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FREE Thursday, September 2, 2021 Volume 41, Issue 35



Security concerns were cited for the cancellation of a campaign event in Bolton on Friday night featuring Liberal leader Justin Trudeau and area candidates. Protestors, who outnumbered supporters outside the Hampton Inn, were challenging COVID-19 measures.

PHOTO BY ROB PAUL

Trudeau campaign event in Bolton cancelled due to safety concerns

BY ROB PAUL

On Friday evening in Bolton, at the Hampton Inn and Suites by Hilton, there was a large area of the parking lot roped off as a crew worked to prepare for the arrival of Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau.

With the federal election set for September 20, Trudeau's Friday was planned around making stops on the campaign trail. After making an announcement that morning in

Mississauga, he made quick stops in Richmond Hill and Nobleton before arriving in Bolton.

The roped off area was initially surrounded by Liberal supporters and volunteers, but slowly protestors began to trickle in. One of the first protestors to arrive, just after 4 p.m., was a person decked out in a People's Party of Canada shirt and hat and filming a video denouncing Trudeau's stance on masks and the vaccines—from there, more and more

protestors showed up.

Seemingly a large group of them were led by people carrying an explicit sign and a megaphone to lead chants about their displeasures with Trudeau, the COVID-19 vaccine, and Canadians who follow mask mandates.

By 5 p.m.—when the event was supposed to begin—there were far more protestors than supporters with many lining a fence that ran parallel to the event.

Continued on Page 7

It is hard to fathom that in Ontario, in the 21st Century, 40% of indigenous communities have to boil their water to make it safe.

We are not here to point fingers nor lay the blame, we want to help address the problem.



See Page 7 for more details.

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TOWN OF CALEDON

TOWN NEWS See Page 7

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Murder charges in death of Caledon woman

BY BROCK WEIR

A 37-year-old Toronto resident is facing a second degree murder charge in the death of Caledon resident Varsha Gajula.

The remains of the 41-year-old were found in a suitcase in the Keele Street and Hillary Avenue area of Toronto, according to Toronto Police Services (TPS).

Carita Jackson of Toronto was charged with second degree murder on Monday, August 30.

"On Wednesday, August 25, at 10.41 a.m., Police responded to a radio call for a suspicious incident," said Constable Alex Li on behalf of Detective Sergeant Brandon Price of TPS' Homicide Unit. "It is reported that the body of a deceased woman was found in the area. Officers attended the area and located the deceased woman. The Homicide Unit has taken carriage of the investigation."

Continued on Page 4

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Caledon Home and Lifestyle Show set for September 10-12 with Meals on Wheels as charitable recipient

BY ROB PAUL

After nearly a year and a half of delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Caledon Home and Lifestyle Show is set to take place from September 10 to 12 at the Albion Bolton Community Centre.

The show will open September 10 at 4 p.m. with the opening ceremonies taking place at 6 p.m. and run until 9 p.m. with it open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on the Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the Sunday.

Admission to the show is free and there will be experts from the home and lifestyle sector, keynote speakers, and beverages for patrons in attendance.

The event will also have a special promotion to help raise funds for Caledon Meals on Wheels.

"The show made the decision from the outset to support a local charity called Caledon Meals on Wheels," said Show Director Liz Shaughnessy. "Caledon Meals on Wheels does so much, and it looks after surrounding communities too. It's a vi-

tal force and has been even more vital throughout COVID because sometimes the volunteers who go into homes became these people's [company] during this extended lockdown. The decision pre-COVID was Caledon Meals on Wheels and given everything they've done, we're even more committed to them as the charitable recipient of the show. The way we're doing it is by the generosity of our visitors because show admission is free, we will have Caledon Meals on Wheels on-site and we'll be asking people to make a donation."

Not only will the show be prioritizing donations to Caledon Meals on Wheels, but Shaughnessy and her team will also be promoting local breweries through an initiative that will have revenue being donated to Caledon Meals on Wheels.

"On opening night, we're actually going to be putting a bit of a twist on things," she said. "People will have the opportunity to buy a \$15 wristband so they can sip and savour local beverages at the show. That \$15 goes directly back to Caledon Meals on Wheels. There will be a special sip and savour area created within the show for people

to enjoy their beverages with their masks off. It's been totally approved by Peel Public Health and it's all for a good cause. We're so excited about it promoting local. The less dark side of COVID is that people are really thinking about buying local and supporting local."

The show itself is focused on the crucial aspects of home and lifestyle and Shaughnessy will have plenty of suppliers and experts at the event for people to ready early for renovations, landscaping, and home designs.

"There's really four pillars to the show," she said. "Obviously renovating is a hot item with so many people working remotely, and landscaping—there's no better time to plan it than now for next year. Those are two very important tenets; another one is design. Design is a major feature. Whether indoor or outdoor, it takes a lot of time. The number one pillar of the show though is Celebrate, because we have so many important seasons coming up. It's an opportunity to shop for seasonal gifts and I think that's important, especially for our smaller businesses that were paralyzed during the lockdown period. We call it, 'ask the experts,' because when you come to the Home and Lifestyle Show, you'll meet the experts in design, renovation, landscape, and you'll get that opportunity to shop for seasonal items."

The big reason the Caledon Home and Lifestyle event is able to move forward is because its designation and detailed health and safety protocol allows for far more people to attend the event in a COVID safe manner. A "special package" was made for consumers and businesses to ensure safety, including "impeccable contact tracing."

"The thing that makes an event like this viable is your ability to contact trace visitors and we were fortunate to sign a top contact tracing company in GuestLog. According to the government, if a building can hold 1,000 people, you're allowed 500 in that building as long as you can contact

trace. That made it feasible for event organizers to step up and do this because a year ago we would have been looking at only 25 people, which isn't feasible. Basically, we've secured this as much as possible."

The show has been rescheduled numerous times throughout the uncertainty of COVID, but the circumstances of the last 18 months have made people even more hungry to dive into the home and lifestyle upgrades.

"The predecessor to the event that's taking place September 10 to 12, was called the 2020 Home and Lifestyle show and it was in early April of 2020," she said. "We literally found out two and half weeks before the show was supposed to happen that it couldn't happen. From that point, none of us knew what was really going to happen and so we rescheduled it several times. You start thinking, 'my goodness what am I doing,' but it's been invigorating and there's so much consumer interest in anything related to the home now—indoors, outdoors, etc. So, there's a lot of anticipation and a lot of enthusiasm for anything home related right now and it was sparked by COVID."

Though it has been a turbulent time for Shaughnessy with the constant rescheduling, she thinks it actually worked out for the show in the end.

"The way everything has played out has given the event a special pedestal," she said. "To date, we are the only consumer event of its kind taking place in Ontario this fall. What we've done because of that, acknowledging a very ambitious consumer market, we've done a much broader footprint in terms of advertisement. Normally it would be focused on just the Dufferin-Caledon area, but because right now we're the only game in town, we've increased the footprint five times the number of homeowners we're reaching. It just makes sense because there aren't any other shows happening in the GTA right now. It couldn't have worked out better despite my deepest fears about the show not going forward."

Normally the show would be held in the spring, but due to the pandemic pushing it into the fall, Shaughnessy sees it as an opportunity to set consumers up to be ready for 2022.

"The idea of having a show in the fall, and typically outside of Toronto most of these shows are spring events, and this was going to be a spring event but the actual date for this one is almost more valuable than I initially realized," she said. "It gives renovators, home maintenance companies, landscapers, and designers the opportunity to get business on the book now as opposed to next spring when everyone gets jam-packed. Many consumers were bothered because they'd order their swimming pool in April and it wouldn't arrive until September, so the fall show gives landscapers and renovators the time to get in front of consumers who want these things done—it allows them to get them on the books now for something that will roll out later this year or early next year. It's almost putting these people at the front of the line and it's adding a lot of value to it."

With the show happening right before people get into holiday season mode, Shaughnessy also sees an opportunity to get people ready for a much more traditional holiday year given how COVID impacted last year.

"Another positive with it is that we're heading into a season where there are a number of celebrations, Christmas being the preemptive one, but we've got Thanksgiving with families getting together and Halloween with parties," she said.

With just over four weeks to prep and plan for the show, Shaughnessy says it hasn't been easy, but she's happy it's finally moving forward in a safe manner.

"It's been fun," she said. "I come from a background of event marketing and event production, and I've worked with the largest home and lifestyle shows in Toronto for decades, and we normally have a year of planning time. COVID has changed a lot of things and the fact that we got the green light to do it is a major opportunity despite its challenges—you just have to be very nimble and move fast. We're just so excited it's finally here."

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Region to implement vaccine policy, urge businesses to do the same

BY ROB PAUL

The Region of Peel is establishing an employee vaccination policy and Peel Public Health is strongly recommending businesses include employee vaccination policies in their COVID-19 workplace safety plan.

Peel will require all Regional employees to disclose and provide documentation of their COVID-19 vaccination status. The Employee Vaccination policy is expected to be in effect by the end of October.

Employees who are not fully vaccinated will be required to complete educational programming about the benefits of the COVID-19 vaccination. They will also need to provide regular negative COVID tests.

“Thanks to the commitment and vigilance of our staff, we have been able to maintain most of our services throughout the pandemic,” said Janice Baker, Region of Peel CAO. “This policy is meant to encourage our staff to get vaccinated to help our community find a path back to normal.”

As for businesses in Peel Region, as part of the COVID-19 workplace safety plans that are required under the Reopening Ontario Act, the Region is asking employers to follow suit on vaccination policies.

Businesses are being asked to consider the promotion of COVID-19 vaccinations to workers, outline actions for unvaccinated workers, as necessary, and speak to identifying workers’ vaccination status for outbreak prevention and control.

“Vaccination is currently our best defense

against severe illness or death from COVID-19 and may also support short and long-term business continuity, and a safer workplace environment,” Dr. Lawrence Loh, Medical Officer of Health for Peel. “It’s important that employers help to protect their employees as best as possible and encouraging vaccination is one of the best ways to do that.”

As the Region focuses on vaccine policies, there continues to be a rise in weekly cases. The total COVID-19 cases for Peel currently sits at 114,035—716 more since last week—and 956 deaths with 34 over the last week.

In Caledon, the total case count is at 4,640 with 54 new cases since last week and no additional deaths—the Town has seen 22.

Vaccination efforts continue in the Region with 2,309,939 doses administered—27,914 in the last seven-day cycle (August 23 to 29). As of August 30, 1,251,758 individuals in Peel had at least one dose of the vaccine and 1,058,181 had completed the vaccination process.

Total vaccine coverage in the Region is at 64.8 per cent with 72.6 per cent having at least one-dose coverage. The number of Peel residents 12 and older that have at least one dose is 83.3 per cent with 74.4 per cent completely vaccinated—83.6 per cent of those 18 and older have single dose coverage and 75 per cent are fully vaccinated.

To book a vaccination in the Region of Peel, visit www.peelregion.ca/coronavirus/vaccine/book-appointment.



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In the last five weeks, officers from the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police have responded to three separate incidents of mischief to the Town of Caledon railway kiosks.

“First kiosk sign that was damaged is located at the trailhead on Mississauga Road south of Mill Street on the west side of Mississauga Road,” say Police. “The second kiosk sign is located at the trailhead near 14021 Winston Churchill Blvd. The most recent incident occurred at 14633 Creditview Road in which a kiosk sign and bicycle repair stand were damaged.

“This persistent issue comes at a great cost to the Town of Caledon and its residents. Caledon OPP would like to reach out to the local residents and ask to report suspicious activity by calling 1-888-310-1122.”

You can also provide information any-

mously by contacting Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at www.peel-crimestoppers.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 DRIVERS

Two impaired drivers were arrested last weekend by the members of the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP).

