteering opportunities and donations can also be found on the organization's website. For more information on DCCSS' Meals on Wheels program and volunteering opportunities, please e-mail DCCSS at dccss@dufferincounty.ca or call 519-925-5452.

Peace Ranch getting a greenhouse at it's Albion farm property

Good things are growing at Peace Ranch.

Even the frigid temperatures and continual snowfall can't dampen spirits, as an exciting project is taking shape with the installation of a new greenhouse.

Through the support of The Rotary Club of Palgrave and funding from the On-

tario Trillium Foundation, the new greenhouse will enhance the newly named Left Field Farm Market Garden program that has been such a success at the ranch.

"The participation of Palgrave Rotary continues to be outstanding," commented Peace Ranch Executive Director Eric Tripp-McKay. "They have walked this

project through every step of the way with their support and expertise. It is heartening to have such a strong community partner connected to Peace Ranch and we are grateful. We are also most appreciative of the Trillium Foundation funding, and excited by the new possibilities this project will set in motion."

The Left Field Farm Market Garden program provides employment for people recovering from mental health issues, through the planting, growing and selling of quality organic produce to the community. It offers meaningful employment and helps build skills and confidence in a supportive environment.

"We call it 'produce with purpose,'" Farm Manager Tom Robson said. "The program has been a great success for the people we have been able to employ. They have expressed what a positive impact it's had on their lives, and community customers have told us how impressed they are with the quality. The new greenhouse will help us expand this

program, employ more people and serve more customers. Community customers can shop locally and support an important mental health initiative, and that means everyone wins."

"It has been a rewarding experience for our club to have participated in the building of the greenhouse, throughout its conception and construction phases," observed Craig Robbins, director of public relations for the rotary Club. "Most importantly, we have enjoyed working with the many staff members and volunteers who work so hard on behalf of clients."

As the new greenhouse project continues, sourcing interior supplies, equipment and set up will be the next phase. Continued community support, through donations of time, expertise and funds, will help this unique project to thrive.

Volunteers, donors and customers are most welcomed to take part in the good things growing at Peace Ranch. For more information, contact Robson at 647-308-2608 or tom@peaceranch.com

Tilson supports Lyme disease legislation

Dufferin-Caledon MP David Tilson recently spoke out in the House of Commons in support of a private member's bill respecting a National Lyme Disease Strategy, which received its first hour of debate at Second Reading.

"I am pleased to be lending my support to this important bill, which will help to combat Lyme disease in Canada," Tilson said. "Over the past number of years, I have been approached by a number of constituents suffering from Lyme disease, so I am encouraged that the government also supports this legislation."

Dufferin-Caledon residents signed a number of petitions in 2012 and 2013, calling on the government to step up its efforts to combat Lyme Disease, which

Tilson presented to the House last spring.

"The number of reported cases of Lyme disease in Canada has increased nine-fold from 2003 to 2012, to over 300 cases annually," Tilson observed. "One of our problems is that the actual number of cases of Lyme disease in Canada is estimated to be three times higher than those cases which are actually reported. Even more troubling, based on current trends, the Public Health Agency of Canada estimates that these numbers will continue to rise."

It is expected that the bill will come to a vote at Second Reading in mid-April and if successful, will be referred to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Health for further study.

Oliver's views misrepresented



NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Claire Hoy

Early last year, with considerable fanfare, the federal NDP announced it was launching what it called its "Civility Project", which even includes a "Civility Project Facebook Page," all designed to stop MPs from using "harassment, threats, personal attacks, or extreme misrepresentation of facts."

It is to laugh, particularly coming as it does, from some of the worst abusers of the above-mentioned political transgressions. There are no end of examples of the holier-than-thou NDP launching personal attacks on their political opponents and dramatically misrepresenting the facts in order to make themselves look better than they are.

But let's just go back to earlier this week, when NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair greeted newly-appointed Finance Minister Joe Oliver - named after veteran Jim Flaherty stepped down - by saying Oliver is an "embarrassment" in that portfolio.

Why? Well, for one thing, says Mulcair, "He has denied global warming as a scientific reality," this, supposedly, in his previous role as natural resources minister.

And for another, says Mulcair, citing a B.C. First nations chief, Oliver's "attacks on First Nations go beyond mere paternalism. They're tinted by racism."

According to Mulcair then, Oliver is not only a nincompoop, a climate "denier," but he's also a racist.

