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FREEThursday, March 18, 2021Volume 41, Issue 11



**WELCOME BACK, BOOK LOVERS!**

Natalie and Sylvia of the Caledon Public Library donned their PPE on Tuesday to welcome patrons back to the community hub. The Library reopened with limited patron access on March 16. In accordance with Provincial guidelines, branch access will be limited to those picking up holds or making use of library computer stations. For more on the new restrictions, as well as outdoor learning opportunities, see Page 17.

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## Residents mobilize to oppose GTA West corridor

BY ROB PAUL  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

With the proposed GTA West Corridor—also known as Highway 413—under review by Ontario's Ministry of Transportation, there's been scrutiny in the communities it will impact.

Highway 413 would provide a bypass of the GTA for those travelling between Southwestern Ontario and Northern Ontario while being built through areas such as Brampton and Vaughan.

It's a polarizing situation due to the environmental consequences on surrounding farms, forests, wetlands, and a section of the Greenbelt. The proposed highway will have an impact on those in the surrounding Caledon area.

Seeing a need for increased awareness regarding the concerns around Highway 413, Bolton resident Dan O'Reilly teamed up with fellow resident Julia Galt to bring more acknowledgement to the issues in the area with a Stop Highway 413 sign initiative.

"It was actually my initiative, and I was trying to get somebody to help me, and then I

was steered onto Julia and sent her an email asking if she'd like to do this and she said yes," said O'Reilly. "The purpose of doing this is to try and raise awareness of the 413 in Bolton."

In preparation for the sign initiative, O'Reilly and Galt will be going door-to-door on Bolton's King Street to leave letters for residents. The letters will inform the residents of the situation and will have O'Reilly's contact information if they're interested in putting a sign up.

Continued on Page 3



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**Bolton senior raises alarm bells over second dose delay**

BY ROB PAUL  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

When Bolton resident Sandy Forester was notified that she and her husband's second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine was being moved from April 20 to July 6, she couldn't believe it.

She and husband are both over 80 years old and have health conditions that make them more susceptible to the virus. Forester assumed

that would mean they would be prioritized, but instead she feels they've been pushed aside.

Not able to feel fully comfortable until she gets both doses of the vaccine, Forester decided to send a letter to her Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones to try and get some answers as to why their second doses were being delayed.

"Just found out that our second dose of the vaccine has been changed from April 20 to July 6," Forester wrote.

Continued on Page 10

**TOWN OF CALEDON**

**TOWN NEWS** See Page 7

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# Environmental Defence hosts webinars for communities impacted by 413

BY ROB PAUL  
 LOCAL JOURNALISM  
 INITIATIVE REPORTER

As the Ontario government continues to plan towards building the GTA West Highway (Highway 413) through Milton, Georgetown, Caledon, Brampton, and Vaughan, Environmental Defence is providing webinar sessions for the communities that will be impacted.

Environmental Defence is a Canadian environmental advocacy organization that works with governments, industry, and individuals to defend clean water, a safe climate, and healthy communities. With the effects the proposed highway will have on ecosystems in the Greenbelt, Environmental Defence has started the Stop the 413 campaign.

To supplement the campaign, they've been hosting webinars for communities to help provide information, answer questions, and empower local leaders to help make a difference.

The Caledon webinar will be Tuesday, March 23 at 7 p.m. and people who are interested can register at [act.environmentaldefence.ca/page/75760/petition/1](http://act.environmentaldefence.ca/page/75760/petition/1).

One of the featured speakers of the webinar is Ontario Climate Program Manager from Environmental Defence Sarah Buchanan. She's adamant that the webinars can make a difference by providing a better understanding of the impacts the highway will have on specific areas.

"We have essentially—alongside residents in communities along the path of the highway and local organizations—co-hosted a number of webinars already that take a deeper dive into how this highway could impact specific communities. We've got so many different communities that have different feels to them and different approaches to things like growth and different people speaking up.

"It's been an interesting series and we've co-hosted webinars in Halton Region and King-Vaughan, and Caledon seemed like a good place to go next because lots of residents have been speaking up there, so we wanted to take a deeper dive specifically into what dynamics are at play in Caledon around this highway."

It can be difficult to jump into something as in-depth as working to stop a billion-dollar highway, and that's why Environmental Defence wants to help those against it in the areas being affected by connecting them with the right people.

"One of the goals here is definitely helping to give people a voice," she said. "When people hear more information about this highway and how it might impact the community, if they want to take action to try and change that and push for a better alternative, we're going to give them ways to do that and we're going to introduce them to local leaders who are taking action.

"I think, in general, people can rightfully be confused by how to engage with their political system, particularly when we're looking at municipal and regional councils, how to sign up to speak at Council, how to reach the right people who are making the decisions at a specific level of government. It can be really daunting and unfortunately, as a result, a lot of folks tune out and think they can't make a difference. That's something we want to push back against and show them their voice matters and show them the ways they can speak up

to decision-makers. That's another goal, to help people navigate their political system to try and make their voices heard."

Another major piece to the webinars is ensuring residents in these communities have a full understanding of the situation and can then become the leaders in the fight against the highway.

"Honestly, it's the most important thing (informing residents of the impact of the highway)," she said. "This campaign is now led by residents in these communities and we're definitely in the backseat here. Making sure the folks that are going to be the most impacted have a say in it and understand what it could mean for their communities is absolutely the most important thing here.

"On the surface, a highway might sound like something that would address the transportation issues in the region, it could be a multi-billion-dollar mistake to not really ask the question, 'is this really the best way to address growing transportation needs in the region?' And frankly, that question has been asked before and answered by an expert panel, which is now being ignored."

Buchanan says Environmental Defence understands the need for growing areas to have better transportation options, but that doesn't mean building a 400-series highway should be the first and only option that's looked at, that's why they feel the need to provide communities with the full picture.

"A greater sense of awareness, just getting the facts out there about why highways, and in particular this highway, often don't solve the traffic congestion issues that people are facing," she said. "There's not always a lot of awareness because frankly it's a tough one to wrap your brain around.

"You think, 'oh, I'm stuck on the highway, why don't we just add a new highway and things will get better?' but when you look at the evidence, that doesn't actually add up. In particular, with this highway, the way it's structured and the way the route is structured, the modelling has shown in the past that it won't actually save commuters very much time at all."

Rather than hosting one webinar for all the communities, Environmental Defence wanted to concentrate on each area impacted because there's different circumstances for those involved.

"Getting out facts like that is really key to helping folks understand why it's really not worth the risks to build this highway and not worth the money either, but also being able to answer people's questions and being able to connect with local communities to hear what is important that's different in each of these communities.

"One aspect of this highway might be more important to people in Halton and maybe it's different in Caledon, so hearing how those communities see this highway differently and have different concerns because of the different impacts. For example, in Caledon, the gravel industry is a big player and that's something we're going to be focusing on in the webinar to make it more specific to Caledon."

Stopping Highway 413 is about the communities and their people, and that's why Environmental Defence started to webinars, to help build the fight at a grassroots level.

Continued on Page 5

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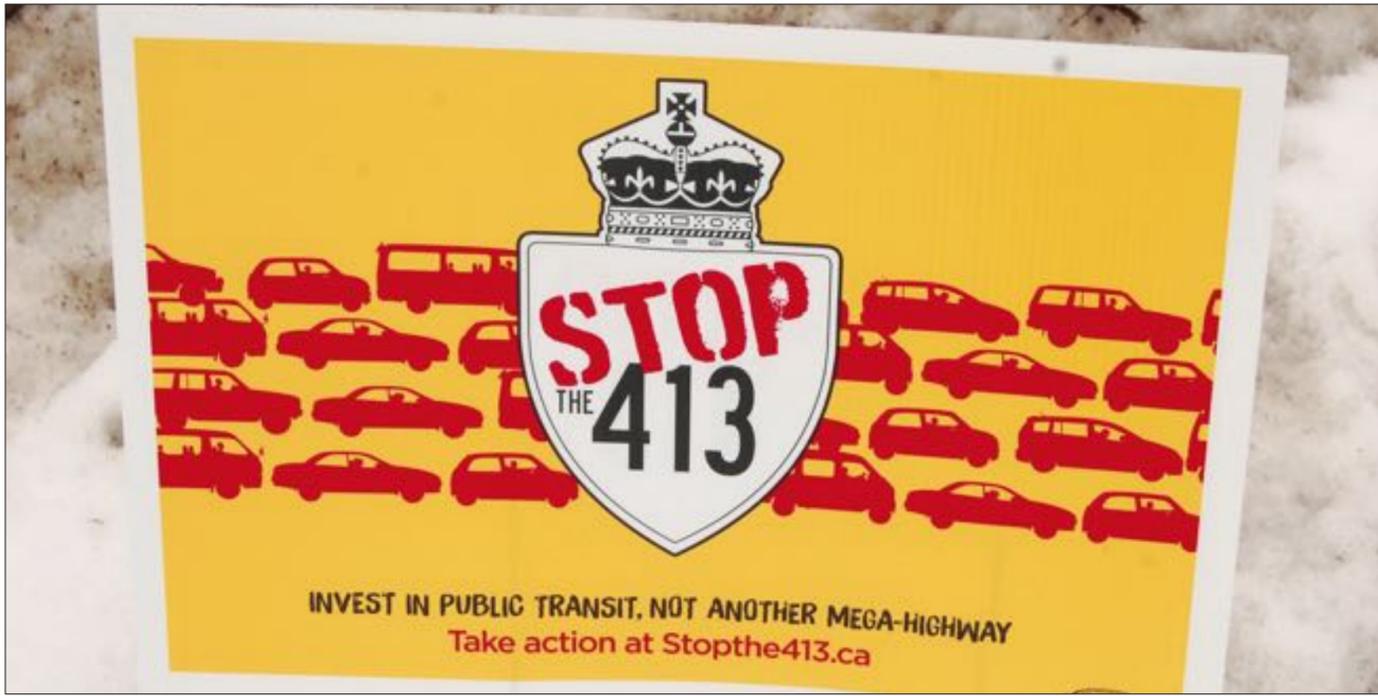
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# Residents mobilize to oppose GTA West corridor



thing that can and should be done about it and the sign will provide a constant reminder.

