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VICTORY LAP FOR THE HOLIDAYS – Victory House Association of Dufferin Caledon Pat Valliere and her team of volunteers have opened a Christmas Store as part of Victory Lap Emporium to raise money for Victory House—a temporary home for women and children in need.

PHOTO BY ROB PAUL

Volunteers ready to help community take holiday "Victory Lap"

BY ROB PAUL

With the holiday season in full swing, and Christmas just a month away, people are beginning to put up their lights and set up their trees in preparation to get in the spirit. It's not always easy to come across a Christmas specific store, but shoppers in Caledon Village and the surrounding area are in luck this year.

Victory Lap Emporium—located at 18420 Hurontario Street—has opened a Christmas section in its store as part of its efforts to raise funds for Victory House with plenty of Christmas decor and decorations being donated by residents

across Caledon.

Victory House Association of Dufferin Caledon (VH) was a vision that Patricia Valliere was given almost six years ago. After forming a Board of Directors and with legal support from Carter's law firm, the charity was established, and charitable status was given.

"VH is a transition home for women and their children in times of crisis, who are ready to transition to healthy community living through the support of the VH team," said Valliere. "There will be individual programs for each woman that will be designed together with a professional counsellor and coaches. We have coaches from

many areas, such as financial, housing, legal, child-care, resume building and/or further education that may be needed. It's whatever the ladies would need is what we will be setting up. When they first meet with the professional counsellor, she would decide which coaches the ladies need to meet with throughout the week."

Victory Lap thrift store is managed and operated by volunteers. All the proceeds from the store after the rent, go to support Victory House transitional home. Some volunteers have been supporting VH from the beginning and others have joined the team as time has gone by.

Continued on Page A10

Smiles and Snowflakes

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Consumers, small businesses could be impacted by minimum wage boost: Chamber

BY ROB PAUL

In early November, as part of the Fall Economic Statement, Premier Doug Ford and his government announced they will be raising minimum wage in the Province from \$14.35 to \$15 per hour effective January 1, 2022.

In Ford's first two years in office, the government did not raise minimum wage, but in 2020 it was raised 1.8 per cent (from \$14 to \$14.25 per hour) and again 0.7 per cent in 2021 (up to \$14.35).

"Ontario's workers have been the unsung

heroes of this pandemic, as they've stocked shelves, kept our supply chain moving and helped so many of us enjoy a meal among family and friends at a local restaurant," said Ford. "When we asked labour leaders what their priorities were, increasing the minimum wage was at the top of the list. As the cost of living continues to go up, our government is proud to be working for workers, putting more money into their pockets by increasing the minimum wage."

Continued on Page A6

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Caledon remembers renowned Canadian painter and explorer Cory Trépanier

BY ROB PAUL

Caledon lost one of its best on November 5, as internationally renowned artist and filmmaker Cory Trépanier passed away after a battle with cancer.

His death came shortly after the launch of his new book, "Into the Arctic: Painting Canada's Changing North."

After spending a decade exploring and painting, Trépanier travelled 60,000 kilometres through six national parks and 16 Inuit communities to capture the landscapes of the Canadian Arctic which led to the creation of over 100 oil paintings and three documentaries.

Trépanier leaves behind his wife Janet—who was a partner in all of his artistic endeavours—

and two daughters who drew inspiration from him, with Andie, an artist, and Sydney, an explorer.

"Cory's adventurous and generous spirit shone brightly, and his legacy will forever continue in the hearts of all who knew him and his work. Cory was and always will be, our North Star," his family said in a statement. "Cory's painting expeditions grew in grandeur throughout his life, from the hills of Caledon to the shores of Lake Superior with his young and adventurous family and eventually to the expansive Canadian North. Following in the footsteps of explorers such as the Group of Seven and Tom Thomson, Cory dared to capture some of the most wild and changing place on the planet and graciously shared them with the rest of the world through



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

his art and films."

Trépanier was the recipient of the Caledon Walk of Fame honour in 2018 for his impact on Canadian art and had also been highlighted as one of Canada's best explorers by the Canadian Geographic.

He had a long list of achievements and distinctions in his 52 years and had long championed the Caledon community. After coming to Bolton early in his childhood and attending Humberview, he had spent nearly 40 years in Caledon.

Numerous times he credited the Caledon scenery and natural beauty as part of his early inspiration as a landscape artist.

"Caledon isn't just the place that I grew up, I've raised a family here and it's a place where I really broke into what I'm doing today," he told the Citizen in June. "It has allowed me to chase my passion of pursuing fine art—and not just to pursue it and make a living with it, but really it's what inspired my interest in doing my own landscape paintings rather than the commercial art that I was doing at the time. One of the earliest pieces I did outdoors was actually of the hill behind my parents' place. The beauty of the natural landscape around me has always been integral to my life and career choices."

Earlier this year to celebrate Canada's Parks Day, Trépanier made the decision to release his Into the Arctic documentary trilogy for free (A Painter's Odyssey, Into the Arctic, and Into the Arctic II) because he wanted to share his painting journey and the beauty of Canada's North with all.

"Painting and filming the Canadian Arctic has been challenging and awe-inspiring, bringing me face-to-face with some of our planet's greatest natural wonders," he told the Citizen at the time. "These films share that awe, and I hope that they also inspire conversation about the North, the Inuit for whom it is home, the power of nature and the importance of humanity's role in protecting it."

The coffee table book features almost 100 arctic paintings, sketches, and stories and words from many of the people he crossed paths with in his time as an artist and explorer.

"Anyone familiar with Cory's work, or lucky enough to call him a friend, knows that he is, at heart, a journeyman," said Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth Dowdswell at the book launch. "That he is willing to confront any conditions, sail any strait, walk or snowshoe any distance, to go where he must, to tell the stories he is called to share. The COVID-19 pandemic has served to underline such fundamental truths, that we are interconnected, both with natures, and with one another, that so too are we mutually vulnerable. Cory's beautiful work expresses these connec-

tions, and points to an urgent reality: that the work to heal our world—our responsibility—begins right here at home."

On Saturday, November 20, a Celebration of Life and Legacy was held at the Caledon Town Hall and Community Centre for anyone wishing to pay their respects to Trépanier and his family.

Mayor Allan Thompson took a moment to share his thoughts on Trépanier.

"I want to take a few minutes to talk about Cory's impact, his contributions, and the legacy he has left for his hometown of Caledon," he said. "I'm a politician and I'm also a farmer, I have never considered myself someone who understands the art world or the creative process, that was until I met Cory Trépanier. Cory was incredibly gifted at many things, but what stood out about him for me was how he made me feel comfortable in talking about something I believed I knew nothing about: art. In such an incredibly kind and patient way, he helped me to connect to what I was seeing visually by just sharing a story or talking, and that was just in the few times I had the privilege of being in his company."

"He took us all along on his journeys through his art—it was his gift, and it is his legacy. No matter how far he traveled or how his fame grew, Caledon was home, and he showed his love and support for his community in many ways. Cory shared his work openly at his studio in Caledon, he illustrated the beauty of Caledon's landscapes through several paintings, he was a Great Trail champion, a vocal advocate in raising awareness to Climate Change, and he generously supported Headwaters Hospital, Caledon Community Services and many other local initiatives and charities."

"In 2018, Cory Trepanier was inducted into the Caledon Walk of Fame, and you know he seemed surprised when I called to tell him—he was just so very humble," Thompson said. "His Walk of Fame stone reads: 'Cory Trepanier; artist, filmmaker, explorer. From the far reaches of the Canadian Arctic to the rolling hills of Caledon, Cory's work captures the diversity of Canadian landscape through oil paintings and film. A National Champion of the Great Trail, Cory is dedicated to sharing and preserving our natural world.' Cory Trepanier and Caledon will forever be linked. Janet, Andie, and Sydney—the Caledon Community shares in your tremendous loss, and we hold you in our hearts."

All of Trépanier's works, including art reproductions, films, and the book, can be found online at corytrepanier.com.

Anyone who wishes to support Trépanier's family as they work through the loss, there's a GoFundMe campaign that can be found at www.gofundme.com/f/help-cory-and-his-family.

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ROBBERIES IN CALEDON AND BEETON

Officers from the Caledon and Nottawasaga Detachments of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) responded to robberies in Caledon and Beeton that are believed to be linked.

"On Wednesday, November 17, 2021, at approximately 6:30 a.m. two suspects entered a gas station located on Airport Road near Old Church Road in the Town of Caledon," say Police. "The suspects were brandishing weapons and demanded cash and cigarettes."

"At approximately 7:00 a.m., the same two suspects entered a convenience store with on Main Street in the Town of Beeton. Again, the suspects were brandishing weapons and demanded cash. The suspects fled each scene in a grey Honda CRV vehicle with and Ontario license plate of BXRK050. This vehicle was reported as stolen from Brampton on November 9, 2021."

"Both suspects were wearing face masks and dark clothing."



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For more information about hunting regulations in Ontario, visit www.ontario.ca/document/ontario-hunting-regulations-summary or contact your local Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) office at 1-877-847-7667.

If you have information about unlawful activity, please contact OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or ontariocrimestoppers.ca.

SEXUAL ASSAULT CHARGES

Members of the Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have laid charges in connection to historic and recent sexual assaults.

"The investigation has revealed that the incidents occurred in the areas of Alliston, Toronto and McMurrich Monteith Township," say Police. "Police believe there could be more victims."

As a result of the investigation, 87-year-old James Puddy, of Alliston, has been charged with:

- Invitation to Sexual Touching under 16 years of age - two counts
- Sexual Interference - four counts
- Sexual Assault - five counts

The accused was held pending a bail hearing, then later released with a scheduled court date on December 2, 2021.

The charges have not been proven.

Police are requesting anyone who may have additional information or believes that they were a victim of a similar circumstance to contact the Nottawasaga OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). When you contact Crime Stoppers you remain anonymous, you will never have to testify and you may be eligible to receive a cash reward of up to \$2,000.

In addition to the Major Crime Unit, the OPP has a team of dedicated officers within the Victim Response Support Unit (VRSU). Members of the VRSU provide oversight and guidance to investigators throughout domestic violence and sexual assault investigations to ensure a victim-centered and trauma-informed approach.



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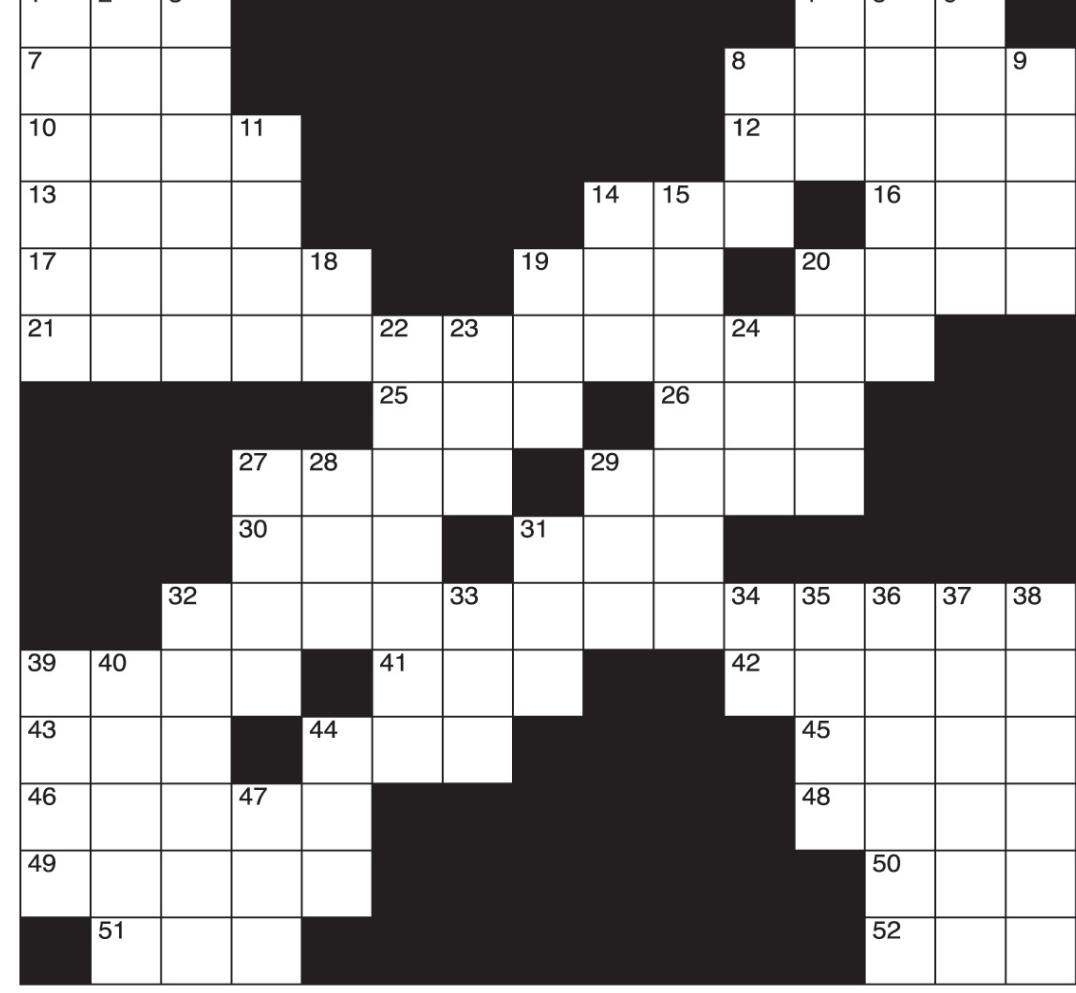
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The Citizen CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS

1. FDNY's union
4. Hideout
7. Trent Reznor's band
8. Old World tropics
10. Places to stay
12. Group of organisms from a common ancestor
13. TV character Goodman
14. Not around
16. Title of respect
17. Ceramic jars
19. British legal authority (abbr.)
20. A companion (archaic)
21. Where groups of people live
25. Indigenous person of NE Thailand
26. Red-brown sea bream
27. Ridge of jagged rock
29. Meat from a pig (French)
30. A way to save for the future
31. Opposite of bottom
32. A term of endearment
34. Weight used in China
35. You need it to hear
36. Frighten
37. Basics
38. Computer data collection (abbr.)
39. Weight used in China
40. You need it to hear
41. Jewelled headdress
42. Spoke
43. Mammary gland of female cattle
44. Midway between north and northeast
45. Defunct European economic group
46. Foul-mouthed

Solution in CLASSIFIEDS

29. Hollywood bear
30. person
31. paddle
32. currency of Cambodia
33. ring-shaped pitching stat objects
34. a place to put mail
35. god of battle (Scandinavian)
36. 10 years
37. resinous substance secreted by insects
38. losses
39. stony waste
40. s. american plants
41. speedometer reading
42. void of thought or knowledge
43. stout-bodied moth
44. transferred property
45. corporate PR exec (abbr.)
46. accept
47. insures bank's depositors
48. military analysis
49. made dim (abbr.)
50. uncultured

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

Ontario opens vaccine booking for children ages five to 11

BY ROB PAUL

Children between the ages of five and 11 are officially eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine in Ontario.

The first paediatric shots were administered in Toronto on Tuesday and online booking has now opened up to the newly eligible age group—all bookings must be done through the Ontario vaccine booking system (covid-19.ontario.ca/book-vaccine/).

Peel Region will begin taking appointments for Friday, November 26 in public clinics and continuing to January 9. More appointments will be made available regularly, so residents are encouraged to check frequently; walk-ins for children 5 to 11 years old will not be available.

Clinics will remain open until 8:30 p.m. to allow residents to book an after-school appointment.

Every clinic will be able to administer vaccines to children 5 to 11 years old, and consideration will be given to ensure the clinic environment makes children and families feel safe and comfortable.

As vaccine supply quickly expands across Peel, more than 62,000 total doses will be available for children at all Peel locations, including fixed clinics, school clinics, pharmacies, primary care and community clinics between November 26 and January 9, 2022.

In addition, the vaccine system across Peel is expanding with more than 180,000 doses available for residents eligible for booster and third doses, and those seeking their first or second dose.

"As a parent of children in this age group myself, I am thankful that we can finally offer protection to our youngest superheroes of this pandemic," said Dr. Lawrence Loh, Peel Medical Officer of Health. "Protecting our children with vaccine is about increasing confidence; confidence that their individual risk of rare but severe outcomes is greatly diminished, confidence that in-person learning can be maintained, and confidence in ensuring that gatherings with family and friends are just a little bit safer. Each child that access protection for themselves also helps us draw closer to making this disease less novel for all of us. I could not be prouder, and I thank them for being true heroes."

As a parent of children in this age group myself, I am thankful that we can finally offer protection to our youngest superheroes of this pandemic

Preparing your children for vaccination can spark concerns and questions for parents, care givers and children themselves. Peel has resources to help navigate these feelings at peelregion.ca/coronavirus.

With the expanded eligibility to children ages five to 11, Peel's vaccine coverage should see a rise in the coming months. Currently 74.7 per cent of all residents are fully vaccinated and 78.1 per cent have at least one dose.

Those numbers continue to approach the 90 per cent threshold when looking at just eligible age groups with 85.7 per cent of all eligible (12+) with two doses and 89.5 per cent with at least one—the numbers are similar when looking at just adults (18+) with 85.9 per cent at two doses and 89.6 per cent with at least one.

In total, the Region has administered 2,561,710 doses of the vaccine with 1,326,299 with at least one dose, 1,210,977 fully vaccinated, and 24,434 with a third dose.

COVID-19 cases are seeing a rise in Peel though with 369 new cases this week to bring the Region total to 119,009—there was one new death to bring the total to 1,032.

Caledon saw 17 new cases this week to bring the Town's all-time total to 4,965—there were no new deaths with the count sitting at 22.

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

To download or print a copy of your proof of vaccination, visit covid-19.ontario.ca/covid-19-vaccine-booking-support/#proof-of-vaccination. To learn more about the official QR code system Ontario has implemented and to access yours, visit covid-19.ontario.ca/get-proof/.

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"Give the gift of hope, together we'll change lives!" by Sydney Crellin, Fund Development & Stewardship Coordinator



Another winter season has arrived and we're bracing for the cold, snowy weather on the horizon. Looking back at this time last year, many in our community were

facing desperate situations. The first COVID-19 winter was filled with uncertainty – job loss, social isolation, hunger and fear created challenging circumstances.

This year, while recovery is underway, the pandemic impacts are still being felt by our Caledon neighbours. Caledon Community Services (CCS) knows firsthand the hardships some of our neighbours face – struggling to put nutritious food on their tables, covering the cost of home heating and much more. Imagine being in a position where you have to decide whether to pay rent or feed your family. It's a reality for many and you can do something about it. You have the power to make a difference and provide hope for those struggling.

Every year since 1982, in the lead-up to the holidays, CCS' well-loved Santa Fund launches, lighting up the holidays for those hardest hit and supporting them through the cold, dark months.

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Tell us how you see it.

Sydney Crellin, Fund Development & Stewardship Coordinator, Caledon Community Services at 905-584-2300 ext. 260 or screllin@ccs4u.org

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

Consumers, small businesses could be impacted by minimum wage boost: Chamber

Continued from FRONT

With the cost of living increasing, the government wants to ensure that employees have the means to survive in the current economic climate.

"Over the past few weeks, our government has rolled out a historic number of reforms to rebalance the scales," said Minister McNaughton. "Building on these actions, today, our government is ensuring workers who need our help the most receive their fair share of the economic pie. We will continue to use every tool in our toolbox to help workers in our province find meaningful careers that let them earn themselves bigger paycheques and build better lives for themselves and their loved ones."

