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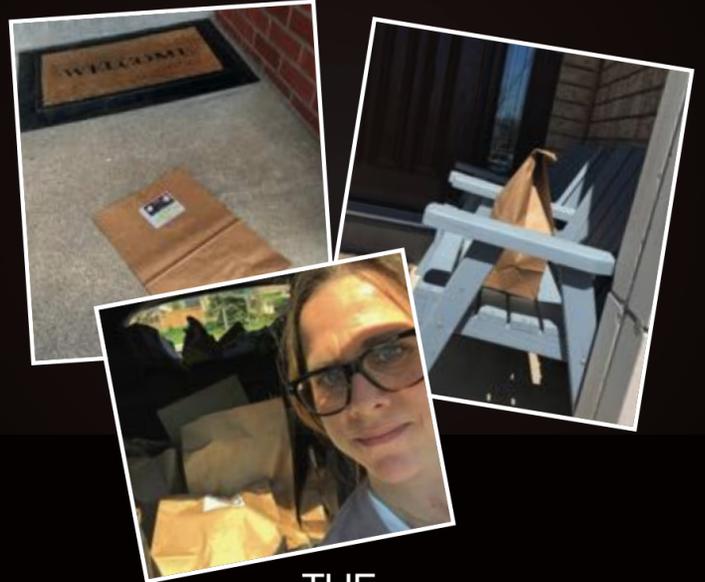
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DOING HER PART — Heidi the Miniature Donkey, led here by Parker Wilmot, has become a familiar sight in her community surrounding Riverdale Farm, joining her fellow barnyard animals to help collect pledges for the upcoming Virtual Hike for Bethel Hospice. The Barnyard Team is an initiative of Caledon's Susan Graham who is well aware of the needs faced by the local hospice day in and day out. For more, see Page A12.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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Workplace vaccination clinics launch as Peel battles third wave

BY ROB PAUL
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

As part of Peel Region's efforts to mass vaccinate residents, workplace clinics began on April 27 with two at Maple Lodge Farms—in Brampton and Mississauga—opening up.

On April 28, two more pop-up clinics opened at Maple Leaf Foods in Brampton

and Mississauga with plans for two more to open May 5 at Amazon locations in Brampton and Bolton.

The goal of these pop-up clinics is to administer 7,000 doses in the first three weeks to employees of the workplaces and is led by both Peel Public Health and the province—becoming the first public-private vaccination partnerships in the province.

"Workplace vaccination clinics represent an expansion of our mobile offerings here in

Peel, and supply now permits us to launch this offering in support of our overall mass vaccination efforts," said Peel's Medical Officer of Health Dr. Lawrence Loh. "By reaching out directly to residents and workplaces in hotspots, we can continue to address transmission in our community and quickly protect even more residents in our community, particularly those who cannot work from home."

Continued on Page A8

Virtual programs help Family Services reach more residents

BY ROB PAUL
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Not every community has access to the support services they need, but residents of Caledon are able to take advantage of Family Services of Peel and the programs they offer when they're struggling or need guidance.

Family Services of Peel provides counselling and programs that deal with trauma intervention, family law, employment, families and school, and adults with development disabilities. These services have been provided over 4,000 hours of counselling and over

5,000 hours of supported independent living in Peel thanks to nearly 13,000 hours of volunteer work.

Executive Director Sandra Rupnarain is adamant every community needs programs like the ones they provide to ensure the people in need can receive help in critical situations. Continued on Page A13

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Headwaters grappling with record number of patient transfers

BY ROB PAUL
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

With the COVID pandemic becoming increasingly dire in Ontario and the provincial government enforcing stricter protocols, Headwaters Health Care Centre President and CEO Kim Delahunt released a statement regarding the impact it is having on the health care centre.

“Almost a year ago to the day, we asked staff and physicians to work in long-term care in our region,” said Delahunt. “Many stepped up, and we were extremely grateful. There is no doubt their involvement helped abate that outbreak and save lives. This time, the request is to support the teams in our own hospital to help work in different capacities as part of the provincial COVID pandemic response.

“We are grateful to have staff and physicians, some of whom are from our community, step up to support these efforts in what has been over a year of professional and personal challenge.”

As more hospitals in the province are in

need of healthcare workers, and with the military being deployed in Ontario with the worsening third wave of COVID-19 on the heels of the highest positivity rate of the pandemic, Delahunt says Headwaters will be assisting in any way it can.

“We have been called upon to do more to support the COVID burden on hospitals experiencing high demand that is exceeding acute care capacity caused by new COVID cases. The situation has become dire,” she said. “Some hospitals have run out of space and are treating patients in waiting rooms, meeting spaces and cafeterias. We are fortunate not to be experiencing this at Headwaters, but the possibility does exist.

“We understand physicians are working in redeployed nurse extender roles, where appropriate, to support their local hospital as well. There is no doubt, these are very difficult and challenging times. These requests of hospital staff are occurring across all hospitals in Ontario. We know that locally our team at Headwaters will continue to do whatever we can to support our local patients and our broader Ontario health care system.”

As of April 26, over 2,500 people have



Kim Delahunt, President & CEO of Headwaters Health Care Centre.

PHOTO BY BRIAN LOCKHART

been hospitalized with COVID-19 in Peel Region with the total number of deaths approaching 700. Headwaters has felt the effects of the third wave with a record number of patient transfers as hospitals deal with capacity issues.

“This week we accepted five of an expected seven COVID recovering patients from other hospitals,” she said. “This is the highest transfer of patients we’ve received yet. We opened more beds this week in traditional care spaces to accommodate this need, which is in addition to opening 13 extra beds earlier on in the pandemic. Non-clinical departments are also doing more to support these pressures, including our food services and environmental services teams.

“We have created capacity in our hospital in the event we need to accept an even higher number of patients. We are following provincial direction to stop elective or non-urgent surgeries to release space and the people within our hospital to manage a surge in the system. It’s some of those staff who are now working in new roles, to support our current challenges.

“Locally, we are seeing an increase in the number of admitted COVID-19 patients. As of today, we have eight COVID-19 positive patients, with two needing care in our Intensive Care Unit. We have transferred out patients who required a higher level of critical care. The situation is becoming much more serious across Ontario.”

With variants spreading faster and more aggressively, Headwaters is seeing some of its highest daily testing numbers and is doing the most they can given the circumstances of the situation.

“Our COVID-19 Assessment Centre, which is open seven days a week from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. is now seeing over 330 people a day,” she said. “Dufferin County paramedics have increased their staffing and are also supporting provincial patient trans-

fers. We acknowledge that fatigue is prevalent within our hospital and in the community. We need to rally together and support each other through some challenging days in the near future. We will continue to draw upon our values of courage, kindness, passion, and teamwork to ensure that we are one community, caring together and meeting the needs of those who need us.

“We are planning and working together, thoughtfully, and with the collaboration that we all know is a hallmark in Dufferin County-Caledon. Please know, our emergency department is open 24/7. Emergency and urgent surgeries such as cancer care will continue. We are also continuing our dialysis, chemotherapy, and transfusion services. If you require our services and care, we are here for you.”

Delahunt encourages people who are able to get the vaccine to book an appointment as soon as possible and everybody in the community to stay diligent following protocols put in place to keep the spread of the virus at a minimum.

“We will continue to do our part to keep our community safe and I hope you will do yours. Please register to get vaccinated when you do qualify. More and more opportunities are available at vaccination clinics locally as well as in pharmacies. Continue to follow public health guidelines, even after you are vaccinated. Take appropriate precautions and get tested if you experience any symptoms of COVID-19. Please continue to stay safe, take care of one another and know that Headwaters is here for you if you need us.”

To book an appointment at Headwaters COVID-19 Assessment Centre visit [www.headwatershealth.ca/Resources/Coronavirus-\(COVID-19\)/COVID-19-Assessment-Centre](http://www.headwatershealth.ca/Resources/Coronavirus-(COVID-19)/COVID-19-Assessment-Centre).

Those eligible for the COVID vaccine in Peel can book an appointment online at www.peelregion.ca/coronavirus/vaccine.



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Gaps, challenges and solutions for affordable housing considered by Council

BY ROB PAUL
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

At the April 27 Council meeting, Johanna Hashim of SHS Consulting provided the Council with a presentation regarding the Affordable Housing Strategy. The purpose of Hashim's presentation was to show the key findings and recommendations that informed it.

The Town and its housing partners have been actively working to identify and address the housing needs for residents for the last few years and had a housing study completed in 2018.

In the 2018 study, it was found that there are very limited options for seniors, people with disabilities, and smaller households and limited options that are affordable to low and moderate incomes. It was also found the market rental housing supply in Caledon doesn't meet the need, the planning application process is long and complicated, and there are opportunities to improve it in collaboration with residential developers. Additionally, they found housing stakeholders are not fully aware of how they can contribute to the housing system.

"Since then, housing needs have persisted and new policies and programs have been introduced by senior levels of government," said Hashim. "The Town is undertaking a review of its Official Plan so there is an opportunity to introduce new housing policies."

To improve on the housing issues, Tuesday's presentation looked at the key housing gaps in Caledon and housing policy context.

Caledon uses the PPS and Regional Official Plan's definition of affordable housing, a purchase price which is not greater than 30 per cent of the gross annual household income for low and moderate-income households with rent at or below the average market rent of a unit in the regional market area. The household income for moderate-income households in 2020 was \$111,259 and the household income for moderate income renters was \$63,974 in 2020.

The maximum affordable house price for low-income households in Caledon is \$247,554 and moderate-income households is \$443,591, with the average resale price in Caledon being \$1,107,109 for all dwelling types and \$1,404,324 for a single detached home.

As for rental housing, the maximum affordable monthly rent for low-income renter households is \$860, and \$1,599 for moderate income renters with the average rent for all unit sizes in Caledon at \$1,138—it's \$1,974 on the secondary rental market.

Hashim's presentation identified six gaps in the housing market to provide affordable housing to lo-

cal residents.

The first is there is a need for more diverse housing options suitable for seniors and smaller households. From 2001 to 2016 there's been a 37 per cent growth of smaller households (two people or less) and a 28.5 per cent growth in larger households (three or more).

It also identified in Gap 2 that there is a need for more supportive housing options for persons with disabilities to live as independently as possible. From 2001 to 2016, there's been a 111.8 per cent increase in senior households and a 37.9 per cent increase in households with a member with a disability.

In Caledon, 62.4 per cent of households with low incomes face affordability issues and 36.2 per cent face severe affordability issues, while 30.7 per cent of moderate incomes face affordability issues with 5.1 per cent facing severe affordability issues.

"There is a need for housing affordable to households with low incomes and these options should include a range of unit sizes," said Hashim. "Households with moderate incomes are facing affordability issues in Caledon as there are very limited rental and ownership housing options affordable to households with moderate incomes."

Gap Five looked at the market rental housing supply in Caledon not being enough to meet the need, with 90.6 per cent of homes owned and only 9.2 per cent rented—lower than Brampton, Mississauga, and the average in Peel Region.

"Housing supply should adapt to shifting housing preferences and be built to limit exposure for vulnerable populations to COVID 19 in Caledon," said Hashim.

Hashim proposed 16 policy and regulation actions that looked at housing targets for affordable housing, rental housing and a more diverse housing supply; increasing minimum densities in growth areas; allowing two additional residential units and requiring at least one in singles and semis in large residential developments; implementing a registration process for additional residential units; changing "special needs housing" to "shared housing" and allowing this form in all communities where dwellings are permitted; using Section 37 or Community Benefits Charges (CBC) to fund affordable housing; providing surplus Town-owned land/buildings for affordable housing at below market value; permitting alternative development standards for affordable and supportive housing; implementing inclusionary zoning in future MTSAs (Major Transit Station Areas) and in community planning permit areas; implementing a rental conversion and demolition policy; allowing infill, adaptive reuse of existing properties, and the conversion of non-residential uses to housing.

Continued on Page A8

Take care get vaccinated



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POLICE SEEK PUBLIC'S HELP IDENTIFYING THEFT SUSPECT

On Friday, April 23, 2021, at approximately 5:50 a.m., officers from the Caledon OPP responded to an attempted theft of vehicle call for service on Frank Johnston Road in Bolton.