“Anybody that’s interested in getting a sign can just contact me and I should have a few signs ready to go. I’ll probably be able to get the sign up that day or we can figure out a day for me to come back.”

For more information on the Stop the 413 initiative from Environmental Defence, visit environmental-defence.ca.

(LEFT) A sample of the signs that will soon be appearing around Caledon intended to rally opposition to the proposed Highway 413. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

FOR AN OPINION PIECE ON THE PROVINCE’S PROPOSAL, PLEASE SEE PAGE 17

Continued from FRONT

“Your help is urgently needed to build opposition and create awareness in Bolton about the threat posed to Caledon by the proposed Highway 413,” the letter reads. “Also known as the GTA West Corridor, the 413 is a 400-style, 59-kilometre-long mega-highway that, if built, will extend from Milton to Vaughan.

“Highway 413 will cut through the heart of Caledon, slicing it in two, facilitating sprawling warehouse and housing developments on both sides. Estimated to cost a minimum of \$6 billion, Highway 413 will pave over thousands of hectares of prime farmland and the Greenbelt.”

There’s been plenty of opposition of the 413, including from Halton Region, the Town of Halton

Hills, the Town of Orangeville, the City of Mississauga, and the City of Vaughan, but O’Reilly says they need to continue to apply pressure.

The idea for the sign initiative in Bolton came when O’Reilly realized there’s been a lack of opposition in the community compared to other areas.

“I’m just kind of floored because there’s so much opposition to this in King Township, Vaughan, and over in Halton Hills,” he said. “On the west side of Caledon, a friend of mine put up a lot of ‘Stop 413’ signs in Inglewood and Belfountain—the Belfountain Community Organization erected about 30 signs just before Thanksgiving—but there doesn’t seem to be much happening in Caledon.

“I persuaded two downtown property owners to

erect signs and a third person in the downtown area put up a sign, but that’s it. The reason I came up with this idea was just to raise the profile and I suggested to Julia that King Street would be a good route because it’s a major east-west thoroughfare—there’s not much point in putting a sign on an internal court or a side street because there’s not much traffic.

“That’s the idea with the sign and with the concerns over COVID-19, we wanted to put an initial letter into their mailbox or in-between the doors with my contact information saying that if they’d like we can come back with a free sign from Environmental Defence for them.”

Despite the plans for Highway 413 from the provincial government, O’Reilly wants people to know that there’s some-

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**DRIVERS FACE "SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES": POLICE**

Between March 11 and March 14, members of the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have charged six drivers for being under the influence of alcohol or stunt driving in the Town of Caledon.

"On March 11, 2021 at approximately 7:10 p.m., an off-duty OPP officer reported a possible impaired driver in the area of Airport and Old Church Roads," say Police. "An officer from the Caledon OPP stopped the vehicle. As part of the investigation, the driver was asked to provide a sample of their breath into an Approved Screening Device, which resulted in a 'fail' reading. The driver was then placed under arrest for Operation while Impaired - Blood Alcohol Concentration over 80 mg, and transported to the Caledon OPP Detachment, where further breath tests were conducted."

As a result, Manvinder Channa, 38, of Mulmur, was charged with:

- Operation while impaired - alcohol; and
- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (B.A.C.) over 80 mg

The charges have not been proven. The driver received a 90-day driver's license suspension and a 7-day vehicle impound.

"On March 12, at approximately 9:42 p.m., a concerned motorist reported another possible impaired driver in the area of Airport Road and King Street. Officers from Caledon OPP located the vehicle and the driver. As part of the investi-



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gation, the driver was asked to provide a sample of their breath into an Approved Screening Device, but refused."

As a result, Jagtar Dulay, 36, of Caledon, was charged with:

- Refusal to Comply with a Breath Demand
- The charges have not been proven. The driver received a 90-day driver's license suspension and a 7-day vehicle impound.

"On March 13, 2021 at approximately 9:41 p.m., a witness contacted Caledon OPP to report a vehicle in the ditch in the area of Innis Lake Road and King Street. It was also reported at the driver appeared to be impaired. Officers from Caledon OPP attended and conducted an investigation. Based on their findings, the driver was then placed under arrest for Operation while Impaired and transported to the Caledon OPP Detachment, where further breath tests were conducted."

As a result, Jaime Hernandez Vaquero, 47, of Brampton was charged with:

- Operation while impaired - alcohol;
- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (B.A.C.) over 80 mg;
- Obstruct Peace Officer; and
- Operation While Prohibited under the Criminal Code.

The charges have not been proven. The driver received a 90-day driver's license suspension and a 45-day vehicle impound.

"On March 14, at approximately 6:52 a.m., Caledon OPP received another traffic complaint from a concerned citizen in the area of Mayfield

and Airport Roads. The vehicle and driver were located by officers. Based on the investigation, the driver was placed under arrest for Operation while Impaired and transported to the Caledon OPP Detachment, where further breath tests were conducted."

As a result, Parathirajan Balachandran, 29, of Little Britain, was charged with:

- Operation while impaired - alcohol; and
- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (B.A.C.) over 80 mg

The charges have not been proven. The driver received a 90-day driver's license suspension and a 7-day vehicle impound.

All four accused drivers are expected to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on May 27, 2021, to answer to the charges.

In addition to the four impaired drivers, two traffic stops made by Caledon OPP officers while conducting traffic enforcement on March 11, 2021 resulted in Stunt Driving charges.

At approximately 8:36 a.m. in the area of Horseshoe Hill Road and The Grange Side Road, an officer stopped a vehicle for traveling 141 km/h in a posted 60 km/h zone. The vehicle was driven by a 38-year-old from Caledon.

At approximately 1:38 p.m. in the area of Highway 10 and Valleywood Boulevard, an officer stopped a vehicle for traveling 136 km/h in a posted 80 km/h zone. The vehicle was driven by a 42-year-old from Toronto.

Both drivers were charged with Stunt Driving and received an immediate seven-day vehicle impound and driver's license suspension. They



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are scheduled to appear in Caledon East Provincial Court to answer to the charges.

"Caledon OPP would like to thank the member of the public for making the call and reporting the above impaired driver and by doing so, making our roadways safer." If you suspect impaired driving, call 9-1-1 immediately.

**STUNT DRIVING**

On March 8, at approximately 9:27 p.m., officers from the Caledon OPP responded to a traffic complaint in the area of Highway 410 and Mayfield Road in the Town of Caledon.

"At that time, the complainant reported three dirt bikes driving recklessly and without headlights or licence plates," say Police. At approximately 9:30 p.m., an officer from the Caledon OPP Community Response Unit (CRU) observed the dirt bikes. Two of the three dirt bikes failed to stop for police in the area of The Grange Side Road but the third, a motorcycle, was stopped.

As a result of the investigation, the driver, a 19-year-old from Brampton, was charged with: Drive Motor Vehicle - perform stunt - too close to vehicle.

The driver of the motorcycle is scheduled to appear in Caledon East Provincial Court to answer to the charge and their driver's licence was suspended and the motorcycle impounded for a period of seven days. The charges have not been proven.

The passenger, a 16-year-old from Bolton, was charged for not wearing a helmet.

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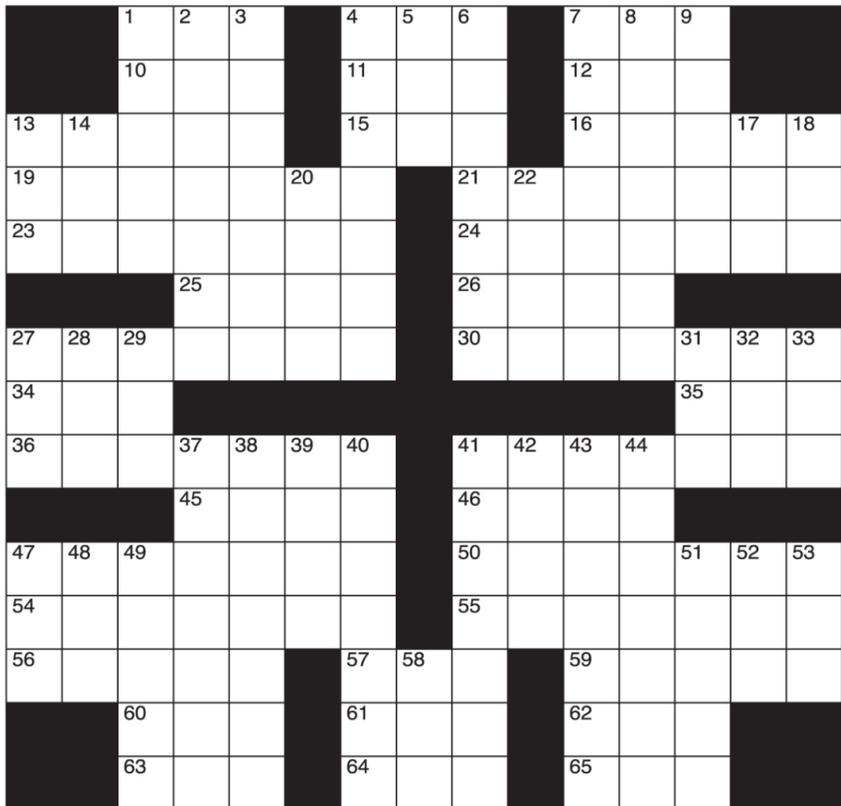
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The Citizen **CROSSWORD**

Solution on page A12



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- Thailand's former name
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- Ballplayers
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- Tested for fertility
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- Taxi
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- Put into service
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- Brazilian NBAer
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- Young dog
- Mimic
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- One and only
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- Julie \_\_, actress
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- Compound
- A small carrier attached to the side of a motorcycle
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# Council, planners consider subdivision proposal

BY JESSICA LAURENZA

Council and the Town's Planning and Development Committee met last week to discuss the Proposed Draft Plan for a subdivision at 12529 Chinguacousy Road along with the Proposed Official Plan Amendment for the Mayfield West community, which was approved by the province on January 21, 2021.