“On Saturday, August 28, 2021, at approximately 1:30 a.m., officers were conducting speed enforcement along Highway 10, when a white Sport Utility Vehicle (SUV) was caught going 165 km/h in an 80 km/h zone,” say Police. “The officers conducted a traffic stop. Further investigation revealed that the driver was under the influence of alcohol. The driver was subsequently transported to the Caledon OPP



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Detachment for further breath tests to be conducted.”

As a result, a 41-year-old resident of Mississauga, was charged with:

- Race a motor vehicle - excessive speed
- Operation while impaired - Blood Alcohol Concentration 80 mgs plus

The driver's vehicle was impounded for 14 days and driver's licence suspended for 90 days.

The charges have not been proven.

“Later that day, at approximately 10:08 p.m., officers responded to a traffic complaint of a possible impaired driver on Highway 10. The officers located the suspect vehicle and conducted a traffic stop to investigate the incident further. As a result of the investigation, the driver, Huy Pham, 35, of Toronto, was arrested and charged with Failure or Refusal to Comply with Demand.”

The charges have not been proven.

Both accused parties are expected to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on November 4, 2021 to answer to the charges.

INVESTIGATION CONTINUES INTO THE MURDER OF SONIA VARASCHIN

It has been 11 years since the brutal murder of Sonia Varaschin and investigators believe some-

one has a key piece of information that could lead to the killer.

On Monday, August 30, 2010, officers from the former Orangeville Police Service began an investigation after the 42-year-old woman's white Toyota Corolla was found abandoned behind a business on Broadway in downtown Orangeville.

On the same day, Orangeville Police requested assistance from the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP).

On September 5, 2010 Sonia VARASHIN's remains were found in a wooded area just off of Beechgrove Side Road.

The murder investigation remains active under the direction of the OPP Criminal Investigation Branch.

A \$50,000 reward, authorized by the Government of the Province of Ontario, remains in place for information that leads to the arrest and conviction of the person(s) responsible for the murder of Sonia Varaschin.

Over 1,500 tips have been received from the public. Investigators continue to seek the one piece of information that will lead to an arrest.

Anyone with information, no matter how insignificant it may seem, is asked to contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or anonymously by calling Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS).

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Murder charges laid in death of Caledon woman

Continued from FRONT

Anyone who may have seen Varsha Gajula, have heard or witnessed anything suspicious, is urged to contact Homicide detectives.”

Anyone with information is asked to contact Police at 416-808-7400, Crime Stoppers anonymously at 416-222-TIPS (8477), online at www.222tips.com, or text TOR and your message to CRIMES (274637).

Jackson appeared in court on Tuesday, August 31, to answer the charges.

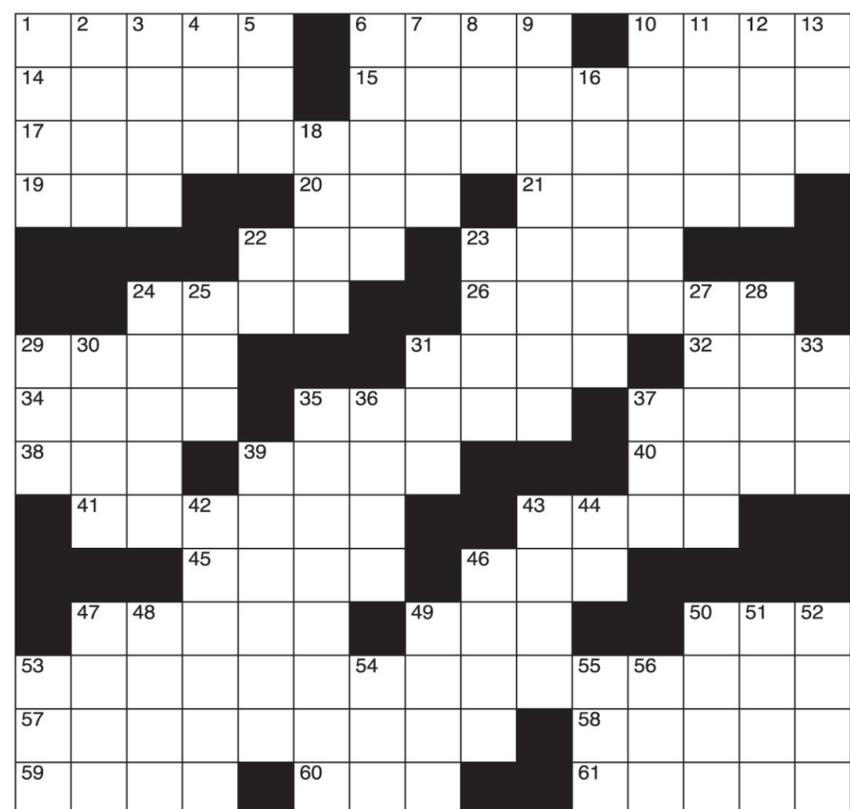
The charges have not been proven.



Varsha Gajula is seen here in this photo provided by Toronto Police Services.

The Citizen CROSSWORD

Solution on page A14



CLUES ACROSS

1. Secret clique
6. Earliest in and out
10. Ancient Egyptian symbol of life
14. Olfactory property
15. Kidnapping
17. Golf prize
19. Helps little firms
20. Cast a spell on
21. Panama is one
22. Dishonorable man
23. Sea eagle
24. Part of the healing process
26. Vin's last name
29. Wings
31. Made older
32. Political device
34. Looks like a rabbit
35. Gurus
37. Philippine Island
38. Not or
39. Hindu model of ideal man
40. Exam

CLUES DOWN

41. Making less difficult
43. Without
45. Dravidian ethnic group
46. A baglike structure
47. Buenos Aires capital La ___
49. Dab
50. Singers who perform together
53. Pirates' saying
57. OK to allude to
58. Somaliland diplomat
59. Has to pay back
60. Felix is one
61. Intestinal pouches
1. Harsh cries of a crow
2. Type of horse
3. ___ fide: authentic
4. Doctors' group
5. Fugitives are on it
6. Forged
7. Wild goat

8. Influential
9. Calls for help
10. Repents
11. Palm tree with creeping roots
12. Black powder used in makeup
13. Happy New Year
16. Stretched out
18. Whale ship captain
22. Atomic #20
23. Border
24. River that borders India and Nepal
25. After B
27. Fencing swords
28. Where researchers work
29. Expression of satisfaction
30. Broadway actor Nathan
31. Heavy, heat-retaining stove
33. A way to
- eliminate
35. Type of tree resin
36. Russian river
37. Children's TV network
39. Troublemaker
42. Averts or delays
43. Self-immolation by fire ritual
44. It cools your home
46. Satisfy to the fullest
47. Stinks!
48. Popular board game
49. Attack by hurling
50. A vale
51. Type of acid
52. Tasmania's highest mountain
53. No seats available
54. Licensed for Wall Street
55. Family of genes
56. Constrictor snake

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

Dufferin–Caledon Conservative candidate Kyle Seeback shares focus of campaign

BY SAM ODROWSKI

The federal election is fast approaching and Dufferin–Caledon’s incumbent Conservative candidate Kyle Seeback recently shared his top priorities if re-elected to serve another term.

Affordability is the main one, he noted that it’s the number one topic he’s hearing about from his constituents each day.

“Whether it’s inflation that’s making the cost of everything go up or the unaffordability of housing, these are the biggest issues I’m hearing right now. Whether that’s in the riding or across the country,” said Seeback.

He told the Citizen that the Conservative Party is working to address this issue through its recently released plan on housing, which pledges to build 1 million homes in the next three years.

For immediate relief, the plan also reviews the federal government’s real estate portfolio, which has over 37,000 buildings, and reallocates 15 per cent of them for housing. The plan also entails incentives for bringing about housing developments.

With respect to inflation, Seeback says all of the money printing that’s been happening through the Bank of Canada has to stop, as it’s increasing the price of everything, making life harder for the average Canadian.

“That’s making the cost of living much higher for everyone all across the country, including here in Dufferin–Caledon and we got to fix it,” said Seeback.

He told the Citizen that borrowing instead of money printing through the pandemic would have been a better option when dealing with monetary supply. Seeback also made note of the several hedge funds and wealthy money managers that received the Emergency Wage Subsidy during the pandemic and said loopholes allowing them to get funds should have been closed immediately.

When looking at economic recovery, he said he’s confident in his party’s platform.

“We actually have a fantastic plan to make sure that the economy hits the ground running that is going to create one million jobs,” said Seeback. “We can’t just keep going along with, giving away money, we

actually have to get to the point where we can get the economy back firing on all cylinders.”

With respect to vaccine passports, Seeback said he 100 per cent agrees with Erin O’Toole’s stance, which is to reverse the Liberal government’s decision to introduce a country-wide vaccine passport for domestic travel and federal employees.

While O’Toole is vaccinated and encourages everyone to get the shot, he also recognizes that it’s a personal decision.

Although, he has said that his party would work with the provinces on an individual basis to introduce a vaccine passport if they wish to do so, instead of mandating one federally.

O’Toole noted that there are alternatives to mandating COVID-19 vaccines, which Seeback supports.

“There’s lots of ways to deal with testing, rapid testing, all that kind of stuff, and I think that’s the much more moderate Canadian approach,” Seeback noted.

On the topic of gun control, Seeback said he’s focused on dealing with the 93 per cent of illegal guns that are used in the commission of crimes across Canada.

Instead of making plans to spend nearly \$1 billion on buying back firearms from legal gun owners and cracking down further on the legal gun market in Canada, as the Liberals are doing, he suggests stricter sentences for people who commit gun crimes. Seeback added that stronger border controls to stop the flow of weapons coming from the United States is key and where federal funding should be allocated.

When looking at free speech and internet censorship, he made clear that he’s against hate speech and all Canadians should be, but there’s already criminal code sanctions to prosecute it. He noted that he doesn’t trust legislation like Bill C-10 or Bill C-36, which were brought forward by the Liberals and provides an independent government agency with the ability to regulate and censor Canadians’ social media posts.

On the topic of climate change, Seeback said he fully supports the Conservative Party’s plan to address the issue.

The Border carbon adjustments aspect of the plan could be key in cutting emissions, he noted. This aspect of the plan involves



Incumbent Dufferin-Caledon Conservative candidate Kyle Seeback.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ensuring products that are made using high levels of CO2, particularly in coal fired power plants, have a carbon tax associated with them.

“Our businesses are paying taxes for carbon emissions and then they [China] get to bring their goods in here without a similar thing,” Seeback explained. “I think this is a great way to reset the playing field for our Canadian companies while tackling climate change.”

When looking at the Conservative Party’s values, Seeback said they’re the party of lower taxes, spurring economic growth, freedom of expression, and removing gov-

ernment-imposed barriers that make it difficult for small businesses to succeed.

Going forward he said he’ll continue his work on the campaign trail to reach as many people as he can before the election takes place on September 20.

“I’m going to be out campaigning, talking to people in Dufferin–Caledon, making sure that I know what the issues are that are important to them, so that I can go to Ottawa and fight for those issues,” said Seeback. “That is my number one job, know what’s important to the residents at Dufferin–Caledon and then fight for that in Ottawa.”



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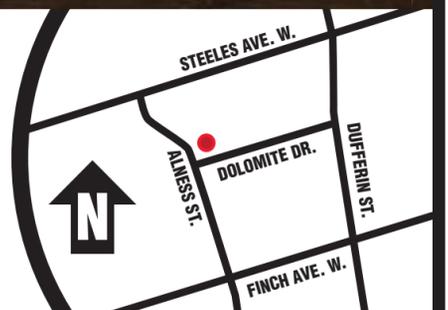
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Dufferin-Caledon candidates look at the importance of prioritizing inclusivity and diversity in the community

BY ROB PAUL

In Dufferin-Caledon, MP Candidates have been going door to door in preparation for the federal election on September 20, to make themselves and their priorities known to those in the community.