Adding the impact of the pandemic has had onto the current state of the working world, Ford's government wants to make sure employees are being properly compensated and on par with other top provinces and territories—Alberta, B.C., Northwest Territories, Nunavut, and the Yukon's minimum wage are all at least \$15.

"An incredible debt of gratitude is owed to the workers of Ontario. These dedicated men and women kept store shelves stocked and supply chains going through the pandemic," said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance. "However, we also recognize that for too long workers have been falling behind, and that wages for many have not kept up with the cost of living. They had Ontario's back, and now, our government has theirs. Ontario workers should be in a race to the top, not a race to the bottom."

Speaking with the Caledon Citizen, Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones also pointed to the cost of living being the key reason minimum wage must be raised for Ontarians.

"There's been a dramatic change in cost of living, particularly in the last six months when we see where gas prices have gone and the ability for people to have a living wage has really been impacted," Jones said. "At the end of the day, employers are looking to hire and keep people and the determination of wage will be made by whether they can keep and bring those staff into their places of business, but having a set way to approach minimum wage and tying it into the cost of living I think is a reasonable, and frankly,

a non-political way to make sure people have some confidence in how the minimum wage is going to be set. Particularly, we're moving the lower special minimum wage for liquor services to bring us in line with other provinces."

Hearing feedback from local businesses on the raise in minimum wage, Caledon Chamber of Commerce President Anthony Caputo says they're already dealing with enough given how COVID-19 has hit the economy.

"They're not extremely happy about it, especially because they're already going through so much with the pandemic and now they have to worry about having to pay their part-timers more," he said. "They have a problem getting people to work and I don't believe the pay is the problem, I believe people aren't getting off of CERBs when they don't need to be on there. Teenagers sitting at home don't need to be on CERB and could be going out to work at these jobs for decent pay, they're the ones who should be doing this part-time work while going to school."

With minimum wage jobs being a starting point for many in the market for a job, Caputo thinks they're being looked at as something more and that's what has caused the government to make a change to compensation.

"My opinion of this is simple: minimum wage jobs are entry level jobs," he said. "The public is not supposed to be living off of these jobs, they're temporary jobs to get people to the next level. But somehow these jobs have been made to be lifelong positions, people aren't going there as a student for a summer job—they're staying for a long period of time and making it a career."

"That's their choice, I'm all about freedom of choice, but then, as we've seen in the past, all raising minimum wage does is pass it on to the consumer. We've seen coffee at Tim Horton's get raised by \$0.25, we've seen grocery stores prices go up—it's a trickle-down effect. The people who lose on this are the consumers. That's who pays. People aren't supposed to be living and paying a mortgage with these lower income jobs, they're supposed to be a stepping-stone."

Ultimately, Caputo says the massive scale employers will not feel the fallout from this because all they'll have to do is adjust their prices, but the consumers and small business owners in Ontario will be the ones this hurts the most.

"It's been pushed for long enough to know it was only a matter of time," he said. "I know there will be pushback on my stance on it and people saying I don't think of the little people, but we also need to remember that these changes hurt the small local businesses. The corporations will just transfer the loss onto the consumer, the people who lose are the people going to the cash counter and we're already dealing with inflation and now we have to deal with adding more salary to it. At the end of the day, this is the decision the government made, and we have to live with it and it's the people who need to tell the government that we can't sustain this and that it's hurting us."

The **Rotary Club of Bolton** recently ran a challenge to the community to donate to **Water First Training and Education Drinking Water Internship**. A 15-month paid internship for young Indigenous adults to be trained as Water Operators. We are thrilled with the \$10,000 that has been donated by individuals, schools, Social Justice classes, golfers, seniors, other clubs...so many came forward with generous donations. These donations will be matched by the Rotary Club of Bolton and Rotary International through its Matching Grant Program. This brought awareness to the plight of safe drinking water in our Indigenous communities and the power of Rotary to take action. The Rotary Club of Bolton has matched the \$10,000 and presented a \$20,000 cheque last week to the District to be multiplied again!

Thank you everyone for your help in supporting this worthy cause. You should all be very proud of yourselves! The Rotary Club of Bolton cannot be more pleased by the outpouring of community involvement. If you would like to see more of what the Rotary Club of Bolton is doing and would like to be a part of this dynamic group, please go to boltonrotary.ca.



Rita Cantelon, Dr. David Tisch, David Kostynik & Karen Fast



**PLEASE RECYCLE
THIS NEWSPAPER!**

Ontario Government Notice

Notice Of Public Information Centre – Focused on the Federal Impact Assessment Process for the Highway 413 Project

THE PROJECT

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) is in Stage 2 of the Highway 413 Transportation Corridor Route Planning, Preliminary Design and Provincial Environmental Assessment (EA) Project, formerly known as the GTA West Study. Building on the recommendations from Stage 1, the EA is identifying the route, determining interchange locations and completing the preliminary design for a new transportation corridor within the Route Planning Study Area. The new highway and transitway will include: a 400-series highway, transitway and potential goods movement priority features.

On May 3, 2021, the Federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change designated the Highway 413 Project under the *Federal Impact Assessment (IA) Act*. MTO is preparing an Initial Project Description (IPD), which covers preliminary consultation and engagement, the need for the project, potential alternatives, existing and future conditions, and the studies being undertaken to inform the potential changes as a result of the project. The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) will use the IPD to inform their decision on whether a Federal IA of the project is required. Submission of the IPD to IAAC is anticipated in early 2022.

PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE (PIC)

You are invited to attend an upcoming Public Information Centre (PIC) to help shape the content of the IPD and to ensure that your community's interests are captured appropriately in the IPD prior to submission to IAAC. This meeting will exclusively focus on sharing the reason for the Federal designation, reviewing the IA process, discussing the technical studies being added to the project in response to the Federal designation, obtaining your feedback on our understanding of the socio-economic contexts of your communities, and obtaining your feedback on our understanding of the key issues raised by stakeholders in your communities and Indigenous communities and how we are addressing them through the project. The PIC will be conducted as an online session hosted through the Zoom platform and the materials for each event will be specific to the regions identified for each meeting date.

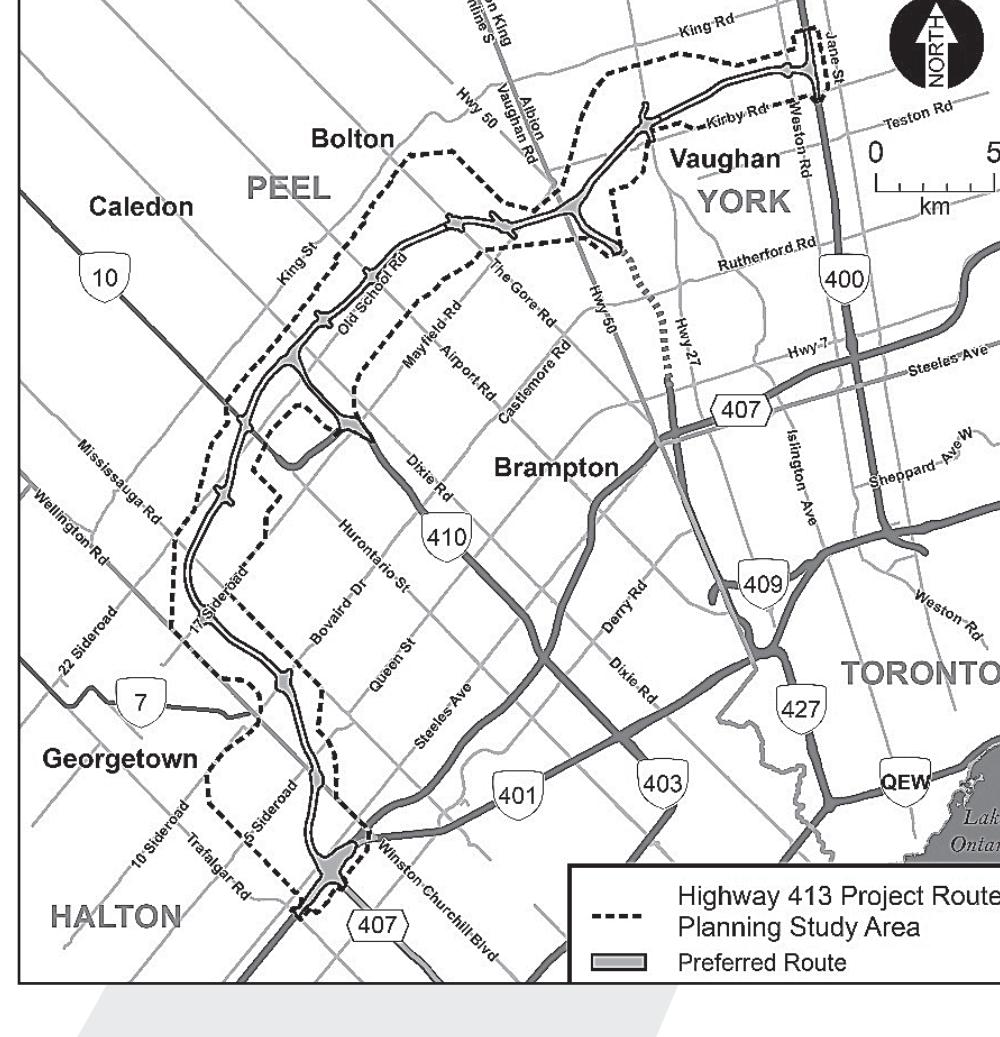
December 7, 2021 – Peel Region

6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

To register for the PIC, please visit www.gta-west.com/consultation-2 and click on the Zoom registration link under the *Upcoming Opportunities for Input* section. If you have accessibility requirements, please leave a message on the toll-free telephone line at 1-877-522-6916 or e-mail project_team@gta-west.com. For the best experience, we encourage you to join the PIC on Zoom through an electronic device. If you don't have access to an electronic device, you can listen to the PIC through your telephone. A recording of the event will be posted on the project website. Again, this PIC will focus on the Federal IA process for the project and questions regarding the Provincial EA should be submitted separately to the Project Team.

COMMENTS

Comments and input regarding the project are encouraged. This material will be maintained on file for use during the project and may be included in project documentation. Information collected will be used in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and the *Access to Information Act*. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record. Project information is available at www.gta-west.com. Des renseignements sont disponibles en français en composant 289 835-2484 (Yannick Garnier).



Highway 413 Project Route Planning Study Area

Preferred Route

December 9, 2021 – York Region

6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

December 14, 2021 – Halton Region

6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.



**PLEASE RECYCLE
THIS NEWSPAPER!**

Holiday celebrations set to make community merry in weeks ahead

BY ROB PAUL

The holiday season is here, and everyone is ready spread some cheer now that the COVID-19 restrictions have been loosened enough for festivities to be underway across Caledon this winter.

"It is so heartwarming to know we can begin to safely, and with some health measures, begin to gather and celebrate together again," said Mayor Allan Thompson. "To say this time has been challenging is an understatement and I think it reminds us all of the very real human need for social and community connection."

There will be plenty of holiday events running throughout December for residents to attend to get ready for the season.

Bolton United Church will host two Christmas concerts on December 3 (at 7 p.m.) and December 4 (at 2 p.m.) with mezzo-soprano Danielle MacMillan and pianist Timothy Cheung performing an array of winter classics. Tickets to the event can be purchased here www.eventbrite.ca/e-a-

classical-christmas-tickets-205238763667.

On Friday, December 3 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. in downtown Bolton there will be a tree lighting and a vendors' market on Ann Street that will include photo opportunities with Santa, his sleigh, and reindeer.

Palgrave Rotary Club will host a Christmas tree lighting on December 4 that will run from 5:45 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. with Santa in attendance and photo opportunities and the Rotary Chuckwagon will be on site to serve hot dogs. There will also be a "Christmas Idol Show" where children between 8 and 16 can sign up to present two Christmas songs (sign up by emailing nicholepiluso@gmail.com).

The annual Bolton Santa Claus Parade that the Bolton Kin Club put on will happen again this year in a drive-by fashion. It will take place on December 4 starting at 11 a.m. and will be a 24-kilometre trek for Santa led by the OPP across Bolton.

At Albion Hills Conservation Park from December 1 to 4, there will be a Forgetful Elf



SANTA'S ROUTE THROUGH BOLTON

Christmas Drive-Thru for families to attend. It will include a map and an audio story for a self-guided experience from the comfort of your car—children are reminded to bring their

letters to Santa to send them to the North Pole Postal Service.

Bethell Hospice will also be running a tree lighting ceremony on December 9 at 7 p.m. where friends and family can buy a light to honour the memory of a lost loved one and have their name read aloud during the ceremony.

For those who want to enjoy a Christmas concert from the comfort of their own homes, on December 15 at 7 p.m., Achill Choral Society will present their Comfort and Joy virtual concert. For a free ticket, visit achill.ca.

Until December 23, at Downey's Farm Market, Santa will be hanging out with his helpers for visitors to go on wagon rides while enjoying hot chocolate and cookies.

There will also be a holiday market from December 10 to 12 hosted by Cambium Hills at Cambium Farms to showcase local vendors for those who want to pick up holiday specific products or stop by for food or photos with Santa—there will also be a cash bar.

For those in need of Christmas decor, the Sisters Touch of Christmas—located at 14155 Caledon King Townline South—will be open until Friday, December 24.

Husky Injection Molding Systems to match donations up to \$35,000 to CCS' Santa Fund

BY ROB PAUL

Husky Injection Molding Systems will match every dollar donated to Caledon Community Services' (CCS) Santa Fund up to \$35,000. This represents a \$10,000 increase from previous years in response to the rising need brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Each year, Husky Injection Molding Systems brings joy to Caledon families by supporting CCS' Santa Fund. Annually, Husky puts out a call to other businesses in Caledon to follow suit by committing to match every dollar raised. This year they have increased their matching donation from \$25,000 to \$35,000 in direct response to rising need in Caledon.

"Husky is proud to support the communities within which we live and work and have contributed to the Santa Fund annually through Caledon Community Services for almost 20 years," said Stacie Kordts, Vice President, Human Resources, Husky Injection Molding Systems Ltd. "We

recognize that many families in our local communities have been impacted significantly by the global pandemic and acknowledge the need for support is higher than in past years. We are pleased to increase our donation this year in order to ensure that Caledon Community Services may continue their important work in making the holidays brighter for community members by providing access to the vital resources and support they need."

Everyone can make a difference through a Santa Fund donation, online at www.ccs4u.org or by phone at 905-584-2300 ext. 260.

The demand for help over the holidays and throughout the year with things like home heating and nutritious food continues to grow. More than 375 families will benefit from the generosity of the donations and CCS asks residents to donate early and take advantage of Husky's dollar for dollar match.

"We're grateful beyond words for Husky's annual support," said Monty Laskin, CEO of Caledon Community

Services. "Stepping up their support this year is a huge shot in the arm that recognizes increasing needs in our community during an extremely challenging year. Husky has been a community champion for two decades in their support of the Caledon community. Their generosity has a profound impact on the lives of so many individuals and families in need."

The CCS Santa Fund helps to ensure those in need in Caledon have support during the holiday season.

CCS asks for those who want to help either to make a financial donation, a nutritious food donation, or a gift card donation.

"It has been a struggle for me this past year to provide a quality of life as a single parent," said a single mother of two. "I am so overjoyed and beyond grateful for the generosity and support you connected me with. Now my kids will not experience such a loss or disappointment from my financial reality, thanks to this aid. I cannot thank you enough. I wouldn't have made it without your help."



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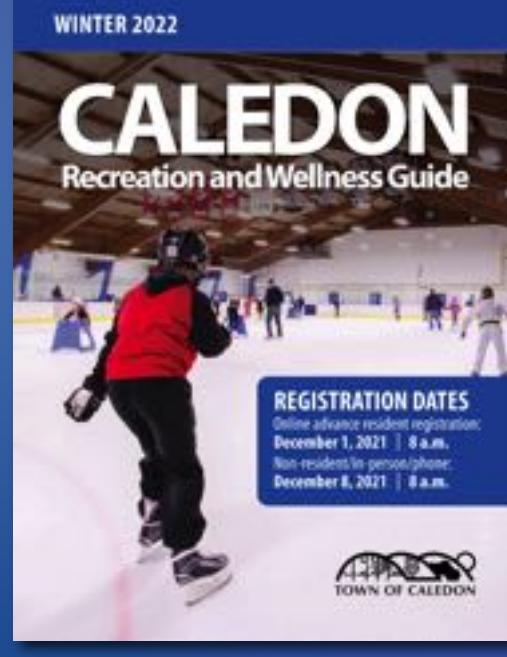


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Brock's Banter

Public discourse isn't... toast

BY BROCK WEIR

If you're a Canadian of my generation, chances are you have a small, lingering distrust of burnt toast.

It's not that we necessarily have an aversion to the food product, the preferred lightness or darkness of a piece of toasted bread is a very personal decision...and the subject of debate that can get strangely heated, but I digress.

It is those pesky Heritage Minutes we grew up with.

The image of a woman getting a waft of rapidly-charring bread emanating from a nearby appliance, followed by a blurry drop to the floor and an awakening on a hospital operating table as one Dr. Wilder Penfield poked and prodded inside her opened skull to get closer to finding treatments for epilepsy and other neurological issues, sticks with a person.

In fact, it has stuck with people so much that when Historica Canada, the producers of the Heritage Minutes, sponsored a local event during the Canada 150 celebrations in 2017, one of the souvenirs participants young and old could leave with was a green and black lapel pin with the legend, "Doctor, I smell burnt toast!" emblazoned across the very same foodstuff.

These Heritage Minutes are a good primer on the rich history this country has just ready to be explored, but by no means is it a comprehensive snapshot of where we've been as a country and, of course, no indication of where we might be going.

Ahead of those sesquicentennial celebrations, the producers of these Heritage Minutes began tackling more difficult parts of our shared history, from the tragic story of Chanie Wenjack to highlight the atrocities committed against Indigenous peoples, the harrowing but inspiring story of Viola Desmond, journeys of the "Boat People" who came to Canada from Vietnam in the 1970s, the impacts of the Acadian Deportation – not to mention, continuing with the theme of medical milestones reached in Canada, the discovery of Insulin 100 years ago this year.

This shift closer towards a warts-and-all approach is a wonderful move, and particularly timely for up-and-coming generations who might be able to avoid the pitfalls that so many people appear to have fallen into: the idea that Canadian history, and the people who made it, is something that can be condensed down to a minute-long snapshot.

We seem to be living in a world today where people are having an increasingly hard time with having their worldviews challenged. Perhaps it can be chalked up to education, perhaps it's the ever-more-prevalent appetite to seek our echo chambers from behind a screen, but it is a problem that needs to be addressed.

Now, on those occasions where protecting a myopic worldview can't be avoided, such as the ongoing recovery of thousands of bodies associated with Residential Schools, the reaction is usually immediate and often angry.

There is an idea that having anything but an idealized version of what Canada is, the ones that used to be spoon-fed to elementary school students, the ones bubbling over with heroes and disproportionately less villains, the ones devoid of anything but the most cursory evidence of critical thinking, is

somehow unpatriotic or wrong.

That the men and women who played an inextricable part in our country are two-dimensional, never-complex figures meriting no further exploration into who they are and what really made them tick.

That recognizing past wrongs in our history, however long ago these wrongs were committed, is somehow a sign of weakness.

That any attempt to right any of the aforesaid wrongs is worse still and a sledgehammer to the pillars that hold our nation up.

I don't think younger Canadians will uphold this less-than-storied tradition. Thankfully, there now appears to be an appetite in schools and within students themselves to get a more holistic diet of our history, but there are plenty of torch-bearers of all generations that still need to be contended with.