The proposed subdivision is north of Mayfield Road and east of Chinguacousy Road on a 48 acre lot, which is currently being used for agricultural purposes. The east portion of the land is located in the Greenbelt and is designated to environmental protection. This expansion can potentially accommodate 7,500 people and jobs.

The land permits detached and townhouse dwellings totalling 205 residential units proposed in accordance with land-use designations.

60 detached homes on 36-foot lots will line the environmental area. The townhouses are proposed to be positioned on the south portion of the development. Private lot landscaping will be provided to homes along Chinguacousy Road and trees will be planted lining the street to ensure a clean, kept frontage.

The surrounding areas include a neighbourhood park south of the subdivision, planned future schools, commercial spaces and other future opportunities, noted a planner at Glenn Schnarr & Associates. There will be trail connection on Chinguacousy Road which will lead residents to an east-west trail running through the Greenbelt.

Councillor Ian Sinclair offered concern about the dwellings which backed onto the protected Greenbelt Area and are to be conveyed to the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA). Sinclair said that the Town of Caledon ought to take over to maintain these lands as they would take better care of the grounds.

Mayor Thompson was encouraged by Councillor Nick deBoer to reach out to the chair of the TRCA to inquire about the town taking over these lands.

Sinclair also expressed an issue with nearby schools being surrounded by industrial buildings and asked about additional zoning control on the land to protect

schools from open storage. Open storage refers to storing merchandise or equipment outside of the building which could endanger nearby structures such as the schools.

McVittie assured Council that "Prestige Industrial Land Use Designation does not permit open storage so as these properties come in for development, we would be looking for compliance with official plan

policies which would limit [open storage]."

The bottom level of the mid-rise apartment buildings will offer non-residential usage which complements the community, including pharmacies, coffee shops and professional offices.

Positioned at the north-east corner of Mayfield and Chinguacousy will have re-

tail and service industries such as grocery stores, convenience stores, restaurants and additional professional services.

The next steps for the Planning and Development Committee are to respond to concerns surrounding the Official Plan Amendment and to bring forward a Recommendation Report for spring or summer of 2021.

## Environmental Defence hosts webinars for communities impacted by 413

Continued from Page 2

"Coming out of the webinars is a greater sense of community and connecting people who are concerned and people who want to talk about the alternatives to this highway because that's the other side of the coin. We're not just going in there to say, 'don't build this highway' and 'don't let people move around,' because we understand this region is growing and people need new ways to move around.

"We want to present those alternatives like better transit and how to do that and redirecting truck traffic to the 407—ideas like that, that will help make sure people and goods will get where they need to go without destroying the farms, green spaces, and communities that are important to people."

For more information on Environmental Defence and the Stop the 413 campaign, visit [environmentaldefence.ca](http://environmentaldefence.ca).

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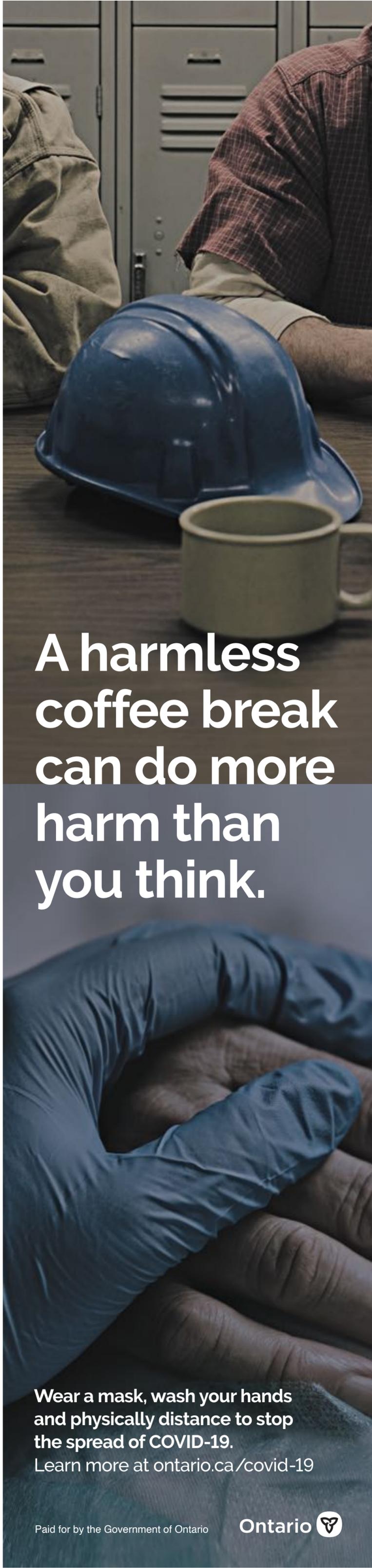
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**HONDA**

<sup>9</sup>Ask your Dealer for details. Limited time lease offers available through Honda Financial Services Inc. (HFS), to qualified retail customers on approved credit. Weekly payments include freight and PDI (\$1,840), tire & environmental fee (\$21) [This fee covers the cost to Honda Canada of collecting and recycling tires], A/C charge (\$100), and OMVIC fee (\$10). Taxes, licence, insurance and registration are extra. <sup>10</sup>Representative weekly lease example: 2021 CR-V LX 2WD (Model RW1H2MES) on a 60-month term with 260 weekly payments at 2.99% lease APR. Weekly payment is \$90.62 with \$0 down or equivalent trade-in and \$0 total lease incentive included. CR-V LX 2WD lease offer includes the \$750 Honda Bonus. Down payments, \$0 security deposit and first weekly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is \$20,961.30. 100,000 kilometre allowance; charge of \$0.12/km for excess kilometres. PPSA lien registration fee of \$40.00 and lien registering agent's fee of \$6.50, due at time of delivery are not included. 2021 CR-V LX 2WD shown in Platinum White Pearl. Additional charge of \$300.00 applies for premium paint colour. <sup>11</sup>Must be leased/financed through Honda Financial Services Inc. (HFS), on approved credit, and delivered by March 31, 2021. Honda Bonus: (i) will be deducted from the negotiated vehicle price after taxes; (ii) can be combined with lease or finance rates advertised by HFS; and (iii) cannot be applied to past transactions. No cash surrender or other value. Offer subject to change or cancellation without notice. Dealer order/trade may be necessary (but may not be available in all cases). See your participating Ontario Honda Dealer for details. \*\$3,000 // \$3,000 // \$4,000 total customer cash purchase incentive is valid on any new 2020 Civic Sedan // 2020 Civic Coupe // 2021 Pilot models when registered and delivered between March 2, 2021 and March 31, 2021. Cash incentive is available for Honda retail customers except customers who lease or finance through HFS at a subvented rate of interest offered by Honda as part of a low rate interest program. All advertised lease and finance rates are special rates. Customer cash purchase incentive will be deducted from the negotiated price after taxes. For all offers: licence, insurance, PPSA, other taxes (including HST) and excess wear and tear are extra. Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price. Offers only valid for Ontario residents at participating Ontario Honda Dealers. Dealer may sell/lease for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary (but may not be available in all cases). Colour availability may vary by Dealer. Vehicles and accessories are for illustration purposes only. Offers, prices and features subject to change without notice. See your Ontario Honda Dealer or visit [HondaOntario.com](http://HondaOntario.com) for full details.

# "A door to change" a true Victory for women in need



A harmless coffee break can do more harm than you think.

Wear a mask, wash your hands and physically distance to stop the spread of COVID-19. Learn more at [ontario.ca/covid-19](https://ontario.ca/covid-19)

Paid for by the Government of Ontario

Ontario 



BY JESSICA LAURENZA

Three years ago while at church, Pat Valliere began thinking deeply about how to help local women who have been in difficult situations improve their lives. From this internal yearn to help, she founded Victory House and Victory Lap Emporium, whose slogan is "a door to change."

Valliere opened Victory Lap Emporium on March 9 at the north-west corner of Caledon Village, a high-end, second-hand store where 100% of the proceeds fund food and supplies for Victory House.

They sell gently used household items, women's clothing and accessories, books, home décor and artwork. The store is staffed by local volunteers and they're open from 10 am – 4 pm Tuesdays through Saturdays.

Victory House is an organization offering temporary shelter for women and children throughout the Dufferin-Caledon region.

Caledon Hills Fellowship Baptist Church on Airport Road offered Valliere a building at the back of their property for her to help these women, which will be known as Victory House.

"Most people have a heart for charity but they want to know where their money is going and they can really see it this way," explains Valliere.