The Citizen spoke with Dufferin-Caledon MP candidates Kyle Seeback (Conservative), Lisa Post (Liberal), and Jenni Le Forestier (Green) about fostering an inclusive community and advancing diversity.

With the need to help promote diversity and spread inclusion, Seeback says he wants to continue to show that leaders like him care and he believes that action speaks as loudly as words and will continue to get out in the community to show support.

“Diversity and inclusion are something we always want to strive for, and I think we’ve got a great track record as the Conservative Party on that, and I’ve got a great track record of that here in the community,” he said. “We certainly got out and celebrated Pride right here in Dufferin-Caledon—I helped give out maple leaf Pride pins to the LGBTQ+ community. We have to do things like that and show we’re all striving towards a very inclusive and tolerant society.”

As a town councillor in Orangeville, Post has made it her mission to implement inclusivity initiatives and she’s passionate about continuing her work in that realm at the federal level.

“As a municipal town councillor, one of the things that I’ve done and I’m really proud of from my time on municipal Council is that I put forward a motion in Orangeville to have our very first equity, diversity, and inclusion committee,” she said. “It was the first time in Orangeville we’ve seen that happen and it was supported unanimously by my Council colleagues, and we’ve just had it taken off. What the aim of a programs like that is, is to make sure that every community member has the opportunity and the right to live in a community where they feel safe,

and they feel welcome and they feel included.”

Although Post is pleased with the direction the federal government has gone with promoting diversity, she still thinks more must be done to ensure every Canadian feels they are being given equal opportunity.

“At the federal level, we have an opportunity to make big bold policy decisions and implementations that can move forward inclusion and equity specifically. What we’re starting to already see is that, well, the work has already started at the federal level over the last number of years, there’s still a lot of work to be done, particularly in Indigenous relations—the work has been started, but there’s still a lot more to do. There’s a lot more calls to action from the Truth and Reconciliation report that have to be moved forward and that have to be prioritized. We’re starting to see rollouts of programs like the Black Entrepreneur Program and other programs like that, that do help marginalized or racialized communities have an opportunity to be included in the conversation and have a seat at the table. That’s really powerful because it makes for a much better and more robust community.”

With Annamie Paul as the Green Party leader, Forestier says she’s set the tone for the Party on the importance of inclusivity and diversity.

“It’s absolutely key to be promoting inclusivity and diversity,” she said. “I think we have a very strong leader in the Green Party and she’s leading the way on how to have an inclusive campaign and how to reach out to those community members who may feel disenfranchised and feel they’re not being represented, and we’re very much aware of that and striving to address that—within the office and also on the doorstep.”

When it comes to inclusivity and diversity, Le Forestier thinks they need to be prioritized early on in school to help set the stage for a better future.

“I’m so happy to see the Peel District School Board start to address some of these things last

year, and I think they still have a lot of work to do,” she said. “I think kids are really resilient and they learn from us, from their parents. Setting the example right from kindergarten is so

important and they need to see themselves reflected and there needs to be that tone of respect because kids will pick up on that. That’s how you build strong and positive communities.”



Conservative leader Erin O’Toole was joined by his family at King Township’s Dog Tales Animal Sanctuary on Monday morning. PHOTO BY MARK PAVILONS

O’Toole pledges to eliminate animal abuse

BY MARK PAVILONS

A federal Conservative government will curb all forms of animal abuse, according to Erin O’Toole, Leader of Canada’s Conservatives.

Using King’s renowned Dog Tales Animal Sanctuary and Rescue facility as a backdrop, O’Toole said his government plans to ban puppy mills, end abuse and violence against animals, and protect the humans who care for them.

The admitted dog-lover said during the pandemic, many Canadians opened up their homes to welcome a pet. In fact, over half of Canadian homes now have a pet and 90 per cent of Canadian pet owners see their pet as a family member. However, this trend has brought to light additional issues for animal welfare, including a surge in unethical breeding and animal abuse.

“We also know that there is a link between cruelty to animals and violence towards people,” said O’Toole. “Canada’s Conservatives will add animal cruelty as an aggravating factor in domestic violence prosecutions to go after abusers who hurt their spouse by hurting their spouse’s pet. We will also support pet owners fleeing violence by working with shelters to ensure that there are better options for women to leave abusive homes without having to abandon their pets.”

He said Canada’s Conservatives will:

- Ban puppy mills and stop imports of animals bred inhumanely.
- Strengthen the Canadian Food Inspection Agency’s ability to enforce current regulations and seize animals when imported under poor welfare conditions.
- Ban cosmetic testing on animals.
- Add animal cruelty as an aggravating factor in domestic violence prosecutions to go after abusers who hurt their spouse by hurting their pet.

- Support pet owners fleeing violence by working with the sector to ensure there are better options for women to leave abusive homes without having to abandon their pets.
- Provide \$10 million a year to train judges and prosecutors on the links between violence against animals and violence against people.
- Work with the Council of Ministers of Education to promote animal welfare education as part of a child’s education on the environment and sustainability.

“As someone who is proud to call our dog Wexford not only a loyal companion and best friend, but a part of our family, I will work diligently to secure the future for our furry friends,” O’Toole said.

O’Toole also touched on trade, the economy and climate change.

He noted the Conservatives delivered their climate change plan back in April, setting specific goals. He charged that the Trudeau Liberals never made a climate change target.

He said Canada should make its commitment on the Paris Accord, adding the Conservatives have “a real plan” to meet commitments and then work past them.

He also supported making Canada net zero emissions by 2050 and he would work towards obtaining those objectives.

He stressed the Conservatives are leading the charge for Canada’s economic recovery to get the country back on track. To that end, O’Toole supports partnerships and agreements with private sector trade unions to accomplish that.

The Conservatives, he said, also support lowering prices on telecommunications. He would open the Canadian market to U.S. companies to make the market more competitive. However, he would ensure there is reciprocal trade access in telecommunications.

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Liberal supporters were on hand for Friday night's cancelled campaign event.

PHOTO BY ROB PAUL

Trudeau campaign event in Bolton cancelled due to safety concerns

Continued from FRONT

The security detail got more involved when one of the ropes stopping those in attendance from entering the area Dufferin-Caledon Liberal MP candidate Lisa Post, volunteers, Caledon Mayor Allan Thompson and Councillors, local leaders, and media were invited to stand fell down.

Police officers and volunteers did their best to keep protestors from inching closer, but the sheer number made it a difficult situation.

At 6:55 p.m., a police officer made an announcement over the PA system that the event would not be going forward due to safety issues as a group of people with the Liberal party, as well as Mayor Allan Thompson and Councillors were rushed inside a side door of the Hampton Inn and Suites.

"I'm sorry folks, unfortunately for safety reasons this event will no longer be taking place here today," he announced. "Thank you for your support and everything you're doing. Our top priority is always everybody's safety, so please, safely make your way home."

The main topic the protestors were focused on centered around Trudeau's handling of COVID as well as his encouragement for every Canadian to get vaccinated. But, at times, the chants from the crowd turned to vulgar and unfounded statements regarding the Liberal leader.

After the event was cancelled, Trudeau made his way to Brampton to comment on the cancellation of the campaign event due to the security concerns.

"We had a lovely event planned tonight," he said. "Supporters had come out to Dufferin-Caledon from across the northern part of the GTA to see (Dufferin-Caledon Liberal MP candidate) Lisa Post and show our support for the great work that she's going to be doing on the ground as a candidate and hopefully as an MP."

Speaking directly to the people in attendance

to support him and the Liberal party, as well as those who were working the event, Trudeau expressed his worries if the event went on as planned.

"Thank you for stepping up—young people in their first political rally, active volunteers who had been going door to door, seniors," he said. "There are political rallies like this across the country with all parties almost every evening, it's an important part of our politics in this country. Unfortunately, tonight we had to cancel because going ahead with the event would have put those people at risk."

On Saturday, Conservative Party Leader Erin O'Toole addressed the situation after multiple Conservative campaign workers were spotted among the protestors in Bolton—the campaign workers are no longer associated with the Conservative Party.

"We're running on a positive campaign for the future of this country," he said. "I strongly condemn any form of harassment and protest the like we've seen. We're a democracy, we should be having a healthy and respectful debate of ideas and we have no time for people who bring in negativity to campaigning."

NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh also made a statement on the situation while campaigning in Sudbury.

"No one should have to cancel their events where we have students, we have young people, we have volunteers, we have organizers, no one should have to cancel an event because they're worried about a danger to the safety of people coming out to a political event," he said.

After being acclaimed as the Liberal candidate for Dufferin-Caledon in April, Post was excited to see the campaign event take place in her constituency but looks forward to continuing to focus on the safety of Canadians through the pandemic.

"I'm proud to live in a democracy where civil discourse is not only permitted, it's encouraged,"

Post said. "But what we saw on Friday night was not civil discourse—it was violent and aggressive and threatened the safety of my family, my volunteers and those of my candidate colleagues from Mississauga and Brampton."

"The RCMP absolutely made the right decision to cancel the event and keep all of us safe. The last 18 months have been incredibly hard for people on many levels, and I understand the frustration and anger that many are feeling. I am running to be your next Member of Parliament because I believe that the people in our com-

munity deserve every opportunity to be safe, included and thrive."

Mayor Allan Thompson has no issue with those opposing any specific Party peacefully, but said it was the way the protestors went about it that left a bad taste in his mouth.

"I share the deep concerns of all party leaders in the federal election on the protest in Bolton on Friday night," said Thompson. "While I respect the right to peaceful protest and to exercise democratic freedoms, I do not condone the actions of the protestors on Friday."

It is hard to fathom that in Ontario, in the 21st Century, 40% of indigenous communities have to boil their water to make it safe. We are not here to point fingers nor lay the blame, we want to help address the problem.

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Brock's Banter

I Dream of Genies Back in the Bottle

BY BROCK WEIR

As a journalism student, I always had an affinity for covering protests.

Maybe it was a factor of growing up with two parents who, in turn, grew up in the 1960s and spared no memory of those turbulent times (although, by comparison to the times we're living in now, "turbulent" seems like something of an understatement, and this seems like an unnecessary digression, so let's move on).

Maybe it was because I was always a student of history at heart, even before making it official, and the change that was borne out of that turbulence was already clear to me.

The bottom line is once I was in the nation's capital for school, if ever there was a protest happening, I was there with my camera, often walking along the route of whatever cause du jure brought people out with their placards.

A few in particular stick out in my mind.

The first one, oddly enough for a protest, was in the dark of night outside 24 Sussex Drive when then-Prime Minister Paul Martin welcomed the United States' then-Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to his residence for a dinner as tensions continued over the Afghan and Iraq conflicts.

About 20 people stood across the street from the stately and now-decaying manor with signs that were on point and chants that were loud enough to be heard inside but not quite loud enough to be deafening to us observers standing nearby.

Fast forward a few months and Paul Martin welcomed President George W. Bush to Parliament Hill.

Things here were decidedly different. The object of the protest was a person of considerably higher profile than Secretary Rice and, as such, the numbers swelled accordingly.

By the time the then-President arrived and was greeted by the then-Prime Minister, they waded to a crowd down below from behind the safety of bulletproof glass to a mix of the supportive, the curious and the outraged – as those in the latter camp began forming a line of humanity that snaked almost shoulder to shoulder between some of Ottawa's most iconic streets and landmarks.

A few years later, there was a new Prime Minister in Town and when Stephen Harper faced his first election as an incumbent Prime Minister, the leaders naturally got out of town to pound the pavement across the country.