The ones who treated the move to lower the Canadian flag following the Kamloops discovery with disdain and (a) an affront to the men and women who fought under the flag, and any of its many preceding iterations; (b) yet another sign of weakness; (c) another sign of "wokeness," which used to be termed simply as "another viewpoint"; or (d) any combination of the above.

The ones who get all hot and bothered about a statue being removed, or a school being renamed, without taking a single moment to listen to the whys and wherefores before forming an opinion.

The ones who compare mask mandates and the decision of employers to require their employees to be vaccinated to the Civil Rights Movement in the United States, or, at absolute, almost-unfathomable worst, to genocides.

Yet another argument in favour of a critical history lesson.

Canada is by no means the only country experiencing this phenomenon right now.

One only has to look as far as the United States' ongoing identity crisis over what they so clinically term "Critical Race Theory" to see how visceral the idea of "critical" thinking can be.

Despite the hue and cry from various media outlets, I don't see the problem in kids grasping the concept that not everyone has been able to pursue the so-called "American Dream" (or "Canadian Dream" for that matter) from an equal footing without history – social, political or otherwise – sadly stacking the deck against certain individuals or groups.

Or that recognizing "white privilege" simply means being conscious that other groups might have certain disadvantages and by no means does it mean you're racist; it simply builds awareness and awareness-building often leads to difference-making.

People often complain about the increasing heat that has become part and parcel of our public discourse, much for the worse. And I am one of those complainers. I miss the days when people were able to share opinions with each other, agree to disagree, and put their heads together to find common ground.

One of the best ways to throw water on the fire is to steel yourself, move out of your self-imposed bubbles, and take the time to listen – not just to the people who will shore up your own perspectives, but to others who might be able to cast further light on the world around you.

Our Readers Write

A different perspective on Highway 413

I think it is a given that we can no longer harness the growth of the GTA, so let's plan all growth with the environment in mind.

The Region of Peel is expecting to grow by 700,000 people between now and 2051. We know that will also add a lot more vehicles to our roads. And as time passes, I am sure there will be more and more zero-emission vehicles on our roads.

But let's assume all cars remained gas-powered vehicles between now and 2051. With 700,000 new residents in Peel alone, and we can only imagine how many more people drive through the region that don't live here. This will add a lot more vehicles to our roads. New highway or not, they will come thru Caledon.

**BRIAN PERRAS
CALEDON**

So, if there is no 413 then all these vehicles will sit in gridlock traffic throughout Caledon and neighbouring cities. If we were really conscious of the environment, would it not be better to get these vehicles through Caledon in less time and emitting less pollution?

I am on Dixie Road where there is no regard for speed, passing on a double solid line, or any road safety at all by so many Indy 500 wannabees. Do we really want this on so many of Caledon's roads, or should we try to keep most traffic to a designated highway?

Caledon Citizen
www.caledoncitizen.com



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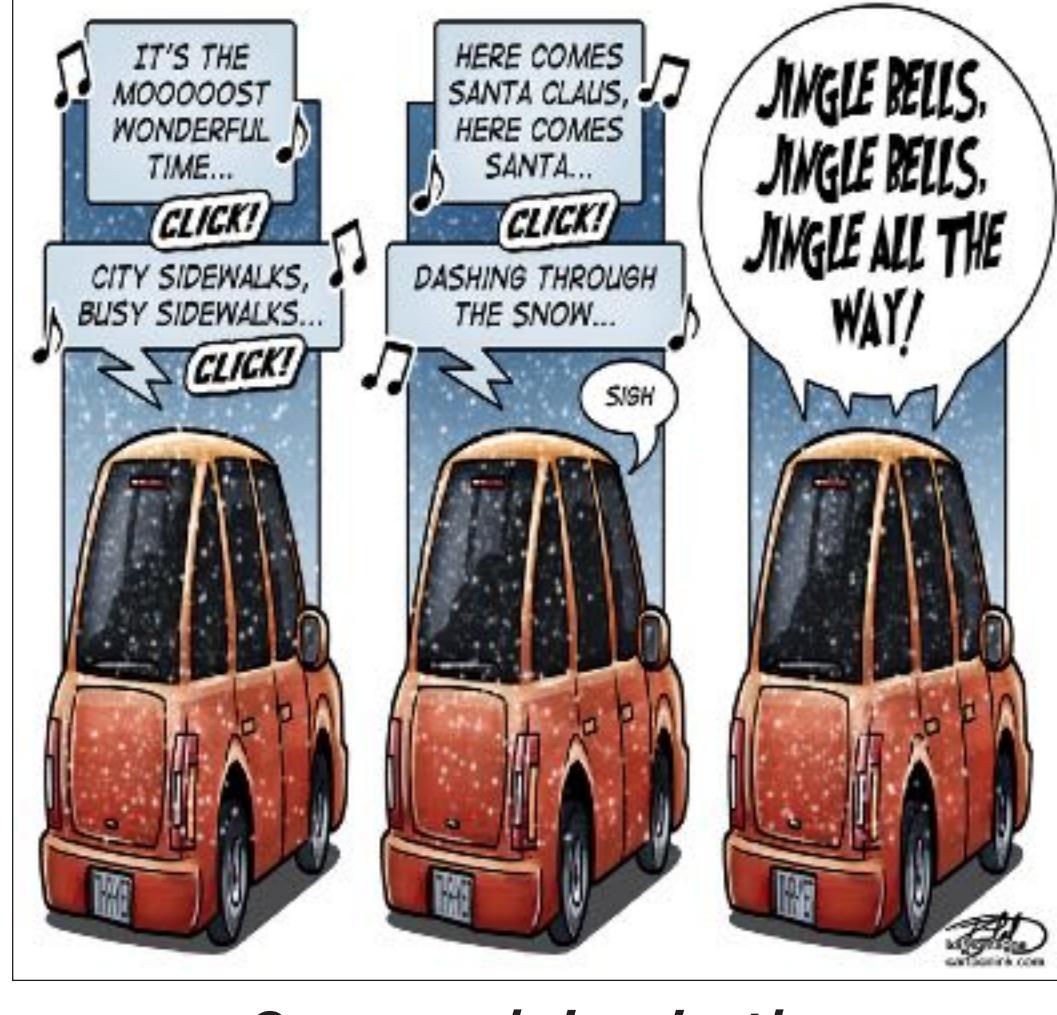
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Some advice in the marathon of life!

by Mark Pavilons



"I'm just thankful for everything, all the blessings in my life ... I think that's the best way to start your day and finish your day. It keeps everything in perspective."

– Tim Tebow

ward. But that's not to say they won't be a blast. I say get some good hiking shoes and explore!

I know some may find it hard to believe, but I'm not perfect. Nevertheless, I have tried to be there for my kids, teach them, guide them, laugh with them. I may not be the best role model, but hey, they could have had worse. I provide. And I try to challenge their minds.

At this stage of my wagon ride through the old west, this cowboy ain't thinking about leaving a legacy. It's not my thing. My children don't belong to me and once they assert their individuality to the fullest, they will lead their own wagon on trains to unexplored destinations. They will leave the homestead. I hope they learned from dad how to make a good chili.

I am hoping to witness their travels and be part of their life stories.

Regardless of which path they choose, I'm as proud as a peacock. I'm not sure what really led Kim and I on the parenting track, but our three human beings are our gifts to humanity.

Perhaps society will thank us one day.

Maybe they'll marry, maybe they won't. Maybe they'll dance at their 60th wedding anniversaries with their children.

In the wise words of Baz Luhrmann, sing, stretch and read the directions, even if you don't choose to follow them!

Choices, according to some, are half chance. Worrying won't get you anywhere, trust me on this one. Real troubles tend to blindside you.

I think we all need to take advice and receive help at certain points of our lives. Everyone has advice to give, but it's one of the most recyclable things we have. Many wise tidbits are good ones, worth repeating.

I'm not talking about touching a hot stove or sticking your tongue on a pole in the winter. These are lessons best learned by doing.

Unfortunately, our sage advice often falls on deaf ears. I'm sure my dad tried to impart some of his learned experiences, but I can't recall any of them.

I found an old black and white photo of him as a young man. It now sits on my dresser. Even though we weren't best buds, I do miss him sometimes.

My mom was always there for constant support and love.

They were unique. They started me on my own journey.

I'd like to think I have amassed a couple of fragments of insight along the way.

Here's some of mine, for those embarking on their own tour of the world.

Love your siblings and parents – you don't know how truly valuable they are until they're gone. You will miss them.

Enjoy your youth because one day you will look back at your old photos. Your reaction – smiling or frowning – depends on you.

In life's marathon, at some points you will be ahead, at others far behind. It's a very long trek and often your only opponent is yourself.

The long and winding road is long, my friends, and may even continue after we leave terra firma.

If you choose to keep your eye on the prize, look back once in a while, and feel blessed by what you have.

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Canada's cost-of-living crisis must be addressed

We've all noticed an increase in our grocery, gas, and home heating bills over the last several months.

Canadians are paying more for the necessities of life and trying to do it with the same paycheque.

The cost-of-living crisis isn't something that quickly snuck up on Canada. It's been a growing problem.

Conservatives had warned the Liberal government about it long ago, but they ignored us and carried on with their disastrous economic policies. The crisis only worsened following the election and despite that, Prime Minister Trudeau still delayed recalling Parliament for two months. The crisis has now reached an all-time high. The Prime Minister must stop burying his head in the sand and address the cost-of-living-crisis in Canada.

Statistics Canada recently announced that the annual pace of inflation rose to 4.7 per cent in October, which is the largest year-over-year gain Canada has witnessed since February 2003. This disturbing development

demonstrates the catastrophic damage Prime Minister Trudeau and his Liberal government have inflicted on the Canadian economy by spending a whopping \$400 billion above normal levels over the past two years, accompanied by a deficit among the highest in the G-20 last year.

The rising cost of groceries and gas has contributed to soaring inflation rates to a new record-setting pandemic-era high. This spiraling inflation and cost-of-living crisis is having a devastating impact on families here in Dufferin-Caledon and across Canada. Constituents write me regularly expressing their concerns about the skyrocketing costs for the basics of life and trying to keep up with the same paycheques. What's worse, is they're telling me it's becoming so severe they're having to make the choice between paying their home heating bill and putting food on the table. No Canadian should be forced to make this impossible decision. We cannot continue with the Trudeau government's high tax, high-spending agenda.

Last month, we wrote Prime Minister Trudeau to ask that the inflation-control target (set to lapse in just over a month) be renewed at its current rate. We did not receive a response from him. If the costs of food, gas, and housing continue on this trajectory without the federal government and the Bank of Canada taking action to renew the inflation-control target, Canadians will witness prices rising to levels that haven't been experienced in Canada since Pierre Elliott Trudeau was the Prime Minister of Canada.

Canadians have had enough of the current Prime Minister's disastrous economic policies and want a path forward. Conservatives believe that instead of creating cash, we should create what cash buys, which is more food, energy, and housing. We can make more by: approving projects that produce more affordable energy; cut taxes and red tape to help farmers, workers, and businesses supply more food and goods; and cancel payroll tax hikes to lower the cost of hiring and allow workers to keep more of their paycheques. We can

also cost less by: stop printing money for government spending; review Prime Minister Trudeau's \$100 billion slush fund and return to normal pre-COVID levels; and shut down the multi-billion-dollar infrastructure bank that has cost Canadians a fortune and failed to finish a single project. Our approach boils down to this: make more, cost less, with paycheques, not debt.

Tackling skyrocketing inflation and the cost-of-living crisis is a top priority for me, as we begin the first weeks of the 44th Parliament. These issues are a top priority for me because they are for my constituents struggling to make ends meet under the current government.

My constituents and all Canadians deserve better than what they're receiving. They deserve a Parliament that will finally address the severe economic challenges facing Canadians across the country.

KYLE SEEBACK, MP REPORT FROM OTTAWA



It's That Time of Year

Time flies, snow flies, thankfully actual flies have all but disappeared due to the cold (the only advantage of winter if you ask me) and here we are closing in fast on December 2021, another year virtually no one predicted would be spent under the daunting cloud that is still COVID-19. But – I'm determined to be happy today because while time seems to pass by faster and faster as I age, the fact that we've made it through another challenging year is reason enough to celebrate. Yup – the headline might not be all that original, but it's that time of year when the Caledon community embraces the holiday season and everything that truly represents.

I'm not talking about difficult and possibly divisive issues like faith when I say, "it's that time of year." Rather, I'm referring to the overall generosity of spirit that seems to embrace so many of us regardless of what faith, or lack thereof, we celebrate. Instead, today is an opportunity to share all of the good things that are happening locally, and a gentle reminder that if you are able to – then please be of good cheer this holiday season and donate to a charity of your choice for those who ARE still struggling; for as Charles Dickens wrote

in 1843, "because it is a time, of all others, when WANT keenly felt."

As we all go about our business this holiday season, and look forward to finally being able to celebrate with family and friends, I ask that you keep in mind those who could use a little helping hand.

Just this past week, someone in my neighbourhood was celebrating the birthday of Guru Nanak Jev Di (the founder of the Sikh faith) by handing out warm winter hats to honour his teaching about the importance of sharing with others. Caledon Community Services is hosting its Annual Gala on December 4th – "Literally Still Home For The Holidays" – with all ticket sales and sponsorship supports going to provide the many services CCS offers to our community ALL YEAR LONG. If you'd like to support, you can still purchase tickets online. While visiting The Exchange this past week, a local hockey team had collected an abundance of food to stock the pantry and we know local schools have also collected donations and with the help of Fines Ford, delivered them too.

In every small village, town and community that together makes Caledon...well, Caledon,

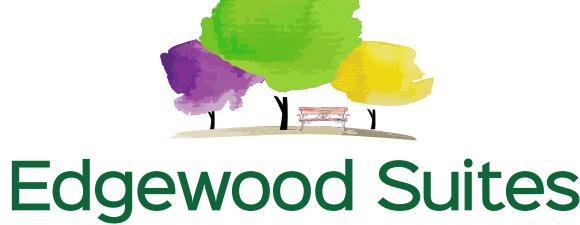
community leaders and service organizations are gathering to host drive by parades, toy drives and food drives along with Christmas markets, fundraisers and tree lighting ceremonies. November 29 will see a tree lighting in Valleywood, December 3 one in Bolton, along with a market and on December 4 – parades, galas and Christmas markets abound! December 5th will see another tree lighting, this one in Caledon East, and on December 10 – 12, Cambium Farms, in partnership with the Bethell Hospice Foundation, another market will be taking place benefitting the work that Bethell Hospice does. What's beautiful about many of these events is that they are being organized by hard working, committed, and caring community volunteers who are demonstrating the true meaning of the Christmas spirit.

We know that COVID restrictions are still in place at some agencies, making in-person events like serving food to the homeless challenging. However, there are a number of ways you can still help out with all protocols in place including: packing hampers, delivering hampers and/or gifts to local families, or conducting your own food, toy or warm winter

clothing drives and then arranging deliveries of the collected items. It's always best to contact the folks for whom you wish to collect items to verify what is most needed.

In Orangeville, Family Transition Place is accepting food and financial donations (with Covid restrictions in place) and clothing donations are directed through two local stores. Again, call ahead but most organizations will also tell you that gift cards from local stores are a great way to give back to community and allow for families to purchase for themselves the gifts and most needed items for their children. Financial donations also allow social service agencies to maximize donor dollars by giving them bulk order purchasing power.

It is indeed that time of year. If you can, please help to spread some Christmas cheer in your community. Caledon is a beautiful place to live, work and play but it can be challenging too. Let's all work together to ensure that before the real snow starts to fly – our whole community is clothed, fed, warm and dry.



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Volunteers ready to help community take holiday "Victory Lap"

Continued from FRONT

"We always need more volunteers," Valliere said. "The hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday and we try to have the volunteers only work three to four hours each. Our volunteers are the power behind the thrift store."

Just about a year ago, VH opened the Victory Lap store to help with fundraising for the program, but it's been open on and off due to COVID-19. Now with restrictions being eased, the team at VH found the perfect opportunity to expand.

"When the COVID pandemic hit all of us over

the last couple of years, fundraising became almost impossible. The plan to eventually open a thrift store to support the charity was moved forward and the Victory Lap Emporium was opened. Most of the residents in the area know the store as a couple of years ago a truck ran through the front of the store, which allowed the store to be totally renovated and it's like brand new inside. It was the perfect spot right off the bat and it filled up with donations within a week or two. But no sooner than we were open, we were closed again and that happened throughout the year.

"In November, we celebrated our first-year anniversary for the thrift store and when a smaller store beside the shop became available, the decision to make it a part of the Victory House group was made. It came available about a month ago and we talked about it and realized we couldn't afford to not do it. We had about eight to ten bins full of Christmas donations from last year and so the little shop was made into a 'Christmas Shop' until the end of December, at which time we will redo the space with more like new and antique house items. We're quite happy with it and it's been popular."

Christmas Snow Flakes made by the Teen Action Group of Brampton Christian High School will be sold in the shop as a means for people to share the support and show their love for the women residing in the Victory House/Bridge House.

Not only has the store become a way for people to support VH, but it's also become a hot spot for thrifting and now it fills the need of a Christmas store in the area, all in the name of

making a difference in the community.

"You may just find that item you have been looking for to dress up your home or give as a precious gift in the only all Christmas stop in our area," said Valliere. "There are mini table Christmas trees and large fully-decorated floor trees. The shelves of the mini shop are filled with lights, candles, old and antique Christmas decorations. As we get closer to Christmas, poinsettias and table centrepieces will be available to purchase at amazing low prices."

"The original store is filled with new women's clothing, shoes and boots. Some of the items are brand new with the original tags and pricing on them. Coats and jackets are for sale for \$10 to \$20 and under. The items for sale are chosen with much care by the volunteers and priced accordingly."

The plan is to officially open Victory House sometime in the next three months with everything being finalized, but after over half-a-decade Valliere and her volunteers' goals are coming to fruition.

"The Victory House/Bridge House is the first phase of the Victory House legacy. The apartment in the lower level of the existing house on the property had to be completed renovated from the plumbing, septic, wiring, lighting, and a new kitchen. All of the work that has been completed has come from volunteers and community business. The Palgrave Rotary donated the money to completely outfit the kitchen with members also donating the dining table and chairs.

"The remainder of the furniture in the apartment was all donated by local residents. Several members of the Victory House team vol-

unteered their time and money to outfit the two bedrooms. The rooms are very inviting and cozy, with nothing missing, including desks and lamps, comforters and pictures. Many of the VH volunteer team were a part of finishing the apartment, as they gave their time to paint and decorate to make this living space the best in the area for women in need. The apartment is now completely renovated and amazing."

Now that they're approaching the official opening of Victory House, Valliere says they're focused on the next goal of opening another house in order to take in more women, something that has become an even larger need with the circumstances of the pandemic.

"The next step is to start the renovations of the large building on the same site to house four to six women and their children in times of need," she said. "The pandemic has made this need in our area even larger than it was before COVID. Please be a part of making a new life for the women and children who come to Victory House. We are now in great need of donations to support the ladies that will come to reside in the VH apartment. One time and monthly donations can be made online at the Victory House website or can be mailed to PO Box 164, Caledon ON L7C 3L9. As caring members of our community and those who are just passing through, the little shop has become a means to reach out and know that someone is being cared for by your support. Tax Receipts are issued for donations of \$25.00 or more."

For more information about Victory House or to donate, visit www.thevictoryhouse.ca/.

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Orangeville SPCA kicks off holiday adoption campaign

BY PAULA BROWN

The Ontario SPCA Orangeville and District Animal Centre has kicked off their holiday adoption campaign – "iAdopt for the Holidays."