This is exemplified in the overwhelming amount of donations they had at the store, as well as the donations given to help fund the construction and renovations of Victory House.

She says she is blown away by the generosity and support from the local community in helping make this charitable dream a reality.

She recently received the permits to start

construction on a two-bedroom apartment in the downstairs area and will start renovations on the main building once the apartment is complete.

Habitat for Humanity's volunteers are working in conjunction with Victory House volunteers to begin construction on the house.

Everything for the house has been donated. Notably, Palgrave's Rotary Club donated money for the kitchen and St. John's church in Nobleton donated money for the living room furniture.

"I love it because this has become part of a community. That's the whole purpose of Victory House being where it is – to get the community involved with the construction so hopefully they'll stay [with us] and help the women who are there," Valliere says.

Victory House will work in conjunction with Family Transition Place in Orangeville (an emergency shelter), acting as a secondary spot for women who need additional support and care following their time at Family Transition Place. The house will hold 4-6 women to ensure the "rest, support, counselling and love" they need.

Through speaking with other transition homes, she realized some women had never cooked or even sat at a dinner table.

"You just don't think that this happens here. It's sad," she says.

That's why Victory House will provide volunteers during meal times to help women if they need support while cooking.

Currently, Valliere has a team of about 60 volunteers but she is looking for more volunteers to staff the Emporium, as well as two or three Board Members to aid with Victory House developments.

You can call the store at 416-456-3560 to connect directly with Pat to receive additional information about volunteering.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### NOTICE OF COMMENCEMENT AND PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE # 1

## Multi-Modal Transportation Master Plan

The Town of Caledon has initiated a Multi-Modal Transportation Master Plan (MMTMP) for the municipality. Consistent with the Phases 1 and 2 of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment process, the first Public Information Centre is being held to inform the public about the steps involved in this work and to gather feedback on the alternative solutions being considered.

#### WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

You are invited to attend a Public Information Centre on Wednesday March 24, 2021 and provide your input. The key component of the MMTMP is to set out a long-term transportation vision for the Town to address mobility needs to 2051+ and beyond. The plan recommendations will also feed into Town's Official Plan.

Your attendance at this meeting is important to help the study team identify transportation related opportunities, challenges and improvements to develop and evaluate transportation solutions for the municipality.

Due to continuing efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19 and to protect individuals, the public information centre will be held virtually.

**DATE:** MARCH 24, 2021

**TIME:** 4 – 6 P.M.

The Public Information Centre will provide a brief presentation followed by a question and answer session. All interested parties are invited to attend the public meeting and provide their input to the study team.

To listen to the Meeting, you may call 1-833-311-4101, Meeting Access Code: 132 551 5606. You can also participate in the meeting live from the Town's website. Details are available at [caledon.ca/notices](https://caledon.ca/notices)

If you are unable to attend the meeting, all consultation materials will be uploaded onto the study webpage. This can be accessed from [caledon.ca/notices](https://caledon.ca/notices). Should you wish to submit additional questions or comments to the study team, please contact one of the study project managers:

**Kant Chawla, MPlg, MCIP, RPP**  
Senior Policy Planner | Transportation  
Town of Caledon  
T 905-584-2272 x 4293  
[kant.chawla@caledon.ca](mailto:kant.chawla@caledon.ca)

**Ray Bacquie, P.Eng. MBA**  
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T 905-821-5891  
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Project and notice information will be made accessible upon request in accordance with the Accessibility Standard for Information and communication under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*.

Please note information will be collected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.

**This Notice First Issued on March 04, 2021**



TOWN OF CALEDON

6311 Old Church Road  
Caledon, ON L7C 1J6  
[www.caledon.ca](http://www.caledon.ca)  
T. 905.584.2272 | 1.888.225.3366 | F. 905.584.4325



News

Subscribe: [caledon.ca/enews](http://caledon.ca/enews)



# COVID-19 Vaccine Update

THURSDAY, APRIL 1 AT 7 P.M.

Join Dr. Lawrence Loh, Chief Medical Officer for Peel Public Health and Mayor Allan Thompson for the latest updates on COVID-19 Vaccines.

**TO PARTICIPATE:**

Dial 1-833-311-4101, access code 132 525 8399# or access the live stream at [caledon.ca/agenda](http://caledon.ca/agenda).

**HAVE A QUESTION?**

Send your question in advance to [mayor@caledon.ca](mailto:mayor@caledon.ca)

## COVID-19 Vaccination



Vaccine appointments are now available for people 80 years and older, and Indigenous (First Nations, Inuit and Métis) residents of Peel who are 18 years of age and older at:

- Brampton – William Osler Health System
- Mississauga – Trillium Health Partners

Visit [peelregion.ca/covid19vaccine](http://peelregion.ca/covid19vaccine) for more information.

## COVID-19 Testing

If you have symptoms or have been in close contact with someone who has symptoms, get tested.

- **CALEDON CENTRE FOR RECREATION AND WELLNESS**  
14111 Regional Road 50 North  
Hours: Mondays | 2 - 6 p.m.
- **SOUTHFIELDS COMMUNITY CENTRE**  
225 Dougall Ave  
Hours: Wednesdays | 2 - 6 p.m.
- **CALEDON EAST COMMUNITY COMPLEX**  
6215 Old Church Rd  
Hours: Fridays | 2 - 6 p.m.  
*For the above locations call 905-796-4922 to book an appointment.*
- **HEADWATERS HEALTH CARE CENTRE**  
100 Rolling Hills Drive, Orangeville  
Visit [headwatershealth.ca](http://headwatershealth.ca) to book an appointment.

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## DOWNTOWN BOLTON Task Force Member Recruitment

Are you interested in serving your community and assisting with the implementation of the Town's Downtown Bolton Revitalization Plan? For more information on how to apply for this exciting opportunity, visit: [caledon.ca/committees](http://caledon.ca/committees).

The Town of Caledon is currently seeking two energetic professionals interested in bringing their knowledge and passion to the Bolton downtown core.

- A Downtown Business Owner in Bolton (1); and
- A Community Group or Service Club Member (1)

The purpose of the Downtown Bolton Task Force is to prioritize the Bolton Downtown Revitalization Plan recommendations as well as provide updates to Council and the community on the progress made.

**GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS:**

Each applicant must be:

- A resident of the Town of Caledon, over the age of 18
- Available for daytime / evening meetings
- Able to serve on the Task Force for the full 36 month term
- Take part and/or lead working groups, as required

\*Note: Additional qualifications are outlined in the application form.

Completed online application forms are to be submitted no later than Friday, April 2, 2021, at 4:30 p.m. Should you require the application form in an alternative format, please contact Legislative Services 905.584.2272 x.2366 or [legislative.services@caledon.ca](mailto:legislative.services@caledon.ca).



## Upcoming Meetings

Live streaming of Council meetings now available!  
[caledon.ca/agenda](http://caledon.ca/agenda)

**MARCH**

- 23** General Committee, 2:30 p.m.  
Planning & Development Committee, 7 p.m.
- 24** Public Meeting: Multi-Modal Transportation Plan, 4 p.m.
- 30** Town Council, 6:00 p.m.

**APRIL**

- 1** COVID-19 Town Hall with Dr. Lawrence Loh, 7 p.m.
- 5** Heritage Caledon, 9:30 a.m.
- 6** Planning & Development Committee, 7 p.m.

Also, check out the community events calendar:  
[caledon.ca/events](http://caledon.ca/events)

**HAVE YOUR SAY!**

## Ward Boundary Review

**WHAT IS A WARD?**

Your ward is an important part of local government because it is where you vote in municipal elections. Right now, the Town is reviewing its ward structure and your input during the second round of public engagement is important!

Participate in one of the five upcoming online public engagement sessions to have your say and learn more about the review. Register now to reserve your spot!  
[caledon.ca/wbr](http://caledon.ca/wbr)

SESSION	DATE	TIME
1	Monday, March 22	7 – 9 p.m.
2	Wednesday, March 24	10 a.m. – Noon
3	Monday, March 29	10 a.m. – Noon
4	Monday, March 29	7 – 9 p.m.
5	Wednesday, March 31	7 – 9 p.m.

More information on proposed ward options will be provided closer to the sessions for input.



## Improve communication & grant opportunities to help your small business

Attend this online workshop to transform the internal communication of your small business to come out of the pandemic even stronger. Plus, learn about grant opportunities to help your small business in this challenging time.

**Thursday, March 18 from 6 - 8:30 p.m.**

For details and registration go to:  
[caledon.ca/business](http://caledon.ca/business).



**CALEDON BUSINESS INNOVATION ZONE**



6311 Old Church Road  
Caledon, ON L7C 1J6  
[caledon.ca](http://caledon.ca)  
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# In debt for the light

BY BROCK WEIR

By the time you read this, it will likely be the second half of the week.

As I write this, however, we're at the start of a new one.

How did you spend it? At the start of the week, were you brimming over with the possibilities ahead or, were you like me, eyes trained to the finish line and ready to get this week over with, body clock thrown into disarray, much keener on the possibility of the next week coming up?

Don't misunderstand me, I'm not a naysayer. In fact, I might even be a little optimistic, but starting the week with one less hour of sleep under our respective belts, is very often a tone-setter.

Once again on Sunday we found ourselves springing forward, a marketing phrase if there ever was one. Springing forward into a new season invariably spreads the positive vibes. It's also a harbinger of the arrival of longer daylight hours, which is always a good thing. As we get wrapped up in all the positives, however, we lose sight of the fact that we're going to lose an hour right up until the moment when we have to set the clock. It leaves most of us wondering, "Why are we doing this all over again?"