"The complainant told the officers that he noticed a white Nissan Rogue parked at the end of the driveway," say Police. "Once outside, the complainant saw a male sitting in the driver's seat of the complainant's car. The complainant was able to remove the suspect from the vehicle; the suspect got inside the white Nissan Rogue and fled the area."

"On the same day, Caledon OPP responded to a theft from vehicle call for service on Pineridge Drive. The complainant advised that their purse, wallet, cash, identification and banks cards had been stolen from their vehicle overnight. Police investigation revealed that the same suspect and white Nissan Rogue were involved in the theft on Pineridge Drive."

If you can identify the suspect or have any information regarding the incident and the suspect's identity is asked to contact the Caledon OPP Street Crime Unit at 905-584-2241 or toll-free at 1-888-310-1122

You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at www.peelcrimestoppers.ca. When you contact Crime Stoppers you stay anonymous, you never have

to testify, and you could receive a cash reward of up to \$2000 upon an arrest.



IMPAIRED DRIVING CHARGES

On Monday, April 26, at approximately 11:37 p.m., uniformed members from the Caledon OPP responded to a single vehicle collision in the area of Horseshoe Hill Road and Charleston Side Road in the Town of Caledon.

Information was received that a grey pickup truck had hit a guardrail, causing heavy damage to the vehicle and the guardrail itself.

"The officers attended and investigated the incident further," say Police. "The driver was displaying signs of impairment and was arrested for Operation of a Motor Vehicle while Impaired. Once the driver was assessed medically and it was determined that no injuries were sustained, the driver was transported to the Caledon OPP Detachment, where breath samples were obtained resulting in a reading of 320 mg

of alcohol in 100 ml of blood."

As a result, a 32-year-old driver from Caledon, stands charged with:

- Operation while impaired, and
- Operation while impaired - Blood Alcohol Concentration Exceeding 80 mgs.

The driver received a 90-day driver's license suspension and a 7-day vehicle impound.

The accused is expected to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on July 7, 2021 to answer to the charges. The charges have not been proven.

On Saturday, April 24, 2021, at approximately 9:10 p.m., the Caledon OPP responded to a collision involving two vehicles in the area of Mayfield Road and McLaughlin Road.

"Information was received from a concerned passerby that a collision between two vehicles had just occurred and one of the drivers was seen walking away from the scene of the collision. The officers attended and investigated the incident further. The driver was located by the officers some distance away from the collision. The driver was displaying signs of impairment and was arrested for Operation of a Motor Vehicle while Impaired and Failure to Stop after an Accident.

"Once the qualified breath technician had completed the required breath tests, the driver, Claire Richards-Irwin, 29, of Erin, was also charged with Operation while Impaired - Blood Alcohol Concentration 80 plus."

The accused is expected to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on July

7, 2021 to answer to the charges. The charges have not been proven.

ARREST IN STOLEN VEHICLE

On Thursday, April 22, at approximately 3 p.m., Caledon OPP Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU) located a stolen vehicle that was the suspect vehicle for several thefts in the Caledon area recently.

Caledon CSCU members were able to safely intercept the vehicle in the area of Mayfield Road and Bramalea Road in Brampton.

"The driver was arrested at the scene, however, the two passengers fled on foot. A foot pursuit ensued, which resulted in one of the passengers being arrested," say Police. "One male suspect remains outstanding at this time."

As a result, Gurpreet Hehar, 37, of no fixed address, stands charged with:

- Possession of Property Obtained by Crime Over \$5000;
- Possession of Schedule I substance - Heroin;
- Fail to Comply with Probation Order x two counts; and
- Operation while Prohibited under the Criminal Code.

The accused party was held for a bail hearing and will appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on a later date to answer to the charges. The charges have not been proven.

Continued on Page B7

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Combo #4 - Sole \$120

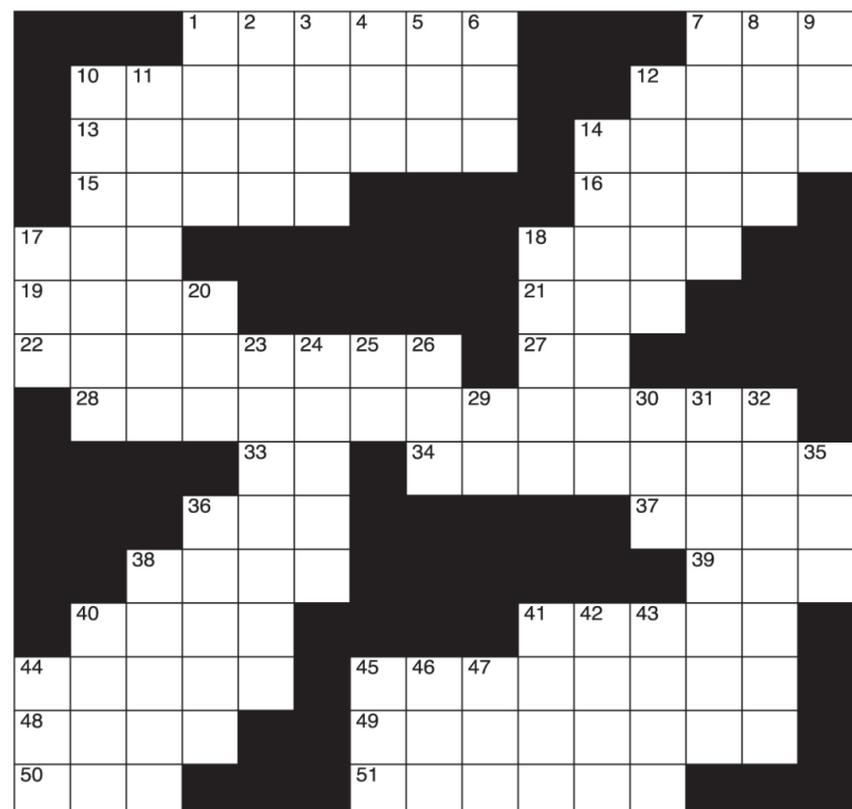
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The Citizen CROSSWORD

Solution on page B1



CLUES ACROSS

1. Switches
7. Legal financial term (abbr.)
10. Sweeties
12. Competition
13. Measures electrical resistance
14. Psychotherapy researcher
15. Causes injury to
16. Open
17. Polish peninsula
18. Hebrew calendar month
19. Whale ship captain
21. Children's accessory
22. Unknown point
27. Exists
28. Extremely confident
33. Expression of disgust
34. The government has many
36. Small constellation
37. Northern Indian city
38. The best pitchers
39. Naturally occurring solid
40. Apple computers
41. Portuguese city
44. Ancient Greek war dance
45. More reliable
48. Sailboat
49. Newspapers
50. Frequently flooded area
51. They dig for coal

CLUES DOWN

1. Partial
2. "Mad Men" leading man
3. The __ of March
4. Healthy

5. Where golfers get there
6. Soviet Socialist Republic (abbr.)
7. Of the cheek
8. Injury reminder
9. Statesman
10. For an unknown reason
11. Brain parts
12. Islamic calendar month
14. Avenue where ad men work
17. Possesses
18. Accept
20. Stake
23. Former British PM May
24. US battleships
25. Greek alphabet letter
26. When you hope to
29. Top lawyer
30. Fiddler crabs
31. Intolerant
32. Persons that cause extreme fear
35. Car mechanics group
36. Capital of Ghana
38. Famed ballplayer
40. Emphasizes
41. Light-colored
42. Distinctive smell
43. Muckraking journalist Jacob
44. Sunscreen rating
45. Short-term memory
46. Japanese delicacy
47. One point north of due east

No one has more self-confidence than the person who does a crossword puzzle with a pen.

Budget's business supports welcomed by Mayor, but MP cites "missed opportunities"

BY ROB PAUL
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

On April 19, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Chrystia Freeland released the federal budget, "Budget 2021: A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience." With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the focus of the budget was put on helping Canada bounce back as the country works to economically recover.

The themes of the budget were job creation, small business and growth, women and early learning and childcare, climate action and a green economy, and young Canadians.

"Budget 2021 is a plan to bridge Canadians and Canadian businesses through the crisis and towards a robust recovery," said Department of Finance Canada. "It proposes to extend business and income support measures through to the fall and to make investments to create jobs and help businesses across the economy come roaring back. It will support almost 500,000 new training and work opportunities including 215,000 opportunities for youth; support businesses in our most affected sectors such as tourism and arts and culture; and accelerate investment in digital transformation of small and medium-sized businesses.

"Budget 2021 is a plan that puts the government on track to meet its commitment to create 1 million jobs by the end of the year."

Caledon Mayor Allan Thompson was happy to see businesses continuing to receive help from the federal government as many of them continue dealing with the financial impacts of COVID.

"The federal budget is clearly focused on COVID recovery," said Thompson. "I am especially pleased that supports for businesses will be extended because so many Caledon local businesses have been devastated financially and they need all levels of government to do what they can."

Likewise, Dufferin-Caledon MP Kyle Seeback pointed out the subsidy's businesses continue to be eligible for as one of the few positives he saw in the budget.

"I'm really happy that they've extended CEWS (Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy) and CERS (Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy) until September 25, 2021," Seeback said. "I think that's really good news for business."

Although he's glad the subsidies will continue, Seeback said he doesn't think enough was done with the third wave continuing to hit Ontario hard and the specifics around the subsidies being flawed.

"There's a bunch of things I would have liked to see," he said. "Even with respect to the wage subsidy and the rent subsidy, there's a sliding scale

where those numbers are going to go down. They go down in July to 40 per cent and 20 per cent towards the end of August and we don't know where the pandemic will be at that stage or where the business re-openings and capacities will be. With those aspects of the wage subsidy and the rent subsidy, I think they should have waited to work out those details or had a little more flexibility."

More than ever, healthcare in Canada has been pushed to its limits with the pandemic and Seeback says the lack of investment in that sector is alarming.

"Stuff we didn't see, there's no extra money for healthcare for the provinces and we've just gone through and are still in the most challenging health crisis the provinces and the entire country has faced in a hundred years," he said. "Yet, there's no extra money for healthcare for the provinces and I find that to be shocking, to be frank. It's something the provinces were calling for even before the pandemic hit."

More specifically with his riding, Seeback sees nothing of particular interest and thinks municipalities deserve more attention on a federal level.

"Something I've been advocating for is a small municipality infrastructure fund," he said. "We sort of get lumped in with pro rata shares with large urban centres, but often we'll have small municipalities within Dufferin-Caledon that have very small amounts of tax revenues but can have big repairs—things like rural bridges. I think we should be addressing this; we should be looking to the federal government to address that and nothing like that is in there."

As housing issues in Ontario continue to plague younger generations, Seeback would have liked to see some effort put towards addressing affordable housing going forward.

"The really big one for me is, we're going through a bit of a housing crisis right now and there's absolutely nothing in the budget to address housing affordability or finding a way to deal with the skyrocketing price of house."

Overall, Seeback sees the federal budget as a miss from the Liberal government and doesn't see a clear path towards economic recovery for the businesses that have affected by COVID-19.

"I think it's a huge missed opportunity," he said. "There's not a lot of money in the budget that's actually going to be there to spur growth and productivity in businesses that have been very hard hit as a result of COVID-19. There are some small programs here and there—there's a hiring credit—but nothing that's really going to help businesses grow and recover from this. If I were to grade the budget, I would give it a D+."

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Peel Region temporarily allows 2 bags for excess garbage without tags

From May 3 – June 25, a maximum of 2 additional garbage bags will be collected.



Residents are reminded that:

- Excess garbage must be placed in black plastic bags at the curb.
- Additional bags beyond the 2-bag limit will not be collected.
- Bulky item collection will continue every garbage pickup day.

WMG-0972 21/03

Check [peelregion.ca/waste](https://www.peelregion.ca/waste) for information and sign up to receive **FREE** weekly waste collection reminders.

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Sunday May 2 to Saturday May 8

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Visit foundation.bethellhospice.org to help.

Here when you need us

PREPARING FOR THE GREAT MIGRATION.

Leaving the hectic pace of city life behind for calmer, more scenic pastures north of Toronto is, for many of us, something we only dream about. It's a popular choice with baby boomers, for whom making a permanent move outside of the city is often part of a long-term retirement plan.