An annual holiday initiative, "Adopt for the Holidays" takes place at Ontario SPCA and Humane Society animal centres across the province, and looks to give as many animals as possible the gift of a loving forever home.

"When you give an animal a home, you're not only changing that animal's life, you're also bringing joy and love into your life," said Dawn Lyons, Manager at Ontario SPCA Orangeville & District Animal Centre. "iAdopt for the Holiday is all about making lifetime matches."

With many people enjoying time off over the

holidays and families home together, the SPCA said the holiday season is the perfect time to welcome an animal and help them settle into their new home.

According to the SPCA, last year 500 animals in Ontario found their forever homes during the iAdopt for the Holidays campaign. At the Ontario SPCA Orangeville & District Animal Centre, Lyons said they saw a total of 90 animals adopted through the 2020 initiative.

"There is nothing quite like the feeling of watching an animal go home with a loving family," said Lyons. "You feel good knowing you helped them get their second chance."

At the time of print, the Ontario SPCA and Humane Society has seen 107 adoptions of animals for the 2021 campaign.

The Ontario SPCA Orangeville & District

Animal Centre currently has a number of animals awaiting their forever home, including three-year-old Scottish fold, Marvin.

"Marvin needs a special home and has been waiting patiently for the perfect family to come along since arriving in September," explain Lyons. "Marvin needs a quiet, low-stress household and would do best as the only pet."

Ontario SPCA animal centres are also awaiting the arrival of a group of dogs, who are coming from shelters in the United States nearing capacity, and don't have the space to help any more animals that show up on their doorstep. The dogs will be involved in the iAdopt for the Holidays campaign in the hopes of finding their loving forever homes.

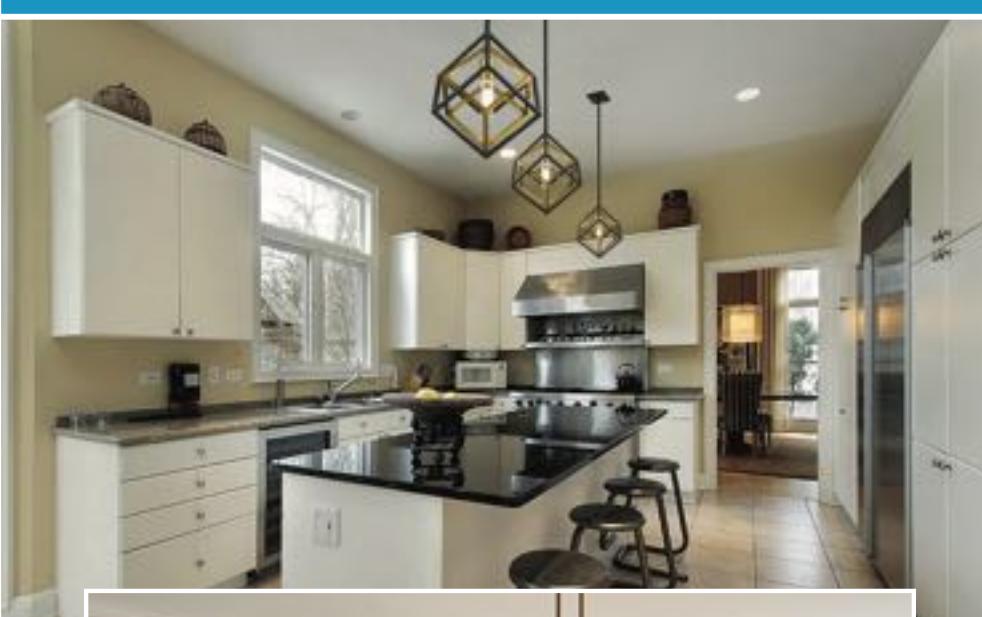
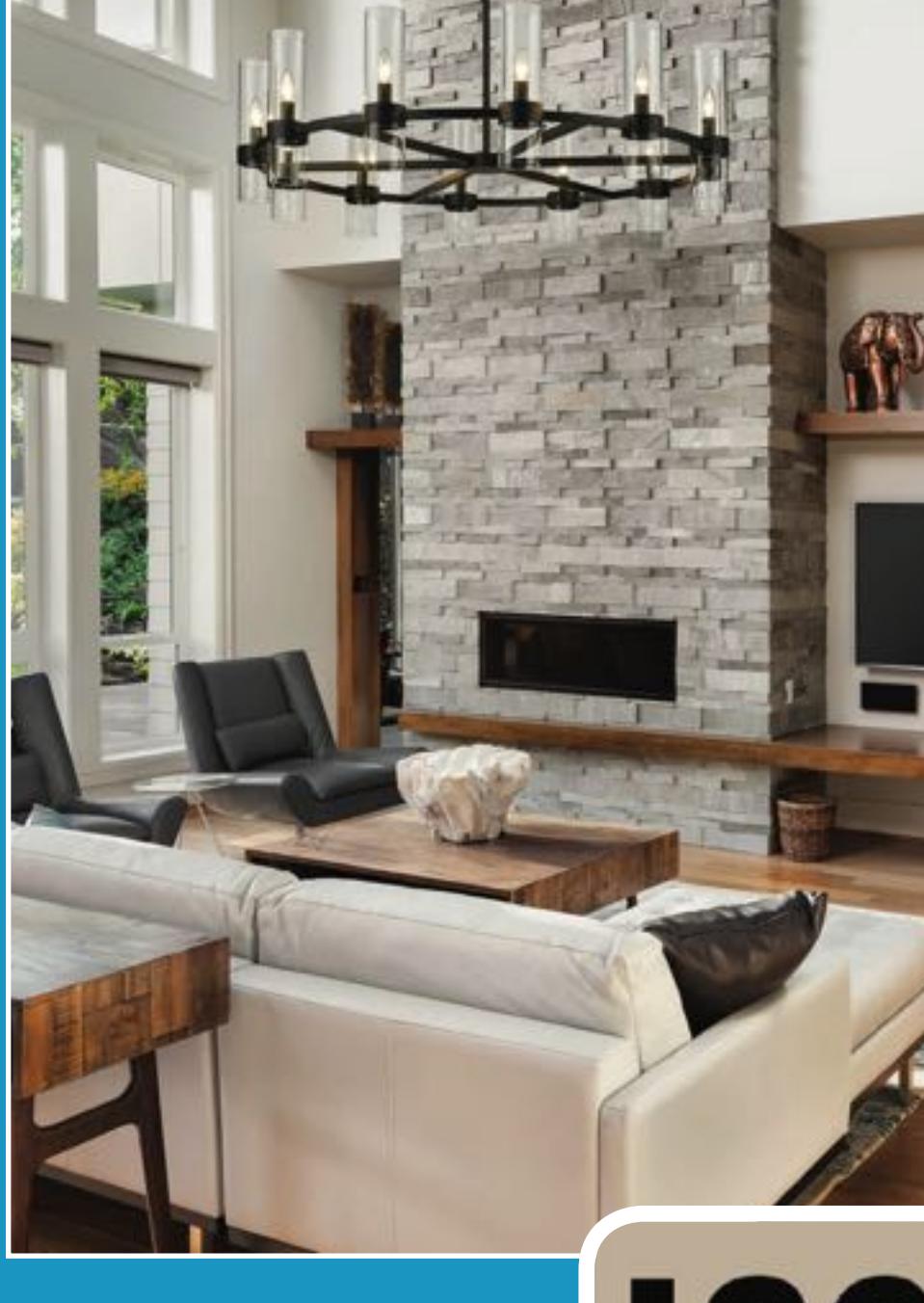
Adopted animals through the Ontario SPCA are spayed or neutered, microchipped and are

given up to date vaccinations. Adopters will receive a Get Pet Ready Guide, which includes tips and tricks on how to care for their families' new furry family members.

Animal lovers who are not able to adopt during the festive season can still give help to animals in need and are encouraged to help vulnerable animals by shopping at the Ontario SPCA's Paws & Give online store.

As part of the campaign those who have already adopted an animal can enter Ontario's Cutest Adopted Animal Photo Contest for a chance to win weekly prizes and a \$5,500 PetSmart gift card grand prize.

For more information on iAdopt for the Holiday, go to www.iadopt.ca. The adoption campaign will run until December 31.



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Bolton United Church hosting live Christmas concert December 3 and 4



Mezzo-Soprano Danielle MacMillan, above, headlines A Classical Christmas with pianist Timothy Cheung.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BY ROB PAUL

This Christmas season, live music will be returning to Bolton United Church as it hosts "A Classical Christmas" with mezzo-soprano Danielle MacMillan and pianist Timothy Cheung.

Two dates are set for the concert, with it taking place Friday, December 3 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, December 4 at 2 p.m.

MacMillan and Cheung will be playing classical songs that highlight the wonder and magic of the holidays with favourites such as O Holy Night and other classics that reflect the winter season.

The two concerts will be about an hour long each and will feature not only the performances from MacMillan and Cheung, but event organizer Daniel Gibson will be including commentary along the way.

"It's going to be myself and my pianist Timothy Cheung; we started working together at the Canadian Opera Company, so we've known each other for a while—since 2013," she said. "Basically, we'll be singing a selection of winter-themed songs, as well as holiday favourites and

Christmas songs and I'll finish the show with Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas. In between a group of songs, Daniel will be giving explanations on historical background and information about the songs, and probably some jokes here and there!"

Having not been a part of a concert in nearly two years, MacMillan is chomping at the bit to get back out on stage and is so thankful she'll get the opportunity to kick off the holidays with a show for the residents of Bolton.

"I haven't performed in a while because of COVID, and I thought this would be a good way to bring everyone together and spread holiday cheer," said MacMillan. "It's definitely a gift that I'm giving to them, but it's also for myself because it's been such a long time. I'm very excited, but I'm also quite nervous, it's going to feel like the first day of school. Quite a bit of prep goes into it—we have about three-hour long rehearsals to go over music, timing, flow, and order. It took more time to land the venue to prepare for the concert."

Knowing MacMillan wanted to perform, Gibson decided to put his heart and soul into finding

a venue that would work for the Christmas concert and that's what led them to Bolton.

"A couple months ago, Danielle said it would be fun to sing in a concert again because she had been singing in concerts the last couple years at churches in the GTA, so, from there I thought well, what the heck, let's give this a shot," said Gibson. "I ended up calling a bunch of churches and it took probably over a month or month-and-a-half to find a venue. From there, we started planning with Bolton United. In terms of operational time, it took at least two and a half months to plan this, and it all came out of the idea of thinking it would be fun to do this and so we gave it a shot."

It was never necessarily the plan to come up to Caledon and put a concert together—they just wanted a stage and people who would enjoy the music—but after reaching out to churches all over, Gibson found the perfect partner in Bolton United for the festivities.

"I found Bolton United because...I went on Google Maps and I typed in 'church' and then I called every Catholic, Anglican, and United Church in the GTA," he said. "I was on the phone leaving messages for a long time and I suspect most are sick of hearing from me, but Bolton United called me back and thought it was interesting because they were looking to open up doors again and try and get people into the church. They said they'd love to do it and ran it by the board, and it was okayed."

"So, Sandra (Hautot) from Bolton United got to know me over a couple phone calls and eventually we went and saw the venue and it was great. Working with them has been perfect, they've been open to everything we've suggested."

Nothing is guaranteed to happen with the pandemic hanging over every event, but now that the concert is just over a week away and precautions are set, MacMillan and Gibson can finally take a breath.

"Things are constantly changing, but the coordinator at Bolton United seemed very confident and we do have limited ticketing so people will be spaced out and will be very safe," said MacMillan. "We're very confident that we'll follow through with this and people will be so glad they came because live music has been hard to come by."

The power of music is really, particularly live music, and Gibson knows people aren't taking it for granted anymore after going without it for so long, which is why he and MacMillan are thrilled to be able to bring it to Bolton.

"One of the biggest points of appeal for Bolton and us, especially for Danielle, is that the value of music is really more pronounced than ever," said Gibson. "In this situation here, when people have been lacking something for so long, the value becomes amplified because they've been missing it. Once people have it again, they'll realize, 'Oh, this is something I haven't had,' and they'll realize how much they want and need it. In a certain sense, live music is giving a sort of normality back to what people's needs are in terms of entertainment. It's mutually beneficial for everyone, it's a triple win all around—the church gets attendance, Danielle gets a stage, and the community gets music. There's nobody who's missing out here."

For tickets to the Bolton United Church Christmas concert, visit www.eventbrite.ca/e/a-classical-christmas-tickets-202181930597.

CCS's Holiday Gala set for December 4

BY BROCK WEIR

Caledon Community Services will celebrate the spirit of the season next Saturday, December 4, with their 24th annual "Literally Still Home for the Holidays Virtual Gala."

Held online for the second year running and streamed directly to you, ticket-holders will receive a "gala package" featuring a meal, wine, sweet treats and more—all benefiting Caledon Community Services and, by extension, the community as a whole.

"Proceeds from this annual fundraising event directly support programs, services and activities that nourish the hungry, help

seniors remain independent, assist businesses and job seekers, provide transportation, assist newcomers, change the lives of youth and lift the self-esteem of hundreds of children," say organizers. "CCS services support thousands of residents across Caledon and are made possible through the support from community sponsorships and donations."

Tickets for the event are on sale now with gala packages ranging from \$100 to \$125 for a VIP Catered Gala Experience, and guest tickets ranging from \$20 – 50.

The fun gets underway at 7 p.m. For more information, visit ccs4u.org.

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SPORTS

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Bolton's Andrew Mangiapane is "on fire" in Calgary

BY ROBERT BELARDI

Bolton native Andrew Mangiapane decided that this would be the year he would breakout in the world of hockey.

Since coming off an MVP award for his tournament-leading seven goals in seven games as a part of Team Canada's gold medal run this past June, Mangiapane has been tearing it up in the NHL.

The 25-year-old winger leads the Calgary Flames with 15 goals in 19 games so far this year. That's seven more Johnny Gaudreau, Matthew Tkachuk and Elias Lindholm who are all currently stuck on eight. He is also tied for second in all of the NHL in goals forward beside Alexander Ovechkin and three behind league leader Leon Draisaitl.

And it gets better.

According to a post from @nhl.discussion, Mangiapane leads the entire NHL in goals per 60 minutes.

With the Olympics coming up in Beijing in February, you are not at fault if you said Mangiapane should not be on the upcoming roster. But given his recent form, there is a congruent argument that he might have a decent shot or at the very least, be an extra player.

For a lack of a pun in all of this, not only is Mangiapane on fire but so are the Calgary Flames. And they're breaking records to boot.

The Flames recorded their seventh shutout this year last Sunday, becoming the first NHL



Andrew Mangiapane

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NHL

franchise since statistics were being recorded in 1929 to record seven shutouts in the first 19 games of the year.

Goaltender Jakob Markstrom leads the league with five shutouts of his own and 4-0 backup goaltender Daniel Vladar has two for

himself.

In one of the biggest surprises thus far this year, the Flames sit atop of the Western Conference one point up on the Edmonton Oilers for top spot.

It will be very interesting to see how Man-

giapane continues to play from here on out for the rest of the year.

He recorded a career high 18 goals last season and he should crack north of 20 this year.

All statistics were written prior to all games Tuesday night.

Caledon girls called up to Canadian National Team

BY ROBERT BELARDI

Caledon Cyclones central defender Abbey Simpson and midfielder Isabella Mazzaferro were called up to the National Development Centre (NDC) Scouting combine event, hosted by the Canadian National Team last week.

Women's U20 Director and National Development Centre Ontario Director Joey Lombardi sent Caledon Soccer Club's Technical Director Terry Madison an email on November 16 formally inviting both players.

In the past, Madison has sent players from Caledon SC to Team Ontario. From the provincial team, players would have the chance to move on the national level. For the first time in Caledon SC history, these girls in particular are being sent directly to the national level.

"What happens is you have to send in video highlights of a girl or boy to them (Canada Soccer) and they'll look at it. If they're interested they'll ask for more footage," Madison said.

"So that's where our program with our

VEO camera and in-stat analysis helps. It tells us that our program is moving in the right direction and kids can stay at Caledon Soccer Club and move on to the next level."

From the 2005 age group, these girls will have eligibility to play for the U17 and U20 national teams should they pass the combine.

Known for her intelligence as a defender, Simpson has excellent I.Q. in the way the sport needs to be played.

"You have to be able to play the ball out of the back. She is very good at one, defending and two, winning the ball, taking control of it, taking her time and making passes into the midfield or up to the forward. She is very confident in possession of the ball," Madison said.

"Isabella, two key things one is speed. She is phenomenally fast. She plays midfield but she plays wide right most of the time or wide left so she's more attacking. So sheer speed and ability to take players on, run through defences and finish."

As of now, it is yet to be determined when the combine will take place.



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York United have a lot to be proud of and that's not a statement to take lightly

BY ROBERT BELARDI

Heading into this season, York United faced a hefty amount of doubt.

Nobody gave them a chance.

The Nine Stripes were looked at as the babies of the Canadian Premier League. This was the youngest squad, a fusion of young flair with a go-for-it-all mojo. Of course, there was some old wisdom in the mix and that plays its part as well.

But against all odds and proving everyone wrong, York United travelled to Tim Hortons Field last Sunday and yes, it was for a play-off match. York took on two-time champions Forge FC on their home turf and in this one, it was experience that did the trick.

For Forge FC, they've been here before and nine minutes into the match, their tempo and control of the match immediately dictated how this was going to go.

A neat ball from Tristan Borges slipped through Jordan Wilson and Chrisnovic N'sa, catching Woobens Pacius on the run. The forward tucked the ball off the post and into the back of the net to give Forge the lead.

Skipping all the way to the 38 minute, York United had a life-line. A failed header clearance from Daniel Krutzen was controlled splendidly from Michael Petrasso. Instantly, Petrasso caught goalkeeper Triston Henry off his line and swooped the ball up and over the goalkeeper to put York level.

"That goal was a life-line for us. It gave us that little spark we needed going into the half. We were going to try and use that as momentum going into the second half. We were trying to work out things tactically to get more shots on target because we didn't have many in the first half," said York United defender Dominick Zator in the post-match press conference.

"Obviously, we had the wind and the rain going with us the second half. Still Forge made it difficult for us to get anything on target."

With only four shots forward and one hitting the target in the first half, York United's offence was shut down completely in the second half having only mustered two shots towards goal.

Joshua Navarro got the go-ahead goal in the 66 minute and just seven minutes later, Noah Verhoeven scored an own-goal that put the match out of reach.

After the game, there was nothing but high praise from Zator to the rest of the group.

"Looking at the whole season, just immensely proud of the boys. Everyone counted us out from the start, everyone was thinking we're going to finish last. So, the whole season was about proving people wrong," Zator said.

When everybody went back into the locker room, this was also the first words out of head coach Jimmy Brennan's mouth.

York United part ways with Jimmy Brennan

BY ROBERT BELARDI

Just two days after a 3-1 loss to Forge FC in the semifinals of the Canadian Premier League, York United released a statement they have parted ways with Head Coach/Manager and Technical Director of the club Jimmy Brennan.

Brennan became the first head coach in club history on July 27, 2018, since leaving Aurora FC from League 1 Ontario. The club has decided not to renew his contract, which has come to an end.

Since coming to York United, Brennan has led The Nine Stripes to a third-place, fifth-place and fourth-place finish in his three-year tenure.

"I want to thank Jimmy for everything he has done coaching this club over the last three years. Firstly, there has been his impact on the field but it's imperative that I also recognize and applaud the huge contribution he's made off the pitch. Without him, the club is probably not here today," said Angus McNab, CEO, President and GM of York United in the press release.