Back in my hometown of Newmarket, I was pleasantly surprised when the protest essentially came to me as one of the leaders arrived to campaign at a local recreation centre. Raising criticism over this particular party leader's environmental policy, the few but proud showed up to make their presence – and their opposition – known.

And although maybe a dozen or so people were on the traffic island on the opposite side of the parking lot, they got their point across, maintained a presence throughout the event and most likely got back in their cars with the satisfaction of knowing their point had been made.

Those scenes seem almost bucolic to what we have been seeing in the past couple of weeks of this particular Federal campaign and it is unfortunate that this old school kind of protest is likely fast becoming a thing of the past.

Over the last five, six, or seven years, I think it is pretty safe to say that we all watched with varying degrees of dismay as public discourse in the United States devolved to what it is today: seeing who can shout the loudest and, among the shouters, seeing just what they throw out there might stick – without any rhyme, reason, and basis in fact.

That does not, of course, extend to all protests. Demonstrations on matters of social injustice, particularly over the last two years, did indeed elevate public discourse in many ways and have made people across the board sit up and pay attention to issues that have long been neglected.

But those are terribly sad and troubling exceptions to what seems to be a far newer rule.

The demonstrations we have seen in recent days, particularly in Caledon, I fear fall firmly into the latter category.

The bile speaks to the anger many of us are feeling these days living under what appears to be an endless parade of dark clouds with the occasional break for a bit of light to give us a reprieve or, at the very least, remind us of what awaits us when we're on the other side of this ghastly virus.

But we're all dealing with our frustration, sadness, and, yes, anger in different ways.

Letting this frustration, sadness, and yes, anger, manifest into the vitriol we're seeing goes beyond anything we have seen before – and the level of vitriol does nothing to underscore whatever point was trying to be made.

It remains to be seen whether this strange turn of events within our country is a by-product of rhetoric that has firmly taken root in our neighbours' gardens, or whether it is a symptom of something that has been long-simmering in the background here and is just now emboldened to come forward, or whether this is another long-haul element of COVID – but I'm afraid it's going to be hard to get the genie back in the bottle.

The freedom to protest things we disagree with is a wonderful facet of – and, indeed, an honoured tradition in – the country. Without protests, the rights we so cherish today, the rights that are still being fought for in many cases, would simply be a far-off goal.

But protests fuelled by vitriol and misinformation will do nothing to move the needle – in any direction.



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ONE OF THESE THINGS IS JUST LIKE THE OTHERS

The burdens of being a "deep thinker"

by Mark Pavilons



Having deep thoughts is what separates us from lower life forms.

It's what makes humans the strange and fascinating creatures that we are.

While thinking too much can derail one's momentum, we're often caught up in our own thoughts deep in our heads. Sometimes we delve so deep in the recesses of our mind, we struggle to find our way out.

My son, at only 20, is a classic deep thinker. He analyzes, picks apart, and thinks about everything, to the point it nags at him and keeps him awake. He wants to solve every problem, ease every conflict, please everyone, while being content and satisfied.

That's a tall order for anyone.

I used to be what's called a "worry wart" and I would also lay awake at night thinking, stressing, worrying. There were times in my teens and early 20s when I wouldn't go to sleep because I was afraid I wouldn't wake up! I tried to picture what eternal nothingness would be like, and it made me crazy and afraid.

Worrying never does anyone any good at all. Take it from a professional!

But words won't cure everything, even though I live by them. Simply telling others not to worry, or let things slide off their back, may be good advice, but it won't help those afflicted with troubling thoughts.

And these nagging, troublesome reflections never happen during lunch hour or on a lazy summer's weekend. No, they pop into our heads at 2 a.m. and we rise, looking for someone to talk to.

My son currently suffers from this nagging introspection.

He's smart, logical, compassionate. In short, he has a good head on his shoulders. And yet he's plagued by his own unending reasoning, deduction and speculation.

Being in the group of intelligent, always curious human beings can be a drag. I find the more you know, the more things bother you. Some of us long to know, to fully understand the meaning of our existence.

I constantly worry our country and its economy; the situation in Afghanistan; the health and well being of everyone in our family, the future, finances, the list goes on and on.

I have found that the intellectually challenged in our society don't tend to worry as much. Oh, how I wish I could follow Bob Marley's words: "Don't worry about a thing, every little thing's gonna be all right."

So, my friends, dare I suggest not to let your family members get too smart. It will be their un-

doing.

I have also heard that the more complex the mind, the greater the need for the simplicity of play. I have found that losing myself in mindless video games, painting tiny models or arranging my collectibles eases my mental burdens. It's almost like that nasty release valve on a pressure cooker, hissing away.

The other day my son asked whether angels roam the earth and what their purpose might be. Well, after a short Google search, I found out that yes, they do indeed walk among us! Religious sources indicate that angels are "messengers" and they are here to do God's work on earth and spread the word. Apparently, God created angels before He created mankind, to help him with his numerous chores.

When Liam was young, he mentioned that he saw angels from time to time. They were a bit fuzzy and just out of arm's reach, but they were there. His most startling "vision" was seeing a couple in the ceiling of our local church, "dragging someone away."

Well, that's a heck of a sight to be sure. He has trouble remembering – the price of adulthood.

We discovered there were "Indigo Kids," who are "spiritually awakened." They are highly driven, creative and sensitive, "with a perception that sees through the established norms of society."

They are considered "old souls," who are passionate and focussed. They may be lost souls at times, but they will be change-makers. They're creative and question authority and are often frustrated.

Granted, these can refer to a lot of people some of the time. But our son definitely fits the bill.

Out of the mouths of babes.

I can think of one particular child who made quite an impact some 2,000 years ago without uttering a sound.

In recent years, I've had a bit of an awakening myself. Nothing miraculous or life-changing, but something that sits deep inside. Maybe it's being more open to the universe or more accepting of other ideas and concepts. Maybe it's being in the second half of my life's story.

I've been interested in religious history for some time, and my passion for religious artifacts has grown over the past two years. I have collected dozens of ancient crosses, from roughly 400 to 1,000 AD. These physical pieces of religious belief are amazing finds.

I think of our ancestors, who toiled, broke their backs and suffered at the hands of feudal lords. They encountered disease, conflict and war. To them, in their modest huts in small villages, they held a cross close to their chest, and were comforted.

Their only salvation was their faith. I, too, am comforted by these tiny trinkets which I wear, carry and display. I think of the craftsman who melted metal and carved the shapes. I think of the person or persons who wore them.

Maybe in some way, I hope these "old souls" have found peace.

My son speaks volumes through his music lyrics. My artifacts speak volumes about our past.

Right here, right now, we are blessed and have our own lucky charms and icons.

Whether "spiritually awakened" or not, a deep thought now and then can be good for the soul.

Our Readers Write

Protestors should be named and shamed, says resident

The protests at Cappuccino Bakery in Nobleton, and the disgraceful protests at the Hampton Inn on August 27, were a horrendous smear on the reputation of the citizens of King and Caledon.

In Nobleton, unmasked protesters followed the PM into the bakery, threatening the health of everyone involved. But in Bolton, the Prime Minister of Canada couldn't even speak to his supporters, opponents, or reporters and had to be rushed away by his security because the crowd was so violently insulting.

I have seen the newscasts of this event and

there are clearly identifiable people in the front rows – one woman screaming as she is holding up her middle finger to the PM, and a bearded man who looks like he came straight from Texas, or Alberta, or the Capitol Hill insurrection riots.

This crowd was almost certainly a combination of the Covidiot anti-vaxxer protestors who have plagued Bolton businesses since the pandemic began, combined with the alt-right evangelical republican cult conservative hate anything Liberal and Trudeau crowd that I wrote about years ago.

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Caledon Citizen
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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GENERAL MANAGER

Zach Shoub
zach@lpcmedia.ca

EDITOR

Brock Weir
brock@lpcmedia.ca

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Mary Speck
admin@caledoncitizen.com

REPORTERS

Rob Paul
rob@lpcmedia.ca

MOTORGING

Heather Erwin
heather@caledoncitizen.com

SPORTS

Robert Belardi
robert@lpcmedia.ca

DISPLAY ADVERTISING

Erin Luckett
erin@lpcmedia.ca

Vicki Meisner

vicki@lpcmedia.ca

PRODUCTION

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For Shame

As a proud Caledon citizen, I'm embarrassed. The Prime Minister of our country shows up, in our little corner of the world, and is heckled, challenged and verbally abused to the point of his security team determining it was too much of a risk to his (and all attendees) personal safety to continue with a planned election rally. I don't care which side of the political debate you favour because debate is good. Hurling insults, foul language and threatening people is not. Period. With so many things to be proud of about Caledon and our many stellar residents, making the National news for hounding our Prime Minister out of town is just shameful.

It would be nice to say that these things are planned. That it was NOT the residents of Caledon who confronted Justin Trudeau last week but rather, an unruly group of bussed in paid protesters for hire.

Certainly it appears that at least a few of them were indeed visitors from other towns and cities including some who had been following Justin around for the entire day, heckling him at every stop. I think we know however, that it wasn't exclusively "outsiders" and if we zoomed in close enough, some Caledon residents were part of the fracas. Certainly a few local PC party t-shirt wearing folks were.

Elections sometimes bring emotions to a boil and

a pandemic election being conducted after more than 18 months of death, disruption, business closures and interruptions in both school and work and life, are bound to bring things to a tipping point. I'm pretty sure Mr. Trudeau (and all party leaders) can handle a protestor or two. But what is particularly galling, is that these folks preyed not just on Trudeau, but on anyone present who was wearing a mask, on children wearing masks (CHILDREN!) and that the level of vitriol and hatred escalated so alarmingly.

At the end of the day, whether you agree or disagree with the current governments pandemic policy, or with vaccines, or with wearing masks – these are your neighbours. These are the children who attend school with your children. These are the folks who are simply doing all the same things you do, trying to make a living and support their families as best they can. That goes for everyone who was in attendance INCLUDING people in politics. We're all just human beings. Wouldn't it be nice if we treated one another that way, as people first and politicians second?

I've been quite clear I don't think now was a good time to hold an election. I also believe that in a free and democratic society such as ours, the right to protest and debate the issues is healthy. That

doesn't mean engaging in an angry mob mentality scream-fest, endangering the health and safety of others, particularly when you choose to go without a mask while doing so. Going without a mask is also something I've talked about publicly. I believe we are being held hostage by anti-vaxxers and anti-maskers who continue to put us all at risk with their behaviour and I think we saw a lot of this last Friday too.

There are, of course, genuinely valid reasons why some folks cannot be vaccinated but I cannot think of a single reason why you would choose not to wear a mask. You wear a seatbelt while driving, you have a government issued passport that gives you permission to fly and most parents make sure kids are wearing a helmet while riding their bikes. You do these things because you know it's the safe thing to do, or the right thing to do or because they are the law, so you comply.

Stores post signs that say, "No shirt, no shoes, no service," so even when you're at the beach you throw on a shirt and your sandals to run in and purchase your snacks or coffee. What is so different about wearing a mask? It's just another little piece of cloth, in this case one that protects both YOU and those around you.

Did you get the flu last year? No? Neither did

the massive majority of the public and I have to believe, wearing a mask while out in public played a large role in preventing flu germs from spreading. If it can stop flu in its tracks, it's probably pretty darn helpful in preventing the spread of Covid too. Your "right" to NOT wear a mask does NOT supersede the rights of our entire population who are just trying to stay healthy.

I could go on. We're fighting the wrong battles right now.

In some cases, we're fighting each other. Why single out one small storeowner and repeatedly harass them? Why yell at children and say horrible things to a child about their parent's choice to help them stay safe by wearing a mask? Why spew hatred and violence filled threats against anyone? Racist slurs, obscenities, these demean us all and weaken any argument. By all means protest and/or debate. That's the hallmark of democracy. But what we saw last week was not healthy debate, nor even a peaceful protest. It was simply shameful. security of Canadians at risk. Canadians deserve better from their government.