But the COVID-19 pandemic forever changed the way we live and work. It also accelerated the movement of city slickers to cottage country—a trend Lorraine Jordan, owner of Team Jordan | Keller Williams Experience Realty calls “The Great Migration”—into overdrive.

“People didn't think they could move full-time to their ‘fun place,’ their ‘happy place,’” says Jordan. “And then when COVID hit, that dream became a real possibility with the sudden shift to working from home.”

For many companies, being forced to move employees into fully remote work was a watershed moment. Some are choosing not to renew high-priced office leases, and have indicated that remote work will be an option, at least part of the time, even after the pandemic is over. Others are making a permanent switch to remote work, like Canadian-based Shopify, which announced in May 2020 that the company would become “digital by default.”

And then there's the price of real estate in the Greater Toronto Area. “Buyers can get more property up here for far less money than in the city,” says Jordan. “For some that means reducing their debt and financial stress, and for others it means retiring a few years earlier than they'd planned—mortgage-free. And for other families who thought they'd never be able to own a home in Toronto, I'm now helping them buy their first home.”

Dufferin County offers many of the same qualities of cottage country, with its natural surroundings, rivers and streams but its proximity to Toronto makes it even more popular making Dufferin



Country, along with other northern communities and towns, becoming one of the most sought-after areas.

So what does this all mean to you? The one question you should ask yourself. “Are you living your best life?” Does this opportunity open more doors for you? Sound too good to be true? It's important to note that The Great Migration isn't for everyone. But those who have made the move say it has changed their lives for the better in expected—and unexpected—ways, and here, they share their words of wisdom on how to make it work for you.

TIP #1: Create your wish list

Before you start scrolling through real estate listings, think about why you want to make this move. Is your motivation short-term (for example, related to pandemic lockdown exhaustion) or part of a long-term lifestyle you envision for yourself and your family?

TIP #2: Work with a local agent

You might be tempted to rely on online real estate listing and weekend drives to cottage country to find your dream home. An experienced local agent, however, often knows about properties months they go on the market. A local agent can also be a great resource when it comes to integrating into a new community, from helping you find service providers to knowing where the “hidden gems” are, from locals-only beaches to the best farm stands.

TIP #3: Choose a community, not a house

“Many buyers want to drive up on a weekend and look only at properties. I always suggest starting with a tour of the community,” says Jordan, who heads a real estate team of 13 known as Team Jordan. “Many buyers fall in love with a house online, without considering the community it's a part of. It's important to determine whether you see yourself not only living in that house, but becoming a part of that community.”



TIP #4: Know the difference between rural and remote

A waterfront cottage might offer a lot of privacy. It may also come with lake-sourced water or a well, a septic system, and an access road that is unmaintained in the winter. This is where the expertise of a local agent and that wish list can prove helpful.

TIP #5: Know your maintenance tolerance

When you fall in love with a property, it's important to be realistic about the maintenance it will require. Falling in love with a property that requires grass cutting or snow clearing doesn't have to be a deal-breaker, Jordan says. Those services can be hired out, and your local agent can help you find the right people for the job.



TIP #6: Understand what's underground

Many rural properties, especially those in more remote locations, come with septic systems and wells. This can be a crash course for home owners used to city plumbing. It's important to educate yourself about these underground systems,



beginning with your initial inspection. A good local agent can connect you with the right inspectors, will have your water tested at the Ontario Health Unit, and will ensure that there are clauses in the purchase agreement to protect you in case of post-purchase issues with your septic system or well.

TIP #7: Slowww down

For many former city dwellers, it can take time to adjust to the slower pace of cottage country. Advises Jordan, “You moved to the country for a slower pace, a lifestyle that's calmer than the city. That's what the other residents love, too—which means that shops close earlier, and repair and service providers can take longer to respond. It's important to learn to let go of that ‘instant’ mentality.”



TIP #8: Get involved

Building a local network isn't easy when you're new to a community. Volunteering can be a great way to meet people, says Jordan. “I often connect new residents with local charities. We have a lot of talent coming in from the city, especially with retirees. Volunteers enrich our local boards and at the same time build their personal networks. It's a win-win.”

TIP #9: Be prepared to do some networking, especially on the health care front

It's well-known that family doctors are in short supply in cottage country. And the process of finding a new doctor requires you to first remove yourself from your current doctor's care, adds Daniel. For her part, she's decided that sticking with her Toronto doctor is the best option for now, as she doesn't require frequent appointments.

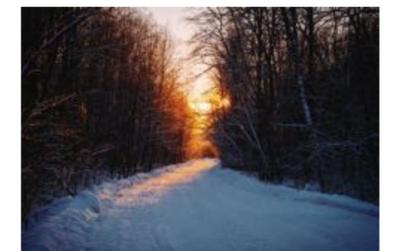
TIP #10: Don't be a Cidiot

Definitions vary, but “Cidiot” is typically used as a derogatory term to describe a city dweller who behaves with an air of entitlement. Don't be one. “Take the time to learn about the community and know that it will likely be different from the one you left behind in the city,” says Jordan. “A little kindness and respect go a long way.”



TIP #11: Embrace the seasons

A common denominator among those who make The Great Migration is their love of the outdoors. It's easy to love country life during the glorious summer and picturesque fall months. During the winter, cottage country becomes a very different place, however, with many shops closing for the season, and wintry weather sometimes making even local travel treacherous.



TIP #12: Consider investment real estate as part of your retirement plan

Monica Marquis learned at a young age that real estate could be her ticket to long-term security, buying her first investment property with her mother and brother in her 20s. She had been considering a move to the Midland area to be closer to family when news stories started breaking in early 2019 about a possible pandemic. The former public health worker saw the writing on the wall, and shifted into high gear, listing her Burlington townhouse in early March and selling it for more than \$100,000 over asking just days before the country went into lockdown.

With interest rates at all-time lows, now is a great time to invest in real estate, says Jordan, who herself owns several investment properties and considers them a key part of her personal retirement plan. “Real estate is an incredible investment. Everyone has to sleep under a roof, after all.”

ARE YOU READY TO ESCAPE TO THE GOOD LIFE?

“The Great Migration is for people who are adventurous, who seek opportunities,” says Lorraine Jordan. Those who have made the shift from city to “the good life” say there's no turning back: “I am very happy here,” says Shereen Max. “I have everything I need, and this is where I'm going to stay. *I only wish I'd done it sooner.*”

Give us a call and talk to us today.

Since 2007, Team Jordan has helped over 8,200 clients realize their dreams and escape to the good life!

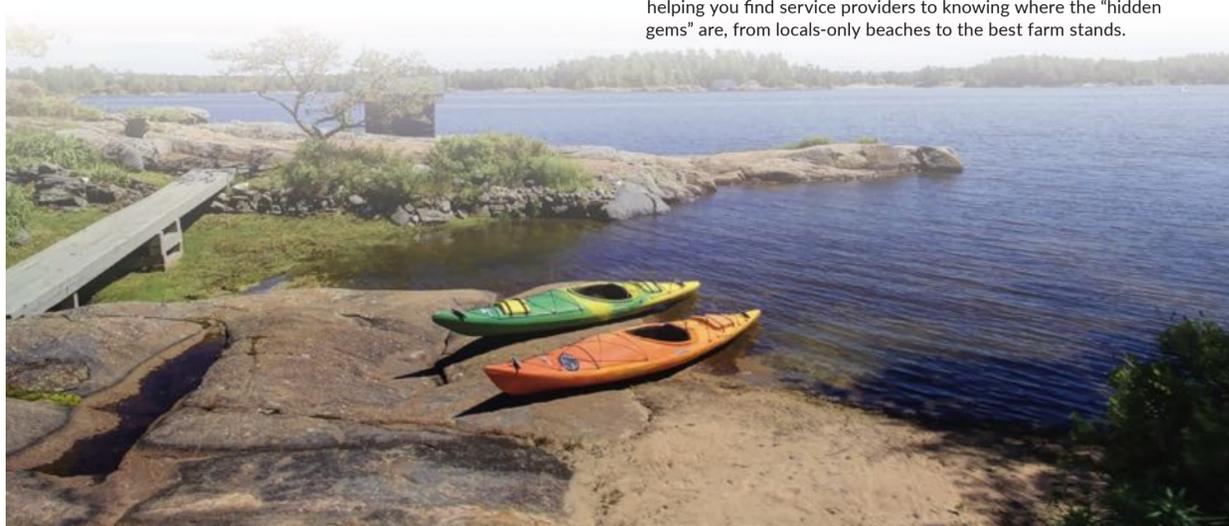
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Not intended to solicit those already under contract.
Lorraine Jordan is a Sales Representative with Keller Williams® Experience Realty, Inc.

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“Calling all Cyclists - It’s Your Time to Make a Difference for Caledon Seniors!” by Nicole Hand, Chief Development Officer



While we continue to hunker down during this pandemic, we recognize we are limited in what we can do to keep ourselves

both active and engaged in our community. One very popular activity in Caledon is cycling and whether you prefer to discover the trails, take advantage of the Town designated road routes, or even just pedal around your neighbourhood with family, cycling is a wonderful activity we can still enjoy during these challenging times.

Caledon Community Services (CCS) recognizes the importance of this and knows our amazing supporters missed our Velocity Cycling event last year, and so, we have brought it back with a twist. In the interest of safety and in keeping with Public Health guidelines, Velocity 2021 has gone virtual!

Between June 13th and 19th riders are encouraged to select a personal distance to complete. Although registration for this virtual event is free, we ask all participants to seek support from friends and family members by way of collecting

pledges. This can be done entirely online, and all funds raised go to support our Seniors Health and Wellness Programs at CCS.

“The pandemic has affected us all, but for many seniors, it has been devastating”, explains Silvana Ferrari, Seniors Health and Wellness Coordinator. “The feelings of loneliness and isolation are real, and so, our weekly in-person visits, special meal deliveries, engaging activity packages, and telephone outreach are imperative to both the physical and mental health of our seniors. These programs aren’t fully funded through government resources and as the need grows, so does our reliance on fundraising. This is where Velocity comes in!”

Come on Caledon! It’s time to make a difference and remind the seniors of Caledon we are thinking about them! Prizes will be awarded for top fundraisers and we have some fun activities planned too! Register today at cvsvelocity.ca and get started!

To have your business become a sponsor or for more information visit cvsvelocity.ca or call 905-584-2300 ext. 236.

How Do You See It?

Tell us how you see it.

Nicole Hand, Chief Development Officer, Caledon Community Services at 905-584-2300 ext. 269 or nhand@ccs4u.org

This column is provided free of charge by the Caledon Citizen.

Workplace vaccination clinics launch as Peel battles COVID surge

Continued from FRONT

Loh announced last week an update under the Section 22 Order on workplaces that will force closures of businesses that see five or more cases of COVID-19 in the previous 14 days where the virus could have reasonably been acquired at work or no obvious source of infection has been identified outside of the workplace.

Under the order, two Amazon facilities—in Brampton and Bolton—were forced to partially close on April 24 due to COVID-19 cases. There have been 13 workplaces identified thus far that been impacted by Section 22 closures.

Peel is on the cusp of hitting the milestone of 500,000 doses administered in the region and Peel’s Community Mass Vaccination Plan is expanding to reach more residents in hot spots. As such, workplaces are being prioritized.

Workplaces in Peel have seen 426 COVID-19 outbreaks and without paid sick leave as an option at this point, some workers have had to enter the workplace regardless of their health.

The vaccination of adults working in hot spot communities in select workplaces is to help lessen the impact of COVID spreading in the workplace.

The province and Peel Region worked with industry partners to select Amazon, Maple Leaf Foods, and Maple Lodge Farms for the initial run of workplace clinics in Peel. The workplaces will then operate local community clinics in partnership with the Region of Peel and community organizations.

The criteria for selecting workplaces includes hot spot location, outbreak data, and willingness of the employer to operate and fund on-site clinics for their employees and a separate clinic for the community.

“We are working in collaboration with over 150 organizations and over 20 community group working tables to roll out the Mass Vaccination Program and Hot Spot strategy within workplace and community sites,” said Loh. “These hot spot workplace and community pop-up clinics are a welcome addition to the variety of ways that we are delivering vaccines in arms. We thank the province for their partnership and support and appreciate the willingness of these leading employers to partner with community agencies to support Peel’s hot spot strategy under the direction of public health.”