"Additionally, there is no way our young players like Max Ferrari, Isaiah Johnston and Lowell Wright would be thriving as they are without Jimmy's support and guidance. There is a strong foundation here and we are grateful to Jimmy for having been so crucial in building it."

During his time with the club, Brennan has been known across all of the CPL for giving young players an opportunity to make a name for themselves in the league.

According to the statement, U21 players played 9,043 minutes under Brennan this past year. Also, York United defender Diyaeddine Abzi received a call-up and made an appearance for the U-23 Canadian international team.

Throughout his career, Brennan was widely renowned for his contributions in Canada's 2000 Gold Cup victory.

Brennan began his senior career with Bristol City in 1996, and went on to play for Nottingham Forest, Huddersfield Town, Southampton and Toronto FC for three years before retiring in 2010.

He began his coaching career in 2011 with the Toronto FC U17 academy.

"I'm very proud of them. After the match I told them right away I said, 'Look guys, what you've been through as a group. How hard this season was to get to the playoffs, it's been a great season for them,'" Brennan said.

"Obviously for them it's disappointing because they wanted to get to the final but the good thing is they got a taste of it. Especially the young guys, they got a taste of how hard a grueling season can be after 28 games. Then they got a taste of playoffs so they gained an

awful lot of experience throughout this season. As a group, I couldn't be any more proud of them."

Heading into the offseason, Brennan said it's about adding the right pieces.

A turnover in the offseason for a Canadian Premier League club could be heavy or it could be filled with nothing at all. By the sounds of it, York United will most likely look to keep a core group of players and add a piece or two to challenge the title.

For a group that was so young and with nothing to lose, they counted everyone out. They will surely leave everyone with a remark after this season and that is to never be counted out again.

As for Forge FC, they will be taking on Pacific FC in the Canadian Premier League final.

The final will take place at Tim Hortons Field on Sunday December 5. Kick-off is scheduled at 4:30 p.m.

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IN MEMORIAM

STEWART, Dorothy A.

In loving memory of a dear mother who passed away November 18th, 2000.

Two bright eyes,

A tender smile,

A tender heart that knew no guile,

Doe's trust in God that all was right,

Her joy to make some other bright,

If sick or suffering one she knew,

Some gentle act of love she'd do.

No thought of self,

But of the other I know,

He said, "Well done, dear Mother"

See Ya!

Peter

STEWART, Jack D.

In loving memory of a dear father who passed away November 22nd, 1999.

In tears we saw you sinking,

We watched you fade away,

Our hearts were almost broken,

You fought so hard to stay.

But when we saw you sleeping,

So peacefully free from pain.

We could not wish you back

To suffer that again.

See Ya!

Peter

STEWART, Robert A.D.

In loving memory of a dear brother who passed away November 23rd, 2009.

God called him home,

It was His will,

But in our hearts

We love him still,

His memory is as dear today,

As in the hour he passed away.

We often sit and think of him,

When we are all alone,

For memory is the only thing,

That grief can call its own.

See Ya!

Peter

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The Lord Dufferin Chapter IODE holds their meetings at the Lord Dufferin Centre on the 4th Tuesday of every month. We are looking for women who would like to help in the Community. Call 519-941-1865.

IF YOU WANT to keep drinking, that's your business. **IF YOU WANT** to stop drinking, that's our business. Call Alcoholics Anonymous Hot Line, 1-866-715-0005. www.aaorthaltonerin.org.

DRUG PROBLEM? We've been there, we can help! Narcotics Anonymous meets over Zoom, via video call. The Zoom meeting information is: Meeting # 245 323 6271. Password: 1234. The meetings are hosted on Fridays & Sundays at 7:30 pm. Call anytime 519-215-0761. Shelburne is meeting at 7:30.

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IF YOU or a FAMILY MEMBER are struggling with gambling, Gamblers Anonymous is there to HELP. Call: 1(855) 222-5542 or visit www.gatoronto.ca.

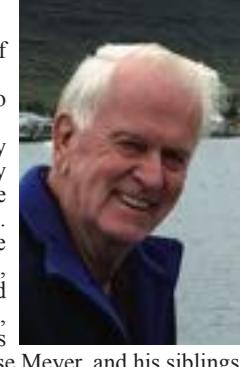
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LA LECHE LEAGUE Orangerville offers breastfeeding support. For more info call Erin at 519-943-0703.

OBITUARIES

MEYER, William Arthur

In Loving Memory of William Arthur Meyer June 9, 1936 to November 20, 2021 Bill Meyer passed away peacefully at the Dorothy Ley Hospice in Etobicoke on November 20, 2021. Bill was born on June 9, 1936 in Welland, Ontario. Predeceased by the love of his life, Lorraine (d. 2018), his parents, William and Rose Meyer, and his siblings Shirley and Jack. Bill and Lorraine met in Grade 11 and married in 1960. He attended Waterloo Lutheran University. Bill and Lorraine moved to Orangeville, Ontario to start their careers as teachers and to raise a family. Bill was a proud and loving father to Laurie (d. 1967), Cheryl (James), Darren (Trish) and Joanne (Dom) and Grampa to Megan and Katelyn and Papa to Tabitha and Spencer.



Bill taught most of his career at Orangeville District Secondary School. He coached the basketball team and was proud when his former students called him Coach even after retirement. He was a passionate educator and told cherished tales from the classroom and the gym to his grandchildren into his 80s.

Sports were always part of Bill's life. Playing football and basketball in his youth gave way to curling and especially golf later in life. He would happily spend hours watching his favourite sports on TV.

Bill was happiest when he was socializing with his family or his many friends. He was always ready to tell a joke or laugh when he heard one. He was easy going and always willing to lend a hand if he could.

Bill and Lorraine enjoyed a long, happy retirement. They travelled to all the places they wanted to see and had great times with their friends. They remained dedicated and loving parents and grandparents throughout their lives. They lived and laughed together for 58 years. Bill was a kind, outgoing and funny man who will be greatly missed by his family and all who knew him. Bill's family would like the thank the team at St. Joseph's Health Centre for providing excellent, compassionate care and to the Dorothy Ley Hospice.

There will be no drop-in memorial event due to the pandemic.

Please post any thoughts or tributes on the Dods & McNair website at www.dodsandmcnair.com

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the St. Joseph's Health Care Foundation, Palliative Care Centre.

A tree will be planted in memory of Bill in the Dods & McNair Memorial Forest at the Island Lake Conservation Area, Orangeville.

OBITUARIES

ANDREW MALCOLM MCPHERSON



(Andrew) Malcolm McPherson, age 91, died on Sunday, November 14, 2021, at the Headwaters Health Care Centre, Orangeville. Malcolm was predeceased by his wife Betty (2018). Malcolm was born in Verdun, Quebec on August 15, 1930. Malcolm worked in business at a number of companies throughout Toronto during his lucrative career as an operations manager. However, one of Malcolm's biggest passions was music. It was his love of music which brought him and his wife of 67 years together – Malcolm as a clarinet player and Betty his accompanist on piano. If Malcolm had had his way, he would have pursued music as a career. In his day, Malcolm was an awesome accordion and clarinet player, and later taught himself musical theory and saxophone. He belonged to a number of bands throughout his musical career which filled his heart. Malcolm was the loving father of Raymond (Guitar), Elaine (Kevin), Robert (Milo), Betty Ann (Nancy); grandfather of Jesse (Tina), Kerstin, Marisa, Andrew (Joanna), Ariel, Dale (Julia), Hayley (Jason), and Robin (deceased); great-grandfather of Skyelin, Enthea, Bridget, Desmond, Autumn, Mason, Tyson, and Ethan. Malcolm was predeceased by his wife Betty of 67 years, by his sister Heather, and his granddaughter Robin. It was Malcolm's wish to be cremated. He will be interred in the Caledon East Cemetery, at a later date, alongside his wife, sister, and his parents Annie and Alan McPherson. The family extends their gratitude to the staff at the Avalon Retirement Home and the staff at Headwaters Health Care Centre ~ we are grateful for your loving care of our father/grandfather. The family will receive their friends at the Egan Funeral Home, 203 Queen Street S., Bolton on Saturday morning, November 27 from 10 o'clock until time of memorial service in the chapel at 11 o'clock. Please visit the funeral home website to register to attend. If desired, memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer Society of Ontario or Heart & Stroke Foundation of Ontario. Condolences for the family may be offered at www.EganFuneralHome.com

PRITTY, Cyril Howard

My wonderful husband of 48 years, Cyril Pritty, went to Heaven to be with his Saviour, Jesus Christ on November 18th. I was very relieved that I was with him. I had sung a few Hymns and read some Scripture to him and he took his last breath as I completed Psalm 91. Arrangements are entrusted to Dods & McNair Funeral Home in Orangeville. Cremation will have taken place. His last few months were spent in the LTC at the Avalon in Orangeville.

Cyril enjoyed playing the organ at various Churches and was pretty good with sight reading. He attended Church regularly as being a Christian meant a lot to him. He also did some preaching and taught the ALPHA course ten times. He enjoyed pottering in his work shop, repairing broken items and cutting the lawn with the ride-on mower. He had to avoid extremes of temperature with the MH and was always fatigued.

He had two children with his first wife, Elizabeth [Nick] and Michael [Carla]. He adopted two of mine, Lynne [Dwayne] and Emma (Howard) and became a step father to my oldest, Jenni. Later we had a daughter of our own, Rev. Charlotte, [the late Chris]. He leaves a sister, Evelyn Pritty and a cousin John (Helen) Pritty. Grand Children, John, Nicole, Claude and Bianca all in South Africa. Daniel, Jacob, Adam and George in UK and Nicole in Canada.

Memorial Service will be held at the **Dods & McNair Funeral Home, Chapel & Reception Centre**, 21 First St., Orangeville on Friday, December 3, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. Visitation will begin at 10:00 a.m. Please RSVP to attend the service. Webcast of service will be available to view at 11:00 am on Friday, December 3, 2021. Donations to MH research https://pie.med.utoronto.ca/mh/MH_content/donate.html and Dementia Cure <https://www.camh.ca/en/today-campaign/areas-of-impact/reversing-memory-loss>?

A tree will be planted in memory of Cyril in the Dods & McNair Memorial Forest at the Island Lake Conservation Area, Orangeville.

Condolences may be offered to the family at www.dodsandmcnair.com

OLIVA, Camilo Ramores



Oliva, Camilo Ramores is now in spirit after passing away on Thursday, November 18, 2021 at the age of 81. Camilo (affectionately known as "Milo") is lovingly remembered by his wife Elena, his son Ted (Catherine), and his daughter Estelle (Justin). He was a proud "Papa" and is greatly missed by his four grandchildren, Chris, Everett, Keira, and Emerson. Camilo is survived and is fondly remembered by his sisters Remedios (Rizalino) and Luthgarda (Benhur), and by his nephews and nieces. In his younger years, Milo served in the U.S. Navy, was a talented photographer, and loved the finer things in life when it came to food and fashion. Faithful follower of God and proud family man, he is gone from our sight but will forever be in our hearts.

Visitation was held at the **Dods & McNair Funeral Home, Chapel & Reception Centre**, 21 First St., Orangeville on Tuesday, November 23, 2021 from 2:00 – 4:00 & 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Funeral Mass was held at St. Timothy Catholic Church, 42 Dawson Rd., Orangeville on Wednesday, November 24, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. Memorial donations can be made to the Canadian Cancer Society, Diabetes Canada, or the Canadian Mental Health Association.

A tree will be planted in memory of Camilo in the Dods & McNair Memorial Forest at the Island Lake Conservation Area, Orangeville.

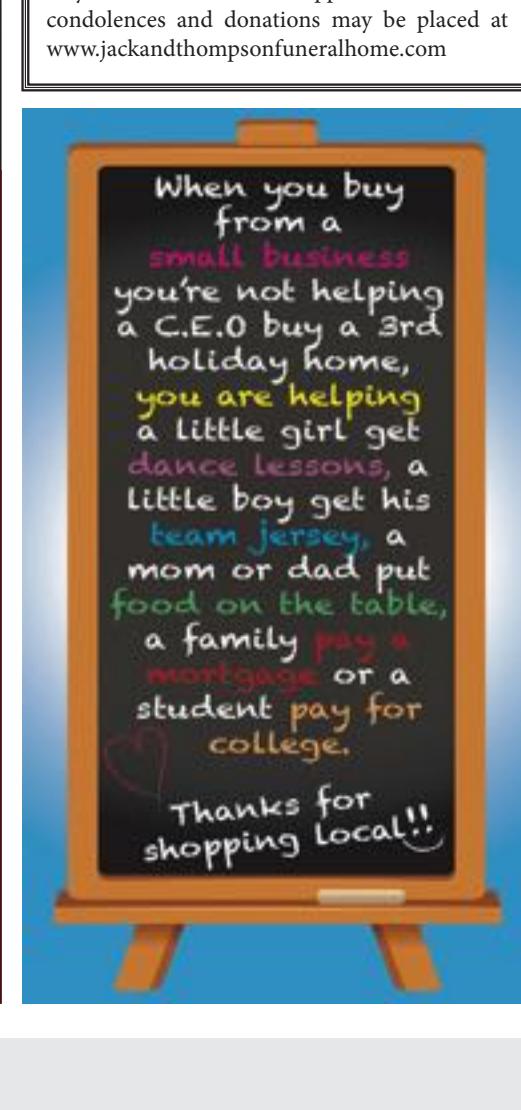
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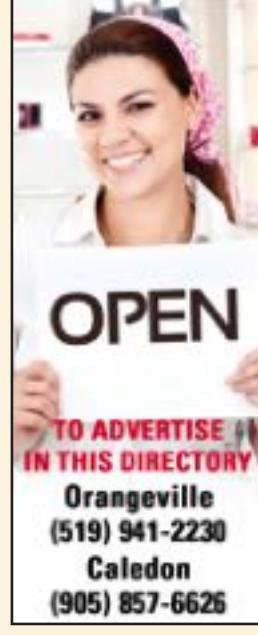
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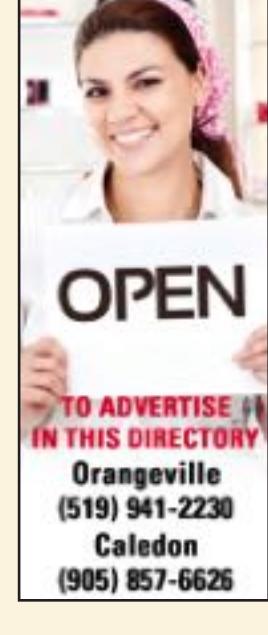
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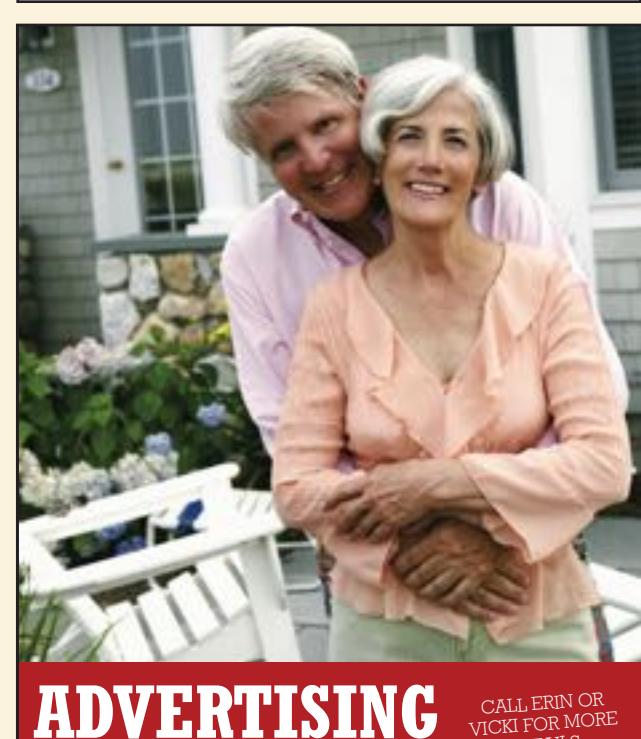
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C3 triathlete Gupta-Balthazar credits her NCAA Championship to the training she got in Caledon

BY ROB PAUL

It's not every day someone new to a sport finds nearly instant success in it, yet, after just a few years of training with Caledon's C3 and former Olympic coach Barrie Shepley, 19-year-old Kira Gupta-Balthazar won the NCAA National Triathlon Championship in Tempe, Arizona on November 13 for the University of San Francisco Dons.

Gupta-Balthazar was able to make it the fourth straight year a Canadian woman captured the gold medal spot on the podium, beating out fellow Canadian and former champ Hannah Henry of Arizona State, and she says that she couldn't have done this without the work of the coaches at C3 in Caledon.

"C3 was such a crucial part of my development and there are so many people in that club that I owe my success to," Gupta-Balthazar said. "The coaches at C3 are some of the most dedicated and passionate coaches I've ever met. It was such a great environment to be in all of the time and there's a lot of triathletes that have been so inspiring. Barrie has provided so many opportunities and he's always working relentlessly to get everything done for us."

From Kleinburg, Gupta-Balthazar found her passion for the sport in Caledon training under Shepley after originally focusing on swimming and he credits her for the instant commitment she displayed when diving into the sport.

"Ironically, when she was just seven years old, she did her first C3 Caledon Kids of Steel Triathlon," said Shepley. "Since then, Kira has been dedicated to the sport of triathlon and hopes to one day to go to the Olympic Games for Canada. Kira swam hundreds of hours in the local C3 James Dick Quarry in Caledon Village. On Saturday, all those hours paid off as she was first out of the water, first off the bike and won the overall NCAA Title."

"Beating all the best women in the USA, some who are two to three years older than Kira is truly a remarkable accomplishment," said Shepley. "Kira is a byproduct

of her talent, hard work and the incredible support of local businesses like James Dick, Kinetico, Royal Containers, Benson Steel, RA Tech and Nuvo Iron."

The added factor of the pandemic hitting prior to her first year at the University of San Francisco made all her achievements this season all the more impressive.

"Training during an 18-month pandemic is not easy, but with indoor bike trainers, the C3 quarry and resources teammates, Kira was able to overcome many odds," Shepley said. "It's been a very busy 14 days for the local athlete. She raced in St. George, Utah two weeks ago (winning the race) then had to fly to Portugal for the World Junior Championships (where she was top Canadian) and then back to San Francisco for exams before heading to Tempe, Arizona for the NCAA Championships this past weekend."

"Kira will take a nice regeneration break from hard training and focus on her semester exams before coming back home for the holidays. All of C3 is so incredible proud of Kira, and her coaches, family and teammates for this incredible accomplishment."

Gupta-Balthazar reaching these heights in triathlon all started in Caledon a few years ago when Shepley realized she had the athletic makeup and devotion to succeed in triathlon.

"My uncle has played hockey with Barrie for quite a while and when I was around 15, they started talking—I was a swimmer and soccer player at the time—about how I would have good potential for triathlon because I had a swimming and running background," Gupta-Balthazar said. "I went out and did a couple workouts and I really liked it, I found it a lot more interesting than swimming laps since it was three sports in one. I developed a passion for it pretty quickly because I had the dream of going to the Olympics since I was a little girl and I really visualize myself going to the Olympics in triathlon. Then when I was 16, I quit swimming and fully transition into full-time triathlon training with C3."

Moving on from swimming and soccer to

triathlon sounds like a difficult adjustment, but Gupta-Balthazar was a quick learner and thanks to the team at C3, it didn't take long for her to thrive.