SHERALYN ROMAN
TALK CALEDON

Who's going to vote?

There's an election coming up. It was no real big surprise. The political ads started appearing on radio a few weeks ago meaning something was up.

This is a savvy move by the PM to try to win a majority when his popularity is fairly high and place him in a solid position for the next several years.

So far, the political adds have been pretty civil. I haven't really seen any attack style adds like we saw during the last election.

In fact, the television ads, so far, have been the political parties telling people what they plan to do, rather than attempt to tear the other guy down.

That could change, but so far so good.

Surprisingly, and thankfully, no one has yet to come out and make the claim about this being the "most important election" either in your lifetime, the past decade, or the century.

Whenever they toss that one out about an election being so important, it's always a desperate attempt at fear mongering, scare tactics, or just plain bad politics. All elections are important, but they won't change your life. If you don't like that party in power – vote them out.

It's pretty simple.

What's important is that you have a say in determining who is going to run the country and make the policies and legislation that will have an impact on your life.

Democracy does have its failings. The most obvious is the fact that if 51 per cent of the people vote a certain way, then 49 per cent of the population, half of all citizens, won't have their say it what should happen.

To take this to the very basic level, let's go back to a wild west, but democratic society. Let's say a posse of 20 democratically-minded people have captured a cattle rustler and decide to vote on what to do with him. If eleven of the 20 vote to hang him from the nearest tree, and majority rules, it's going to be an old-fashioned neck-tie party, even if nine of the 20 disagree.

Fortunately, our parliamentary system of government provides a way for those 49 per cent to still have a voice through the opposition who sit on the other side of the parliamentary gallery.

In your lifetime, we have always had the ability to go to the polls and cast a vote in favour of who we want to get things done and determine policy in this province and country.

However, it wasn't always that way. Prior to the 1837 Rebellion, in Upper and Lower Canada, your votes were made for you.

It was colonial times, and the "government" consisted of a bunch of local oligarchies that controlled trade and the institutes of state and religion. In Upper Canada, they were known as the Family Compact.

It was the result of a colonial era of rule. The Family Compact were a small closed group of men who exercised the most of the political, economic, and judicial power. Unfortunately for them, ruling without responsible government wasn't popular with the peasants.

The Rebellion of 1837, wasn't much of a success in terms of an armed conflict. When you've got a bunch of local militia composed of farmers, some of whom only carried pitch forks, attacking a trained force of army regulars, the battle won't go well for the farmers.

In fact, after the first volley was fired, most of the militia realized they were in way over their heads, and they made a sensible move – they turned and ran away in disarray.

Many of the rebels were later captured and sev-

eral ended their life swinging at the end of a rope after being hanged for leading the uprising.

While the rebellion itself didn't topple a government, it acted as a catalyst for improvement.

The powers-that-be realized they must install a responsible government to properly govern a growing colony.

Over the years, that eventually led to the British North America Act.

You now have the opportunity to go to a polling station and make your mark and have your say in who you want to run the county on your behalf.

During the last federal election, only 66 per cent of eligible voters took the ten minutes it takes to cast a vote. That means 34 per cent of you could not be bothered to use your right to determine who will have a seat in parliament.

It may be your "right" not to vote, but essentially it is your civic duty to get out there and mark an "X" on a ballot.

Don't waste your vote now, and complain later.



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Dufferin-Caledon MP candidates discuss how to handle the climate crisis

BY ROB PAUL

The federal election is less than three weeks away with Canadians heading to the polls September 20. MP Candidates in Dufferin-Caledon have been on the campaign trail for the last couple of weeks in preparation.

The Citizen spoke with Dufferin-Caledon MP candidates Kyle Seeback (Conservative), Lisa Post (Liberal), and Jenni Le Forestier (Green) about how Canada can best address the climate crisis at the federal level and why they feel it's important to this community.

The Conservative Party's environmental plan is something Seeback is proud of with a potential levy that would both incentivize Canadians to focus on becoming greener while dissuading them from making non-environmentally-conscious decisions.

"I think we've got a fantastic environmental platform this plan, and something that was talked about when it first came out," he said. "We're going to bring forward a carbon levy—which is on fuels that emit carbon—every dollar that you spend on that levy will go into your personal low carbon savings account which is going to allow you to buy things that will reduce your dependence on carbon emissions. Whether that's a more fuel-efficient vehicle or improvements to your home, this is going to be a great incentive for Canadians to not only try to reduce their own carbon emissions but use that money to reduce their carbon footprint."

Seeback knows it's on Canadians to work together to make a difference, but also points to the Conservative Party's platform incorporating a global aspect to help reduce the carbon footprint, something he doesn't see the other parties priori-

tizing in the climate change crisis.

"That's a big part of it, but what always gets lost in these conversations about climate change is the fact that the big emitters around the world are not actually doing a lot," he said. "What we're talking about—which we're the only ones talking about it—is moving towards carbon border care. This is going to have the effect of not allowing countries to have very high carbon footprints to send cheap goods into Canada to disrupt our local businesses and industry. By putting forward carbon border tariffs, those goods are going to be subject to a tariff which will do a couple of things.

"Number one, it allows Canadian companies and businesses that are trying to reduce their carbon footprint to be on a more equal playing field, and it's going to encourage other countries to make sure that they take steps towards reducing their carbon emissions. Finally, it's going to add some revenue to the government. We're the only ones talking about that, and I think it's a huge part of the actual global challenge with climate change."

Post has made it clear that for her and the Liberal Party, dealing with the climate crisis is one of the most important issues going forward, and she says major decisions at the federal level must all be viewed with climate change in mind.

"As someone who has been knocking on doors throughout this crazy heat wave, I can tell you climate change is real," she said. "We're beyond the conversation of whether climate change is real, and some of the other parties are still having that debate internally. We're seeing it happen, from the heat waves that we've got, to wildfires in the west, we're seeing the impacts of what the climate crisis

is. This isn't just climate change anymore, we're into a complete climate crisis.

"There have already been measures taken federally, like the carbon tax and helping with greener homes grants, and other things to really help Canadians do their part as individuals, but on a broader spectrum, we really need to apply an environmental lens to everything that we do. With infrastructure projects we have to be making sure we're building in a better, more responsible way and the action has to happen now. If there's no action that's happening, we're going to continue to experience even worse weather-related events and disasters."

Looking at the climate crisis through a more local view, Post wants to be in the House of Commons representing Dufferin-Caledon's best interests because she knows how important the green spaces in the area are to residents.

"All of this has been triggered by the climate change that has been happening; we've been talking about it for a long time and the announcement of all the new federal spending into environmental projects is a key piece but making sure that gets right filtered down into our community is a bigger piece. By having someone on the government side who's advocating for those environmentally responsible dollars to be coming into our infrastructure projects here locally is a big difference. That's a game changer for us here in Dufferin-Caledon, where one of the biggest conversations that I'm having with people at the door is environmental issues because we're forecasted for an unprecedented amount of growth in this area, and we need to make sure that our lands locally are protected and that the growth is happening in a responsible way. We need a

strong advocate in Ottawa to make sure that as it's being filtered down into the provincial level and then into the municipal level that the environmental lens is really applied to everything. It's really the only way to make sure that our green space is protected."

For the Green Party, and Le Forestier, the efforts being made to reduce emissions haven't been near enough and she thinks Canada has dropped the ball in some respects with environmental goals that have been set.

"There are so many things that need to be done and we're not hitting the targets, and we know that," she said. "Canada as a country is way behind where we need to be; we're still talking about 40 per cent, 45 per cent (reduction in emissions from 2005 levels by 2030)—the Green Party platform is 60 per cent, that's the number we need to be striving for. To do that we need to stop infrastructure that we don't need at this time – I've been opposing the (Highway) 413. It's also pretty clear that we need to get off fossil fuels, we need to stop relying on these companies that through the pandemic needed \$70 billion in payouts. There's lots of things we can do locally and there's lots of things that we can do federally to start to get in line with our climate responsibilities as far as the rest of the world is concerned. We're a leading country in so many things, yet, in the climate emergency, we're falling way behind."

As an environmental activist in Caledon, Le Forestier thinks she brings a unique perspective to the decisions both provincially and federally that go into impacting the climate crisis.

"The 407 sits there empty, it's losing money. Why aren't we talking about expropriating a couple of

those lanes of that highway, rather than expropriating taxpayers' property to build a mega series highway through prime farmland that won't only cutoff half the community and box them in with sprawl and highways, but it's also putting at risk our last five per cent of farmland. As a taxpayer, I would much rather see money invested in transit, better and safe schools, long-term care that's actually addressing the needs of our community. That's what I would be talking about on the doorstep and federally. The federal government has had to step in and look at these projects because the environmental assessments are not up to snuff—that needs to be addressed in Ottawa as well."

TOPS still hosting in-person meetings

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) – Real People, Real Weight Loss is a non-profit group that meets weekly on Wednesday evenings in the basement of Bolton United Church.

Weigh-ins are 6:15 - 6:45 p.m. followed by a meeting.

The annual fee including a bi-monthly magazine is \$48 and monthly dues are only \$15.

If you have something to lose, we can help! Get started now!

We promote healthy eating and your first meeting is free. Come join us! For more information call Marion at 905-857-5191 or see www.tops.org

Social distancing currently applies and hand sanitizer will be available.

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Dufferin Board of Trade to host federal election debate September 8

BY PAULA BROWN

Local federal election candidates will square off in an upcoming debate hosted by the Dufferin Board of Trade (DBOT), as they vie for the position of Dufferin-Caledon MP.

The debate, which is in partnership with the Dufferin Federation of Agriculture and the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) Orangeville & District, is scheduled to be a two-hour event broadcasted and streamed live on September 8 at 7 p.m.

The debate will be moderated by DBOT treasurer Doug Harkness, and will address questions brought forward by the community.

“Our main goal is to help local businesses thrive and one of the ways in which we help them thrive is through advocacy. We act as the voice of businesses in Dufferin County and bring concerns of our local businesses to those in power whether it be municipal, provincial, or federal leaders,” said Diana Morris, executive director of DBOT.

“We find it important to ensure that the needs of the business community are front and centre during an election and we also find it important that we give the candidates the platform that business leaders, and members of the general public can hear from the candidates; and make informed decision before they vote.”

“Our community needs to vote, it is imperative that everyone gets out and votes, and it makes sense to vote educated. To know the local candidates, to know their policies, their platforms, and their views so that you can vote for whom you truly believe will do the best representing our riding at the federal government.”

The DBOT hosting an election debate has been a long-standing tradition in the community, and in previous years they’ve been held at local high schools in Orangeville and Shelburne, with an attendance of around 300 people.

Morris said given the social distancing restrictions, the local non-profit made the switch to a fully online debate.

As part of their goal of informing residents on the various candidates, DBOT is also sharing completed bios of each candidate on their website and will also have a meet and greet booth for the general public at the Think Local Market at Fiddle Park in Shelburne on September 14.

Voters will take to the polls for Canada’s 44th federal election on September 20. The federal election comes after Prime Minister Justin Trudeau (Liberal) met with Governor General Mary Simon in mid-August, to request the dissolving of Parliament, which was approved. Canada’s next federal election was originally dated for October 2023.

Candidates vying for Dufferin-Caledon MP include: Conservative MP Kyle Seeback, Liberal Lisa Post, Green Party’s Jenni Le Forestier, and People’s Party of Canada’s Anthony Zambito.

Morris said Seeback, Post, and Le Forestier have confirmed attendance at the debate.

Questions asked during the debate will be those submitted by the general public, and will be pre-sorted to ensure a multitude of topics are covered. The deadline to submit a question is Monday, September 6.