Added Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones: “Our government, under the leadership of Premier Ford, is supporting these important local employers in their efforts to welcome on-site vaccination clinics that will protect their employees and the community. Ontario is focused on getting vaccines to those most at risk and we are grateful for the partnership of these employers and Peel Public Health in helping make vaccines more accessible.”

Workplace vaccinations are new to Peel Region, but they aren’t new to fighting the pandemic.

In the U.S., multiple companies have invested in their employees by setting up on-site vaccination clinics because they’re in industries where employees aren’t able to work from home.

Tyson Foods has run over 80 on-site vaccination events at its plant with over a third of its 100,000 domestic employees already being vaccinated.

“We see offering the vaccine to our team members as another step in our efforts to help fight the virus, protect our team members and end the pandemic,” said Tyson Chief Medical Officer Dr. Claudia Coplein.

While Amazon centres in Peel have plans to begin their on-site vaccinations, other Amazon locations in the U.S. have already begun this process.

“In partnership with local government and public health officials, we are beginning to host on-site vaccination events administered by licensed health care providers at an initial set of Amazon operations buildings in the United States,” Amazon said in a statement in March. “We’re starting at some fulfillment centers in Missouri, Nevada, and Kansas, but will expand the program across the country as more vaccines become available to front-line employees in other states.”

“This is an important initiative not only for the health and safety of Amazon employees, but for the communities where our teams live and work. Our events will protect Amazon employees while also helping ease the burden on community-run vaccination clinics.”

In March, Foster Farms—an American poultry company—partnered with Save Mart Pharmacy to vaccinate more essential workers on-site.

“Foster Farms is focusing its resources to ensure that the vaccination program is successfully carried out with a high level of employee participation. We are committed to expanding vaccinations as soon as greater supply becomes available,” said Foster Farms Vice President of Communications Ira Bill. “We owe it to the people that selflessly keep food on all of our tables to ensure they are vaccinated as rapidly as possible.”

Many large facilities that have workers who need to physically be there for operations to continue have pushed towards these on-site vaccination clinics to stop COVID outbreaks that lead to closures.

The CDC has long said that workplaces who are capable of administering the vaccine should do so if they have essential workers and because it can help build confidence in employees.

“By providing information about COVID-19 vaccination and establishing supportive policies and practices, employers can help increase vaccine uptake among essential workers,” the CDC stated. “Although COVID-19 vaccine supply is currently limited, it’s not too early to share clear, complete, and accurate messages, promote confidence in the decision to get vaccinated, and engage your employees in plans to address potential barriers to vaccination. Strong confidence in the vaccines within your workplace leads to more people getting vaccinated, which leads to fewer COVID-19 illnesses, hospitalizations, and deaths.”

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Council considers key gaps in affordable housing crunch

Continued from Page A3

The financial actions proposed included implementing a Town-wide CIP for affordable housing, establishing an Affordable Housing Fund, developing an incentive package for the provision of affordable rental housing, and developing a CBC strategy.

Actions in the partnership and education realm for the Caledon Affordable Housing Strategy that Hashim presented included facilitating partnerships to convert or redevelop vacant or underutilized land and buildings owned by non-profit organizations and private owners into affordable and supportive housing; leveraging existing partnerships to increase the supply of affordable and supportive housing; increasing awareness of the need for a diverse housing supply, including market rental, affordable, and supportive housing.

A final strategy is expected to come forward later this spring.

HOURS
Monday - Friday: 9am to 6pm
Saturday: 9am to 5pm
Sunday: Closed

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Lisa Post acclaimed as Liberal candidate for Dufferin-Caledon

BY SAM ODROWSKI

The Liberal Party of Canada recently announced Orangeville Councillor Lisa Post has been acclaimed as their candidate for the Dufferin-Caledon riding in the next federal election.

Post announced her intention to run under the Liberal Party banner last December and told the Citizen she is unbelievably excited for the opportunity to campaign in the Dufferin-Caledon riding, having a long family history in the area.

"I'm a little at a loss for words. This is something where I've been waiting for the moment to come and now that it's here, I'm still a little speechless about it, it feels a little surreal," she said. "But I'm really excited and I'm really honoured for the opportunity to represent our community in this way."

Having served on Orangeville Council for the past three years, Post says she's gained a unique perspective on the riding and its potential for the future.

She also noted that the federal government is going to play a pivotal role in Canada's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, creating an opportunity to really help Canadians through this difficult time.

"To me, this is an opportunity to represent my community at a completely different level, in a time where I think our community is going to need it the most," Post told the Citizen. "I think as we come out the other side of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are going to be faced with unique challenges that – especially from an economic recovery standpoint – our community has never faced before."

"I think having a representative working with a party that really chooses to put people first is going to make a big difference when it comes to how our community members are represented," she added.

Post said community-minded solutions is what will be needed when Canada finally gets through the pandemic and as a long-time resident with strong family ties to the area, she will help bring that spirit into economic recovery.

She also noted that having integrity, an open mind, and willingness to learn are important values to uphold from a leadership and policy-making perspective.

Post said she looks forward to engaging with her constituents on issues impacting Dufferin-Caledon and, if elected, providing representation that prioritizes the needs of the people.



Orangeville Councillor Lisa Post has been acclaimed as the Federal Liberal Party candidate for Dufferin-Caledon. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

"This election is not about me, it's not about Lisa Post, it's about the things that are best for our community," she said. "And as an elected representative, it's our responsibility to take the voice of the people in our community, and to do that, you really have to have an empathetic listening ear, you have to be able to put your personal feelings about an issue aside for the good of the community – having the ability to hear your community members whose perspective may be completely different from your own."

Post says she's happy to hear from the community about anything impacting them and she can be reached at lisa@lisapost.ca or www.lisapost.ca.

"I want to hear the experiences of what people in our community have felt and I want to see how we can best impact that going forward and make this community a better place to live in," she told the Citizen. "We already live in a really amazing community, so to make it better is the goal. We're always wanting to make it more inclusive and more diverse and really make everybody feel like they belong here."

When looking at the Dufferin-Caledon riding's last election in 2019, Conservative Party Candidate, MP Kyle Seebach won with 42 per cent of the vote, while the Liberal Party candidate, Michele Fisher received 33 per cent out of the roughly 69,000 votes that were cast.

The Liberal Party of Canada currently holds a minority government, so there is the potential that an election could be called at any time. However, if that does not take place, the election will proceed in 2023.

PUBLIC NOTICE



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Town-wide Development Charges By-law and Background Study Update

On Wednesday May 26, 2021 the Council of the municipality of the Town of Caledon will hold a public meeting pursuant to Section 12 of the Development Charges Act, 1997, as amended to present and obtain public input on the municipality's proposed amendment to the Town-wide Development Charges By-law and underlying background study. The by-law is an amendment of Town of Caledon By-law 2019-31 and applies to all lands within the Town of Caledon.

Due to the continuing efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19 and to protect individuals, Town Hall will not be open to the public to attend Public Meetings until further notice. These meetings will be held electronically.

DATE AND TIME: Wednesday May 26, 2021 5 p.m.

HOW TO LISTEN: To listen by phone call 1-833-311-4101
Meeting Access Code: 132 784 3421#

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

Members of the public are welcome to participate via phone or Webex Meeting upon request. Please call 905.584.2272 x. 4026 or email finance@caledon.ca. Please note deadlines apply.

HOW TO SUBMIT QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS:

- By email: agenda@caledon.ca and finance@caledon.ca
- By phone: 905.584.2272 x.4026

In order that sufficient information is made available to the public, the background study is being made available online at caledon.ca/dc as of April 30, 2021.

Copies of the proposed by-law and the background study are available from the Municipal Clerk at the above location or by calling 905.584.2272.

Interested persons may express their comments at the public meeting or in writing, addressed to the Municipal Clerk, at the above address prior to May 17, 2021.



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Caledon, ON L7C 1J6
www.caledon.ca
T. 905.584.2272 | 1.888.225.3366 | F. 905.584.4325



News

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COVID-19

Due to the latest Provincial announcement all in-person services at Town Hall have been suspended until further notice.

Details: caledon.ca/COVID.

For the latest information on vaccinations, visit peelregion.ca/covid19vaccine.

If you have symptoms or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, get tested!

Find a testing location near you at peelregion.ca/coronavirus/testing.

It's tax time!

Pay by May 6 to avoid fees and charges

Be sure to pay your taxes by **May 6** to avoid late payment fees.

Still going through financial hardship because of COVID-19?

Apply for one of the COVID-19 property tax relief programs.

caledon.ca/tax

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING



Coleraine Drive Stormsewer

Area-Specific Development Charges By-law and Background Study

On Wednesday May 26, 2021 the Council of the municipality of the Town of Caledon will hold a public meeting pursuant to Section 12 of the Development Charges Act, 1997, as amended to present and obtain public input on the municipality's proposed area-specific development charges by-law and underlying background study. The by-law is a renewal of Town of Caledon By-law 2016-065 area for an area of stormsewer on Coleraine Drive.

Due to the continuing efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19 and to protect individuals, Town Hall will not be open to the public to attend Public Meetings until further notice. These meetings will be held electronically.

DATE AND TIME: Wednesday May 26, 2021 5 p.m.

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Interested persons may express their comments at the public meeting or in writing, addressed to the Municipal Clerk, at the above address prior to May 17, 2021.

Caledon Ward Boundary Review

Should the Town add or reduce the number of Councillors at the table?



Time is running out, have your say before it's too late!

caledon.ca/wbr

Coming soon!

Upcoming Council related meetings

MAY

- 3 Heritage Committee, 9:30 a.m.
- 4 Council, 2:30 p.m.
- 4 Planning & Development Committee, 7 p.m.
- 11 Audit Committee, 3 p.m.
- 11 Planning & Development Committee, 7 p.m.
- 18 General Committee, 2:30 p.m.
- 18 Planning & Development Committee, 7 p.m.

Live streaming now available!
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Brock's Banter

Fear of Missing Out on Milestones

BY BROCK WEIR

When all this is said and done, what are we going to have to show for it?

The popular Broadway musical Rent offers a few suggestions beyond “525,600 minutes”:

In daylights, in sunsets, in midnights and cups of coffee
In inches, in miles, in laughter, in strife

By the start of this week, we were zeroing in at around 560,000 minutes since the start of the pandemic and we have had plenty sunsets, midnights, cups of coffee, and bursts of daylight-past. Hopefully we've had plenty of laughter in our self-imposed exiles, but if you're counting the inches and miles of your home, faced with a dearth of things to do, the pandemic just might be getting the better of you.

When we starting out, we were brimming over with ideas on how to keep busy and, of course, in this age of social media, mark them for posterity.

In an effort to show we were all in this together, we solicited images from our leaders – elected officials and community builders alike – to see how they were spending the first few weeks of the first of three-and-counting lockdowns.

Their images were probably not dissimilar to what you probably shared with your own friends and family: showing off some of the cool and sometimes kitschy features of home offices, newly-found places to walk dogs, flexing some atrophied culinary muscles, and the list goes on.

While I wasn't part of the seemingly endless parade of people sharing pictures of their sourdough starters and the resulting loaves and rolls of varying quality, I did what I could. For better or worse. The fun of taking to Facebook to vent my spleen on various missteps made by contestants on Wheel of Fortune and Jeopardy wore off quickly, so I challenged myself to trim my beard down almost to the skin to see just how far I could grow it before we were allowed to get haircuts again.

The fun – and the interest – quickly waned too as I got closer and closer to blending into ZZ Top but thankfully the first wave flattened before things got too out of hand.

And not a moment too soon. The inter-wave weeks brought a new trend: photo streams of people first cautiously peeking their eyes out from their doors attempting some activities that reminded them of normalcy and, once case counts well and truly started to wain by the middle of summer, a barrage of photos of business as usual...

And, as that trend continued into the second wave, we of course had to hunker down once again. Too much business as usual in unusual circumstances.