March isn't the only time when the hop-skip-and-jump march of time begs that exact same question. We do it again, albeit with considerably more consternation when we have to "fall back" – a phrase which is much more accurate and to the point.

Yet, in the Fall, we relish that extra hour of sleep, at least until the darkness sets in.

But this time around we bemoan when that 60 minutes are taken away from us... until we're fully charged enough to appreciate a glorious window of time when the sun doesn't start setting at the ungodly hour of 4 p.m.

That brief moment in time where the actual act of springing forward is executed might seem like a slog, but it is a boon across the board in the long run, particularly for those of us who live with the aptly named Seasonal Affective Disorder (S.A.D.). We enjoy it while we can and by the time the days start getting shorter and shorter come the start of the summer, we cherish those hours knowing that the fall gives way to a slippery slope of darkness.

And completely unnecessarily.

Daylight Savings Time is a relatively recent addition to our cultural tapestry.

In Ontario, it was adopted in a piecemeal process with the communities of Port Arthur and Orillia being among the first, as decreed by their respective mayors within the first two decades of the twentieth century. The idea being to have more daylight hours in which to work.

Since its general adoption, several changes have been made to the overall principle, while moves to have it abolished have generally fizzled on the table.

But tweaking the system has proved possible in many instances, as long as it has been backed by political will. In 1986, for example, the United States government extended Daylight Savings Time to a start on the first Sunday in April, before an inevitable fallback on the last Sunday in November. In the first decade of the twenty-first century, the second Bush administration made further changes to the policy, mercifully moving up the start of Daylight Savings Time to the second Sunday in March before a conclusion on the first Sunday in November.

As is the case with so many pieces of

legislation stemming from our neighbours to the south, we naturally followed suit to keep pace and have been reaping the benefits ever since.

But there comes a time when one can only improve the situation so much before its usefulness is questioned to the point of bulldozing any foundations it once had. We seem to come to this point every few years until momentum is redirected or otherwise lost in favour of some sexier endeavour.

This past fall, the Ontario Legislature passed a bill introduced by MPP Jeremy Roberts that would, in theory, make Daylight Savings Time a permanent state in the Province.

"Recent studies have started to suggest that the time change may be causing much more harm than good," wrote the MPP in October. "Firstly, there have been several studies that the time change is having no material effect on our energy consumption, as any savings at one time of the day are inevitably eaten up by the other end. In fact, the US National Bureau of Economic Research released a study that concluded daylight savings time might actually be wasting energy because heaters and air conditioners were being kept on later to account for extended afternoon daylight. Furthermore, we have seen adverse health outcomes from this practice.

"The time change is a wartime practice that no longer serves its original purpose. It is causing more people to be depressed. It is likely leading to an increase in heart attacks, strokes and, potentially, suicides. It is likely causing more fatal car crashes and workplace injuries. Finally, it is decreasing our productivity. This begs the question why are we keeping it."

There are two factors, he concedes, that have to be considered before a further shift in time can be implemented in a practical way – getting other jurisdictions in our time zone, such as Quebec, New York and Florida, to follow suit not the least among them. But the benefits, he says, will be multifold. Not only will it provide Ontarians – and Quebecers, New Yorkers and Floridians – more daylight hours in the evening and a reprieve from the negative physical and psychological impacts of shifting the clocks, but it could also aid, he argues, in our recovery from COVID-19.

"Ontarians are facing challenging times during COVID-19," he says. "Alongside the public health challenges, we are also seeing mental health issues spiking and ongoing economic issues. As we contemplate how to tackle these problems, I would posit that ending the biannual time change and shifting to permanent daylight savings time is a credible part of a stimulus plan. In fact [a] JPMorgan Chase study... argued that making DST permanent may be an effective stimulus, and more effective than other policy measures."

I don't know if I'm completely sold on that last part, but taking a step down that road can't be anything but in the right direction. Now we just have to wait for Quebec and a handful of American states to row the same way.

It has been an exceptionally long winter and the extra hours of sunlight will only serve to brighten the light that continues to grow at the end of our collective tunnel. But we know the positives that arrived on Sunday are only temporary and we're in debt to the system by an hour. I don't know about you but, after the year we've been through, wouldn't it be nice if this debt was forgiven?



MEETING SOMEONE YOU HAVEN'T SEEN IN A LONG TIME

WHO STARTS GOING OFF ABOUT POLITICS, COVID

AND HOW THEY DON'T BELIEVE IN VACCINES.

## Stigma, access plague mental health sufferers

by Mark Pavilons

health issues.

Gen Z (Canadians aged 18 to 23) are more than twice as likely (16%) as the national average (7%) to say they are experiencing addiction issues.

Carl Jung, even in his day, said 1/3 of his patients suffered from a "senselessness and emptiness of their lives."

I'm sure we've all had a certain level of anxiety in our lives. I went through a "spell" a few years back when I lost my job. Anxiety turned into depression, and while I'm much better equipped today to deal with it, I still take medication.

We try to keep the peace in our household with our offspring. Our 20-year-old son and 15-year-old daughter tend to go out of their way to get a rise out of each other. They bicker, fight and swear. We intervene, and try to calm the nerves. But boy are they headstrong!

I give them credit for expressing themselves and being assertive, but wow, I wish they'd find some kinder, gentler adjectives!

They are good kids with good heads on their shoulders. We know there's more going on and it's hard to help them through the trials and tribulations the pandemic has brought down upon them.

Heck, it's hard for us to deal as well.

My son, the proverbial deep thinker, is troubled lately, with thoughts of the afterlife, future career, the fall semester at college, relationships. He's been bored during the lockdown. He needs to get out, go for a walk, take a drive. It may sound simple, but perhaps it could help. I'm at a loss to affect real change.

I think we have to begin tilting our heads a bit, and thinking differently. Maybe we should recognize there are 7 billion versions of "normal" on this planet.

It's never overreacting to ask for what you need, according to Amy Poehler.

An RBC Future Launch study of more than 1,800 Canadians aged 14-29 found that across every province and major city, youth are significantly less confident when it comes to their job prospects and how prepared they are for the future of work.

Currently, 7-in-10 (70%) young Canadians are learning remotely to some extent, with nearly 3-in-10 (28%) saying they are attending classes exclusively online. And 45% say that the education they are receiving online during the pandemic is doing a worse job of preparing them for their desired career.

More than half of young working Canadians have faced severe job-interruptions (reduced hours, and termination). Relatedly, almost half (47%) of those working full-time are doing so from home or at least part-time.

"Everything Is Not OK" is a new campaign that highlights the impacts of COVID-19 on the mental health of children, youth and adults. The campaign calls for immediate action by all levels of government to reduce wait times for mental health and addiction services.

Our mental health is so vitally important. Without it, how can we keep up the fight, emerge from the blanket of COVID, and press on?

It takes a village. Well, many members of our village are hurting. Let's tend to them, so we can all move forward together.



Our bodies may be our temples, but our minds are our palaces.

Our human CPU holds everything that we are, our very essence if you will.

Not only does our brain control every bodily function, but it lets us imagine, live life and, yes, escape.

It's the most important part we have, and it's a crying shame when things go wrong in our grey matter.

It's hard to say whether intellect and logic govern our actions, or whether emotions override our primary functions.

It's likely a combination of the two, a perfect balance. When that balance is off, like teetering on a balance beam, all sorts of mishaps are bound to occur.

In the last few years, there's been more of an emphasis on mental health issues in society. And rightly so. From general anxiety and depression, to debilitating mental health conditions, we're all slightly more aware, and hopefully, more compassionate and understanding.

When I was young, "mental health" was not really a "thing." We had to deal with self-esteem and body issues on our own. We had to muddle through bouts of "being down." We kept it bottled up, most of the time.

Today, with the tremendous amount of information, data, studies and resources, there's nothing we can't investigate and delve into. Even in isolation, we can learn about various mental health concerns and perhaps learn how to cope, or try to lessen the pain.

But the numbers are still bleak and startling. A Lumino Health/Sun Life survey finds nearly two-thirds (60%) of Canadians are currently experiencing mental health issues.

Over half (54%) of those experiencing mental health issues have not received medical support. Affordability (25%) and embarrassment (23%) are the two top barriers Canadians say has prevented them from seeking help.

"Our nation is dealing with a mental health crisis. Whether it's a loved one, a colleague, or yourself, mental health impacts us all," said Chris Denys, senior vice-president, Possibilities, Lumino Health. "We must work together to tackle this emergency. From employers to individuals, we can all play a role in building a more resilient Canada."

Anxiety (40%) tops the list of mental health concerns, followed by stress, depression and addiction.

When it comes to the likelihood of experiencing mental health issues, the Sun Life survey finds differences across groups.

Women (62%) and those aged 18 to 34 (74%) are experiencing the greatest impact of mental

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# Round Up the Usual Suspects: The Quad Awakes

It has been quite pleasant living on a planet where most of the great powers were not locked up into two hostile nuclear-armed alliances, but nothing lasts forever. Creeping shyly onto the stage via Zoom, the successor to NATO emerged into public view last Friday.

It's called the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue – the "Quad", for short. It's intended to be to China what NATO (the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) was to the old Soviet Union: an alliance to deter and contain the "evil regime", now located in Beijing, until it finally collapses.

The core four in the Quad are countries that have all fought China in the past 75 years: the United States and Australia (in the Korean War), Japan (before and during the Second World War), and India (sporadic border wars).

Most of the "usual suspects" (the other NATO members) also want to join the team as players, or at least as substitutes: a Canadian warship sailed through the Taiwan Strait in January, and Britain, France, Germany and the Netherlands will all deploy warships to the Indo-Pacific region later in the year.