The election debate will take place on September 8 at 7 p.m., with a link provided shortly before the event for those streaming.

Beth-Neil Farms to provide families with a fun agricultural experience throughout the fall

BY ROB PAUL

As the leaves change colour and the summer weather cools with fall on the horizon, Beth-Neil Farms in Caledon is planning to be the place to stop in at with family on weekends in autumn.

The family-run farm located at 12933 Bramalea Road in Caledon East, will transform into a kid-friendly fun and educational agricultural experience every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday (and holiday Mondays) starting September 4 all the way through October.

The seed for this idea was planted in Archie Armstrong’s mind a few years ago when he began selling crops at a roadside market on his family farm.

The success of that endeavour motivated him to take it a step further.

“The idea kind of just came together over time,” he said. “I wanted to try and be a bit of an entrepreneur, and so I started selling sweet corn just at the side of the road to local farmers about four years ago. I’d been having more success each year and then I thought, ‘why don’t I try doing a bit more?’ I’d seen some other farmers that had gone this route and so I decided we should try something new and try to economically grow while providing entertainment for people and give a good time to people who maybe want to get out of the city and learn about farming and see what agriculture is all about.”

Armstrong and his family wanted to provide those in the community and beyond a reason to get out of the house this fall and have some fun. Not only will they be selling crops, but with Thanksgiving and Halloween around the corner, the pumpkin picking aspect should be a hit.

“We’re going to sell sweet corn and we’re hoping to get more produce as well,” he said. “We’ve got some flowers—we do bouquets—and zucchinis from some other local farmers. That will be sort of a market area and then on top of that we’ll be doing pick your own pumpkins and squash. We’ll also do nature walks, and we have some animals and educational stuff. Then there’s a few other things we’re hoping to get together. It’s a lot of fun family-oriented stuff.”

Part of the idea behind the project was to show not just kids, but everybody how important Canada’s rich agricultural history is while providing a fun family experience.

“Growing up as a farmer, I see the value in agriculture, but I think a lot of people don’t necessarily understand much about farming and why it’s important,” he said. “Farming teaches just so many great life skills and I think it’s great for people to learn about the importance of it at



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

any age, especially for young kids.”

One of the most eye-popping features at Beth-Neil Farms are the hay bale sculptures Armstrong’s mother Marilyn put together.

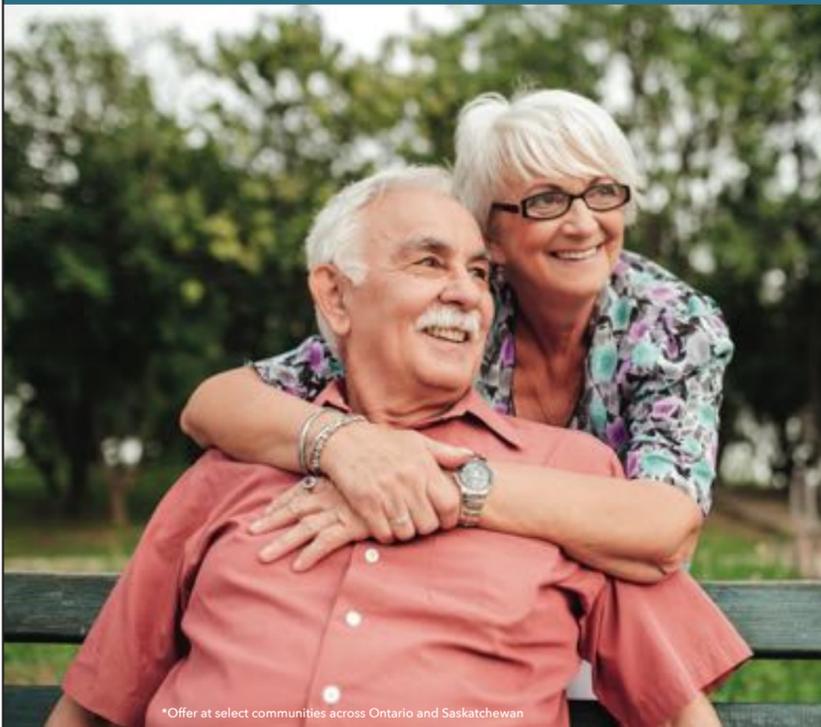
“We talked a lot about decorating the place and we were brainstorming ideas on how we should do it and what the best way would be,” he said. “We thought about different ways to layout pumpkins and decorate pumpkins and then my mom came across online other hay bale sculptures. We thought it looked like a lot of fun and we thought it could be really fun for people to see and take photos with.”

“Part of that too is that everyone really likes Instagram and we wanted to make it aesthetically pleasing for people to have fun and post and share while having some smiles with their friends and family. It was all a part of making it a really fun experience for everyone. I’m very excited, a little scared, but I can’t wait to hopefully bring some smiles to people’s faces.”

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YourWaste

What you need to know.

On Monday, Sept. 6, there will be no waste collection due to the Labour Day holiday. Waste will be collected one day later that week.

All Community Recycling Centres are closed on **Monday, Sept. 6**, and will reopen on **Tuesday, Sept. 7**.



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Choice's Youth Shelter with local politicians, and Dufferin emergency services celebrated the grand opening of the Dufferin Men's Shelter on August 20. The shelter is the first emergency housing facility dedicated to serving men in Dufferin County, and was funded through a donation made by a private donor, a friend of the local youth shelter.

PHOTO BY PAULA BROWN

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First local men's shelter celebrates grand opening

BY PAULA BROWN

Choices Youth Shelter celebrated the grand opening of the first men's emergency shelter in Dufferin County.

Staff and board members of Choices Youth Shelter alongside local politicians, and emergency service workers gathered outside of the local youth shelter, located at 59 Townline, on August 20 to mark the monumental day.

"A men's shelter has been discussed here at Choices for many years and, unfortunately, we did not have the resources to support additional time to open one. Recently, the opportunity presented itself through the [backing] of a private donor, and we're proud to announce the opening of Dufferin Men's Shelter," said Randy Narine, chair of Choices Youth Shelter.

"Choices has taken the first steps, but without the help from our community, and long-term funding from our leaders, we'll be unable to sustain the shelter. We've taken the first steps and now it's our community's job to take the rest of the steps with us."

Dufferin County's men's emergency shelter has been a two year project for Narine, who previously told the Citizen that he wanted to bring a men's shelter to the community after noticing a gap in existing local services, which are predominately focused on women and youth.

The Dufferin men's shelter has six beds set up between two facilities, but only three of the beds are available, with the others needed to allow for quarantine if there is an outbreak of COVID-19.

A study conducted in Dufferin County in 2018 counted 44 homeless individuals living in the region. In 2019, Dufferin County implemented the By Name List (BNL), which identifies vulnerable community members experiencing homelessness and connects them to a number of services. Numbers from July of 2020 showed there were 16 members on the BNL in Dufferin County with 69 percent male and 31 percent female.

Althea Alli, director of Choices Youth Shelter, said since opening they're already facing a long waitlist for individuals looking to access the men's shelter.

"Everybody here understands how we have been missing a piece in our social services safety in Dufferin County," said Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones. "It is almost impossible to assist people, if they don't have a safe place. Having the men's shelter is going to make a huge difference because it means that we can offer all of those services that we often have in our community, which you can't access if you don't have a safe place."

Choices Youth Shelter typically operates as transitional housing for at risk youth up to the age of 24. According to the BNL data from July 2020, 63 per cent of the individuals facing homelessness were in the age group of 25 to 59.

Alli said the need for transitional housing for those aged out of Choices youth programs is an increasing need.

"COVID has made situations a lot worse, especially affordable housing, there is essentially very limited affordable housing," said Alli. "These individuals need to be further supported until they're able to get affordable housing and hopefully this service can support them when they leave Choices to at least something transitional in order to get to a more stable ground."

Dufferin County's first men's emergency shelter was able to open as a result of a \$20,000 donation from a private donor, which covers the shelter's operation cost up to the expiration of the lease next month.

They are now looking for the county's help to fund a permanent shelter, which costs between \$200,000 and \$300,000 each year.

One main aspect of the men's shelter is the removal of a drug and alcohol policy, which Narine said he had found a hindrance at other shelters.

"You can show up and we will still take you in if you are intoxicated or on something, we just have a no drug or alcohol policy on site," said Narine.

The location of the men's shelter is remaining private at this time but those looking to access it can stop in to Choices' main office at 59 Townline.

To contact Choices Youth Shelter about accessing the men's shelter email info@choicesyouthshelter.info.



JENNI Le Forestier

votejenni.ca

- Request a Lawn Sign
- Pledge Your Vote
- Volunteer
- Donate



Jenni Le Forestier moved to Belfountain with her family over a decade ago.

She has not stopped serving the communities of Dufferin-Caledon since. Holding governments to account, she led the Belfountain Community Organization and served on the Town of Caledon Heritage Committee. Over the years, Jenni has worked tirelessly to protect the beautiful landscapes we call home, building movements against projects threatening water, farmland, and heritage.

Leading a better path forward - on Highway 413, the Water Treatment Plant, the James Dick Pit, and more - Jenni stands up for her neighbours. Now, it is time to put her to work as our Member of Parliament. Be a part of her campaign by donating, volunteering, requesting a lawn sign, and pledging your vote.

She is a mom, community leader, and activist.

She is an avid hiker, music teacher, and third degree black belt in Aikido. In other words...

Jenni will be the nicest fierce defender we'll ever have in Ottawa.

AUTHORIZED BY THE OFFICIAL AGENT FOR THE CAMPAIGN TO ELECT JENNI LE FORESTIER

New PDSB Director of Education aims to build community through equity

BY ROB PAUL

In early August, the Peel District School Board (PDSB) hired Rashmi Swarup as the new Director of Education.

Prior to coming to the PDSB, Rashmi had served as the Vice President of Digital Learning and Educational Partnerships at TVO since 2019 and had previously worked with the York Region District and Toronto District School Boards.

Swarup assumed her role with the PDSB on August 16, 2021, and with the school year arriving, she spoke with the Citizen about what she hopes to accomplish and prioritize in her new role.

“I think the most important thing is about learning and well-being for students and staff because that’s what we’re here for,” she said. “For that, I think it’s important to centre our students, and how do we enhance learning opportunities? Because for me, it’s important that we are preparing our students to be confident leaders, critical thinkers, and caring citizens.

“Another priority is to reach out to families, communities, and staff, because it’s important to build relationships and partnerships — I will listen, learn, and lead. Implementing the ministry directives and addressing and eliminating systemic racism — especially anti-black racism and anti-Indigenous racism — is very important. These are my biggest priorities and I bring a committed resolve to be there for every student, school, and parent in the best way I can.”

What led Swarup to wanting to take on the role as PDSB Director of Education was her motivation to provide leadership to a vast and diverse community by listening to and promoting inclusivity.

“I believe in education and leadership is about serving students, staff, families, communities, and how can you make a difference? That’s the biggest piece,” she said. “What I’ve found is that Peel District School Board is on a transformative trajectory right now. My education experience has been about working with diverse communities in the province and globally and leading transformational change through an equity and anti-oppression lens. I want to serve the community where I live be-

cause I believe we can come together with a common goal, which is about creating equitable and inclusive learning environments so that every student’s identity is valued, and every student can achieve their potential while rebuilding public confidence in public education.”

Having spent time in education abroad prior to coming to Canada 25 years ago, Swarup has spent decades in various roles in the education realm and draws on her experience to succeed in her new role.