Chalk it up to the winter, but the inter-wave weeks between Wave 2 and Wave 3 didn't seem to bring as much rejoicing. We were – and are – sick and tired of what we're sloggng through and documenting it didn't appear to be top of mind. Accentuating the positive was practically replaced by wallowing in the negative and complaining about what we couldn't do.

But now, in the middle of a third wave, we're seeing another trend emerge: the vaccination selfie.

As a guy in his mid-30s living in an area not yet designated as a hot spot, I have seen photos of our community leaders, once eligible, lining up for their AstraZeneca, of my parents with Pfizer-loaded needles in their arms, and some of my closest friends in the United States receiving a few drops of the bounty of vaccine options at hand, with their doses miraculously accessible at pop-up clinics at the ends of their residential streets.

Am I jealous? Frustrated, perhaps, but jealousy is

futile. Instead, I am rejoicing in the fact that each needle in an arm, whether in the United States or Canada, is an all-important building block in getting back to some degree of normalcy.

However, this stance is not the only game in town. A lot has been written recently about vaccine “FOMO” – that is, “fear of missing out.”

In a think piece earlier this month in the New York Times entitled “The ‘Joy and Envy’ of Seeing All Your Friends Get Vaccinated”, authors Jenny Gross and Jesus Jimenez gave us a snapshot of the Canadian experience:

“The end of the pandemic also feels far away in the Canadian province of Ontario,” they wrote. “Massimo Cubello, a 28-year-old who lives in Toronto, said he is happy for his vaccinated friends in the United States and Britain, but his Zoom fatigue is setting in, and driveway visits with members of his family have not been that easy because of the cold weather.

“It's good to see people getting vaccinated because that's all part of the process of getting to where we need to get to, but it definitely does make you a little bit envious and anxious about where we, as Canadians, are going to be able to experience that ourselves.”

In the weeks since Gross and Jimenez published their piece, the anxiety referenced by Cubello is emerging ever-stronger.

Could the deluge of selfies and photos of jabs in progress be causing undue stress and anxiety for people who are, for one reason or another, unable to get their jabs in a timely manner?

“Not going to contribute to vaccine FOMO by posting a selfie,” wrote a lawyer friend recently, just one of many friends who have considered how such images have contributed to another health crisis which has only been exacerbated by the pandemic: mental health.

An alternate take, however, was offered by Patrick J. McGinnis in Business Insider.

“Fast forward to the summer of 2021. Imagine your friends and family sitting maskless at an indoor restaurant. They are laughing and hugging and living life like it's 2019 because they have had the vaccine. You, however, are attending virtually, via Zoom, because you do not. You sit at home with your Netflix and your sourdough, as you have for the last 18 months. If that image doesn't give you vaccine FOMO nothing will.

“Before long, the skeptics and holdouts will realize that they are now part of an increasingly isolated minority. They will also inhabit that nightmare scenario of living life on Zoom while the rest of the world is returning to normal. As the pressure becomes unbearable, they will accept that their FOMO is stronger than their resolve. They will log out of Netflix, throw out their sourdough and roll-up a sleeve.

“While not everyone will give in – some people are impervious – it won't take too many converts to neutralize COVID-19 once and when that happens, spare a thought for FOMO.... When it comes to ending the pandemic, FOMO is no luxury good. It might be the most powerful weapon we have to achieve herd immunity.”

Of course, McGinnis writes from the perspective of a United States resident where vaccines are, by comparison, flowing like wine compared to our situation.

Our mounting frustration might make the FOMO situation a little more complex, but each photo is undoubtedly a step in the right direction. Knowing that all of our turns will eventually come, keep 'em coming. Personally, I'd rather look of a shot of a shot than a mullet.



THE ENDLESS WAITING



ALMOST MY TURN?



GOT AN APPOINTMENT



SHOT IN THE ARM!

In all the universe, there is only one of us



“... And in all of that, and perhaps more, only one of each of us.”

Dr. McCoy, Star Trek, Balance of Terror

If you think that you're not special in some way, just pause and reflect on that quote for a minute.

Our Milky Way galaxy is estimated to contain upwards of 400 billion stars and at least that number of planets. Our “home” galaxy is massive, estimated at 200,000 light years in diameter.

To put it in perspective, if our solar system were the size of a quarter, the Milky Way would be equivalent to the contiguous United States.

The universe is estimated to contain 2 trillion galaxies, thanks to data from Hubble.

That number is changing, and could be a lot higher. You see, because space is so vast, many of the stars we see at night may no longer exist. They have burned out long ago, and the twinkle we see is lost starlight, which is only now reaching us here on Earth. Scientists say looking at the universe is like looking back through time.

Nevertheless, we know that we are here, right now. We exist, and our planet has existed for roughly 4.5 billion years.

Just how did we get here?

Well, most believe that the Big Bang created everything. They theorize that “everywhere” started at one central point, and the entire universe has been moving outward ever since, growing larger and spinning, forever moving. As far as scientists can tell, the universe began 13.8 billion years ago.

Back then, something ignited a chain reaction, causing light, energy and atoms to come together to form stars, galaxies and planets.

How it all formed is still up for speculation but there's some common ground on this.

Our solar system, roughly 4.6 billion years ago, was just a cloud of dust, gas and other stuff. As it all began to spin and generate gravity, the sun formed in the middle of this nebula. The sun's energy and gravity caused the material flying around to clump together.

Earth's rocky core formed first as heavy elements collided and stuck together. Dense material sank to the gooey centre and the lighter crust formed. Our planet's magnetic field developed and this helped gravity capture gasses that became our early atmosphere.

Scientists believe that our planet was hit by a large object, smashing off a big piece which became the moon.

Gases from volcanoes spewed into the atmosphere and passing comets crashed, dumping wa-

ter and ice behind.

Because our earth is in the most ideal location away from the sun, the perfect conditions arose for life.

And the rest, as they say, is history.

Of course, there was one very significant moment, some billions of years ago. A single cell – maybe an amoeba or microorganism – popped up in the ooey, gooey swampy ooze. Life began. Perhaps the conditions were just right for this “instantaneous emergence of life.” It wasn't until cyanobacteria evolved roughly 2.4 billion years ago that life transformed noticeably. These were the first photo-synthesizers, making food using water and the sun's energy, releasing oxygen as a result.

The “Great Oxidation Event” took place and cells began “living together.” By carrying out various functions they grew. Sponges were likely the first creatures on earth, appearing some 800 million years ago. The sea floor became littered with critters from then on.

By the end of the Cambrian era, all kinds of things were running around, creating the world's first food webs or chains.

Yes, our evolution took billions of years. A very slow, yet somewhat efficient process to be sure.

The reason I provide this tale of our humble beginnings is to show just how improbable and how precious life is.

A million things could have taken place to alter Earth's progress, at any point in time over those years. As witnessed by the dinosaurs, the earth was wiped clean and life started over.

The whole thing is mind-boggling. And humans (homo sapiens) have only been running amok for roughly 300,000 years, with the first settlements springing up only 10,000 years ago.

So “modern humans” – at least those that wore clothes and spoke – have only been around maybe 7,000 years.

In that time, we have established ourselves as the alphas, the leaders of the pack on terra firma.

I direct your attention to the chronology of lineage. At one point your ancestors and mine were born. They would date back almost to the beginning. If our great-greats didn't have great-greats, none of them would have been here either.

You and I would have to have had an unbroken, healthy family tree.

I couldn't calculate the odds of that, but let's just say it's as big as our galaxy.

So no, none of us are here “by chance.” It was determined through select, strong lineage. One could say we were all “born” that very day in the pool of slime, along with our ancestors, the microbes.

After all, if they didn't emerge, we wouldn't have either.

It's all very sobering.

We've beaten the odds. We did something no one else has in our solar system. Every time we look up at our sun we should give thanks for creating life on our planet.

Of course, we could send our thanks to that divine entity who, a very long time ago, snapped His or Her fingers, and kicked off the greatest show ever.

Again, I direct you to the quote at the top of this column.

Hope you're feeling special. Have a nice day.

Our Readers Write

Open Letter to Council on affordable housing for low-income households

In the last several years we have had a wealth of new developments in Caledon and yet we have provided very little for those who are most vulnerable: thousands of new developments for homeowners and hardly any rentals for families who cannot pay the market rent, much less own a house.

We believe that the Town can do much more to provide decent housing to disadvantaged households who agonize between paying rent and buying basic necessities. Many families swallow their pride and go to charities for food: their housing is too costly and their income too limited to cover both housing and food. While being provided with a ride, James, a food pantry user commented: “Without the food pantry, I'll be dead.”

The vacancy rate in Caledon hovers around zero, there are hardly any “to rent” ads in the papers and the average rent for a one-bedroom basement apartment is well over \$1,000. A friend who lives on a disability pension has been looking for a whole year. She desperately wants a place of her own but can't

find anything within her budget. Other people with disabilities have publicized their desperate search for an affordable unit. We hear of many who survive by couch-surfing, sheltering in vehicles or even roughing it in the outdoors.

There are many signs of deep distress out there. Over the years, our faith community has sent truckloads of canned food to the food bank and provided hundreds of food gift cards and other items for the Christmas Fund. However, families and seniors seek help for food and other costs like utilities or rent not only at Christmas time but throughout the whole year.

Unbelievably, about 12% of our families in Caledon live below LICO (poverty line.) At Christmas time, 350 families and hundreds of children depend on the Christmas Fund for food gift-cards, hampers and toys. Through the year, an average of 160 families use the Food Pantry, every month. Some go twice or even three times.

Continued on Page B2

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Caledon Citizen



GENERAL MANAGER

Zach Shoub
zach@ipcmedia.ca

EDITOR

Brock Weir
brock@ipcmedia.ca

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Mary Speck
admin@caledoncitizen.com

REPORTERS

Rob Paul
rob@ipcmedia.ca

MOTORGING

Heather Erwin
heather@caledoncitizen.com

SPORTS

Robert Belardi
robert@ipcmedia.ca

DISPLAY ADVERTISING

Erin Luckett
erin@ipcmedia.ca

Vicki Meisner

vicki@ipcmedia.ca

PRODUCTION

John Speziali

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Stay at home?

"Tillsonburg, Tillsonburg, my back still aches when I hear that word."

That's Stompin' Tom Connors for ya.

I wonder how many people are really following this current stay-at-home order?

As a card-carrying journalist and member of the media, we are considered an "essential service."

Someone has to get the news out there and keep people informed.

I am grateful I am still working, and certainly empathize with anyone who's job or business has been affected by this pandemic.

I'm sure there are a lot of business owners who are really struggling right now – especially restaurants and salon owners.

Imagine putting your life savings into opening a restaurant only to be told you have to shut down.

Since my job entails 'being out there,' I spend a lot of time on the road roaming from town to town.

When this current stay-at-home ordered was issued, it sounded pretty serious – especially since the police were initially given the power to arbitrarily stop motorists and demand to know why they weren't at home.

What I have noticed on my travels is there is as much traffic on the road as ever.

I was cruising down Highway 9, surrounded by cars and when I stopped at the next red light it was a busy intersection. It's the same in any town – cars out and about and people going all over the place.

Surely all these people can't be going to the grocery store, medical appointments, or picking up prescriptions, as mandated in the provincial order.

Since many outdoor activities including golf, tennis, basketball, soccer, and baseball, have been ordered to shut down, I have been following the situation in Tillsonburg rather closely.

A local golf course, the Bridges at Tillsonburg, made the decision to ignore the order to shut down and announced they were staying open and booking tee times.

The owners made no apologies for this.

It was an interesting first day. People did show up for their allotted time and played a round of golf.

There were a few people who backed off and decided it wasn't worth the risk of being fined.

Many people are watching this situation to see what happens. That includes the sports world and

other golf courses who are gearing up to follow suit if the Bridges continues to operate without any repercussions.

So far, the local police have done nothing to stop the situation. They did post a vehicle across the street and watched what was going on, but made no attempt to stop anyone and did not issue any fines.

I think that's a smart move by the police. After all, would you really want to stop a person and issue a fine for playing golf?

The cops are being smart and diplomatic at this time – they know it's a tricky situation.

On the other hand, maybe they are taking down everyone's license plate and when the stay-at-home orders is lifted, they'll be visiting everyone on the list and slapping them with a fine and issuing one to the course owners as well.

I can understand the frustration of the golf course owners.