Well, so much for civility. Not to mention Mulcair's disturbing lack of honesty.

For starters, Oliver did not "deny" climate science at all. (And just as an aside, people such as Mulcair who use the term "denier" should be ashamed of themselves, since it's a term historically associated with heinous "holocaust deniers." Disagreements over climate change usually involve different views on how serious it is and how much humans contribute to it, hardly the same as denying that the Nazis murdered 6 million Jews.)

Anyway, in a recent interview with a Montreal newspaper, all Oliver said is, "I think that people aren't as worried as they were before about global warming of two degrees..." He said scientists say "our fears (on climate change) are exaggerated."

Well, many scientists do say that. And pretty well every public opinion poll extant says we are not as worried about it as we were a few years ago when those pushing the issue were predicting pretty much the

end of the earth.

Disagree with him if you wish. But that's hardly an example of "climate change denial."

As for Oliver's alleged "racism," that too is completely bogus, coming from his support for oil and gas pipelines despite opposition from First Nations groups. Oliver had the tenacity to point out that many First Nations people are benefiting from oil and gas and stand to be among the main beneficiaries of the Oil Sands and pipelines. Again, not all Chiefs buy into that. And that's fair enough. But it's hardly "racism" to disagree.

And on both accounts, Mulcair is guilty of gross misrepresentation of Oliver's expressed views.

But then, this is the guy who not long ago - when the NDP was riding high, and the Liberals were in la-la land - declared, without equivocation, that we would never, ever, seek a coalition with the Liberals, only to turn around recently and say a coalition with the Liberals might be a good way to beat the dreaded Tories.

He's also the leader of a party which is clearly abusing federal taxpayers' money meant for Parliament Hill by having set up two "satellite" NDP offices - in Montreal and Quebec City - involving at least a dozen staff members paid by the House of Commons to promote the NDP brand.

In 2012, this same NDP demanded an inquiry into a single Bloc Quebecois official in Montreal who was also being paid by the House of Commons, a practice clearly outside the intent of paying House of Commons staffers.

And in the most preposterous comment of all, despite the existence of all that paid political operatives working far from Parliament Hill, the NDP defended their satellite offices by saying they are just there to assist the general public. In an email, Karl Belanger, Mulcair's principal secretary, said, "In absolutely no case does taxpayer money go to funding partisan activity." Oh, please.

Whether Oliver makes a good finance minister or not remains to be seen. He certainly has a tough act to follow, but it's hard to fault his credentials for the job. He has two degrees from McGill, one in civil law, and an MBA from Harvard Business School. He was an investment banker, executive director of the Ontario Securities Commission and the CEO of the Investment Dealer's Association.

But he's not a climate "denier" and he's not a racist.

Mulcair, for all his bleating about civility, should at least keep his chin on the curb rather than letting it wallow in the gutter.

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By **AMRITA GILL**
STUDENT OF
KING'S COLLEGE
SCHOOL

Learning to be a leader is so challenging!

This year, Leah Xuereb and I, Amrita Gill, were chosen as the student executives to lead King's College School's major student-run leadership project. This flagship leadership project is our annual 'Tastes of Africa' fundraising gala dinner, dance, and silent auction to raise money for our sister school in Cameroon, Africa. This project has a long legacy of student success. We are a small school with less than fifty students, all of whom are learning to be leaders, and in the past, this senior project has raised several thousand dollars each year.

We began planning and preparing in October for the gala which will take place this April. Leading the student members of our committee takes determination and persistence! Some of the challenges we have faced are our own lack of communication; difficulties with getting organized; and trying, as teenagers, to be taken seriously when we need to manage adults, such as venue and entertainment providers.

Communication, as on any project, is the key to our success. Once we realized that our lack of communication was a result of not thoroughly discussing with each other what needed to be done, we started planning weekly meetings and assessing each other's situations in order to ensure that we were on the same page.

As January rolled around, our team was starting to take shape, and we were beginning to enter the 'doing' stage from the 'planning' stage. There was much to do, and we became overwhelmed with everything that needed to happen. We used one of our weekly meetings to lay out on a huge spreadsheet with what needed to be done and then transferred the due dates onto a calendar.

Throughout the process of planning and executing our task items, we have found it difficult to demand things from adults and to interact with them. We have felt as though they still regard us as children and think that we are not as professional as adults are. Running an event on this scale is difficult, but we have found that the way to ensure that any difficulties are dealt with is to acknowledge them and to be honest with people so that we confront the challenges head on.