“[I’ve been in education] as far back as I remember, more than 30 years,” she said. “I’ve been a teacher and a principal and a curriculum lead in schools in India and a curriculum lead in the Middle East. Then in Canada, I’ve been in the biggest school board (TDSB) for several years leading transformative change and then in York Region as vice-principal, principal, superintendent of education. I really believe as a person in today’s world, you don’t stick to one job; different experiences really help you grow. I’m South Asian, an immigrant woman, English is my second language, and so I’ve navigated in equities, and it’s always been how do I lead change through building relationships. It’s always about commitment to closing the gaps.

“Experience does matter, but you also need to understand the context. Any new place you come to, you first need to observe and see the amazing things happening there. Experience teaches you to assess and then move forward taking the team with you.”

Two weeks into her new role and with school year at the doorstep, Swarup has been focused on building relationships throughout the expansive PDSB by visiting various schools and meeting with their leadership.

“You want to learn so much, it’s a big board,” she said. “It’s interesting because I’ve worked in the first and third largest school board and now, I’m in the second largest school board. I’ve found in the large school boards there’s always a variety of assets and diversity that are there. I’ve found that people are very warm and open and there’s a lot of honest conversations happening. I’m very focused on schools—one of my principles has been how can you



Rashmi Swarup was appointed Director of Education for the Peel District School Board in August. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE PEEL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

lead without seeing what’s happening on the ground? It’s amazing to see the energy and to see that energy is what motivates me.”

Building a relationship with the leadership at each and every school within the PDSB is something Swarup is working towards doing to help empower the community she oversees.

“Principals have a very responsible role to play in their school community and in my introductory message to principals I have said that I will visit each school this year—259 schools. I want to personally thank you and get to know you personally, it’s about telling me what’s happening in your school, but also telling me a bit about yourself—to value people as people. The biggest message to principals is that our youngest learners in schools today will be

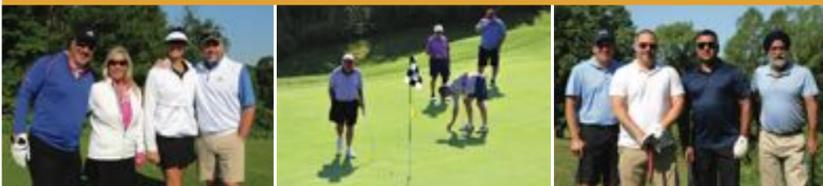
graduating in 2035, keep that in mind. How are we preparing them for the future?”

Given the circumstances around the school year with the ongoing pandemic, Swarup’s prime concern is to build relationships and ensure students and staff are holding up mentally.

“For any leader, the first thing is to listen and learn the context,” she said. “When you learn the context, you have to use that feedback to feed forward. Also, who am I listening to? Who is missing from the conversation? Listening and engaging communities is a big priority for me. We’re in a pandemic, so the mental health and well-being of students is huge for me. But all these things connect, partnership and making a deep connection is the short-term goal.”

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Caledon Nationals dropped finals, Bolton Brewers move on

BY ROBERT BELARDI

In their first season in the North Dufferin Baseball League, the Caledon Nationals (Jr.) made it all the way to the finals and the Bolton Brewers have moved on to the next round in the senior division.

Not knowing how this year was going to pan out, the Nationals simply went out there to have fun and play ball. Of course, when you're having a good time, things come a bit easier.

"We played very well. Lots of hitting. We had the top five hitters in the league," said head coach Bill O'Neil.

Reid Dieburt led the team with a .560 batting average followed by Daniel Amodio (.536), Cameron O'Neil (.539), Mario Accardo (.486) and Mark Sharples (.485).

The Jr. Nationals tied for first place in the division with a 7-3 record along with the Georgina Bulldogs (Jr.) and the Creemore Padres (Jr.).

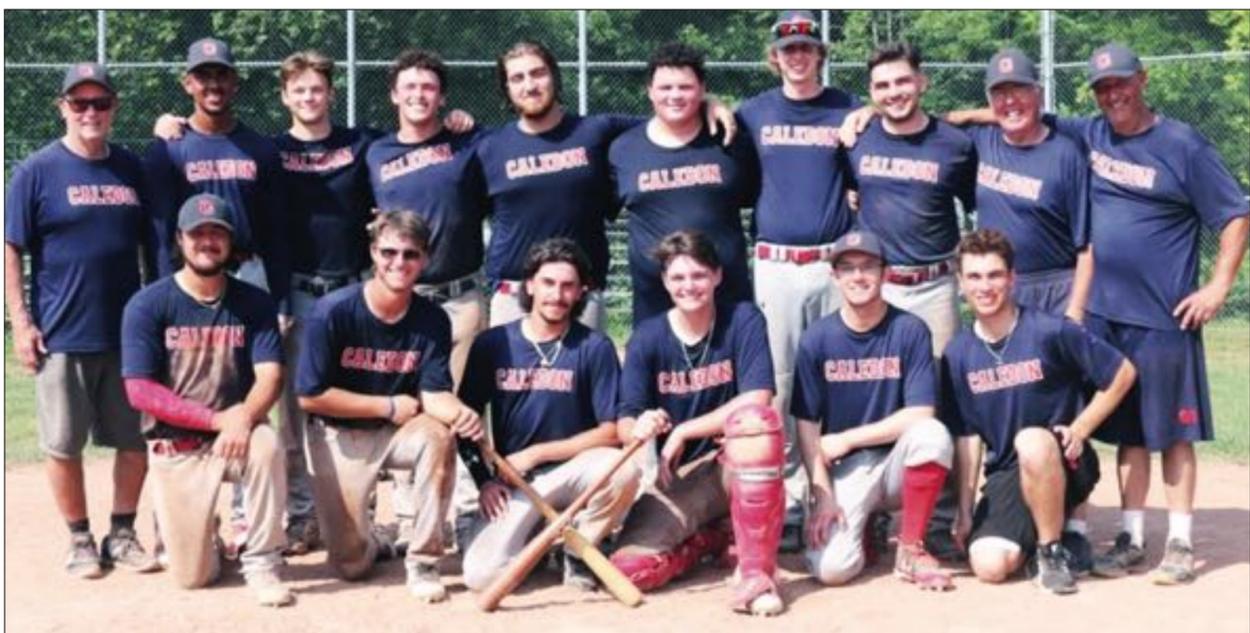
But, because the Nats finished with 102 runs for and 43 runs against in the year, they earned the top seed heading into the playoffs.

The Nats would be the only one of those three teams to make it all the way to the finals against the fourth place Midland Twins. Unfortunately, the Nationals would fall to the Twins in six games.

"They had a good weekend. They were smashing the ball. Your bats are either on or they're not. We were okay, but we weren't our regular selves. We left a lot of runners on base," O'Neil said.

"Not the timely hits when we needed them. Otherwise, I'm not going to complain. It was one hot weekend."

The Nats didn't end up staying in Mid-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

land, so the team had to drive up and down from Midland to play their games.

O'Neil says everyone is expected to return for next year. He described this year as feeling just like normal.

"It felt just like normal, like any other year just a condensed season. It took us a couple weeks to get into the groove. Our bats came around quickly. The pitching suffered the most," O'Neil said.

Nick Fiorucci predominantly pitched over the course of the season logging 22.1 innings. Mark Sharples, who also pitches and plays infield, led the team with a 3-0 record.

On the other side in the senior division in the NDBL, the Bolton Brewers defeated the Mansfield Cubs in a best of three series.

The Brewers defeated the Cubs 8-2 in game one and 10-0 in game two to move on to the next round.

"At this point, it's unknown who we play and when. We either play Midland or Barrie. Waiting on the winner of the Midland-Creemore series," head coach Mike Wallace said.

"I think it will be a good series either way. Especially in a best two of three series, anything can really happen."

The Brewers had quite an exceptional

season of their own also finishing first in the senior division because of run differential.

Tied with an 8-2 record with the New Lowell Knights, the Brewers scored 78 runs forward, just one more than the Knights who recorded 77.

Typically, in a regular calendar season, Wallace says rounds one and two are usually a best of five and the finals is a best of seven. However, with this shortened season the first two rounds are a best of three and the finals is a best of five.

Wallace and the Brewers will continue to wait until things are finalized.

AMYA launched successful fundraising sports tournament for Cortelluci Vaughan Hospital



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BY ROBERT BELARDI

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Youth Association launched a successful sports tournament from August 21 to Aug. 24.

In the first tournament of its kind, over 1,000 Muslim youth from all across Canada showed up at the Tahir Hall Community Centre in Vaughan to support AMYA's goal of raising \$2 million dollars for Cortelluci Vaughan Hospital.

"We're grateful to have had a successful 4-day sports tournament which featured hundreds of Muslim youth from across Canada, all gathered together in the spirit of brotherhood, unity and service to humanity. This tournament was a special fundraiser, with all proceeds going to the Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital," said National President of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Youth Association and King City resident Zubair Afzal.

"Part of the mandate of the Youth Association is to have community events and activities to empower the youth. One of the ways to do that is by having competitive sports and organized sports at a high level," said organizer and AMYA member Hassaan Shahid.

"In this tournament, we had participants from not only from York Region and Simcoe Region, King City and other localities. We had people from Calgary, from Eastern Ontario into Montreal and Ottawa. Of course, several teams from the GTA as well. This proved to be a tournament and an event that created a sense of brotherhood, unity and camaraderie."

maraderie."

Youth also made appearances from Alliston and Caledon, as well.

While spreading the teachings of Islam, the AMYA has made this \$2-million pledge to Cortelluci Vaughan Hospital and will complete this over the course of multiple events throughout the year. The AMYA has held a long-standing relationship with the Mackenzie Health Foundation. The association is very passionate in supporting front line workers especially through the hard times of the COVID-19 pandemic.

For over 100 years AMYA has been serving communities around the globe and particularly in Canada they have been around for decades.

Throughout all four seasons in the year, the AMYA hosts events such as blood drives, food drives, sports events and even runs to continue to provide aid to others less fortunate.

In the winter time, AMYA helps shelter the homeless while providing those less fortunate with clothing and food to keep them safe.

In this particular event, many localities held tryouts in their communities to put a team together. For the badminton side of things, there were singles and doubles. Players held their own tryouts as well to represent their own respective regions.

Shahid said the winning team for badminton was from Calgary and the winning team for soccer was from Brampton.

Youth from the age of 15 all the way through to the late 30s participated. For badminton there was a U19 category.

For the next event, Shahid said there are a few tournaments in the pipeline. Basketball, hockey and other sports are being planned. Other fundraising events are being planned in the near future as well.





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Return of Ram Rodeo a major success

BY SAM ODROWSKI

After nearly two years without the annual Ram Rodeo, Headwaters residents were thrilled to see it come back, with both August 28 and 29 completely selling out of tickets.

A total of 1,500 people came through the event each day, helping to raise \$5,000 for Tuff Therapeutic Riding Foundation in Mono, which provides therapeutic riding lessons to at-risk youth.

Dufferin Search and Rescue from Headwaters also raised \$2,200.

Ross Millar, who's president of the Ram Rodeo Tour, told the Citizen that the response from attendees of the two-day event was fantastic.

"I think it really turned into a coming out of COVID kickoff party," said Millar. "I've never had so many people actually go out of their way and come and thank us for putting the show on in our 24-year career. It was just fun to see everybody, and everybody was in good spirits, and enjoying themselves."

Cowboys and cowgirls competed in the local rodeo from all over Ontario and Quebec. The winner of the System Equine Pole Bending competition was Ciera Boniface, with a 20.43 second run to take first place

Chase Strongman won both Saturday and Sundays events in the Novice Bucking Horses category.

The winner of Ram Bull Riding was Nick Goncalves, who had the only qualified eight second ride of the weekend.

Caitlin Johnston won the Alberta Premium Barrel Racing event.

The B&W Trailer Hitches Saddlebronc and Bareback event had no qualified rides, as the bucking horses were full of energy after a long break.