This past winter, the ski industry was ordered to shut down just as the season started. It cost the industry around \$80 million.

Now that spring is here, golf courses are ready to open and earn a living. Golf isn't a year-round sport.

You can't open the links when there's three feet of snow on the fairway and it's 20 degrees below zero.

It costs a lot of money to maintain a golf course when no one is allowed to play. You just can't abandon the course and let the weeds take over and hope to get back up and running quickly when the sport is once again allowed.

I'm not a golfer, but I can understand why people enjoy playing – you're outside, doing something you like.

It's a safe sport in these challenging times. On the fairway you are inherently physically distanced from other players in your foursome and no where near anyone else on the course.

If the Bridges at Tillsonburg remain open and are allowed to operate without interference, you can bet others will be following suit.

If Stompin' Tom was still with us, I'm sure he could come up with a second great song about Tillsonburg and the current events.

BRIAN LOCKHART FROM THE SECOND ROW



Who is really at fault?

For over a year now, Peel Region has been mostly locked away from the world.

We've been shut down, prevented from being together with family and many of us are afraid to so much as cross the threshold of our homes for a simple trip to the grocery store. With new variants running rampant in Peel and not enough vaccines to administer to our population, we are continually asked to trust in the government. We are asked to trust that vaccines will soon arrive and to trust that our overrun health care system will care for us IF we fall victim to COVID.

Over 3 weeks ago we were told we were a hotspot and that vaccines were coming. Just days ago we were told the government would look at paid sick days and that a list of closed workplaces would be published. Where is the follow through? Where is the commitment? We're frustrated, tired, bitter and angry and now a 13-year-old girl is dead. How much is too much? What's the breaking point at which point we all just shout, "enough is enough?"

How has the tragic passing of Emily Victoria Viegas become the tipping point? I think there are lots of reasons. Her father is an essential worker. A hero that we aren't treating like a hero in his time of greatest need. He was a person who went to work

day in and day out and was "essential" for us—for whatever it was that we ordered online perhaps—but far more importantly essential to his family for both his love and his income support.

However, because of this, he brought home COVID. He didn't get sick, but his wife and daughter did. Was his workplace one of those that should have been shuttered? Was he one of our front-line heroes who should have been eligible for sick pay, if only such a thing existed? Should HE be the person who is being criticized in some online forums for not seeking care for his daughter sooner than he did? I have so many questions but whether he could have provided better care is not one of them. Why vilify a man who has already lost so much? Why hold Emily's father accountable for the systemic injustices that surely contributed to her death?

A moment of silence in the legislature is a gesture – voting in paid sick days, hinted at just days ago in Ford's "tearful" apology would have been a much more meaningful one. Voting against them for the 21st time is just insulting.

More than 21 years ago, we decided my perfectly healthy three-month-old son could finally be left safely with a babysitter (my mother-in-law) while we popped across the street (not far away) to wish a Happy New Year to our neighbours (our first time

out of the house in 3 months). We were gone less than an hour when she called to tell us he seemed to be coughing. We went home, watched his temperature climb and within another hour drove to the hospital where he was diagnosed with pneumonia.

Yes – it was that fast and no there was NO warning he was that ill. COVID is about a million times worse than pneumonia we are told. He wasn't a 13-year-old, trying to possibly put a brave face on how she was feeling so as not to worry her already worried father. He wasn't possibly a very scared 13-year-old girl who didn't want to admit how bad she was feeling because she was already worried about her own mother in hospital with COVID. There were no systemic barriers for us and we weren't in the middle of a pandemic. No one judged us for "not recognizing sooner" that our son was ill. On top of all the feelings we are already having, what saddens me most is that COVID is revealing all of the ugliness of human nature as keyboard warriors on social media turn on the father to hold him accountable.

Yet the good side of so many in Peel Region has also been revealed. Those who have opened their hearts and wallets to support the GoFundMe page set up for Emily's family. Why does it seem that while goodness exists, we have to

dig through the trash to find the hidden treasure?

How much is too much is what I now ask? What's our tipping point? Is the death of a 13-year-old girl, surely the victim of the systemic barriers that led to her catching COVID in the first place, the death that will finally galvanize action in Peel? Is her loss the one that will force Premier Ford to overcome his dislike of Mayor Patrick Brown who has been begging for help virtually from the start enough to send us what this hotspot needs?

Make no mistake, Caledon, we ARE Peel and in the thick of this crisis. We need vaccine access for everyone in Peel. Period. We need companies and the government to step in and do the right thing with paid sick leave. Thankfully, in the meantime, we have Dr. Loh making difficult decisions, but one man alone cannot get us out of this mess. We're tired and bitter and angry and rather than letting loose on the father of one of Canada's youngest COVID victims – lay the blame squarely where it belongs – on the government. It didn't have to be this way.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Horses, donkeys and goats hit the trail as Barnyard Team supports Hospice hike

BY ROB PAUL
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

As the virtual Hike for Bethell Hospice approaches, some folks in Caledon may have spotted a handful of animals from Riverdale Farm strolling around the community.

That's the Barnyard Team—made up of Heidi the Miniature Donkey, Thomas the Nubian Goat, two Haflinger Horses named Emma and Krissy, a Plymouth Rock Hen named Muppet, and a handful of volunteers—and they've been training for the hike around Inglewood.

The team is led by Caledon's Susan Graham—a former volunteer at Bethell Hospice—who decided to set up a donation page for the hike this year after all the attention her team was receiving.

On Heidi's suggestion, the fundraising goal has consistently risen as the team continues to blow by previous targets—it's currently set at \$5,000, but they're already over \$4,800.

The virtual hike's official start is May 2, to coincide

with the beginning of National Hospice and Palliative Care Week and participants are able to complete their hikes anytime and anywhere until May 31.

The Barnyard Team is planning to walk around the Village of Inglewood 12 times from May 2 to 7, every morning and afternoon that of that week.

Graham and Heidi have a long history at Bethell Hospice, with Heidi and Raven—another Miniature Donkey who has since passed away—taking on ambassador titles as Graham's partners when she would go to volunteer. The donkeys loved to visit, and the nurses would assist residents in interacting with the pair whether it be for a pet or a carrot.

"When Bethell House first started, my family was quite involved with volunteering and the donkeys became ambassadors because we'd walk them up to visit the residents," Graham said. "It was always quite a thrill, and I was volunteering at the time, so I'd always hear people talking about how they'd never seen a donkey and they loved seeing

the animals. Then, in the wintertime, while my husband was logging with one of the horses, I would take the other walking through the village to train it to be away from its buddy and people started saying how much they enjoyed seeing me walk the horses. Then a couple people in the village asked if they could help walk the horse and thought it was a cool way to get outside. That became a routine with about three ladies in town who would come on the walk with me. Then the hike was announced, and I thought to put in the animals as a team."

Knowing that Bethell Hospice must raise \$1 million every year to offer their services in the Caledon community at no cost to residents, Graham saw an opportunity to lend a helping hand while also being able to add some joy to people's lives in these trying times.

"We've been making quite the splash as we've been 'training,' she said. "The village is definitely enjoying seeing us and it's putting needed smiles on faces. Cars stop and if I could ask for a dollar every time somebody takes a

picture, we'd already be at our goal. We've raised our goal a number of times—we started out at \$1,000 thinking that's a high bar, but we're close to \$5,000 now.

"I've walked the donkey in previous walks, but never tried to get pledges for it. This year with the response from the villagers seeing the animals walk around and having one of my volunteer handlers joke that I should charge money for pictures, that was how the idea came together. We don't get very far without people taking pictures and wanting to talk and we thought why don't we do this for the fundraiser?"

It's a unique way to get involved for a good cause in the community and an unexpected positive that Graham has noticed is the animals attracting more interest from people who wouldn't necessarily know about the importance of Bethell Hospice in Caledon.

"What's been an added bonus with it is that different people in the village can participate," she said. "There are kids who have come for one or two of the training walks already and they're about Bethell Hospice and why

we're doing it. Usually, it's people who have had a family member use the facilities at Bethell, but this way I'm finding it's reaching more people in the community that haven't had a direct interaction with Bethell House.

"It's getting more families aware of it being in the community and the kids are so excited that they want to ride the horse or walk the donkey and then I can enroll them to get their grandparents pledging to a good cause. The families who are participating (in the virtual hike) are having fun and it's become a bit of a competition with the fundraising teams while taking the morbid sense of it away and putting the focus on the team aspect. It's a healthy and fun thing for a great cause."

Spreading awareness about Bethell Hospice while providing children in the community a new experience during a time when there's not much for them to do has been just as rewarding as seeing the fundraising number increase daily.

"With all the kids being away from school, it kind of gives them something," she said. "Some of them have

even taken it up as a classroom exercise to learn about what a hospice is and about the animals," she said. "It's been a good way to reach more people rather than just having myself as a walker," she said. "I've personally committed to walking 12 times in that first week and right now, people want to be here as much as possible and we plan to be walking at 10:30 a.m. and again at 4 p.m. and we're quite a sight! Once we all have our t-shirts on for the walk it'll be a real rainbow-coloured sight and if I have a full team (of volunteers/handlers) with me, we can have up to eight people with the five animals."

After her heavy involvement when the Bethell Hospice first opened up in Caledon, Graham draws motivation from knowing the importance for no cost facilities that families can rely on.

"This is a big part of my community here and I'm very proud of it," she said.

For those interested in donating to the Barnyard Team, they can do so through their team page on the Bethell Hospice website (bhf.akaraisin.com/ui/hikebh2021/team/337964).

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Virtual programs help Family Services reach more residents

Continued from FRONT

“It’s really essential,” she said. “We’re a generic service in that we’re not affiliated with any political statement—we’re just here to provide services for the community wherever we’re needed, whatever the cultural set is or the language. We’re there as a community service to help from anything with employment to women who have experienced abuse to men who use violence in relationships, to seniors—we help families. We keep expanding services too, we have a newer initiative where we have been working with human trafficking survivors for the last five years. It’s crucial to have these services because as an agency we’re looking at what the needs are in the community to identify the gaps through assessments, focus groups, and what we’re hearing from our clients.”

“Based on that, we go after funding to create opportunities so that we can have specific services for our community. I think Family Services of Peel really plays a vital role in being innovative and also not just running services, because we’re funded to do that, but also creating new strategies, models, and frameworks. We look at social issues like Black Lives Matter and South Asian hate, we work with the LGBTQ community—we definitely want to look at every area where we can work with the community and families.”

Some people who need the services that are offered can be discouraged by seeing how long they may have to wait, but Rupnarain says they do the most they can for people with the resources they have.

“We do have a long wait list,” she said. “It’s a six-month wait list right now, which can be daunting when you think about it, but instead of just letting people sit on a wait list we connect with them and check in with them. We make sure we know how they’re doing and help them access resources while they’re waiting for services. We have ways we try to mitigate the long wait list—we ran group parenting sessions—unfortunately, it’s something we’re going to have to deal with unless we get more staff.”

The impact of COVID-19 has caused a lot of changes for Family Services of Peel, but a lot of long hours and handwork allowed them to pivot to virtual services and help families in what has been the hardest year of many people’s lives.

“Everything has had to be virtual, but the one thing that happened is that we never stopped services,” she said. “Our doors were closed on March 20, when everybody went into lockdown, but we never closed our services. Within a month we were previewing different platforms, there was a little bit of a slow start, and we weren’t seeing people individually, but our staff was con-

necting with all of their clients. We were busier than ever in the first couple of months after the pandemic hit just to get our plans organized. The only thing that changed with our services really was that we’d normally have a \$10 charge—or whatever they can pay—for clients for admin costs to access our counselling, so we had revenue loss because we stopped collecting fees from everyone for a couple of months. We lost some dollars from our programs...but it was not a time where we were going to deny people services because of money.

“It’s impacted us in that way, but at the same time, governments have really beefed it up with extra dollars to get what we need to make our places a little more COVID ready with barriers for when clients feel more comfortable. Getting ready to follow the health and safety protocols is a little bit challenging because we need to get all the supplies in and getting everything installed, it’s been a process, but we’ve managed well and rallied together. We will do whatever it takes to make sure our clients and community get served.”