Our 'Tastes of Africa' event offers the public an exciting night of African food, African entertainment, and fun socializing. In addition, 'Tastes of Africa' informs the community about what is being done to assist children in Africa and how they can take part in changing a child's life.

The 'Tastes of Africa' gala is being held on Saturday, April 12, 2014 from 6:00 p.m. until midnight at the Caledon Woods Golf Club on Highway 50 just north of Bolton. You are invited to attend by calling King's College School at 905-880-7645 or by emailing events@kingscollegeschool.ca to order tickets (\$80 each). We hope to see you there!

Felix Skinner and LAUGHTER'S VOICE

Felix Skinner and his mother Andrea have wanted to open up a summer camp here in Ontario for kids that stutter since he attended a camp in British Columbia in 2012.

Skinner is 11 years old but speaks with a level of maturity that goes beyond his years. "The stutter does not define me" said Skinner. He developed a stutter at the age of 3 and at times got worse until he understood what he needed to help his problem.

He explained "I go in phases with my stutter". Apparently Skinner can go for long periods of time without stuttering at all and then it seems to hit him for no apparent reason. Stress and fatigue or sometimes being self-conscious about speaking can cause people to stutter which makes it harder for them to talk flowingly. Most people who stutter find that their problem eases if they are relaxed.

His camp experience in BC taught him some essential life lessons "We need others to listen to us, we have as much time as we need" he said when referring to himself and others that stutter.

Skinner and his mother are working with the Mansfield Outdoor Centre to offer a summer residential camp. The camp is called Laughter's Voice and is expected to be an experience for children from the ages of 6 to 18 that stutter. Mansfield Outdoor Centre is a privately owned outdoor education centre on 300 acres of land which includes beautiful forests, fields, streams and a pond. "There will be no speech therapy at the camp" said Skinner. The purpose of the camp is so that children that have a stutter can assimilate with each other, and stay connected as they understand each other's challenges.



They are building a support network that will go beyond the camp experience, and hoping that this experience will help maintain confidence in the children.

Creating a summer camp is not the only interest of Skinner, "I'm super good at Mechanics" he said. "I like to take things apart and put them back together" He also competes

at a provincial level for Archery, which will tie nicely with the camp at Mansfield to be sure.

It is good to see leadership skills in anyone let alone someone of such a young age. To get more information about the Laughter's Voice - go to Laughtersvoice.com.

WRITTEN BY CHRIS MCGOWAN

Mayfield's Black Heritage Committee

Black history month was celebrated at Mayfield Secondary School in Caledon.

THREE STUDENTS, Nadia Blackwood, 14 years of age, Daniel Bardoni, 16 years of age and Justice Sibblis, 17 years of age formed the Black Heritage Committee. Their efforts started in October, 2013, but Sibblis had been planning and organizing the committee for about a year and a half.

The students obtained support from Ms. Greives, a teacher at the school who immediately made announcements to encourage other students to join the committee.

"The year and a half of planning took place to create the committee that would have an assembly every year" said Sibblis. "The committee is expected to run all year long and not just for Black History Month".

The Black Heritage Committee is expected to have discussions and plan school events, and provide a forum where everyone can have a voice. The committee meets every other Tuesday and there is a core group of about 17 students that actively participate. Most of the students are first year students that can learn from the older ones and carry on the work. Prior to the Black Heritage Committee being formulated, Mayfield did celebrate Black History, but it was not consistent.

The committee members attended a board of education conference "We learned a lot about Canadian Black history and got to meet students from other schools and learn more about black art and culture and how it influenced everybody as a whole" said Sibblis.

They worked very hard in planning the as-

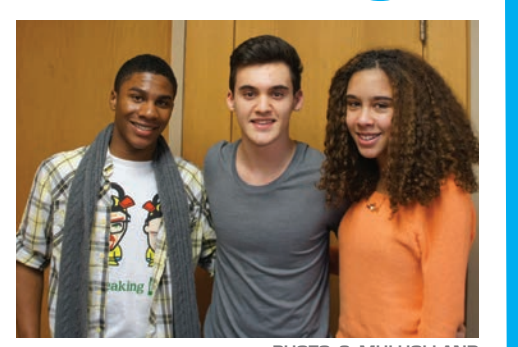


PHOTO: S. MULHOLLAND

sembly and embraced the fact that they came from different backgrounds. The assembly celebrating Black History was student lead and consisted of about 75 students. It was attended by the entire student and teacher body. There were drama students involved in writing out the script and there were plenty of dancers that were involved in the show.

