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FREE Thursday, November 24, 2022 Volume 42, Issue 47



ABOUT MORE THAN JUST FOOD – Barb Imrie, left, and Maureen Ramsay, right, of Palgrave United Community Kitchen (PUCK) are pictured presenting a local food basket to Fely Ragudo. The basket was a prize for filling out a survey conducted by the organization, which, along with grant funding, has allowed the organization to evolve to better serve the community. As such, PUCK in recent years has become about much more than just cooking. For more, see Page 3.

PHOTO BY ZACHARY ROMAN

“Lack of local democracy”: Protest planned against province’s Bill 23

EcoCaledon organizing protest at MPP Sylvia Jones’ office

BY ZACHARY ROMAN

Caledon residents concerned about the democratic process and the environment are planning a protest against the Provincial government’s Bill 23, the More Homes Built Faster Act.

EcoCaledon members Betty de Groot, Dan O’Reilly and Lucrezia Chiappetta have organized a protest to be held on November 25 at 1 p.m. at Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones’ office in Orangeville.

People will be gathering around the office with signs to raise awareness about their concerns with Bill 23, said O’Reilly, adding all are welcome to join. There are many reasons as to why O’Reilly and EcoCaledon are concerned about Bill 23.

“First of all, it would kind of devolve regional planning down to lower municipalities, and some of these lower municipalities just don’t

have the resources or the planning stuff to deal with complicated issues,” said O’Reilly. “It would severely restrict the power of conservation authorities.”

O’Reilly said the draft legislation would take the right away from ordinary citizens to make an appeal to the Ontario Land Tribunal and restrict the amount of affordable housing units that a municipality could require a developer to have.

“It’s not just the environmental issues,” said O’Reilly. “It’s a lack of local democracy.”

Continued on Page 17

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CCS to host milestone 25th annual Home for the Holidays gala

BY ZACHARY ROMAN

An upcoming night of food, friends, fun and fundraising in Caledon East will support the Caledon community year-round.

Caledon Community Services (CCS) is hosting its annual Home for the Holidays Gala on December 2 at the Royal Ambassador Event Centre.

It’s the 25th anniversary of the event, which started out being held in CCS volunteers’ homes — hence the event’s name — until it became too big and needed to be held at event centres.

Proceeds from the event will support the many programs, services and activities that CCS offers, such as feeding the hungry, ensuring seniors’ independence, helping people find employment, providing transportation, and helping children.

Continued on Page 10

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It's in their nature: How a team of volunteer gardeners keeps Bethell Hospice beautiful

BY ZACHARY ROMAN

It's hard work to maintain a beautiful garden.

Inglewood's Bethell Hospice has one of the finest gardens around, and it's all thanks to a dedicated group of volunteers and a landscape committee.

The Bethell Hospice property is about 3.5 acres in size, with gardens surrounding the hospice itself. Each of the hospice's 10 rooms has a view of, and opens to, the garden space.

Susanne McRoberts, co-chair of Bethell Hospice's landscape committee, explained the gardens are really a part of the rooms.

"They're part of the accommodation, part of the care. It's therapeutic, it's not just a garden for show," said McRoberts.

Kat Powell, volunteer program lead at Bethell Hospice, added that the gardens bring life to the hospice by attracting animals like birds and butterflies. She said many residents of the hospice love bird watching, and that bird feeders are installed to enhance this activity.

McRoberts said often when she opens the gate to enter the garden space at Bethell, she'll feel a whoosh of birds as they all fly up out of the gardens.

"It's a buffet for them," she said.

A big reason why the Bethell Hospice gardens are wonderful for birds and butterflies is the fact that most plants in the gardens are native to the area, with a few non-native plants added that are "bulletproof" and look good with the others. McRoberts said the gardens are designed so that there's a succession of colour through the seasons so there's always something to look at.

"Using (native plants) and also this concept of naturalistic garden design, which is more natural and relaxed... it fits with the rural setting here," said McRoberts. "This used to be an apple orchard surrounded by farmland, so we didn't want a fussy (garden)."

Bethell Hospice's landscape committee consists of eight volunteers, and together they oversee the design of the gardens. Then, there's a large team of 29 volunteers who maintain the gardens.