Virtual services have also allowed them to reach people who otherwise would not be able to access what Family Services of Peel offers.

“Before we weren’t virtual and we serve all of Peel, transportation from the Caledon area can be difficult,” she said. “I’ve noticed since we’ve gone virtual that our client intake from Caledon has increased. The virtual avenue is reducing the impact of transportation and allowing them more access. That’s been a big positive of the virtual services, the hard-to-reach communities who want to come for services but lack access because of transportation. It’s really helped out that way.”

One thing she worries about is that although the services are there for people who need them, will they be willing to access them without a clear knowledge of exactly what they are and how they work?

“I’ve noticed that sometimes services are there, but people often don’t have enough information to access the services,” she said. “When we look at our framework, we could have the best service, but if people don’t have access or know about it then it can be challenging. As an organization it’s something I’ve been looking at because we have great services and people are aware of them, but if access is not equitable across the board, then how do we improve that?”

Continuing to spread awareness going forward is a big piece of the puzzle for Rupnarain. However, it becomes difficult without the funds to support expanded promotion of family services.

For more about Family Services of Peel and the programs offered, visit fspel.org.

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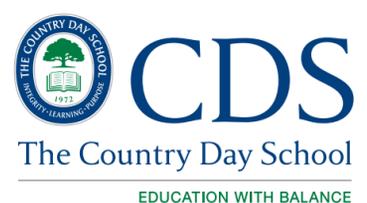
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Mayfield Golf Club determined to return May 20, if not sooner



Golf industry frustrated with Provincial orders

BY ROBERT BELARDI

Mayfield Golf Club issued a statement in a widespread email they will be expecting to return to the course on May 20.

The club had received numerous inquiries via phone calls, text and emails from golfers wondering when golf will return.

“Our course, will remain closed until Thursday, May 20, 2021, as per the provincial government’s direction,” they said. “The golf industry is lobbying hard to reverse the Provincial Governments’ decision to close all golf courses.”

Even in a time where social distancing measures continue to be in place and a sport like golf seemingly fits the description, the provincial government has chosen to close all courses as part of their new stay-at-home order.

Despite any quizzical reactions to this decision, the club does want to ensure that its players and regulars to know what to be aware of ahead of the set return date.

Tee time bookings will be open to season passholders prior to those who will pay to play.

The statement went on to indicate the current status of power karts. According to the message, due to a low inventory of available karts, players

will have to pre-book their golf karts in advance for use.

Peel Health has advised that all players put on a mask the moment they exit their vehicle on the premises. A mask must be worn at all times unless a player is about to hit his shot or he/she may remove the mask while walking on the course. Screenings will be completed before entry.

With fairly standard procedures in place just as before, the hope is that everyone can safely golf. Much like other golf courses, tee-time intervals will be put in place and there will be take-out only for food. Everything will be sanitized after use and all cups have been raised so the ball doesn’t travel far down the hole.

It’s quite difficult to predict if golf will return to the province of Ontario before May 20. Ontario is the only place in North America to shut down all golf courses temporarily.

Currently, a petition on change.org began by Bill Whalen has over 85,000 signatures while setting a goal for 150,000.

If golf can return sooner rather than later as the month of May approaches and the hope that snow stays away for a little while, it would be a sight for sore eyes. It will depend on the province. Cross your fingers.

Robert’s Rant: Super League collapse a glorious week for soccer

BY ROBERT BELARDI

Under normal circumstances when you want to build a long-lasting structure, usually you build it from the ground up. What you don’t do is construct it on top of a previously-built foundation that simply needs some tweaking.

Two Sundays ago, the world shook. Soccer fans around the world were filled with distaste and anguish. Twelve of Europe’s largest soccer clubs had come to an agreement to introduce an all-new Super League as the sports latest new vision in over 150 years of existence.

It was reportedly began by President of Real Madrid Florentino Perez who was preparing to become chairman of the Super League alongside President of Juventus Andrea Agnelli.

If there’s one thing this sport teaches anyone it is the global game is for the fans and by the fans.

In a time where fans have been forced to sequester in their own homes and remain on the sidelines until another day, this forced many people out of their shells.

Pundits like former Manchester United fullback Gary Neville and Rio Ferdinand shared their fan perspective and ripped this apart immediately.

Neville said you might as well disown your own club and the grassroots system that has been built in the United Kingdom would have been squashed. Ferdinand said this is a war on football, it’s embarrassing and similarly to Neville, touched on how lower professional clubs would have suffered.

On April 20, fans came with banners. They came with vehement messages, lambasting the owners and the American investors over this perturbing idea.

Chelsea supporters, including former goalkeeper Petr Cech, marched in front of the gates of Stamford Bridge before The

Blues were set to take on Brighton and Hove Albion in protest.

Shortly after, Chelsea FC declared they would be opting out, then Manchester City announced it. Then all six English clubs involved opted out.

Atletico Madrid and then all three Italian clubs hit the deck as well. Agnelli admitted defeat but he did say he is still convinced about the idea. Perez opted to stand by the Super League. FC Barcelona still remained convinced that opting out of the Super League would have been an historic error, as per theScore.

The idea that lasted around 72 hours was also harshly criticized by soccer’s governing bodies. UEFA threatened to ban clubs from participating in the Champions League and in future World Cups. But the fans publicly shaming their own clubs in a sport that is tribal by all stretches of the imagination must have left a sour taste in all of their mouths.

Following many apologies and issues stated, there is a lot of damage done. How can fans trust their owners now? How can supporters wear the shirt with pride right now knowing what has just occurred? It will take time surely. Maybe even a change in ownership and management would do the fans justice.

Probably why Executive Vice Chairman of Manchester United Ed Woodward called

it a day.

Meanwhile, in North London last week, Arsenal supporters protested against their owner Stan Kroenke and called for his resignation.

There was a lot at stake. The Super League couldn’t happen. It would ruin soccer as we know it. From the grassroots levels all the way to the top tier leagues. All the money is funnelled from top leagues down to other pro leagues in their own countries. The Super League would have destroyed that.

The hope is UEFA, FIFA, club presidents, owners and fans find another way. Find a way to spread the wealth. Find a way to

make many teams competitive. Find a way to turn around the narrative that soccer is all about the money. Because the message was clear the Super League was about money. Lately, the entirety of the sport revolves around it.

It might also be fair to say the fight against the Super League isn’t over just yet. With Juventus conceding yet still believing, and with Real Madrid and Barcelona still convinced, expect more proposals moving forward.

As of now, no team is viewed with the same love and passion. The fight is with the fans and the call to action is clear.





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Our Readers Write

Open Letter to Council on affordable housing for low-income households

Continued from A10

60% of people seeking help live in private housing and most of their income goes towards their housing expenses. Obviously, rents and housing problems are at the root of poverty and the angst of living in precarious housing or even on the edge of homelessness. The Ontario Food Banks Association itself confirms this: "Nearly 90% of food banks' users," it says, "are rental and social housing tenants. They spend the majority of their inadequate monthly incomes on housing."

Will Council make subsidized housing for struggling families and single people a priority in your immediate overall housing strategy?

We have some suggestions for solutions.

Is it not time to address the question of more intensive housing and begin planning low-rise apartment buildings in strategic parts of Bolton and other towns? These could create mixed communities that would also include low-

come and subsidized renters. Well-planned intensification could provide both a mixture of more market and social housing units with added benefits to local businesses and public transportation.

You can leverage the Town's reach to demand that large corporations like Amazon, Canadian Tire and others, who put pressure on housing supply in Caledon, to contribute towards new housing for their employees. The idea of corporations providing affordable housing for their employees has a long history in Canada. Mining companies have done so for well over a hundred years. The bungalows in the picturesque mining village of Bourtemque in Quebec were built around 1923 for the mine's workers.

Although the mine is no longer in operation, the village that that company built is prized by its current occupants and has become a tourist attraction in the Val d'Or area of Quebec.

The Brian Wilson family has offered property at Humber Station and King Street West for a

health clinic and housing for seniors. The province has also, through a Minister's Zoning Order, designated this location for a train station. Why can't this area just west of the big Amazon and Canadian Tire warehouses be serviced in the near future? It offers an opportunity for much needed affordable housing and the convenience of a local health centre.

Put legs under the Inclusionary Zoning Act as hundreds of jurisdictions in the US and worldwide have done, creating thousands of units for low-income families. Make developers contribute to the housing affordability crisis for low-income households. We have the recent example in Toronto of the Daniels Development in partnership with the Woodbine Community Centre and the support of the City of Toronto assigning 34 units for 40 years to single mothers in their new tower in Regent Park. Rents will be at 30% of their income.

You, the Town, give the "go ahead" to developers to build. Why not assertively lever-

age this asset and insist that developers, who get very rich building houses, put aside an acceptable percentage of new units for low-income families?

We believe that we all have a sense of moral obligation and justice engraved in our souls: we owe each other the opportunity for the basic necessities of life in sufficient measurements. This has been the bedrock of our multi-faith civilization. All of us, rich, middle class and poor, are like strands of the same web. If any set of strands fray, the whole web weakens. It is those principles, we believe, that must move us to blot out other types of viruses besides COVID-19, namely the scourge of homelessness, poverty, and the continuous anxiety about food and housing experienced by many families, even in our Town and Region.

**HOLY FAMILY JUSTICE GROUP
CALEDON**

Open letter in support of Climate Change delegation

I am writing in support of Jenni LeForestier's delegation expressing the need to include the impact of the aggregate industry on Caledon's Climate Action Plan and Official Plan.

I am in full support of her five formal requests, the inclusion of Indigenous consultation, and of an investigation into any possible unpaid back-taxes owed by aggregate companies in Caledon.

Further, I support the recommendations to the province from environmental groups as listed by Ms. LeForestier in her delegation and would like to see those recommendations adopted as part of Caledon's plan for the future.

If Caledon is serious about climate, all quarrying in the UNESCO Biosphere and all mining below the water table will be permanently banned. Not to do so is to condemn future generations to a lifetime of irretrievably polluted water (among other ills) and demonstrates unspeakable callousness on the part of anyone who is blind to these consequences.

Mayor Thompson has many times pointed out that 80% of Caledon is

Greenbelt. However, he has failed to follow this remark with the fact that, under current legislation, aggregate extraction and infrastructure such as 400-series highways are permitted in the Greenbelt, neither of which are green by any stretch of re-branding.

He also doesn't point out that the majority of Town Council is quick to approve new pit applications while dismissing the concerns of tax-paying residents regarding their quality of life, communities, water quality, air quality, traffic, noise pollution, and loss of property value.

In response to such concerns, the OS-SGA has had the unmitigated gall to call these residents "NIMBYs", as if caring for one's property, community, surrounding environment and biosphere, human health, and the future is selfish! I would be most interested to meet any quarry owner who delights in having a new quarry dug in their backyard. I would also like to know what will be done about the almost total lack of appropriate remediation in any of Caledon's pits and quarries.

From the air, Caledon, especially in

the west, looks like Swiss cheese – so full of holes that it's sometimes hard to distinguish the green in the Greenbelt.

It is shameful that the two members of Town Council who are on the Boards of the CVC and TRCA have not brought forward concerns about aggregate and Climate Change in Caledon and that it falls to members of the community to point out this gaping hole in the Climate Action Plan. It is equally shameful that the aggregate industry is favoured over agriculture and food - especially when Ontario is one of the largest food growers and suppliers in North America, providing thousands of jobs, and is far more crucial to human life than gravel.

The Council's blatant disregard for science, community, rational economics, and the preservation of food and water – surely the most essential concern of any right-thinking government – is incomprehensible.

Please do the right thing and demonstrate your integrity by implementing Ms. LeForestier's requests.

**KAREN ALISON
TERRA COTTA**

Measures come at a cost: reader

The budgets won't balance themselves! Even though Justin Trudeau suggested they would. And now, this Spring/Summer 2021, we all hope life can start to return to some sense of normal, as we knew it pre-COVID-19.

And because all levels of government played a part in getting us through this very trying and very sad COVID Hell we have all experienced and lived through, it will soon be time for these same politicians to put the

cheque books away and start to reduce the heavy spending of our money, and now our debt.

So, before you rush out in the media sources to complain about the cuts we know we now need to make, look at what we have, where we live, the rest of the world and then hopefully you will realize that your complaints have no merit.