Mayfield is a large school of about 1800 students, but this did not discourage the committee. "We wanted to bring people up because of their differences, not bring people down" said Sibblis.

The theme behind the assembly was based on Viola Desmond who in 1946 refused to sit in the balcony designated exclusively for Blacks in the Roseland Theatre in New Glasgow Nova Scotia. She boldly took a seat on the ground floor where only white people were allowed to sit. Desmond was forcibly removed from the theatre and arrested, however by standing her ground and being taken to trial; changes in discrimination slowly took place in favour of coloured people.

The students at Mayfield have learned what it takes to persevere, organize and implement a change, just like Desmond. And they have enjoyed every minute of their success.

Well done!!

WRITTEN BY CHRIS MCGOWAN



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NDBL season not far off

Boys of summer will return in May

By Brian Lockhart

It may not look like it, but the start of the North Dufferin Baseball League (NDBL) season is just a little more than a month away.

With this late-lasting winter, the ground crews might have to shovel snow on the baselines but bets are that spring will finally take hold and dry up the diamonds for opening day.

There are 15 teams in the senior division of NDBL this year including local entries the Bolton Brewers and the Bolton Dodgers.

The Brewers are the returning champions after winning the title last season and becoming the only team in NDBL history to win the championship for five consecutive years.

They won the title in 2013 after a win over the Aurora Jays in game five of the final series. That win capped a stellar campaign that saw the Brewers finish the regular season with a 23-3 record and

46 points; five points ahead of the second place Orillia Majors.

The Dodgers completed the season with a respectable ninth place finish in the 14 team League and a 11-15 record.

They may have been on the negative side, but the Dodgers played a pretty solid season without going on any major streak either for or against.

NDBL met for its annual general meeting and awards night March 9 in Lisle.

The Dodgers' Michael Gemmiti won the best batter and best on base percentage awards.

Adam Wallace, from the Brewers, shared the best catcher award with Mansfield's Rob Kinsley.

The senior division of NDBL will play a 28-game schedule this year. All teams from last season will be returning, with the addition of Orangeville, who sat out last season after having difficulty filling the roster.

In the junior division, the line-up will

expand with the addition of Aurora, Collingwood, Ivy and Midland. Returning teams are Alliston, Barrie, Creemore, and Orillia.

Two squad from last season, Stayner and Innisfil, won't be fielding teams for 2014.

The Juniors will have a 21 game schedule.

The NDBL season is slated to get underway May 3.

The schedule for both divisions will be on the League's website at www.NDBL.ca as soon as it is finalized.



PEEWEE COYOTES WILL COMPETE FOR TITLE

The Caledon Coyotes Peewee BB won in overtime to qualify for the Lower Lakes Female Hockey League Championship Weekend. After winning the regular season, the Coyotes followed it up by winning the Central East Division Playoffs. It took an overtime goal by Megan Norris to finally push past the formidable Etobicoke Dolphins. The girls will now compete for the LLFHL championship March 28 and 29 in Mississauga. Congratulations to the players and coaches.

GMOHL season ends with Penetang win

Kings capture title in six games

By Brian Lockhart

The Penetang Kings have captured the Georgian Mid Ontario Junior C Hockey League championship with a win over the defending champion Alliston Hornets.

The Kings claimed the title after a tough final series that went six games and ended with a Penetang win in game six last Sunday (March 16) at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre in Alliston.

After playing to a 1-1 series tie in two games, the Penetang squad took a two-game lead with back-to-back wins in games three and four.

Alliston fans were hoping for a comeback when the Hornets shut-out the Penetang squad 3-0 in game five at the Penetang arena.

The return to Alliston for game six saw two scoreless periods before Penetang's Mac Flewelling scored at 2:17 into the final 20 minutes of regulation time.

Dreams of a sixth title for Alliston evaporated when Flewelling scored a second goal on an empty net with :52 seconds left on the clock.

There were a few brief seconds of hope for Alliston fans when Mark O'Donnell

scored with :35 seconds remaining. But by then it was too late.

The Kings dumped the puck and burned off the final few seconds to take the win and the championship.

For the Hornets, it was the end of a long time at the top of the GMOHL.