"Honestly, it wasn't as hard of a transition as it might seem because I had a lot of support around me from Barrie and the high-performance team at C3 and from my family and now here at college," she said. "It's really all about time and dedication and the last couple years have definitely been exciting because I've moved up the ranks pretty quickly and I'm excited to see what comes next."

Though she's always had vast athletic goals, it wasn't until relatively recently that Gupta-Balthazar realized how far she may be able to take her talents.

"To Barrie's credit, I think he realized it very early on," she said. "He saw the potential in me, but honestly, I think this past season was very eye-opening for the both of us because I improved on so many levels and was given an opportunity to race in WTS Montreal—a race on the biggest circuit in the world. I really began to prove myself and we talked afterwards about seeing myself doing this for a couple years and being competitive with the top triathletes in the world."

So, how does a kid from Kleinburg who trains in Caledon end up in San Francisco? Well, after looking into various triathlon programs in the U.S., Gupta-Balthazar saw the potential of the school in the Bay Area and knew she wanted to be a Don.

"I started researching universities in the states that offer triathlon in about the 10th Grade and it's not a huge sport collegiately in the U.S. yet so there's about 40 schools that offer it," she said. "I narrowed it down between Arizona State and the University of San Francisco and I visited both schools and a few others. I really clicked with the coach here—Gina Kehr, she's a past Ironman competitor—and it's a relatively new program here and so I wanted to be a part of growing it—it's really only the second year of the program because of COVID. We have a really great group of girls here and the city is so different from where I'm

from and it's so cool to go to college here and have new experiences."

Making the transition from high school to the collegiate level during COVID was no easy task, but with the support of Shepley and those training around her, Gupta-Balthazar never wavered.

"It was hard at the beginning because we had no idea when we would start to come out of it," she said. "I had a really good group around me, and we were really motivated to continue to train and be competitive during training which helped replicate race scenarios. The second semester of my first year I went to Arizona to train there under Barrie with a couple of other teammates."

"We were surrounded by a lot of elite Ironman athletes during training which was cool and helped us focus on training even though there was a lot of uncertainty. I didn't take for granted knowing I was in a better situation than a lot of other people and I really appreciated all of the opportunities that I got."

Now that she's finding major success in the NCAA, Gupta-Balthazar hopes she can inspire younger athletes who train at C3, the way she pulled inspiration from the older triathletes she trained around.

"I hope I can be a role model," she said. "It's been a cycle at C3 of inspiring athletes, we've had Simon Whitfield and Andrew Yorke—those are the people that I've looked up to. So, I hope as I continue my career, I can become that same inspiration for the younger athletes that Simon and Andrew were for me."

With the NCAA Championship under her belt, Gupta-Balthazar is now taking aim at achieving her lifelong goal of reaching the Olympics and she's got just over two years to get ready for Paris.

"The Olympics are definitely the goal and I know that's not until 2024, and there's a lot of improvements I need to make before then," she said. "It won't be an easy road because there's a lot of great Canadian women competing in triathlon. The key for me will be staying injury free and having fun to keep my passion for it."

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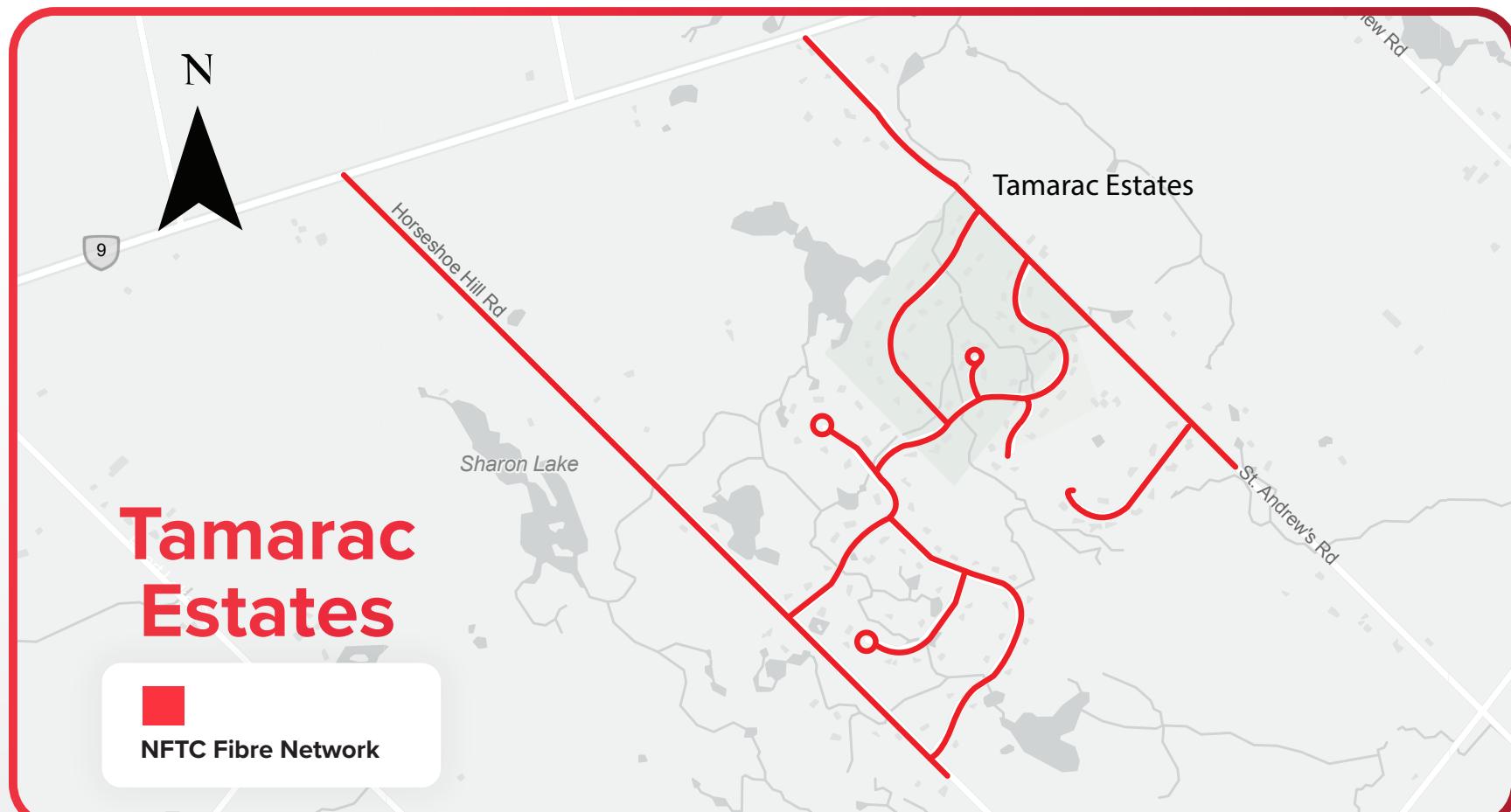
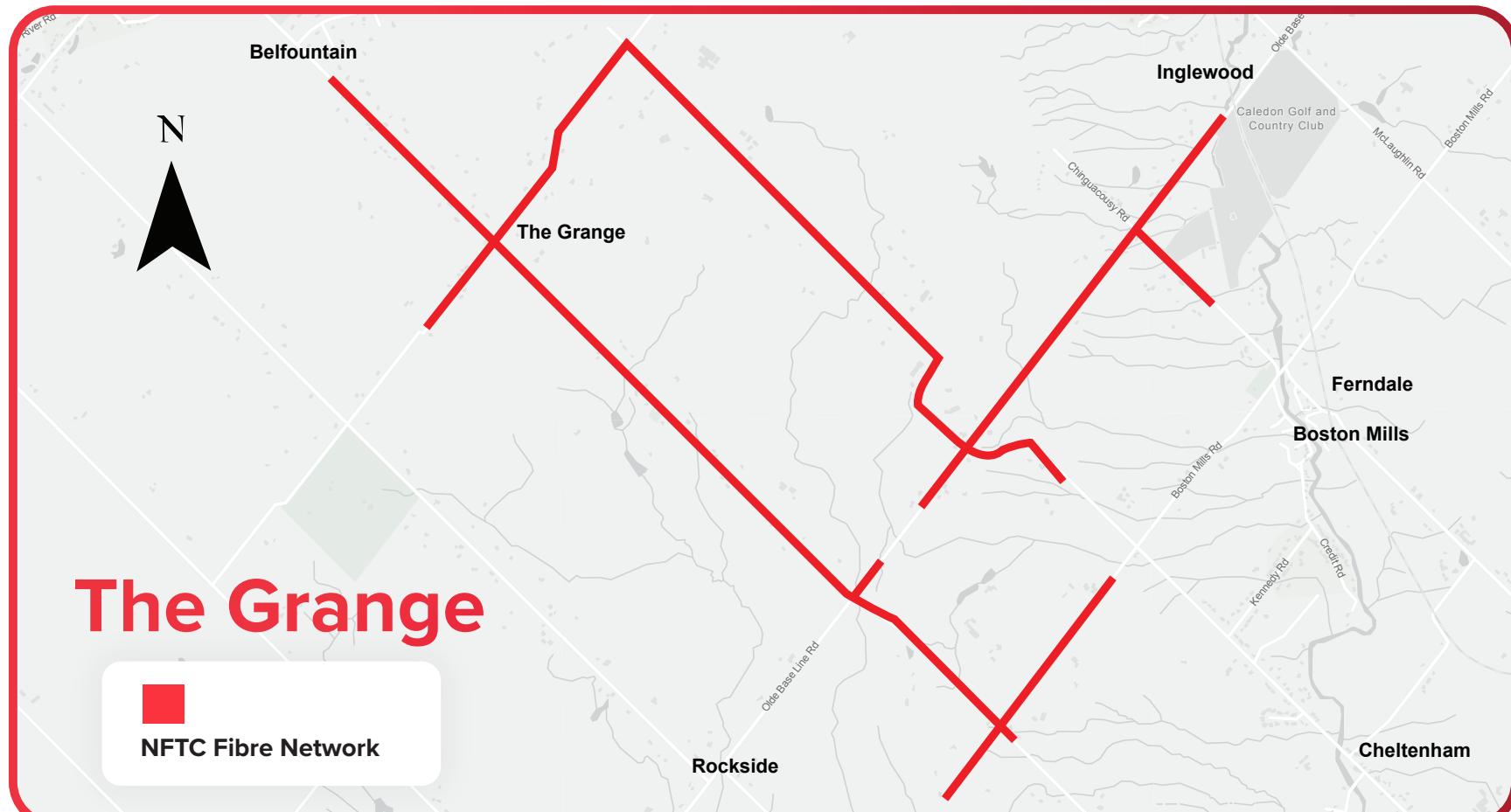
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ORANGEVILLE/CALEDON
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THE CHRIS RICHIE GROUP
Community members helping the community

The Chris Richie Group at RE/MAX in the Hills Inc. Brokerage in Caledon/Mono are your trusted members of the local real estate community who have been helping residents and newcomers alike buy and sell property for over 30 years!

At the same time, they pride themselves on being local residents – experiencing all the wonderful elements that life in this area have to offer!

In addition to "selling our lifestyle" the team at the Chris Richie Group take their commitment to the community very seriously and have been active contributors to local organizations, charities and causes since the Brokerage started! A chance to help make this a better place to live is something so important, especially now.

"We love living here too, and it's this community that has given us the ability to continue our business, and we feel it's important to give back," explained Broker of Record, Sean Anderson. "Personally, I have been part of the Children's Miracle Network which is part of SickKids hospital. A portion of the earnings from every property I have ever sold has gone to SickKids. It's a cause that is near and dear to me".

Every year at Christmas, The Chris Richie Group will focus on a charity to support. This year they found a cause that really hit home – they are partnering with Headwaters Health Care Centre.

"We are so thankful that when you do need a hospital, we have Headwaters, and everyone there is so fantastic," Mr. Anderson said. "They are doing a campaign this year, that for every dollar you donate, it is being matched up to \$250,000. A lot of people don't realize that while the government pays for doctor's salaries and some other things if the hospital needs a new wing or new equipment that comes from community donations."

Headwaters Health Care Centre Foundation is currently running their Matching Gift Campaign,

where donations are being matched dollar for dollar to help increase the total raised. The Campaign is running through to December 31, 2021.

"It makes all the sense in the world to support the people who have helped us through this unprecedented time in our lives. We can't thank all of the staff at Headwaters enough for everything they have done and continue to do!"

The Term "Support Local" has been around for some time, but when it comes to Real Estate it is truly important.

The fact that the members of the Chris Richie Group are local residents means they have a vested interest in the community in which they live and work. It also means they have an intimate knowledge of all the details of the neighbourhoods, the amenities, services and businesses in the area.

They can help guide potential buyers to the property that is right for them. They have the information a potential buyer needs when making a move to a rural location that a realtor from outside of the area will not have. Everything from septic systems, wells and neighbouring farms, to local snow removal

... We love living here too,
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to continue our business,
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to give back...

and property maintenance companies that help decision making when moving to a country property.

Choosing The Chris Richie Group to help you find or sell a property means you will be dealing with qualified realtors who are not only some of the best in their field, they are local residents who are involved with the community and helping it to become a better place to work and live.

The Chris Richie Group at RE/MAX in the Hills is located at 933009 Airport Road in Caledon, just north of Highway 9, behind the fire hall.

– Written by Brian Lockhart

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How to create a photo wall collage

(NC) A wall collage or gallery wall is a great way to display your favourite photos and memories in your home. It may seem daunting, but if you follow a few simple tips and tricks, you'll have a professional-looking focal wall in no time.

START WITH A THEME. Wall collages look tighter and more cohesive when the elements fit together around a unifying theme. Whether it's family vacations, nature shots or a special event like a wedding, pick one subject to curate your photos and stick to it.

USE QUALITY PHOTOS. While taking photos with your phone is convenient, once you blow up and print them, these images won't be of high enough quality to display like artwork. For first-rate photos that look fantastic in print, try a camera from Canon. Available at Henry's, the brand has a range of cameras for all levels of expertise that give you more control over lighting, autofocus and creative possibilities.

IT'S ALL ABOUT LINES. What's the secret to sharp, Pinterest-worthy wall collage? Making sure your frames or canvases share similar lines across the space. Imagine a grid going across the space, with different pieces sharing a few grid lines. For example, the outer edge of the frame at the bottom-left corner should line up with the inner edge of the wooden letter in the top-left corner.

MIX UP THE AESTHETIC. Variety is appealing to the eye, so it's important to incorporate some diversity into your collage, whether it's a statement piece like an antler set, quotes on wood blocks or a range of frame sizes. If you want to stick to only photos, make sure to mix it up to create visual interest and keep the eye engaged.

TEST OUT YOUR LAYOUT. Practice the "measure twice, cut once" rule but for hanging. Start by experimenting with a few layout options on the floor before even thinking about hammering a nail. Play around with it, snap some pictures and take a day or two to sit on it. You can even try putting the outline of your layout on the wall in painter's tape. Once you've decided, a level is your best friend.

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Things to consider before warming up next to your first fire this winter

A warm fire can make even the coldest winter day more enjoyable. Fireplaces may not get much use in spring or summer, but come late fall and throughout the winter, the fireplace can be a great place for families to gather.

BEFORE FIREPLACE SEASON hits full swing, homeowners might want to brush up on a few fireplace facts so they can safely enjoy nights spent sitting by the crackling flames.

The Chimney Safety Institute of America advises homeowners with fireplaces to hire a CSIA-certified chimney sweep to clean their fireplaces. After a lengthy period of non-use, various issues could be affecting the chimney, many of which might not be noticeable to an untrained eye. Professional, certified chimney sweeps

have extensive knowledge of fireplaces, making them valuable resources who can let homeowners know if any safety issues developed since fireplaces were last used. The National Protection Agency recommends that chimneys be swept at least once per year.

A full inspection of the chimney might be in order as well. Chimney service technicians will conduct thorough examinations of readily accessible portions of the chimney exterior and interior and accessible portions of the appliance and the chimney connection. The CSIA recommends that homeowners who plan to use their chimneys as they have in the past request a Level 1 inspection, which will examine the soundness of the chimney structure and flue as well as the basic appliance installation and connections. Technicians also will verify if the chimney is free of obstruction and combustible deposits.

Homeowners also should inspect their chimney dampers before lighting their first fires of the season. Dampers should open and close smoothly. If not, a service technician can help fix or replace the damper.

Firewood is another thing homeowners must

consider before lighting their first fires of the season. The CSIA says that well-seasoned firewood works best, noting that wood that is not well-seasoned will produce more smoke than heat. In addition, the home improvement resource This Old House recommends using dense wood that's been split and stored in a high and dry place for at least six months. Oak is an example of dense wood that, when stored properly, can make for an enjoyable fireplace experience. Avoid soft woods like pine. Pine can produce a lot of creosote, which is a byproduct of wood combustion. Creosote is highly flammable, and as it builds up in a chimney, the risk for a chimney fire increases. Choosing the right wood, making sure it's well-seasoned and having a chimney professionally cleaned can reduce the risk of a creosote-related chimney fire. A Level 1 inspection should determine if there are potentially dangerous levels of creosote deposits in the chimney.

Before nestling up to a fireplace this winter, homeowners should consider a host of factors and safety measures to ensure their fireplaces are safe and ready for the season ahead.

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DIY holiday HOME decor ideas



(NC) Decorating your home for the festive season is a perfect opportunity to get creative and try some do-it-yourself crafts. Not only will this be a fun activity for you (and the kids), but it will make sure your décor is completely unique and something no one else has. Here are some ideas:

Pinecone picture frame ornament This is a cute, rustic way to display photos. Go outside to take a picture of a pinecone or snowman, then print and glue to some cardstock. Get a pinecone from a nearby forest or your local craft store and use small floral clippers to remove the scales. Then glue the scales to the cardstock to create a frame. Glue on a looped ribbon to the back of the cardstock and hang on your tree.

PERSONALIZED WRAPPING PAPER

Instead of buying giftwrap at the store, create your own with a few simple things you already have on hand. Start with brown craft or butcher paper. Make stamps out of potatoes by cutting a spud in half, firmly pressing into it with a holiday cookie

cutter (like a Christmas tree), and then cutting around the cutter to ensure the shape protrudes. Finally, dip in paint and stamp all over the paper for a handmade look.

ORNAMENT VASES FOR PLACE SETTINGS

Give your holiday table a crafty aesthetic by transforming clear, round, shatterproof ornaments into mini vases. Simply remove the metal caps and use a hot glue gun to fasten a wood round to the curved bottom for the base. Put a sprig of holly or single poinsettia leaf inside each vase and fill with water, then set on top of the plate at each place setting.

BEAUTIFUL FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS

Pictures of your family are a fun and easy way to decorate, and they're super affordable if you take them yourself or enlist a friend to help. Take beautiful, natural images by choosing a location that's familiar, whether it's home or a favourite park. Dress in comfortable outfits that are friends, not twins – such as all in white or all in cardigans. Then just have fun and cut loose — the best photos are candid and organic.

Be sure you have the right equipment for the job by using a tripod with your camera or smartphone. For example, Manfrotto tripods reduce camera movement and improve picture quality, so you can shoot pictures that truly capture your family. Find a huge selection of tripod options and more at henrys.com.

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THE MULLIN GROUP TEAM

From Real Estate to underwear they've got you covered

As knowledgeable experts in the local and regional real estate market, the Mullin Team can guide you through any real estate transaction to make your entire experience as easy and stress-free as possible.

A member of Royal LePage Real Estate, the Team is one of the top-producing real estate groups in the Royal LePage line-up of industry professionals.

The group is led by team leaders Mike and Sheila Mullin.