"Quite a number of us are gardeners, we

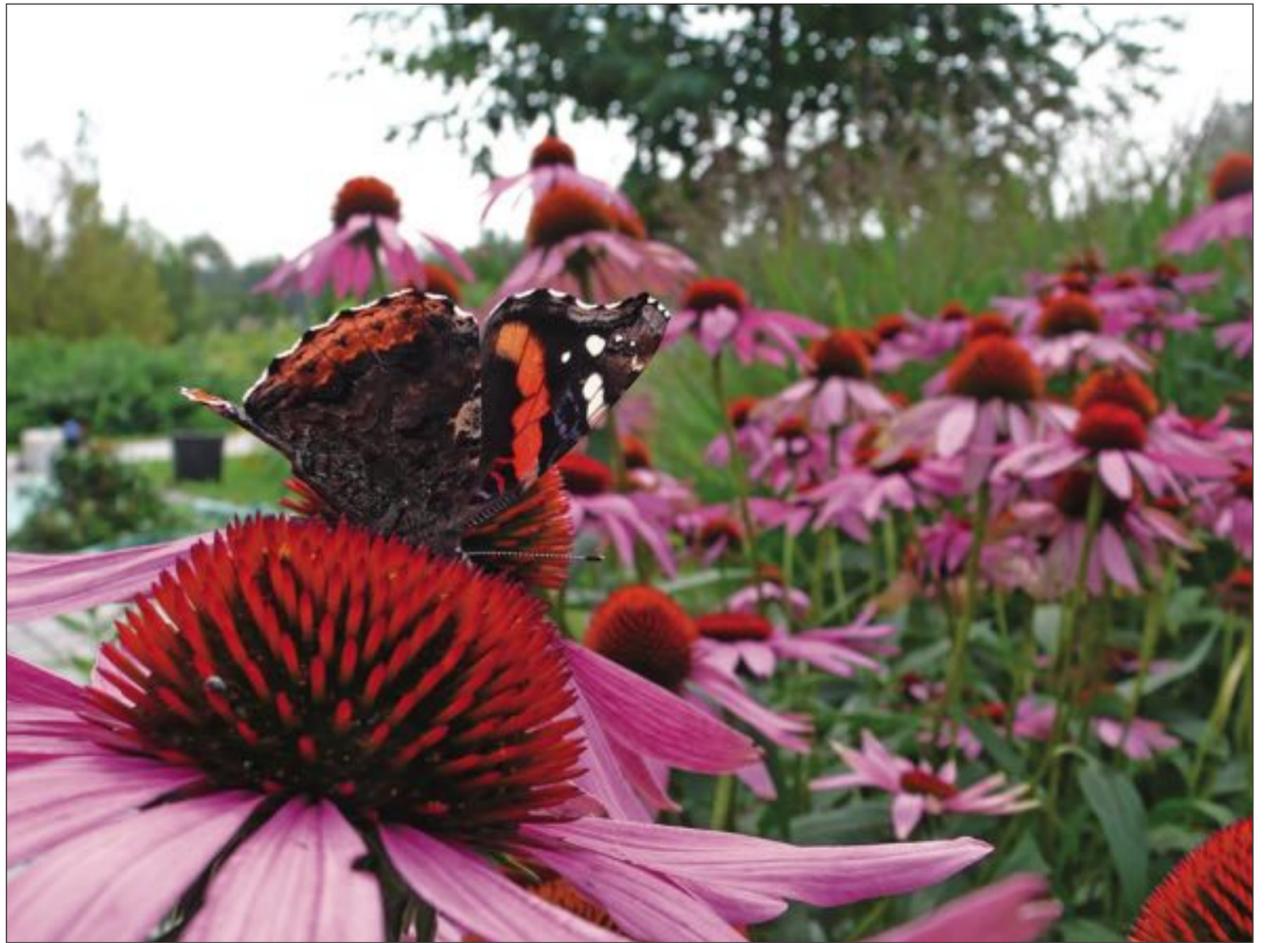


PHOTO BY SUSANNE MCROBERTS

have this passion... it's sort of an obsession with us," said McRoberts. "We drew up a detailed plan of what would be planted in each section, when it would bloom, how tall it would be, [and] how it relates with the other plants that are going to be around it."