"What I love with our guys — we gave it right to the end. There was no quit, there was nothing dirty out there at all. We just went to try to get the win and tried to tie the game," Hornet head coach Clay Birkett said of the final game. "Sure, we had our hopes up. Did I think we could tie it? Sure, we had two chances. I said get the puck deep, get the goalie out again and crash the net. We had an opportunity to score, and we missed."

The Kings are now battling it out with the Wingham Ironmen in the first round of the Schmalz Cup provincial playoffs.

The Penetang squad was down 2-0 after the first two games of the series.

The Caledon Golden Hawks Junior C team will be back for the start of the 2014-15 season in September.

The Hawks ended the season with a fifth place finish in the League and lost their first round playoff series to the Schomberg Cougars.



The Penetang Kings and Alliston Hornets battle it out in game six of the Georgian Mid Ontario Junior C Hockey League championship final series. The Kings won the series in six games to claim the GMOHL championship.

Photo by Brian Lockhart



ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



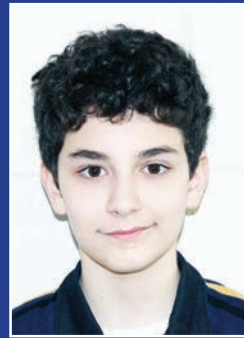
Name:
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School:
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Name:
STEVEN SMYTHE
School:
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This 17-year-old helped bring his swimming mates success at both ROPSSAA and OFSSAA. His team was first in two relay races at ROPSSAA and they were eighth and ninth in the events at OFSSAA. He was also tight end for the football team in the fall, and is planning to play rugby in the spring. Away from school, he plays at Highland Rugby in Fergus. The Grade 12 student lives in the Belfountain area with his parents Colleen and Jose Mills.

This forward is part of the varsity boy's hockey team that won at ROPSSAA, earning the right to compete at OFSSAA. In the community, he plays midget A hockey in the Caledon Hawks organization. The 16-year-old lives in Caledon with his parents Susan and David Smythe.



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DANIEL IABONI
School:
ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL



Name:
SANGEETA BALKARANSINGH
School:
HUMBERVIEW SECONDARY SCHOOL

This 14-year-old plays ultimate Frisbee at school, and the team did well at an indoor tournament. He's planning to play baseball this coming season. "I play good any position," he said. Away from school, he plays house league with the Bolton Braves. The Grade 9 student lives in Bolton with his parents Louisa and Domenic Iaboni.

This Grade 12 student is planning to play wing when the girls' senior rugby team takes to the field for the coming season. She also played power forward on the senior girls' basketball team and was on the senior girls' volleyball team that made it to ROPSSAA. Away from school, she enjoys recreational swimming. The 17-year-old lives in Brampton with her parents Vishan and Shantie Balkaransingh.

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Caledon Bruce Trail Club is marking its 50th in April

Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club (CHBTC) will celebrate its 50th anniversary April 6.

The Club was formed in 1964 to support a section of the newly established Bruce Trail, a public footpath along the Niagara Escarpment from Niagara Falls to Tobermory.

Starting in 1960, the Bruce Trail Committee began exploring the feasibility of a footpath along the Escarpment. The group was composed of Norman Pearson, Ray Lowes, Robert McLaren and Philip Gosling. For two years, they talked and studied maps, and then in 1962, Gosling made a commitment to spend a full year in putting the Trail on the ground.

From this ambitious beginning, regional clubs were established along the length of the Trail.

The Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club was one of the last to be organized in 1964, with Gosling as its first president. He has been appointed to the Order of Canada

this year, in part for his outstanding work with the Bruce Trail Conservancy.

From the Cheltenham Badlands in the south, to Mono Centre in the north, the Caledon section of the Trail offers something for everyone: well-maintained wooded paths through dense forests, challenging steep climbs and descents, open meadows, rocky outcroppings, impressive wild flower displays, cedar groves and meandering streams and rivers. The Caledon Hills section of the Trail offers the best of every season.

CHBTC has a commitment to organize hikes year round with leaders offering a range of distances and difficulty. Easy, introductory hikes are offered each spring and fall to attract new hikers; some hikes have a specific focus for photographers or wildflower enthusiasts; and often hikes end with a social gathering at a local restaurant to enjoy a relaxing meal together.

Members are kept informed of events

with a quarterly newsletter, an up to date web site which lists all of our activities and a Facebook page with members' contributions.