The Team are experts in both residential and commercial real estate with an intimate knowledge of the market in Orangeville, Dufferin County, and the surrounding region.

That intimate knowledge means they know the neighbourhoods and the nearby amenities that will influence a person's decision to buy in that area.

The location of schools, sports clubs, restaurants, social clubs, recreation centres, churches, and even conveniences like pharmacies and grocery stores will influence a buyer's decision.

The Mullin team can guide potential buyers to the right neighbourhood that will suit their needs and lifestyle.

Along with residential urban properties, the Team has the special knowledge and information that will help people who are exploring the possibility of moving to a rural setting.

This is why you should always deal with a real estate agent who is local to the area.

Many city-based realtors and potential buyers have no idea of the challenges that can be faced when moving to a country home.

Things like septic systems, wells, lack of natural gas supply, and even windmills will be new to someone who has never maintained a rural property. A property may be part of a conservation area which could possibly affect future plans, or close to a working farm which may impact your daily life.

The Mullin Team can guide and advise potential

buyers to make the best decision when it comes to moving to a rural setting.

As residents of the town, the Mullin Team believes strongly in giving back to the community and participating in events and programs that benefit local residents and the community in general.

"We do support a lot of charities," Sheila explained. "We feel that it is important that every team member support some initiative in our community. You can always give time, talent, or treasury. We all give our time."

The team has started an initiative called 'Show You Care With Underwear.'

It may be something you never think about, but people who suddenly find themselves in a desperate situation where they have had to leave home suddenly have needs beyond those which are readily apparent.

"I toured Choices Youth Shelter a few years back," Sheila explained. "Back then they showed me they get so many donations of clothing items like coats, and hats and mitts, but quite often people arrive, and they really have nothing. It's not like you can give one pair of underwear, like a coat, and expect it to last all season. On their 'wish list,' they always had underwear."

The Mullin Team started asking for donations of new packaged underwear to be distributed to those that need it. Once they put the word out, the response was a huge success.

"We had bags and bags donated," Sheila said. "Our tree was full, our boxes were full. We need it for men, women, and children. A lot of people buy underwear at Christmas – it's easy to pick up another package while you're there. There's so much need in our community, and if we can all help just a little bit, it's amazing what can happen."

It's a small expense for you, but it really can make a difference in another person's life by making that extra purchase this Christmas season.

You can donate to 'Show You Care with Underwear' right at the Royal LePage RCR Realty Mullin Group office located at 685 Riddell Road, Unit 103 in Orangeville, or you can reach the team by calling the office at 519-941-5151. You can also drop off at the local radio station FM101 at 45 Mill Street, Unit B, Orangeville.

– Written by Brian Lockhart



\$1,800,000

MLS#N5383936

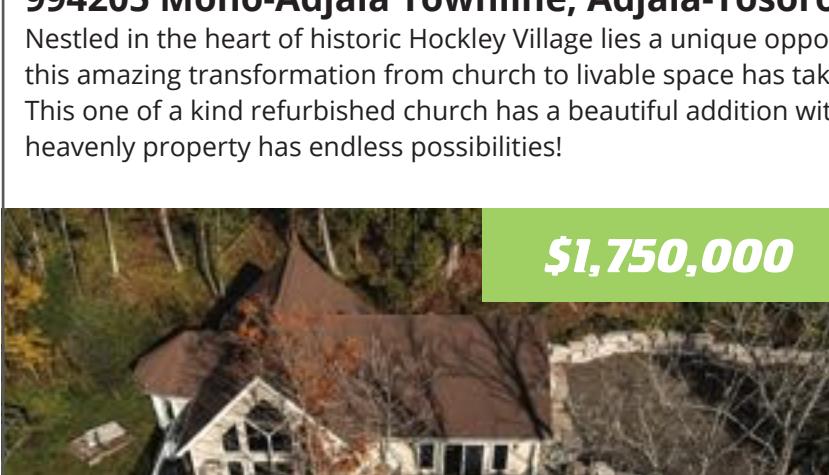
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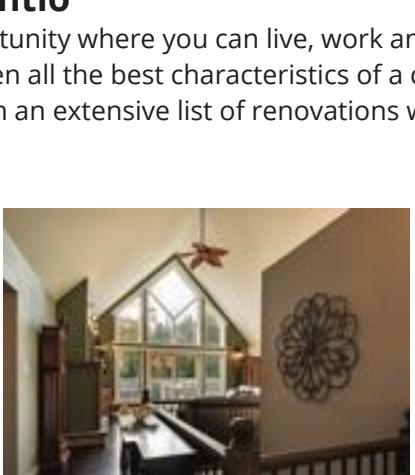
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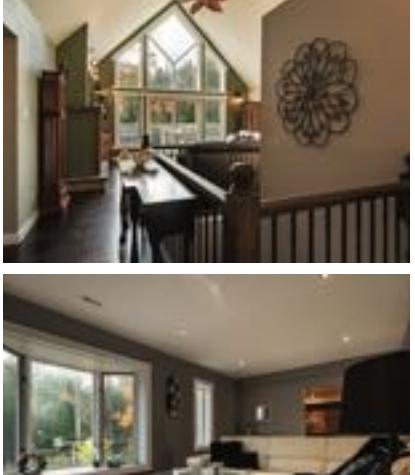
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Simplifying Mortgage Rates

Today the common opinion is that mortgage interest rates are on the rise.

This is coming from the media, who are getting their information from the Bank of Canada and from Major Bank Economists. It is important to understand that there are two different sources of funds in Canada that drive the two different mortgage products that affect most of us.

Variable rates have recently become very popular. Justifiably so. They are cheaper, as low as .99% today, and they offer more flexibility. Penalties for early repayment on fixed rates can be as high as 5%, while in a variable mortgage, they can be as low as .05%. A significant difference. Fixed rates have an interest rate differential clause, not really explainable in a short article as this one, but suffice to say, when it comes into play, the penalties skyrocket. And they are usually in play. Variable-rate mortgages are 3 months interest. Period. The variable rate is calculated from prime, each institution sets their own prime, and that rate generally is adjusted when the Bank of Canada moves their benchmark rate. The rate can stay the same for years, or it could move up or down on a monthly basis depending on how the economy is performing.

History favours the variable rate mortgage.

Fixed rates have been popular because most

Canadians feel it is a safe bet. A guaranteed rate for a fixed period. Terms can be 6 months to 10 years. No rate hikes to worry about, only periodic renewals. The issue is when the consumer wants to break the mortgage early. Moving, refinancing, or selling for any reason. Often the fixed rate can be ported, increased, blended, etc., to avoid the penalty. The fixed-rate is not dictated by prime or the Bank of Canada. In Canada and the US, bonds are purchased as investment vehicles and sold as a way of generating cash. Investors buy bonds because the interest rate is fixed for a period of time. When bond prices drop, and investors stop buying, it causes interest rates to rise. Lenders offering fixed rates can literally adjust the rates on a daily basis depending on the price of bonds.

It is not unusual that the Bank of Canada rate affecting variable rates, goes down, while fixed rates are on the rise. But normally they both move in the same direction at the same time.

I prefer the variable rate, more flexibility, cheap to get into, and cheap to get out of.

Many economists today feel that the crazy low rates we are experiencing will move up. Very possible. But, would it be the end of the world if rates moved back to 4%? Historically, 7% is the average rate charged for borrowing money. Anything below that is considered a bargain. In my opinion, rates can move up, but not dramatically, neither will house prices plummet when rates move, nor is the sky falling. But that's just my opinion.





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Walk out to the spacious patio, hot tub & heated inground pool. Plus, renovated carriage house with kitchenette, 3pc bath, games room, storage & single car garage/workshop.



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FANTASTIC LOCATION

Amazing 4-level sidesplit home, located on a 66 x 165ft. lot in the heart of Bolton within walking distance from downtown shops and restaurants. This family home features 3 beds, 2 baths and has plenty of living space. Step into the large foyer that welcomes you to the living/dining room with a stone fireplace and a walkout to side porch. Retro kitchen overlooks the main floor family room with walkout to rear yard. L-shaped recreation/games room completes the lower level.

\$799,900



LOADS OF LIVING SPACE

Quality-built bungalow with an all-brick exterior and two-car garage located on a 49.21 x 125ft. lot in the heart of Shelburne. This home features 3 spacious bedrooms and 3 bathrooms. Enjoy the walk-in closet and 4-piece ensuite in primary bedroom. Large eat-in kitchen open to the family room. Lots of additional space in finished basement including office area, rec room, games/crafts room, storage room, additional bathroom and separate utility room.

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195278 AMARANTH-EAST LUTHER TL

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374170 6TH LINE, AMARANTH

\$1,699,000



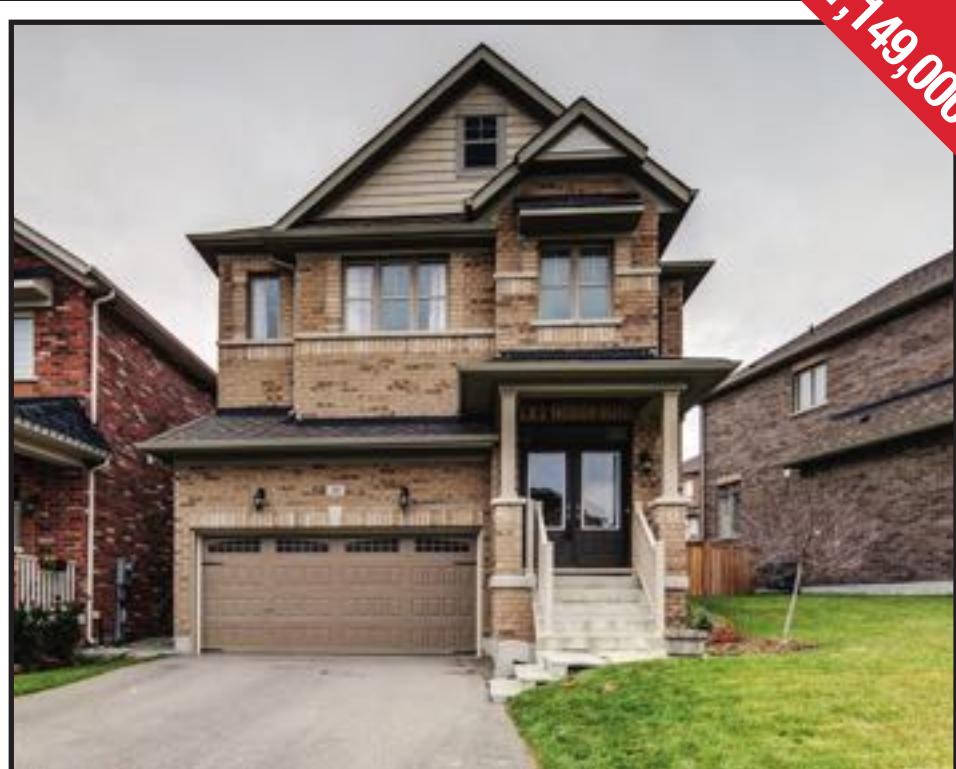
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49 ATKINSON CRESCENT, ALLISTON

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Large family home in the ever popular Treetops area of Alliston. This 4 bedroom and 3 bath home has some great features, all brick, reverse pie shaped lot, fully fenced, and large principle rooms to mention a few. This home has been loved by the original owners and you will feel it the moment you enter the front door.

594055 BLIND LINE, MONO

\$949,000



If you love history you will love this home. 4.8 acres severed off of the land that has been in the family since 1844. The home is large and full of history but it isn't finished. Although very livable and solid it needs some TLC.

**RESALE
HOMES**
COLLECTIONS

Ask A Realtor



- Image by tkoch from Pixabay

Is the fall market a good time to sell?

When it comes to real estate and deciding when to put your house on the market, many people assume that spring and summer are always the best times to put that for sale sign on the front lawn.

SELLERS ASSUME that the changing weather, the earlier sunset and resulting nighttime, and the approach to the holiday season means buyers have put off looking until they can see a house in broad daylight and after the rush of the holiday season.

The truth is, there is never a bad time of year if you decide to sell.

The fall season traditionally is a slow period for real estate but that doesn't mean you will have a hard time selling your home.

In the Orangeville area, the current market shows that there has never been a better time to put your house on the market.

As of mid-November, there were only 12 houses listed for sale in Orangeville. In this very-low inventory situation, it is definitely a seller's market.

As of September 2021, the average selling price of a home in the Town of Orangeville was \$770,000. In October, that average selling price had already risen to \$843,894.

The reason for the dip in home prices in September was the result of several market factors. During

September, the market had more inventory, however much of that inventory was properties of lower end value which brought the average price down.

During that time, the average time a house stayed on the market before a sale, was 12 days.

With the low inventory, there has been a return to bidding wars on many of the properties with buyers scrambling to out-bid the other guy.

Many homes were involved in bidding wars over the past year, but that subsided for a while with some exceptions. The current market is again seeing many bids on one property with so few homes currently available.

The current market is still very active, and for someone considering selling, this is the right time to do it. There is very little competition out there, and when someone is considering buying a home, yours will be one of the few currently available.

If a homeowner has been considering selling but has delayed due to the time of year, they would actually benefit by putting up the for-sale sign at this time.

While some sellers think that buyers won't be interested going into the holidays, local statistics show that over the past nine years, the final closing sales for homes in Orangeville have taken place on December 23.

Selling your home during this time of year does present some challenges you should be aware of.

With the days getting shorter, expect to see potential buyers arriving for a tour after dark. Because of this, you will want to make sure your home is well lit and inviting as possible.

You should also be prepared to be patient. As many people will be arriving from out of town, traffic and

weather can cause delays for people who will be arriving after they have already spent a long day at work.

While the real estate market generally has an ebb-and-flow type of presence over the years, the current seller's market in Orangeville has gone on longer than at any other time in local history. It has now been a solid two years of a seller's market in the region.

Most realtors will tell you that there is no bad time of year to sell a house. There is always someone looking to buy real estate.

If you are considering selling but think you should wait until the new year or warmer weather arrives, you may find yourself missing out on a great opportunity.

At the current average selling price, Orangeville is still slightly lower than large surrounding centres, but

the entire GTA region is starting to match nearby areas with some centres now averaging a selling price of over \$1 million.

Jerry Gould and the Gould Team can be reached at their RE/MAX Real Estate Centre office at 115 First Street in Orangeville.

- Written by Brian Lockhart

Information provided by Jerry Gould and the Gould Team ReMax Real Estate Centre office at 115 First Street, Orangeville. Faith, Community, Experience... It's Who We Are! www.kissrealty.ca


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Five things buyers should do when entering the market

Dufferin Real Estate Market Update

Dufferin Statistics (excluding Orangeville) - October			
	October, 2021	October, 2020	% Change
# of Active Listings	69	91	-35.16%
# of Sales	66	78	-15.38%
Average Sale Price	\$1,70,012	\$84,043	23.25%

Dufferin Statistics (excluding Orangeville) - Year to Date			
	Jan - October, 2021	Jan - October, 2020	% Change
# of Sales	531	535	7.86%
Average Sale Price	\$1,11,353	\$829,737	33.81%

Buyers Market vs. Sellers Market

Current Number of Homes for Sale	59
Divided by Sales per Month	1.6
Months of Inventory	3.6

There is currently 1 month of inventory on the Market in Dufferin (excluding Orangeville). In a Buyers Market, there is normally more than 6 months worth of inventory.

October 2021 vs. October 2020
The number of active listings in Dufferin (excluding Orangeville) decreased by 35.16% in October 2021 over the same month in 2020. The number of homes sold decreased by 12 homes or 15.38% in October 2021. Average sale prices increased by 23.28%.

Year to Date 2020 vs. Year to Date 2019
The number of homes sold increased by 46 homes in October 2021 over the same month in 2020. Average sale prices were up by 33.94%.

Members of the Orangeville & District Real Estate Board (ODREB) are also members of the Canadian Real Estate Association (CREA), the Ontario Real Estate Association (OREA), and the Toronto Real Estate Board (TREB), and, as such, adhere to a high standard of professional conduct and a strict Code of Ethics.

The Board fosters understanding and co-operation amongst the members resulting in enhanced professional services to the public.



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Written by Brian Lockhart



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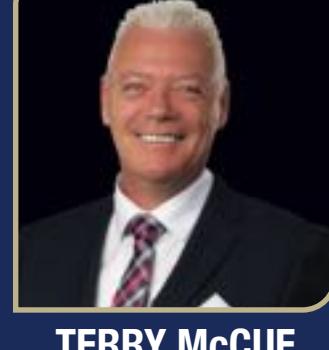


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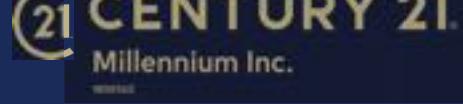


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*AS PER IMS STATS 2019/C21 STATS 2019



Signs it is time to *overhaul your kitchen*

Remodelling a kitchen adds value to a home. Remodelling Magazines Cost vs. Value Report indicates mid-range kitchen remodels cost about \$66,000, and homeowners can expect to recover about 60 to 80 percent of that cost at resale.

HOMEOWNERS may wonder if remodelling their kitchens is worth the investment. Homeowners should not just consider cost, but also the current conditions of their kitchens when deciding if a renovation project is the right move to make. These signs indicate it may be time to renovate a kitchen.

BREAKERS ARE TRIGGERED:
If the lights go dark from a tripped circuit breaker every time you try to microwave and run the toaster oven at the same time, your wiring is likely not up to the task of handling the workload and could be out of date. A kitchen remodel will assess wiring load needs, and an electric overhaul may be necessary.

LACK OF STORAGE:

One of the biggest hassles homeowners encounter in their kitchens is a lack of storage space. If making a meal involves a Jenga-like stacking and rearranging of kitchen tools, or if an avalanche occurs whenever you search for an item, you might need more storage. A carefully planned redesign can achieve this, even in a smaller kitchen.

OUTDATED APPLIANCES:

Even if your appliances are not avocado green or mustard yellow relics of the 1970s, they might still need to be replaced. According to CRD Design, appliances are only expected to last around 10 to 15 years. If appliances have become unsafe or energy hogs, it could be time for a remodel.

FAMILY IS EXPANDING (OR SHRINKING):

Kitchens often are the heart of a home. They need to meet the needs of the family that resides in that home. A remodel can add space as needed. On the flip side, when a couple becomes empty nesters, kitchens can be redesigned and downsized to reflect their new needs and desires, such as the addition of a wine chiller or espresso station.

POOR LIGHTING:

Task lighting is essential in a kitchen, but older homes may not be equipped with lighting where it's most needed. A carefully designed remodel can improve

lighting with under-cabinet lights, pendants, overhead lighting, and even natural light to make the space attractive and more functional.

FREQUENT RUN-INS:

The notion that you can have too many cooks in the kitchen refers to having too many people trying to pitch in or offer their opinions. However, it also can apply to when too many people are gathering in a

small space. Redesigning a kitchen can improve the efficiency of a space and make the room feel larger.

AESTHETIC APPEAL:

Many kitchen remodels have been inspired by unsightly kitchens. Cosmetic changes can lead to big improvements.

Kitchen renovations can add instant appeal and help address issues that tend to plague outdated rooms.