**BRIAN PERRAS
CALEDON**

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OPINION

OFA continues to emphasize need for reliable broadband accessibility across rural Ontario

BY KEITH CURRIE

DIRECTOR
ONTARIO FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE

As we pass the one-year mark of living this virtual lifestyle, access to fast, reliable broadband continues to be a hot button issue for many farmers and rural residents.

People have adapted to working from home, learning from home, delivering e-commerce platforms from home and even participating in recreational activities from home. The world has changed drastically to rely on virtual platforms that require reliable internet. For those with a strong connection, adapting to virtual platforms was a relatively seamless transition with the biggest challenge being how to navigate and understand ZOOM, Microsoft Teams, Google Classroom or some other platform. However, many living in rural communities with limited or no access to reliable internet, have faced significant challenges when logging on to the virtual world.

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) believes access to fast, reliable and affordable internet is a necessity in our modern world and needs to be considered an essential service.

Much like electrification in Ontario over 80 years ago, broadband expansion must be a prioritized and rapid process. OFA has advocated for the expansion of rural broadband for years. It has been a key pillar of our Producing Prosperity in Ontario campaign that was initially launched ahead of the 2018 provincial election.

Prior to the Producing Prosperity initiative, OFA put a spotlight on rural communities and shortcomings related to accessible broadband as part of a 2015-member survey. As we fast forward to today, farm businesses and rural communities continue to struggle to find internet capable of supporting their needs. Results from OFA's recent 2020 broadband survey reflect the growing frustration of Ontario farmers.

Agriculture has rapidly evolved to embrace new technologies which allows Ontario's agri-food sector to be competitive worldwide and produce food, fibre and fuel more efficiently. The implementation of technology such as robotics, sensors and GPS mapping require reliable connectivity to be successful. Rural demand for bandwidth is quickly outpacing the expansion of broadband infrastructure as farmers continue to increase the use of digital technology. Simply having an adequate internet connection is not enough to meet the needs and demands of running a modern-day business. Our members need speed, reliability and bandwidth that provides the ability to carry high loads of data to remain competitive in the digital world. Unreliable internet is more than an inconvenience in a year where internet connectivity is an essential service. OFA's latest survey shows 62% of participants say internet outages are causing an inability to conduct normal business activities, which impacts productivity and profitability. In comparison to the 2015 internet survey, farmers that require stable internet to run their business has more than doubled.

Additionally, 53% of survey participants have increased the amount of digital technologies on their farm, and this significant investment in on-farm technology is critical to the growth of the agri-food sector. Precision agriculture also relies on accessibility to fast, reliable broadband internet, which can increase our industry's resiliency and mitigate the potential impacts of climate change. Still, 57% of survey participants admit unreliable connectivity has resulted in a delay or rejection of investment in precision technologies.

For many farmers, the primary internet options available in rural areas do not provide a stable enough connection to run or manage digital technologies in their farm equipment. For the most part, we are lucky to have a stable connection on our farm in Collingwood, but an increase in heavy winds or snowfall can interfere with connectivity. We are also paying a substantial fare for an unreliable connection which is another major barrier to the success of our farm business.

Unfortunately, rural residents often face competitive disadvantages when it comes to internet accessibility as there tends to be only a handful of service providers that cater to rural markets.

Therefore, with limited options, the customer is at the mercy of the service provider when it comes to cost and delivery.

More than 70% of survey participants reported they believe they are not getting sufficient value for the services they pay for from internet providers. In terms of satisfaction, a total of 75% of respondents indicated they are unsatisfied with options and accessibility in their area.

As entrepreneurs, we can understand providers not wanting to implement more infrastructure on their own dime. Especially, when it does not add to their bottom line. Therefore, OFA continues to lobby both the federal and provincial governments to invest in expanded broadband for all rural, northern and remote communities.

It's clear that homes, businesses and farms in rural Ontario currently face a competitive disadvantage when it comes to broadband access and reliability in comparison to their urban counterparts. We hope to change that by continuing to lobby both the federal and provincial governments to invest in expanded broadband for all

rural, northern and remote communities.

To achieve sustainable progress, the key is to have a long-term vision that will provide the necessary infrastructure to deliver reliable internet for generations to come.

The agri-food sector in Ontario is an economic powerhouse with substantial growth potential. To keep this sector profitable and productive, we need strong and vibrant communities with the infrastructure to support growth. Our sector grows job, contributes to

economic productivity and produces prosperity for the province and the country. Our province cannot afford to cap the growth potential of farms, agri-businesses and our rural communities due to a lack of broadband infrastructure. These investments can help grow existing businesses, attract new companies and boost opportunities for regional economic development.

Beyond our businesses, farmers are also humans that require social interaction and deeply care about their community. Isolation in rural

communities has become much more apparent as parents struggle to work from home and youth try to connect with their teachers and classmates. Stable internet is necessary for connecting with the outside world, which in turn supports mental health. Internet has also become essential for online learning and virtual health care.

Quality of life and education should not be compromised for those choosing to live, work and play in rural Ontario.



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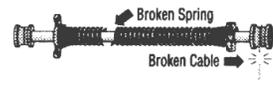
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ARREST IN STOLEN VEHICLE

Continued from A4

Gurvinder Singh, 27, of no fixed address is charged with:

- Possession of Property Obtained by Crime Over \$5000; and
- Possession of Schedule 1 substance - Heroin.

The accused is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Ontario on July 5, 2021 to answer to the charges. The charges have not been proven.

The investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information regarding this investigation is asked to contact the Caledon OPP CSU at 905-584-2241 or toll-free at 1-888-310-1122.

You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at www.peelcrimestoppers.ca. When you contact Crime Stoppers you stay anonymous, you never have to testify, and you could receive a cash reward of up to \$2000 upon an arrest.

FRAUD INTERCEPTED

Officers from the Caledon OPP are investigating an incident reported by a local resident, where attempts were made to transfer a large amount of money fraudulently to a bank account overseas.

The fraud was reported to the Caledon OPP on April 13, 2021.

"The complainant indicated that a computer was ac-

cessed remotely by unknown parties, who then used documents and information stored on the computer to attempt to facilitate the money transfer," say Police. "Luckily, the complainant became aware of the transaction attempt and suffered no financial loss as a result. The investigation continues."

Protect your computer:

- Watch out for urgent-looking messages that pop up while you're browsing online. Don't click on them or call the number they provide. No legitimate company will call and claim your computer is infected with a virus.
- Never give anyone remote access to your computer. If you are having problems with your system, bring it to a local technician.
- Some websites, such as music, game, movie, and adult sites, may try to install viruses or malware without your knowledge. Watch out for emails with spelling and formatting errors, and be wary of clicking on any attachments or links. They may contain viruses or spyware.
- Make sure you have anti-virus software installed and keep your operating system up to date.

Create a strong password by:

- Using a minimum of 8 characters including upper and lower case letters, and at least 1 number and a symbol
- Creating unique passwords for every online account including social networks, emails, financial and other accounts
- Enable multi-factor authentication

GM Canada produces and distributes 10 million face masks

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

GM Canada switched gears to help the pandemic effort over the past year by producing 10 million face masks at cost for the Public Health Agency of Canada.

The masks were produced at the company's Oshawa Operations plant and they completed the production run on April 8.

The plant produced approximately 1 million masks per month to help protect front-line workers and Canadians during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The company issued a statement saying, "This past year hasn't been easy, but so many of you stepped up to help by donating gloves, hand sanitizers, and masks to our collection depots across Canada, offered vehicles to local restaurants to help keep their doors open, running prescriptions and groceries to senior in-need, and by donating to foodbanks, shelters and community services."

The company took it up a notch and produced nearly 500,000 additional masks with 1,000 of those masks being sent to each dealership across the country.

The hope is for the dealerships to continue the goodwill by donating those masks

to local organizations in the community.

In Orangeville, MacMaster GMC received their masks from the Oshawa plant and have started giving them to local organizations.

"GM made 10 million masks since May," explained MacMaster Business Relations Manager, David Murphy. "They converted their production facilities to make proper grade masks at the operations centre in Oshawa right near headquarters. They made the masks, they told the government they would, then made around 500,000 additional and donated 1,000 to each GM Canada dealer across Canada.

"We've chosen four charities to receive these. We are donating to Choices Youth Shelter, Lord Dufferin Retirement Centre, and the Orangeville Food Bank."

They are still making a determination on the fourth charity that will receive the masks.

"This collaborative team effort across GM Canada to help in every way we can, is what we do at General Motors – and our collective response to the pandemic is one of the proudest moments in our history," said Scott Bell, president and managing director of GM Canada.

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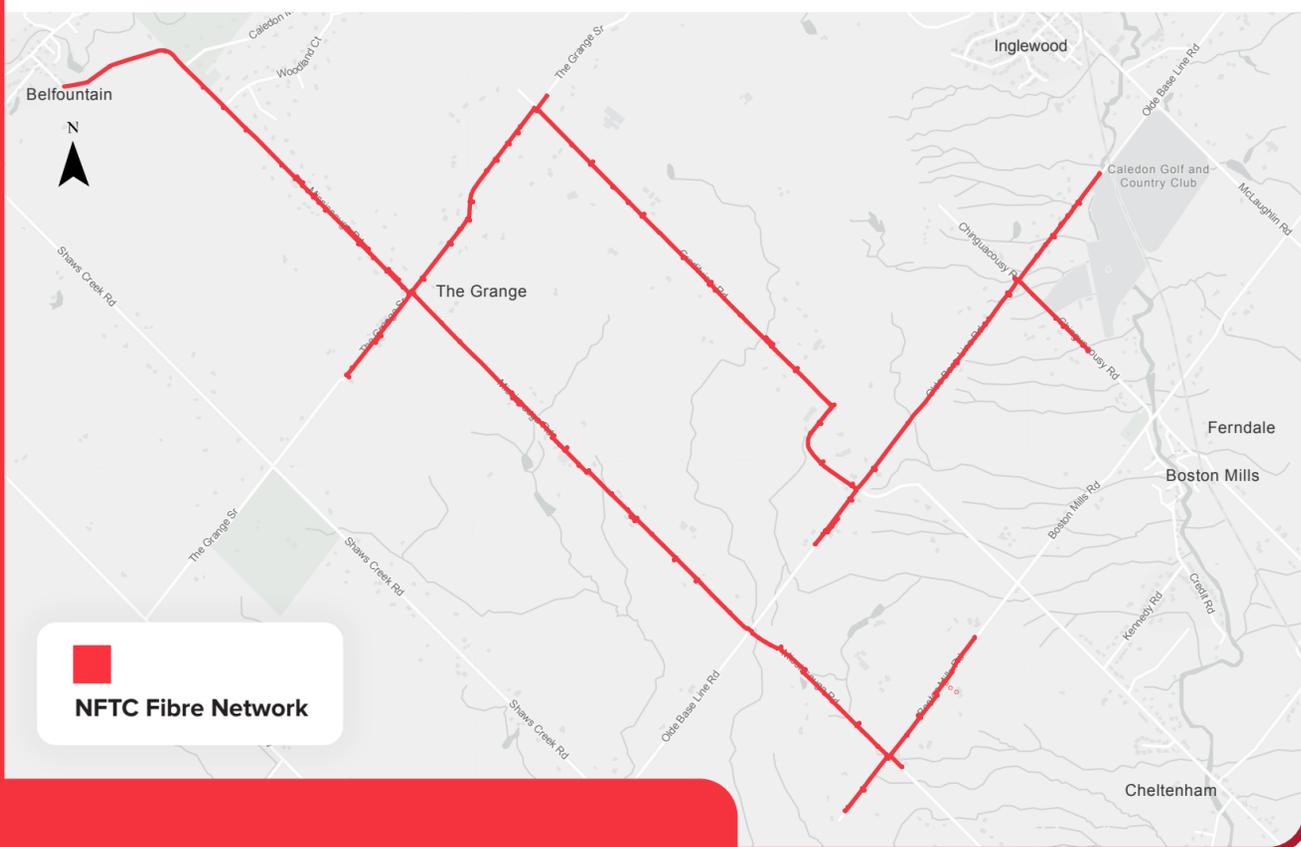
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