Club members can volunteer as hike leaders; trail captains responsible for inspecting portions of the Trail; in maintenance projects (bridge and boardwalk building); or as board members. Those who make an outstanding contribution are honored each year at a volunteer picnic.

Many people think the Bruce Trail is complete. But it is actually a "work in

progress." Only 51 per cent of the Trail is secure. The Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC) is working to secure more Niagara Escarpment land for a permanent Bruce Trail Conservation corridor.

The Club's 50th anniversary will celebrate the first 50 per cent of trail securement and take up the challenge to continue what the founding members began 50 years ago. This year, the Club will be celebrating with many special events.

Visit the web site at www.caledonbruce-trail.org for more information.

Pat Mullin re-elected Chair of CVC

Mississauga Councillor Pat Mullin was re-elected chair of Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) at the Authority's 2014 inaugural meeting in January.

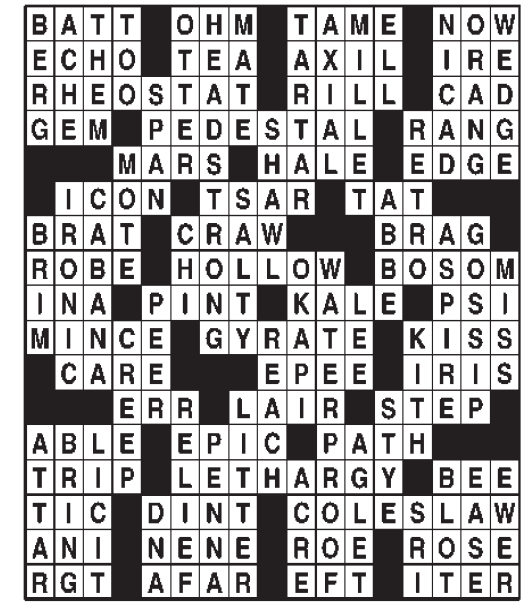
The appointment marks Mullin's 10th term as chair of the CVC Board of Directors, which consists of 12 members represented by Councillors from the municipalities within the Credit Valley watershed.

"I want to thank members of the board for their continued support," Mullin said. "This past year has brought many challenges. The extreme weather in 2013 helped highlight the important work of our partners, volunteers and staff at CVC. Together, we continue to play a key role in managing environmental issues as collectively we work to adapt to changing climate conditions."

"This year marks CVC's 60th anniversary," she added. "It's an important milestone and one of which we are very proud. Our work over the past 60 years has been built on strong partnerships and strong leadership. We look forward this year to celebrating our heritage and continuing our work to protect natural resources in the watershed now and for the future."

Halton Hills Councillor Joan Robson was re-elected for her third term as first vice-chair. At the approval of the board, the election for second vice-chair was held over to the February meeting, at which Amaranth Township Mayor Don MacIver was elected.

CVC is accountable through its board of directors to the municipalities and residents in the Credit River watershed. These members approve CVC programs and policies, and set its budget.



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Canadian mission in Afghanistan recognized at Queen's Park

In a moving tribute March 17, the leaders of the three political parties in the Ontario Legislature paid tribute to the Canadians who served in Afghanistan.

The following is the Hansard record of the remarks given by Premier Kathleen Wynne, Official Opposition Leader Tim Hudak, and Third Party Leader Andrea Horwath. It was provided by Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones' office.

Premier Kathleen Wynne — Speaker, last week all three parties asked that the Canadian flag at the Ontario Legislature be lowered to half-mast to mark the end of the Canadian mission in Afghanistan. We did this to recognize the service of the men and women of the Canadian Armed Forces who served in Afghanistan and to honour those who have lost their lives serving our country.

We are fortunate to live in a province and a country where we are able to express ourselves freely and where we are able to debate our political differences peacefully. These are the values our servicemen and servicewomen brought to their mission in Afghanistan. As Premier, and along with all MPPs in this Legislature, we pay tribute and honour those serving our country, and demonstrate our gratitude to these great men and women.

I would like to move unanimous consent that following remarks from all three parties, we observe a moment of silence for the Canadian men and women who have fallen as part of that mission.

Progressive Conservative Leader Tim Hudak — I'm pleased to join my colleague Premier Wynne and the leader of the third party, Ms. Horwath, in bringing remarks on the end of Canada's mission in Afghanistan.

The end of the mission in Afghanistan last week also marked the end of the longest war fought by the brave men and women in our Canadian Armed Forces.