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MARKET UPDATE**Orangeville Statistics - October**

	October, 2021	October, 2020	% Change
# of Active Listings	24	53	-57.27%
# of Homes Listed	51	74	-31.08%
# of Sales	52	78	-33.33%
List Price vs. Sale Price Ratio	105%	105%	3.95%
Average Days on Market	12	14	-14.29%
Average Sale Price	\$643,894	\$653,625	-29.11%

Orangeville Statistics - Year to Date

	Jan - October, 2021	Jan - October, 2020	% Change
# of Homes Listed	768	698	11.35%
# of Sales	642	501	14.32%
List Price vs. Sale Price Ratio	105%	105%	4.35%
Average Days on Market	10	10	0.00%
Average Sale Price	\$679,324	\$631,263	24.17%

Buyers Market vs. Sellers Market

Current Number of Homes for Sale: 24
Divided by Sales per Month: 52
Months of Inventory: 0.5

There is currently 0.5 months of inventory on the market in Orangeville.
In a Buyers Market, there is normally more than 6 months worth of inventory.

October 2021 vs. October 2020

The number of active listings in Orangeville decreased by 27.27% in October 2021 vs. October 2020. 23 fewer listings came on the Toronto Regional Real Estate Board in October 2021 vs. October 2020, which is a decrease of 31.08%. The number of homes sold decreased by 26 homes or 33.33%. The average days on the market decreased from 14 to 12 days. Average sale prices were up by 29.11%.

Year to Date 2021 vs. Year to Date 2020

The number of homes listed in Orangeville, year-to-date increased from 686 to 768, which is an increase of 11.95%. The number of homes sold increased by 83 homes. The average days on the market decreased from 16 to 10 days. Average sale prices were up year over year by 24.17%.

Peel - Caledon Statistics - October

	October, 2021	October, 2020	% Change
# of Active Listings	97	188	-48.40%
# of Homes Listed	130	188	-30.62%
# of Sales	98	149	-36.36%
List Price vs. Sale Price Ratio	105%	99%	6.00%
Average Days on Market	14	18	-22.22%
Average Sale Price	\$1,500,461	\$1,236,473	26.30%

Peel - Caledon Statistics - Year to Date

	Jan - October, 2021	Jan - October, 2020	% Change
# of Homes Listed	1,774	1,753	1.20%
# of Sales	1,167	1,045	12.48%
List Price vs. Sale Price Ratio	103%	98%	5.1%
Average Days on Market	12	2	-42.86%
Average Sale Price	\$1,441,635	\$1,107,103	30.22%

Buyers Market vs. Sellers Market

Current Number of Homes for Sale: 24
Divided by Sales per Month: 52
Months of Inventory: 0.5

There is currently 0.5 months of inventory on the market in Caledon.
In a Buyers Market, there is normally more than 6 months worth of inventory.

October 2021 vs. October 2020

The number of active listings in Caledon decreased by 48.40% in October 2021 over the same month in 2020. The number of listings that came on the Toronto Regional Real Estate Board in October 2021 vs. October 2020 decreased by 58 homes or 30.85%. The number of homes sold decreased by 61 homes or 38.36%. The average days on the market decreased from 18 days to 14 days. Average sale prices were up by 26.30%.

Year to Date 2021 vs. Year to Date 2020

The number of homes listed in Caledon, year-to-date increased from 1753 to 1774, which is an increase of 1.20%. The number of homes sold increased by 142 homes or 13.46%. The average days on market decreased from 21 days to 12 days. Average sale prices were up by 30.22%.



Organize and declutter room-by-room

Clutter can be a major source of stress that affects how individuals feel about their spaces.

Psychology Today indicates messy homes and workspaces can contribute to feelings of helplessness, anxiety and overwhelming stress. Clutter bombards the mind with excessive stimuli, makes it more difficult to relax and can constantly signal to the brain that work is never done.

Tackling messes no matter where they are lurking is not a one-time project. Much like losing weight and getting healthy, clearing a home of clutter requires dedication and lifestyle changes. With these organizational tips and tricks, anyone can work through their home room-by-room and conquer clutter.

FIND A PLACE FOR EVERYTHING

Clutter creeps up as people accumulate possessions over the years. Over time, failure to regularly go through belongings and thin the herd can lead to the accumulation of clutter. But clutter also can accumulate if people fail to find a place to put items. Racks for garages, organizational systems for closets and furniture with storage capacity, such as storage ottomans, are some storage solutions that can help people find a place for their possessions.

UTILIZE VERTICAL SPACE WHEN POSSIBLE

Getting items up and off the floor can maximize square footage in a home. Bookshelves, hanging wall shelves,

hooks, cabinetry, built-ins, and other storage solutions that rely on walls and ceilings are simple and effective storage solutions. Unused space behind a cabinet or closet doors are some additional places to store belongings. Hang razors or toothbrushes on medicine cabinet walls and curling irons and other hair tools on the interior of cabinet doors in bathrooms.

CREATE A CODING SYSTEM

Home offices can be some of the more disorganized rooms in a house simply due to the volume of electronics and paperwork within them. HGTV suggests using a colour-coded system for important files to keep them organized. Label important items, whether they're paper or digital files, in accordance with your system.

PUT IT AWAY

When you finish using an item, return it to its storage location. This eliminates piles of belongings strewn around the house and hunting and pecking for missing things. If you can't put it away immediately, have a few baskets on hand labelled for the different rooms in the house. Pop the items in the requisite baskets and then routinely take each basket around the house to return the items.

Investing in custom cabinetry and organizational systems also can help people organize their belongings. Tackle rooms such as the garage, basements, bedroom closets, and pantries, or those areas that tend to accumulate clutter the fastest.

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iPro Realty's annual food and clothing drive returns to Dufferin

The holiday season has returned, and there's a great opportunity for residents throughout the region to give back.

iPRO REALTY, which has offices in both Orangeville (41 Broadway, Unit #3) and Shelburne (722 Main St E, Apt. B), is running its annual iProvide To Our Community Food Drive, accepting non-perishable food and clothing donations at their local offices for the Orangeville Food Bank.

"We worry that with food costs going up, the demand for food will be even higher this year," said Rui Alves, iPro Realty owner, encouraging the public to donate to help offset rising prices.

The holiday food and clothing drive being run by iPro comes after a successful fundraiser they carried out for the Orangeville Food Bank leading up to Thanksgiving.



A total of \$2,300 worth of food was donated from residents of the community and iPro staff.

The real estate company also sponsors youth sports in the region, such as soccer and hockey. They have lots of branding in local arenas and parks, as well.

iPro has always operated like a family-run business, since its inception 35 years ago, the company strongly values supporting the community and helping it thrive.

"We're in a people business, not the real estate business, so community is really important," Alves noted.

While in some other type of sales job you have to sell your company's products, Alves stressed that at iPro Realty, the focus is on creating relationships, to help clients navigate the market to find a home that's best suited for their needs.

"You just have to believe in us, trust in us, and then we can find you the best property regardless of which brokerages has the listing. For our sellers we market the properties to obtain the highest price even if the buyer is represented by another brokerage," Alves explained.

Another iPro advantage is that iPro is an independent brokerage that isn't franchised or confined to a geographical grid, which allows it's over 2,000 agents to sell real estate 24/7 across its 14 offices, situated throughout the GTA.

Since the company isn't franchised, clients can meet with their agent and sign documentation out of any of their offices, not just the one in their local city or town.

For example, if someone from Orangeville buys a house in Mississauga, they wouldn't have to travel all the way to Mississauga to drop off the deposit cheque, they could simply visit their local Orangeville office instead.

"That has given our agents a huge advantage, and their consumers a huge advantage," said Alves.

Other brokerages who sell our listings also like the ability to drop off cheques and documents at any iPro location, which encourages them to choose iPro listings to show and sell.

As well, the iPro app allows its agents to send various forms and documents right from their phone that can be signed digitally.

"So if someone wants to do an offer on the spot or they just want to amend a closing date or waive a condition, all of that can be done phone to phone now digitally."

Recently iPro upgraded its online services, making it the first brokerage in the GTA to allow buyers to make a deposit directly from their phone.

"If they have a banking app, which most do now, that they can access from their phone, they can make

a deposit on a real estate transaction up to \$150,000," Alves explained. "That saves them having to go into a bank to get a draft, which during COVID has been very helpful."

The Orangeville market is hotter than ever before, yet the office has been mostly quiet throughout the pandemic because iPro is set up for agents to work 100% virtually.

"They can upload their sales documents, mortgage documents, and everything else online. They still will need to meet people face to face, as that is the best way to foster lasting connections and long-term customer relationships, so we will always maintain physical offices and meeting facilities," Alves noted.

Looking ahead to 2022, he told the Citizen that iPro is continuing to expand across Ontario.

The company is working on a deal right now to open offices in Newmarket and Pickering.

"We do a lot of business in Durham right now, so we're starting to expand out that way," Alves explained.

To learn more about iPro, visit: iprorealty.com or joiniPro.com or call the Orangeville office at 519-940-0004.

Alternatively, the Shelburne office can be contacted at 519-925-0099.

- Written by Sam Odrowski

ADVERTORIAL

Improve your home's curb appeal in 7 easy steps

The exterior of your house can leave a lasting first impression, so improving your curb appeal is a great way to feel good about your home, impress your neighbours, and appeal to potential buyers. If you're not sure where to start, here are 7 easy steps to ensure your home stands out.

Restore the front door

A new front door looks impressive and can often almost pay for itself in added resale value. Try to choose something that fits the existing style of your home and, if you're daring, opt for a bolder colour to add a bit of brightness to your exterior even during the duller winter months.

Update siding and windows

Though expensive, updating your siding and windows is one of the best ways to add value to your home, just be sure to let your insurance agent know since a significant upgrade like this may influence your home insurance coverage. If that's not in the budget, be sure to keep your windows as clean as possible – and, if you're selling your home, remove the screens for extra shine.

Capitalize on character

Maintain or bring your home's exterior back to its original aesthetic to highlight its features. Freshen up your siding with period-appropriate paint colours, for example, or add a fence. You may also want to consider seasonal elements, like a wreath in winter or pumpkins in the fall, to add a touch of warmth.

Get the right greenery

Your landscaping choices should enhance your house, not hide it, so try to use landscaping to call out certain features – like your home's symmetry, for example – or to hide trouble spots.

Freshen up the front porch

If you're lucky enough to have a front porch, keep the porch floor and railings in good condition and add comfortable furniture to make the porch inviting. This is a great selling feature.

Consider outdoor lighting

In addition to being a great security and safety feature, exterior lights will also give your home a dramatic and attractive look at night.



Fix what's broken

Repairing cracks in your sidewalks, driveway and masonry can go a long way in making the exterior of your home look clean and appealing. Plus, if a complete resurfacing job is out of the budget, patching is a simple and affordable alternative.

If you're looking for more helpful lifestyle, safety, and prevention tips you can take advantage of today – visit desjardinsagents.com/customer-care/blog and – for all your home insurance needs – don't hesitate to get in touch.



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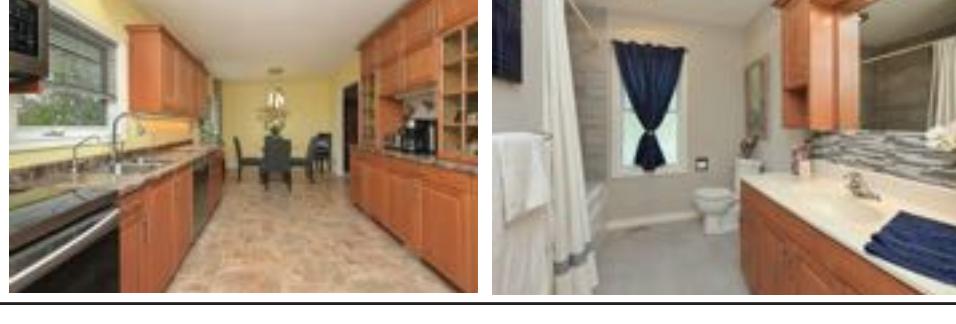
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Our Award Winning agents have over 50 years of combined experience at your service! Caledon, Mono, Adjala and surrounding areas.



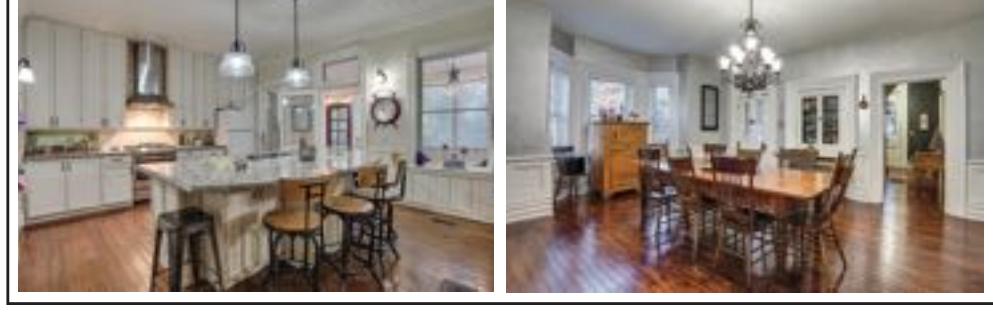
THE PERFECT ORANGEVILLE LOCATION

Walk to schools, shops, park & more! Welcome to this nicely updated 3 bedroom bungalow with finished basement complete with 2nd kitchen - perfect for in-laws with separate entrance! The main level has hardwood under the carpet in living room, hardwood flooring in the bedrooms. The kitchen features classy cabinets with crown detail, under cabinet lighting, S/S appliances, walk-out to private patio & landscaped yard! Fantastic walk score with the heart of downtown Orangeville. Forced air gas furnace 2019, metal roof, updated windows. The basement offers large rec rm with gas fireplace, kitchen, bedroom & luxurious 3-Pc Bath. Laundry, storage & utility space complete the level. The one car garage is a bonus! **ORANGEVILLE \$859,000**



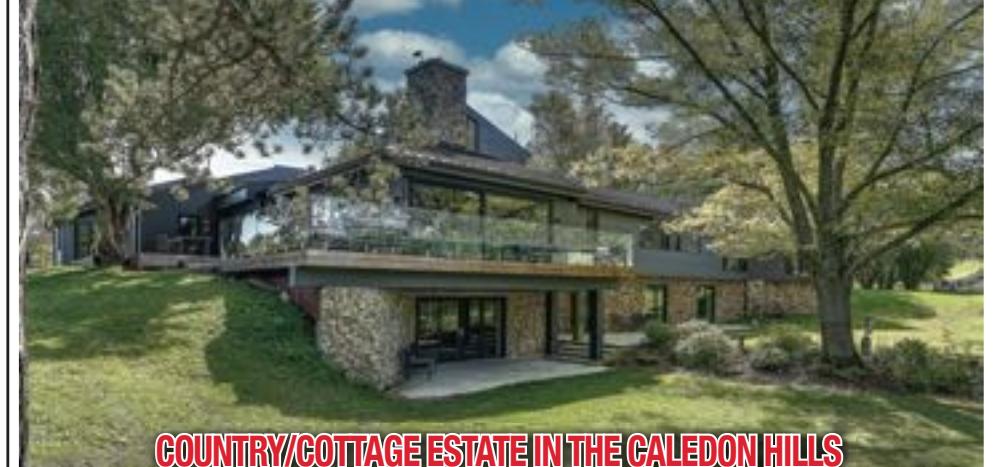
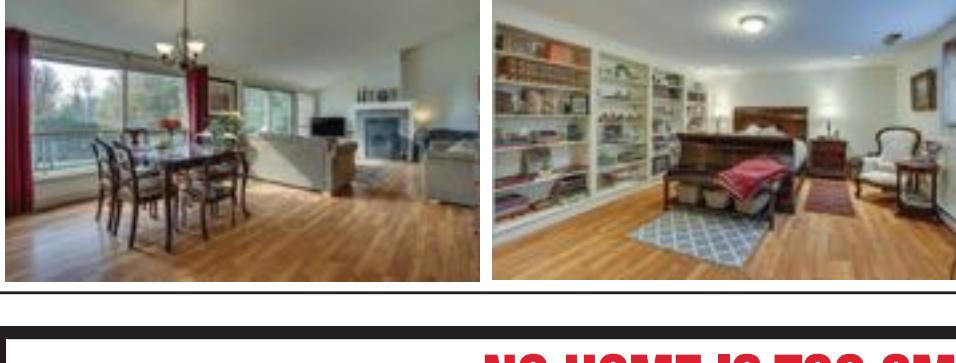
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COUNTRY/COTTAGE ESTATE IN THE CALEDON HILLS

Phenomenal country & serene cottage property all in one! Who wants to drive thru traffic every weekend when you can have it all on 50 acres. Meander down a winding tree lined driveway that leads to a spectacular 5 bedroom, 7 bathroom, completely renovated home with luxury finishes, massive windows, heated floors, built-in appliances, multiple walk-outs, LED lighting, vaulted ceilings, Sonos throughout whole home as well as outside speakers to enjoy while swimming in the 14' deep pool or chilling out in the hot tub. Climb into the copper Japanese soaker tub or the sauna, so many choices! 10 stall heated barn with extra stalls & wash rack, 10KW microfit solar, huge utility/storage building, multiple paddocks, run-ins, separate entrance to barn area, pond, creek, trails, geothermal, unbelievable guest house & bunkie- all tucked away in a gorgeous private quiet setting. Come see for yourself & you will never want to leave! **CALEDON \$7,995,000**



NO HOME IS TOO SMALL OR ESTATE TOO BIG.

It has been almost thirty years, believe it or not, that I have worked in our community. I started in the Real Estate business when you had to work and work hard to get ahead.

That was in 1987 and most of us remember what happened in 1989/1990 with 'the crash' the likes of which we had not seen for a long time, nor since thankfully.

In those times people were feeling hit hard. I remember selling one property in particular. It took many months of trying to finally make it happen. The market kept dropping and it was almost impossible to catch it or get something sold. Yet, somehow we made it happen, at a substantial loss, unfortunately, not only for the bank that had the mortgage but the poor owners. These were financially tragic times.

What it took was a dedication and determination to succeed in those days. Many rough months of slugging, that hundreds of Realtors in the GTA did not survive.

I count my blessings that I had the background to help me through it.

When I was growing up we had a family business in northern Ontario, north of Sault Ste. Marie actually. We lived on the property, so it was common place to get up from a meal and serve a customer. It was natural to get off the school bus and go to work, be it cutting grass, raking leaves, or pumping gas. These were everyday occurrences and it laid the foundation for a strong work ethic, an early education on customer service and a willingness to go the extra mile. This was the families' bread and butter...literally. As a family, as a team, we made a success of it.

So, when the times were rough, in the early '80's, like in the late '60's, we rolled up our sleeves and did what we had to do.

The challenge is often 'to keep up', let alone 'ahead' of the game. We work long hours (still), know what good customer service is (daily) and know that what we do on a daily basis affects our reputation...our very existence. Working with my new family, my team, at the office is much like it was working with my brothers and parents.

A strong connection and being ever aware of one another, always ready to jump in and help, all required attributes to ensure a seamless experience for our clients.

With the success that I have seen from the '80's many people have followed my career, even grown up with it. A comment I often get is "we weren't sure you would work with us"

or "I didn't think our house was "big" enough for you to take on!". As much as perhaps these responses might be anticipated, they rub me a bit the wrong way.

You see, I don't forget those days in the early '90's where every call is important. I remember well the early '70's when every customer that pulled in the driveway was important to us.

There is no such thing as a property that does not warrant my attention or a seller that is not someone that I would be only too happy to serve...none.

On the other end of that same scale there are none too large either. Our Team has been blessed to have some of the largest sales in the area. From large acreages, to large estates, we sell more than most, if not, any other Realtor in the area. We have a reputation for our marketing, for our experience and our professionalism...and not the least of which, for our results. When you want to sell, you want local representation, with their finger on the pulse of our neighbourhoods. Bar none, I and my well-rounded team, all residents of the area, are exactly what you need! Call us today and you will get the best representation possible.

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