The Case IH Youth events saw some great scores and times, with Mack Moore winning Youth Pole Bending, while Melanie Moosdorff won in Youth Barrel Racing.

Millar said his main message is a thank-you to everyone in the community who supported this year's Ram Rodeo as well as all of the sponsors who stepped up.

The Ram Rodeo Tour stop at the Orangeville Fairgrounds kicked off this year's tour, which has six more stops, before finishing off in Newmarket in late October.



PHOTOS BY PETER RICHARDSON



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OBITUARIES

McLEOD, Charles David
Peacefully at his home in Orangeville, Ontario on Wednesday, August 25th, 2021 at the age of 80. Beloved husband of the late Patricia McLeod. Dear father of Stephen (Catherine) and Jo-Ann Bryant (Gordon). Cherished grandfather of Cody (Carley), Chesley (Clayton) and David. Great-grandfather of Grayger. Predeceased by his brother John. Charles will also be greatly missed by other relatives and many friends.

Visitation will be held at the **Dods & McNair Funeral Home, Chapel & Reception Centre**, 21 First St., Orangeville on Sunday, August 29th, 2021 from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Funeral Service will be held in the chapel on Monday, August 30th, 2021 at 11:00 am. Memorial donations to the Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated by the family. A tree will be planted in memory of Charles in the Dods & McNair Memorial Forest at the Island Lake Conservation Area, Orangeville. Condolences may be offered to the family at www.dodsandmcnair.com

OBITUARIES

NORTON, David Gordon 1936 – 2021
A limb has fallen from the family tree. That says please don't grieve for me. Remember the Best Times, the Laughter, the Songs, The Good Life I lived while I was Strong

We are saddened by the loss of our dearest DAVID GORDON NORTON in his 85th year, passed peacefully on Sunday August 29, 2021. Leaving his loving Wife & soul mate of 64 yrs., Patricia (Morrison) and loving & caring Sons Paul (Collingwood) and Timothy (Orangeville). Predeceased by daughter KimMarie & Daughter-in-law MaryAnn. Also brother Carl and brother-in-law George.

David will be fondly remembered by his sister Betty, sister-in-law Ada, Marylee (Brian) and brother-in-law's Bruce, Robert (Linda), Martin (Nicole) and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Retired Engineer with C.P.Rail (Toronto) with 40 yrs service.

Family would like to thank Dr. Josephson, Oncology Department, Palliative Care Unit. and In Memoriam - Randy Mugford for his comforting words & care shown to our family. Cremation has taken place. At David's request there will be no service. "NO CHILD SHOULD GO HUNGRY". In lieu of flowers David asked for Donations to the Orangeville Foodbank or Headwaters Health Care Centre. Online condolences can be made at www.imfunerals.com In Memoriam Funeral Services Inc. has been given the honour to serve the Norton Family.



FOSTER, JAMES DUNCAN

Peacefully at Headwaters Health Care Centre on Sunday, August 29, 2021 in his 95th year. Beloved husband of 71 years to Betty. Loving father of Marie (John) Owens and Robert (Heather) Foster. Proud grandfather of Daniel Owens, Lauren Owens (Matt) and Sarah Stephenson (Brendan). Survived by his brother Paul Foster. He will be lovingly remembered by his many nieces and nephews. A private family service will be held. Interment at Shelburne Cemetery. If desired, donations to the Heart & Stroke Foundation would be appreciated. Online condolences and donations may be placed at www.jackandthompsonfuneralhome.com



MARILYN LOUISE LYTLE

Peacefully at Headwaters Health Care Centre, Orangeville, on Friday, August 27, 2021, Marilyn Louise Lytle, at the age of 85 years, beloved wife of Donald Lytle. Loving mother of Stewart (deceased), Sandy, James, Janet, Christopher, and Renée. Cherished grandmother of Corey, Jonathan (deceased), Jenni, Lauren, Billy, Faith, Jessica, David, Robert, Makenna, and Rylan. Proud great-grandmother of Ava, Emily, Audrey, and Theo. Dear sister of Margaret. The family will receive their friends at the Egan Funeral Home, 203 Queen Street S. (Hwy. 50), Bolton on Thursday from 4 - 7 o'clock. Please register a time on our website. Funeral Mass will be held in St. Timothy Roman Catholic Church, 42 Dawson Road, Orangeville on Friday morning, September 3 at 11 o'clock. The Funeral Mass is limited to 60 attendees including family members. Please register on our website. Interment Laurel Hill Cemetery, Bolton. If desired, memorial donations may be made to Headwaters Health Care Foundation E Wing. Condolences for the family may be offered at www.EganFuneralHome.com



OBITUARIES

ROBSON, Doris Lucille (nee Giles)
Passed away peacefully with her son Bryan by her side at Headwaters Health Care Centre on Saturday, August 28, 2021 at the age of 84. Doris was predeceased by her beloved husband George after 50 beautiful years of marriage. Loving mother of Bryan Robson. Remembered by her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Predeceased by her parents Edgar and Sadie Giles; her sister Marion Archdekin and her brother Laverne Giles. Doris will be greatly missed by Bob and Nancy Gray whom she considered family. She will be remembered by Gary Robson. A tree will be planted in memory of Doris in the Dods & McNair Memorial Forest at the Island Lake Conservation Area, Orangeville. Condolences may be offered to the family at www.dodsandmcnair.com

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE: CREDITORS of the estate of Robert Allan of Alton Township can submit requests for consideration to the executors. Notice required by October 1, 2021. Mail to 80 McCarron Cres, Waterloo ON N2L5N1.

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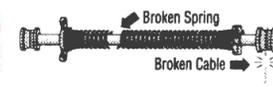
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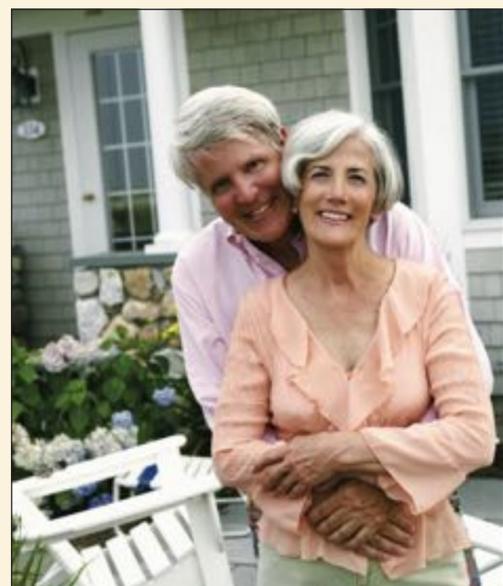
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Our Readers Write

Open letter to party leaders on M.E.

With a federal election called, we are writing to you about the public health crisis affecting 600,000 Canadians who are living with Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME) without adequate health care.

Together with loved ones, who often act as caregivers, this represents millions of voters. We are asking for your party's plan to address this neglected disease as well as your commitment to improving health care and research for Canadians living with this severely disabling, life-altering illness.

Over 75% of people with ME acquired the illness following an infection, mostly viral in nature, from which they never recovered. As the COVID-19 pandemic ravages our world, we are now seeing a public health catastrophe unfolding with 30% of survivors developing Long COVID.

According to the New England Journal of Medicine, this "disaster-in-the-making" is not at all surprising as post-infectious illnesses like ME foreshadowed the looming Long

COVID catastrophe. Many with Long COVID are now meeting the criteria for and being diagnosed with Myalgic Encephalomyelitis as the links further below reveal.

This in turn will result in hundreds of thousands of additional Canadians whose health has been severely compromised, raising disability rates, affecting workforces, increasing demands on our already fragile health care system and driving economic costs substantially higher.

A recent submission to the National Academy of Medicine places the annual economic cost of ME pre-pandemic in the billions of dollars.

Following are a few facts about ME:

- 75% are unable to work costing billions in lost productivity;
- 25% are housebound or bedridden;
- there is no cure or approved treatment;
- patients have a lower quality of life than many chronic diseases including cancer, heart disease,

stroke and multiple sclerosis;

- appropriate medical care is scarce with less than a dozen doctors across Canada knowledgeable in understanding the disease; contraindicated therapies are routinely prescribed; there is an urgent need for physicians trained in diagnosing and treating ME;
- patients often travel to the US at great personal and financial cost for symptom management and the limited therapeutic options that exist;
- medical gaslighting, discrimination, marginalization, stigmatization and trauma are experienced on a regular basis — all factors contributing to the higher suicide rate;
- research funding by the Canadian government is almost non-existent at 49¢ per patient, whereas multiple sclerosis, a chronic illness with similar disease burden affecting significantly less people (108,600)

has a research investment of \$97.08 per patient.

Exactly where you and your party stand on issues that affect our health is of the utmost concern to us as patients, advocates and voters. We are asking for your prompt reply to the questions that follow so that we can share them with voters in the Canadian ME community:

ME is a serious, chronic, complex, systemic disease that can profoundly impact and incapacitate patients yet has little research funding. What actions will you take to significantly increase research funding into this debilitating illness?

What specific commitment will you make to Canadians living with Myalgic Encephalomyelitis so that, if elected, you can effectively represent their concerns in the House of Commons and on Committees as their elected representatives?

Whether or not your party is successful at winning the election, it is incumbent upon you as leaders in our country to learn about ME and pri-

oritize taking action to bring equitable research funding and increased public awareness to the hundreds of thousands of Canadians impacted by this disease.

Barbara Fifield
Millions Missing Canada

Protestors should be "named and shamed"

Continued from Page 8

This was a disgrace to our Town and our democracy. These people need to be named and shamed. If our police couldn't do the job of crowd control on Friday, they should at least clean-up the trash after the fact so that it never happens again.

Political protest is one thing. Mob violence is another. This one crossed the line.

Yours in intelligent democracy,

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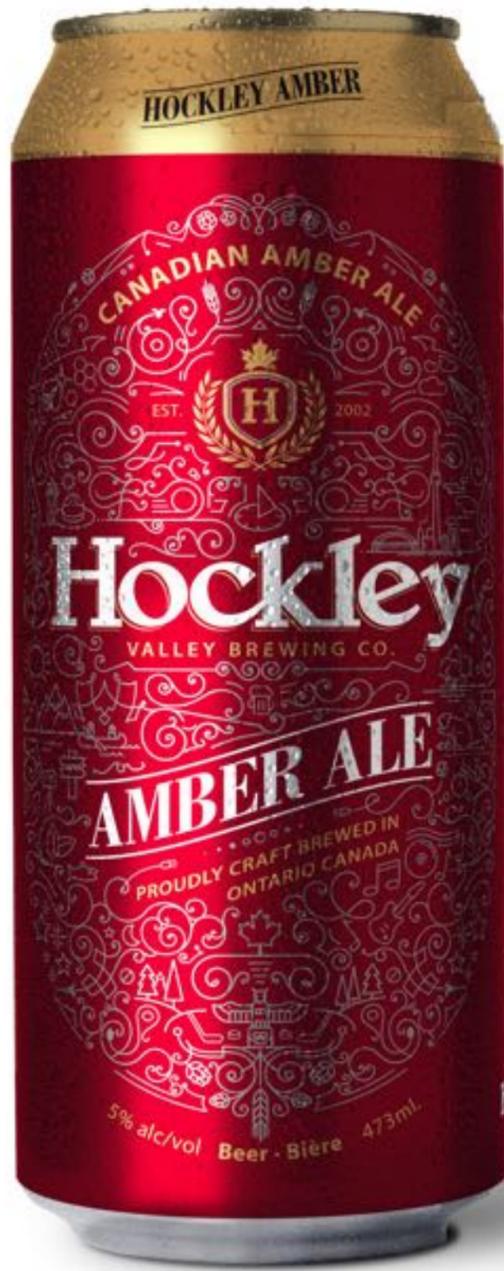
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