That longest war in our history was not without human cost. The war cost the lives of 158 soldiers, one diplomat, one journalist, two civilian contractors and, of

course, beyond that, the uncountable injuries of both body and mind of those who did come home safely and of their families.

But much was won in Afghanistan in the fight against global terrorism and in the defence of freedom. One thing I noticed is that Canadians were often very modest about our accomplishments on the world stage, much more so than our neighbours to the south. I know all of us in our own ridings and across the province would find it immensely stirring during parades when the men and women of the Canadian Armed Forces would march by, how the crowds would stand and cheer and salute and send out their thanks. Canadians are immensely proud of our brave men and women in the military and their families.

I say with full assurance, and I know Canadians would agree, that despite our modesty as Canadians, there is nothing more fearsome to the enemy or comforting to the vanquished than the sight of a Canadian soldier in uniform-skilled, determined, incredibly courageous, and heroes all.

Speaker, I've yet to meet a Canadian soldier who has not defended Canada, answering the call post-9/11, who fights for freedom and safety for family and neighbours back at home. They're proud of what they've done. They also talk about the life-changing experiences that they had by helping to rebuild Afghanistan, by helping to spread what we take for granted in freedom, by building schools and communities, communities that were once schools and places of worship destroyed by the Taliban. As the father of a daughter-and I guess I'll say this, Speaker, of another little one to come-it made me immensely proud and it stirred my heart to see Afghani girls who can go to school safely.

When you're half a world away from the place you call home, when every day is a danger, it's quite an understatement to say that life can be tough, but it can also be incredibly elevating. Bringing hope to the hopeless is no easy task, but it is a

task incredibly well done by the men and women of our armed forces.

As leader of the Ontario PCs and as a husband and a father who watched the many repatriations along the Highway of Heroes, I can only salute a job well done by each and every member of our Canadian Armed Forces. Our role now is to ensure those incredible sacrifices and works of valour are never forgotten.

NDP Leader Andrea Horwath — New Democrats stand together with the other members of the Legislature in honouring the immense sacrifices made by our men and women in uniform.

Spanning more than 12 years, the Canadian mission in Afghanistan cost the lives, as the Leader of the Opposition mentioned, of 158 soldiers, one diplomat, one journalist and two civilian contractors. Their friends and families have lost their loved ones forever. So we honour the memory of so many who lost their lives during the mission and so many others who continue to go on without them.

We need to be there for the veterans who have returned and are returning home. Veterans and their families need support: Post-traumatic stress can have a devastating toll on soldiers and their loved ones. So as we stand in this Legislature today and mark the sacrifice, mark the commitment and mark the duty that sent so many soldiers over to Afghanistan, let us not forget that we have a duty to them as well, those who have returned, to make sure that they're able to cope with some of the things that they experienced, witnessed and lived through in the horrors of that war.

The transition back to life at home can be difficult, and we need to ensure that people who served bravely get the support that they need at home. There shouldn't be any hesitation when it comes to not only helping the people who have returned, but also their loved ones and the families of our heroes.

The road toward lasting peace in Afghanistan is still a long one. The Cana-

dian government must also redouble its efforts on development and diplomatic efforts to ensure that Canada can leave a true legacy that's lasting-of greater peace and of prosperity and freedom for all Afghans. I'm glad that the Leader of the Opposition mentioned the issue of education particularly. That is something New Democrats have always been supportive of, and I think Liberals and Conservatives as well.

The bottom line is, there are many positive things that Canadians contributed in Afghanistan, and one of the things that we want to ensure is that those contributions have a lasting legacy and we're able to see an Afghanistan that is truly supportive of all her people.

The Speaker (Dave Levac) — I would now ask that all members of the Legislature and those visiting please stand to observe a moment of silence, to honour those men and women who have completed their tours in Afghanistan, and those who have lost their lives, and their families.

The House observed a moment's silence.

RIDE spot check leads to arrest

A 41-year-old Caledon woman faces charges after being stopped in Bolton March 15.

Caledon OPP reports officers were running a Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere (RIDE) spot check at Queensgate Boulevard and Pembroke Street shortly after 9 p.m. They spoke to the driver of a green Chevrolet and quickly determined she was under the influence of alcohol, detecting a strong smell on her breath. She was taken to the detachment for testing.

The woman was charged with driving with more than the legal limit of alcohol in her system. Her licence was suspended and her car was impounded for 7 days.



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