Is "NATO in Asia" really getting ready for another decades-long cold war and/or a possible hot war? Every nuclear weapons power except Israel and perhaps Russia would be part of this confrontation, and there are many more potential flash-points in the Asia-Pacific region than there ever were in Europe.

There is absolutely no evidence that China plans to invade anywhere (except Taiwan, which all members of the Quad acknowledge is technically part of China). In fact, apart from minor border clashes, no Chinese regime, Communist or otherwise, has invaded anywhere at all for centuries. So why worry?

There's something older and deeper at work here. It's the age-old "balance of power" strategy that appeared among the Sumerian city-states about 2500 BC, and has dominated international politics for most of the time since.

All the major powers in a given region (Mesopotamia 3,500 years ago), or continent (Europe 350 years ago) or even the entire world (NATO vs. the Soviet Union 35 years ago) see every other big power as a potential enemy. And history teaches that today's friend can be tomorrow's enemy, so you

must always be stronger.

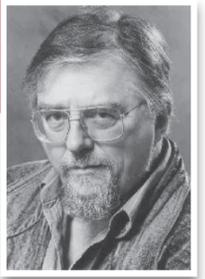
In particular, countries worry about an emerging great power that might get big enough to upset the whole applecart – Spain in the 17th century, France in the 18th, Britain in the 19th, Germany in the early 20th century, Russia in the later 20th – and make alliances against it.

These arrangements have usually ended in great wars, but recently not so much: forty years of Cold War against the Soviet Union ended without a "world war."

Now China's growing strength is great enough to set the wheel in motion again, and its behaviour would have to be utterly saintly to stop the others from ganging up on it in the time-honoured way.

There are aspects of the Chinese Communist regime that are indeed "evil": its behaviour towards ethnic minorities in Xinjiang and Tibet, for example, and indeed towards dissenters among its own Chinese people. Treaty-breaking in Hong Kong and building military bases on disputed islands in the South China Sea in defiance of international law are hardly "confidence-building measures" either.

**GWYNNE DYER**  
OUR WORLD TODAY



But there is no need for this Quad alliance. It's as implausible to believe that China would invade some country beyond its borders now (except Taiwan, of course) as it was to think that the Soviet Union would ever have seriously considered invading West Germany. The Quad is a waste of time and resources, and (given nuclear weapons with many triggers) an unnecessary risk.

One staircase thought, however. Are Biden's advisers cunning enough to realise (a) that China under current management will eventually invade Taiwan and is bound to win; (b) that it would be suicidally dangerous for the US to intervene; and (c) that all America's current and prospective allies think the same?

In which case, their real aim might be to spread the blame: they'd rather be just one of the Quad crowd that abandons Taiwan, rather than bearing the blame alone? But I suspect they're not that clever.

# Three Sides to Every Story

I recall being told this once: there are three sides to every story, "his, hers and the truth." In my mind, never has this particular saying been truer than right here, right now.

Every day I turn on the news, review the headlines, monitor my various news and social media feeds and I see story after story that contradicts, redefines or changes altogether in the telling. I don't know about you but I am just about done with being told what to think, when to think it and more importantly, when to change what I've been told to think!

Here are just a few recent examples: "We're now in wave three," according to a recent tweet by the Ontario Hospital Association. The statement went on to say that, "strong adherence to public health measures is urgently needed to prevent overwhelming hospitals." (If only that meant people like Sam Oosterhoff would just stay home.) Later that same day, Dr. Eileen de Villa claimed, "she believes it's still too early to say if the province is in a third wave." Some in the medical community wonder if

we will even see a third wave while epidemiologists are declaring the third wave will be worse than any other wave. I don't know about you, but I'm feeling a wave of emotions I'd love to explain, using a tidal wave of words most of which are unprintable.

Still related to COVID, some models are predicting that the variants of concern could see upwards of 6,000 cases per day by mid April. Six thousand a day! Meanwhile, we're also told by those in the know that "we're nearing the finish line," gaining control of COVID and our numbers are decreasing.

Do I need to stockpile more toilet paper or not?

In other news, the province is re-opening, albeit cautiously, but be prepared folks, we could be heading straight back into lockdown as soon as April! On that note, am I the only one that thinks it's suspicious March Break was moved to just a few days after Easter celebrations? Am I the only one that thinks it might make it easier to shut down schools altogether once this "March" break is over and the warmer weather is

here? I mean, obviously we don't need to shut down schools – after all they don't spread COVID but just in case all this third wave stuff is true, it's good to have a back up plan.

As for us locally, we're being told that Peel's numbers are declining, finally! According to Dr. Loh, they are "heading the right way." Yet, we're closing the Amazon facility located in Peel and with over 5,000 workers, we must assume many them live in Peel. Apparently the virus is spreading within Amazon at a faster rate than within Peel Region but this just makes me wonder, are Peel's numbers really going down? At least Amazon is paying its employees during the closure so that's a win!

In other news, anyone who wants a vaccine can get a vaccine. Just, not yet. Everyone is working on it. We recruited an ex-Armed Forces General to coordinate the rollout and perhaps he's done a good job, we just don't know it yet because there's not enough vaccine to go around. In good news, if you are over 80, go get your vac-

**SHERALYN ROMAN**  
TALK CALEDON



cine. The bad news, don't get the Astra Zeneca vaccine. In fact, Astra Zeneca is only approved for use in those up to age 64. Wait – that news just changed! Now Astra Zeneca is approved for those over aged 65.

The cynic in me wonders if an April 2nd expiry date has anything to do with this most recent change in directive? Oh, and in case you missed it, Astra Zeneca isn't safe. It might be causing blood clots and it's being pulled from use in some European countries. But ours are ok. They are from a "different batch." Whatever that means.

My head is reeling. I've tried ignoring the news. I've done a ruthless edit in an attempt to eliminate questionable sources. At one point I deleted all social media from my phone. Nothing helps. It's been a year of three sides to every story and it's starting to feel like an old episode of The X Files. "The truth is out there...." Or is it?



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# Bolton senior raises alarm bells over second dose delay

Continued from FRONT

“My husband and I—both over 80 with underlying health conditions—now have to wait another 12 weeks. Why is this the case? From all the media reports, there is plenty of vaccine coming, enough for every Canadian—so why penalize the highest risk group? I am just devastated, really am. Please do something for us, the highest risk group, and get us totally vaccinated before July for safety’s sake! We are the ones that are dying, please help!”

Having received the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine on March 16, Forester and her husband understand the importance of distributing the vaccine to all Canadians, but they fear for their health and don’t understand the thought process behind delaying a second dose for those who are high-risk.

“When I got a notification that the second dose that was scheduled for April had been changed to July, I thought why do we—the highest priority group—have to wait even though we are the ones that are

dying? I thought I should let Sylvia Jones know because she’s [involved in the] vaccine rollout for the province and we are in her riding. I thought I should let her know how one of her constituents is feeling. Any seniors that are friends of mine all agree with me that having our second doses moved from April to July is not really a wise thing to do.”

Forester says the reason she was given for their second doses being delayed was because the government wants to spread out the doses since one dose can help protect against the virus. She makes it clear that she understands the importance of protecting the most people, but doesn’t think that should minimize the urgency of fully vaccinating the highest risk group.

“I heard back from Sylvia Jones’ office that more people can be protected that way (with one dose) and I understand that for people in their 30s, 40s, and 50s, but for people like me and my husband—between the two of us we’ve got cancer, heart disease, and diabetes, plus our age—I think moving us to 16 weeks is rather

ridiculous. We keep hearing we have all these different vaccines coming in, and yet in Peel, you have to wait. It’s bad management on the part of the provincial government and all the seniors I’ve talked to agree with me on it.”

Seeing other areas in Ontario with more efficient vaccine rollouts for residents is alarming to Forester considering Bolton is in Peel Region which has the third highest COVID-19 rate per 100,000 people and the second most recent cases in the province.

“My daughter lives in Orangeville and she’s in her 50s and she’s already got her first appointment for next week,” she said. “She didn’t have to wait long, not like me, who’s over 80 with all kinds of health conditions. A lot of my friends and I had to wait two weeks to get an appointment, but my daughter got hers right away because of where she lives. All I’m saying is it’s not being done right...When you get your vaccine and how long you have to wait depends on where you live.”

Given the differing situations in different regions of the province, Forester feels there should be a focus put on high-risk residents in areas hit harder by the virus.

“Toronto and Peel should be top priority because we have been in lockdown the longest, we have the most number of cases,

and the most number of deaths. It would be more democratic to put doses into Peel and Toronto rather than the regions that have few cases and haven’t been in lockdown. Not only is it an inconsistent situation, but it doesn’t make sense to make high-risk people wait longer and have us go out of our communities—we have to go to Brampton to get it—they don’t make it easy for you. The main point is, Toronto and Peel aren’t being treated properly and the excuses are that they’re too big. Well, they are the ones that have the most cases and deaths so shouldn’t they be the ones that get the first rollout of the vaccines and have the shortest waiting period?”

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has previously stated that by the end of September all Canadian who wish to be vaccinated will be, but feeling the vaccination rollout problems in the country firsthand, Forester is doubtful the government will be able to reach that target date.

“It’s my feeling that we’re being unfairly treated,” she said. “And now I won’t be able to feel totally confident until July. If everyone who wants to be vaccinated can be vaccinated by September, well at this rate if you can’t even get the seniors done by the summer then how are you going to get everyone else done? Especially in the larger areas that aren’t getting the doses.”

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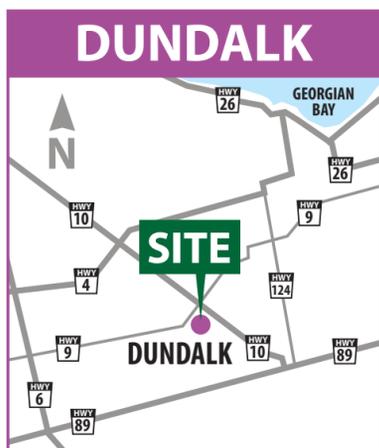


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# New initiative shining light on pandemic-related challenges for youth

BY SAM ODROWSKI

The COVID-19 pandemic is impacting everyone differently and a local health group is working to understand how youth are coping. The Hills of Headwaters Collaborative's Child and Youth Mental Health and Addictions (CYMHA) sub-committee recently launched a call-to-action campaign where they're asking Dufferin-Caledon youth ages 4-18 to provide input on how they manage the fear, isolation, anxiety and change related to the pandemic.

Submissions will be accepted until March 31 and can be a piece of art, song, short story, a poem, or video. To submit something, visit: [www.covidlessons-kid2kid.com](http://www.covidlessons-kid2kid.com). Everyone who submits something will receive a \$5 Tim Horton's Gift Card as a token of appreciation. "We're looking to get input directly from the children and youth from the community, as to what their experience has been with COVID-19 and the changes that have happened, and how they're coping during the pandemic, and what's working for them," said Jenny Aguiar-Winter of Dufferin Child and Family Services (DCAFS), who helped to organize the initiative.

"From those submissions, we're looking to create mental health resources for the children and youth in the community, pretty much looking at creating what we're calling, 'COVID lessons for kids by kids.'"

The mental health resources for youth, created through their submissions will be shared in various social media posts and community videos to help reach children in the community who are in need of ideas and inspiration at this time.

All qualifying submissions will be posted online as part of a project gallery when the campaign launches.

The goal of the initiative is to see how the Hills of Headwater Collaborative could help children with their mental health, considering all of the changes that the pandemic has brought about.

"Children and youth as a whole have been impacted significantly by this pandemic. From a developmental perspective, they have lost so much in terms of typical opportunities for socialization and the emotional growth that comes from connecting with peers in person," said Jennifer Moore, DCAFS executive director.

"We have seen a significant increase in our calls for crisis services as well as an increase

in our calls for parental support. At the same time, we have seen many examples of resilience, adaptability and hopefulness that have left us as adults quite inspired."

Aguiar-Winter says she's hoping those who participate see this initiative as a creative outlet for expressions, where they can let their imagination guide them. It's also a way for youth to help others that may be struggling to adapt to all of the changes created by the pandemic.

"What we're looking to do is really tap in to what they've kind of learned and what they're taking from this experience and what their new normal kind of looks like," said Aguiar-Winter.

"We just thought since we're looking to help the children and youth that might be having a challenging time, who better to ask how they're kind of coping than the kids themselves."

The kids helping kids component of the initiative is important because youth are more likely to listen to one another, Aguiar-Winter



noted.

"Kids and youth, they respond to other children and youth. So, instead of having an adult giving them some tips, sometimes it comes across a little easier and is taken in when it's coming from other children and youth of similar ages and similar demographic," she explained.

"It's coming from a peer, as opposed to an adult, so we're kind of hoping that they can teach us some things on how they kind of coped with everything this past year."

The initiative launches the first week of May as part of the Hills of Headwaters Collaborative Ontario Health Team's Mental Health Awareness Week initiative.

## Snags frustrate launch of Ontario's vaccination platform, but portal "instrumental": Jones

BY BROCK WEIR

Residents of Caledon looking to book their COVID-19 vaccinations online Monday following the launch of the Province's appointment system faced a few technical hurdles on the first day.

The Ontario government launched their portal for booking COVID-19 vaccinations on March 15.

Hours into the first day of the Ontario rollout, eligible vaccine recipients reporting long waits and technical glitches as they neared the application process.

Nevertheless, the Province said their booking system was "critical" in supporting the next phase of Ontario's vaccine rollout.

"We are making steady progress in the execution of our vaccine distribution plan and the launching of the online booking system is another major milestone," said Premier Doug Ford in a statement. "In this phase of our plan, we are still offering vaccines to our most vulnerable, so I encourage everyone aged 80 and older to use the

portal to book an appointment. For everyone else, please be patient; as we get more supply, the vaccine will be offered to more people."

By visiting [Ontario.ca/bookvaccine](http://Ontario.ca/bookvaccine), eligible residents can make an appointment themselves, or have a trusted individual make an appointment on their behalf. The website guides users through the process of making an appointment either through their portal or through their local Public Health Unit.

Individuals looking to book a shot will be asked for information from their green Ontario health card, along with their birth date, postal code, email address and/or phone number. Those Ontarians still using the old red and white health card will need to call the Provincial Vaccine Information Line at 1-800-999-6488 for next steps.

"The Provincial booking system will be critical in supporting the next phase of Ontario's vaccine rollout as more vaccines become available," said Health Minister Christine Elliott. "We know everyone is eager to receive the vaccine, and as we

continue to build capacity, we are making it easier and more convenient for individuals to book and receive the vaccine as quickly as possible."

The Province said, however, they were prepared for an anticipated surge in online traffic and encouraged everyone who is not yet eligible and not booking an appointment for an eligible individual to steer clear of the website to allow those due for theirs to book an appointment.

"With the launch of the new Provincial booking system and support number, we are reaching yet another milestone in our plan to vaccinate Ontarians as fast as we can and as soon as we receive the vaccines," said Solicitor General – and Dufferin-Caledon MPP – Sylvia Jones. "Our task force continues to work to bolster and adjust our vaccine rollout plan as shipments to Ontario continue to fluctuate. The portal and customer support number will prove instrumental through Phase 2 as we open mass vaccination sites and inoculate more Ontarians."

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Caledon Bombers forward Nicholas Rotatore has started petition to allow over-aged players to play next season with hopes they can be scouted properly for future opportunities.

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## They may be different on the ice, but off of it they all want the same thing

BY ROBERT BELARDI

Caledon Bombers forward Nicholas Rotatore has begun a petition to Hockey Canada and the Ontario Hockey Federation to permit over-aged players to play next season.

Rotatore started this petition with last year's Jr. B player of the year and Kitchener Dutchmen forward Sean Kawalec. The two competitors have now become friends over this cause.

The Greater Ontario Junior Hockey League's proposal to permit three players above the age of 21 and reduce seven players of the age of 20 to four for the 2021-22 season has been denied by the OHF this past week.

"I know for a fact that our league was in favour of the over-agers and that they supported us 100 per cent after they had their meeting on discussing whether or not to have us back," Rotatore said.

According to Mark Bryson from The Record, AYR Centennials general manager Tim Barrie said that more than 75 per cent of GOJHL directors were in favour of bringing back the over-agers.

Waterloo Siskins Director of Hockey Operations/General Manager Curtis Clairmont was one of those who voted no to this. However, he was respectful that if the vote was put through he would honour it and believes this league can carry itself.

Rotatore, who has been off the ice for the past year was knocked out of the playoffs last season by Kawalec and the Dutchmen when in Brampton, he didn't know that was potentially going to be his last game in Jr.

B hockey.

Since being off the ice, he said the debacle COVID-19 has brought to sport is mentally affecting players. There are a lot of players who are stressed and sad with this entire situation.

Rotatore has been searching for opportunities to go play hockey in Europe. The Canadian-Italian dual citizen, has been looking in Italy as well as chances to play for professional teams in France.

He says French clubs would have offered an apartment, a car, and a salary per month under normal circumstances. Now, he explained, clubs are not willing to take that much of a risk for a player that has not competed in a year. International clubs might cover the flight and the hotel and the rest is on the player to prove himself.

"It pulls a lot of opportunity from us. It sucks. Another big debate the OHF has is that we're putting younger guys at risk. One thing we're trying to preach is we're getting younger guys to take some videos and explain why they want us here as well."

When a younger player enters the league, they rely on veteran protection and leadership. When Rotatore entered the GOJHL he said he felt safer on the ice. The Caledon native and another teammate of his currently take care of a 16-year-old on their roster right now who is living with a billet family in Caledon and has yet to make an appearance on the ice.

He argues that one year taken away from someone who is 16 isn't as severe as taking away the final year of playing the sport. Younger players have more opportunity to play for longer while over-agers are looking for scholarships and opportunities elsewhere.

Of course, scouts from the United States and from other countries internationally cannot travel to Canada to look at players. That will be done next year if all goes well and the players who missed out on this past season will not have a chance to be seen.

Rotatore says the GOJHLPA wants to work hand-in-hand with the OHF and the GOJHL.

As of now, the petition has over 1,300 signatures. It will be sent to Premier Doug Ford, the OHF and to Hockey Canada.

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# Gonzaga Bulldogs looking for history this March Madness



Andrew Nembhard  
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BY ROBERT BELARDI

This could be one of the greatest NCAA teams ever assembled.

The Gonzaga Bulldogs went 26-0 this year and will look to be the first undefeated team to win the national title since the 1976 Indiana Hoosiers.

Since the Hoosiers, only four teams walked into college basketball's most prestigious competition and failed to deliver: Larry Bird's 1978-1979 Indiana State Sycamores, 1990-1991 UNLV Runnin' Rebels, Toronto Raptors guard Fred Van Vleet's 2013-2014 Wichita State Shockers and the 2014-2015 Kentucky Wildcats.

The Zags surely wouldn't want to be the fifth name on this list. Their last 22 games would likely cement another argument that is indicative of what kind of powerhouse of a team this is.

According to ESPN Stats and Info, the Zags won 22 games in a row by 10 or more points. They became the only Div. 1 team over the past 60 seasons to accomplish this. No wonder they're currently set at +200 odds to win the title. With Duke and Kentucky both out of the tournament for the first time since 1976, there the Bulldogs have an even better chance.

Their domination is the overall picture

and it doesn't even account for the small anecdote within. The best part of this all is a Canadian is on the roster.

Aurora native Andrew Nembhard transferred to the Bulldogs from the Florida Gators last season.

Initially it was expected that Nembhard would miss his first year with the team due to NCAA rules. However, just last January the former SEC All-Freshman in 2018/2019 sent in a waiver and it was approved by the NCAA before the start of the season.

The timing couldn't have been more perfect.

The 6-foot-5-point guard has had another exceptional season in one of the best backcourts in the NCAA. Nembhard has averaged 9.2 points, 4.2 assists and 2.4 rebounds a game. He is currently shooting 80.5 per cent from the line and is 34.2 per cent from beyond the arc.

Along with Jalen Suggs and Joel Ayayi, the Zags will have a triple-threat at the guard position that will be quite difficult to counter-punch.

In everyone's NCAA brackets this year, it's truly difficult not to go with the Bulldogs as the eventual winner. Behind the Zags in the betting odds are Baylor (+600), Michigan (+600), Illinois (+700) and Iowa (+1600), as per Sporting News.

The First Four is set to take place March 18 as the first game features Texas Southern against Mount St. Mary's at 5:10 p.m. EST.

The Bulldogs will take on the winner of Norfolk State and Appalachian State on March 20 to kick off their tournament.

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# Paving Paradise to Put Up a Highway

BY MARTINA ROWLEY  
OPINION

Drawing on a Joni Mitchell song from the 1970s, Big Yellow Taxi, “they paved paradise / and put up a parking lot”, the lyrics sum up the ridiculous and destructive plans by the Province of Ontario to revisit building a new highway through our local Greenbelt.

Plans for Highway 413 are controversial and had been shelved by the previous provincial leader, yet the current Ford government is, as we know, very keen on working with developers, regardless of the environmental impact and detriment to taxpayers.

First off, the stupidity of this plan is that the proposed new highway would run just 15km north of the existing and currently underused Highway 407 for a short 50km stretch. Called a GTA West Highway, its goal is to be an east-west bypass of Vaughan and Brampton and merge with the 407 in Mississauga. In truth, it would save commuters only a few minutes of driving time. Is that really worth \$6 billion in construction cost and our tax dollars? I think not!

Furthermore, the environmental impact would include paving over 2,000 acres of Class 1 and Class 2 land—among Ontario’s most productive farmland—as well as forests, wetlands and essentially a portion of the supposedly protected Greenbelt. It would end up degrading parts of the Credit River and Humber River watersheds that flow south into Lake Ontario, which is the source of drinking water for millions of GTA residents. And nobody should mess with that basic human right of access to clean and safe drinking water. It is akin to cutting your nose to spite your face, so does this look like a provincial gov-

ernment that cares about individual municipalities and their residents’ needs? No, not one bit. In typical bull-in-a-china-shop fashion, Premier Ford is pushing this construction forward without completing full environmental assessments and ignoring decisions and recommendations from his predecessors’ expert advisory panel.

Without a full environmental assessment, we wouldn’t even know the scale of the damage to the Greenbelt until it has indeed been paved over.

An environmental assessment looks at the potential impact of a built project on the land, air, waterways, as well as all wildlife that would be affected. Then recommendations are made on how to reduce or eliminate these impacts. The process includes public consultations, so residents affected by the construction are aware of the facts and the potential or expected impact, which gives them the opportunity to express their support or objection. Importantly, the Minister of Environment then decides if the project can proceed or not.

Premier Ford is ignoring this transparent and science-based process. He has a track record of ignoring environmental impacts from development and gives developers the power to ignore scientific advice above authorities and processes that exist to protect our environment.

Understandably, Toronto-based organisation Environmental Defence is mad as hell and fighting Highway 413 tooth-and-nail by educating the public and providing lawn signs and online petitions against the construction.

A slew of community groups, farmers’ unions and coalitions along the proposed route are equally up in arms. It is noteworthy that the Councils of Orangeville, Halton

Hills, Halton Region, Mississauga and just recently Toronto have officially voted against the construction. Brampton, Caledon and Peel Region are in favour but have at least voted to call for a federal environment assessment. So, there is hope that they too will come to their senses.

A related nightmare is the plan for a new Holland Marsh Highway (Bradford Bypass), which would carve through the extremely fertile farmland of the Holland Marsh, which feeds all of us in Ontario and beyond. That is another story.

It doesn’t have to be this way. While I understand how frustrated Caledon residents must be about the active sand and gravel quarry off Highway 10 and related heavy truck traffic, this new highway cannot be the right solution.

Building the 413 would encourage urban sprawl, increase reliance on cars and cause a great deal of environmental destruction that would affect millions of Ontarians. Instead, the \$6 billion construction cost could be used far more wisely and inclusively for expansion of public transit. Because Highway 407 has sufficient capacity to take on more traffic by including a designated lane for trucks only, it is truly blind sighted to ignore its availability.

We, as affected citizens, can help stop this madness by urging our local Councils and the federal government to designate both projects for full federal environmental assessments. To do so, they need to hear that there is public concern. Look up Environmentaldefence.ca for more information and to get a lawn sign in support, and I call on local environmental groups to make this a priority as part of their groups’ efforts to protect our local area and interests. Let us not pave over our green paradise.



Residents walk their dogs while taking in the Storywalk. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Caledon Public Library re-opens doors following lockdown

BY BROCK WEIR

The week began on the right foot for local book lovers as the Caledon Public Library re-opened all its branches with limited patron access on Tuesday.

Branch access is now limited to those picking up holds or making use of library computer stations, in accordance with Provincial guidelines. With limited access in place, visitors are, at present, unable to browse shelves.

“The health and safety of our customers and staff remains Caledon Public Library’s (CPL’s) top priority,” said Colleen Lipp, Chief Librarian and CEO of CPL. “Residents are encouraged to plan their library visits with these conditions of limited patron access in mind.”

While library patrons may not be able to peruse books by hand, they are encouraged to continue using the CPL’s free digital library and online collections to place holds and browse further online resources.

These services, as well as a full roster of virtual programming hosted by the CPL, can be found at [caledon.library.on.ca](http://caledon.library.on.ca).

One such ongoing virtual program is designed to get residents

outdoors to enjoy a story.

CPL’s “Storywalk” continues for a final week at Bolton’s Adam Wallace Memorial Park and in Caledon East on the trail starting near the Wall of Fame display west of Airport Road.

In keeping with the season, the “Storywalk” encourages residents to get outside and “walk through” a story by local author Carolyn J. Morris entitled “Tapping for Sap,” which follows “Chick and Duckling on their adventures into the sugar bush.”

Those taking in either “Storywalk” route are also encouraged to take a selfie along the way and tag the CPL on their social media channels.

Artsy patrons can get their creativity flowing by making “thank you” cards for essential workers and community members – “helpful neighbours, medical professionals, grocery store clerks, truck drivers, garbage collectors and all those who continue to work to help us during this unsettling time.”

Residents are asked to email images of their cards to [ysall@caledon.library.on.ca](mailto:ysall@caledon.library.on.ca) for inclusion in an online gallery.

Submissions will be accepted between March 22 and April 3.

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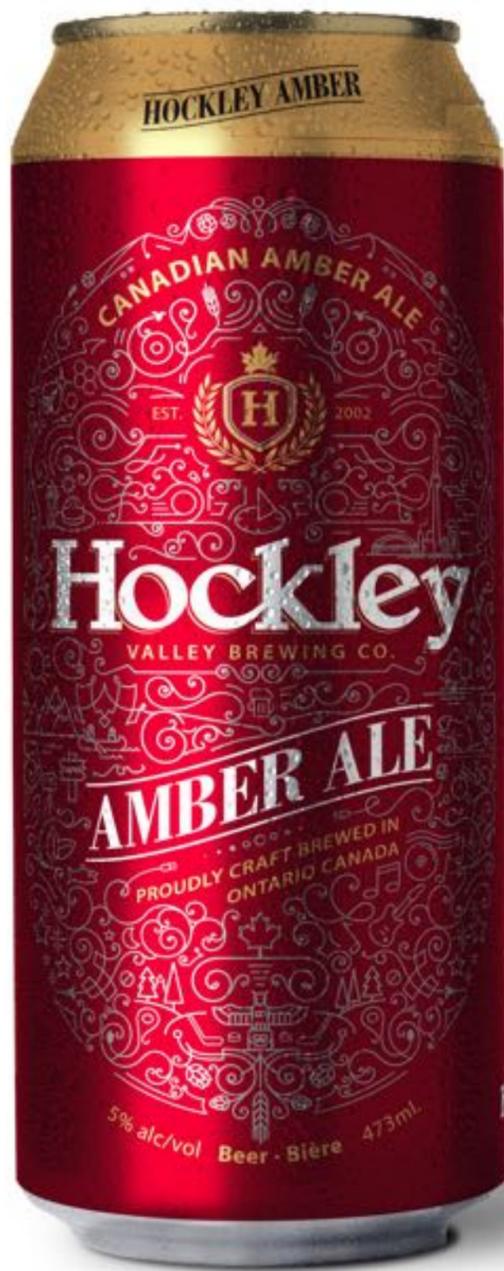
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