The plan in question was created in 2018, when the landscape committee decided it was time to redo the gardens to improve soil quality and get rid of weeds that were becoming too difficult to manage.

Once the plan was drawn up, the garden refresh was done in "blitzes" with weekends where many volunteers would come

all at once to complete parts of the master garden plan. Then, in 2020, the pandemic hit. Having large groups of people come to work on the gardens at once was no longer an option.

"We had to completely regroup and re-vision how we could do it," said McRoberts. "It was a really critical time for the garden because we had just put it in... if you leave it and let it go, then it's going to get populated with weeds in between those little plants that you've (just) planted."

She added it was also a critical time for Bethell Hospice residents who were uplifted by the garden, as with the pandemic came increased restrictions on visitors at the hospice. There were also restrictions implemented on the age of who could volunteer during the pandemic's height, as higher-risk populations like seniors needed to be kept safe.

"We recruited a whole new team of volunteers and managed the situation," said McRoberts. "A whole new 29 volunteers who were willing to step in and keep it going."

Before the pandemic, there wasn't a regular team of landscape volunteers. There was just the landscape committee, and

groups of people that would come in for the "blitz" garden work days, such as corporate groups.

Powell and McRoberts said a silver lining of the pandemic is the fact that a dedicated landscape team was created that's still working to this day.

During the pandemic, a schedule was created so the new volunteers could come in at a time where they wouldn't have to come in close contact with others, and they always knew what they had to do because of the guidance of the landscape committee.

McRoberts said for her and many garden volunteers, working the Bethell gardens is a reciprocal relationship. She said there's so much she gets out of working in the gardens, for example the calming and restorative effects of being in nature.

Powell and McRoberts said they wanted to extend their sincerest thanks and appreciation to all those involved in keeping Bethell Hospice's gardens so beautiful.

While the team of garden volunteers is fairly full right now, Powell said there's many opportunities for volunteering at Bethell hospice and those interested can reach out to her at kpowell@bethellhospice.org.

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Palgrave United Community Kitchen evolves to serve community

Yoga, nordic walking among free activities offered by group

BY ZACHARY ROMAN

You might not expect your local community kitchen to also offer yoga classes.

But at the Palgrave United Community Kitchen (PUCK), run out of the Palgrave United Church, you can expect that and more.

While PUCK is run out of a church, it's a non-religious group and everyone is welcome to participate in its activities.

Barb Imrie from the PUCK explained the kitchen was first opened in 2009 and celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2019, not long before the COVID-19 pandemic hit and changed the world.

"The rules that said we couldn't cook or be indoors made it pretty much stop," said Imrie. "We tried a subscription box — come here, pick up the ingredients, pick up the recipes, go home and put on your Zoom. That didn't work because the best part of the cooking process is not only cooking together but eating together."

Imrie explained that PUCK was at a crossroads where it needed to decide how to operate moving forward during a challenging time. A survey was launched to see what the community wanted to see from PUCK, with those entering getting a chance to win a local food basket. PUCK found the community still really wanted to be together, and that's when the idea for an outdoor yoga class came to be.

"We could have done food and had it picked up at the door, but there were other organizations already doing that," said Imrie. "So, we said let's look at how we can continue being a community."

Imrie said PUCK is not only about cooking but about creating community and caring for the environment. The first funding that PUCK received during COVID was a New Horizons Grant, which is for programs where senior volunteers mentor other seniors. This grant was used to start PUCK's yoga program, with local instructor Maureen Martin-Edey.

"We shifted focus in about a month, and we had close to 20 new people we had never seen before," said Imrie, adding that the therapeutic



Caledon residents can attend free yoga classes hosted by the Palgrave United Community Kitchen.
PHOTO BY ZACHARY ROMAN

value of the program was great for many attendees.

When the New Horizons funding ran out, Imrie said the Town of Caledon stepped in to help with funding, and, because of that, PUCK's yoga and nordic walking programs can remain free to all and keep running indefinitely. The Rotary Club of Palgrave is also a supporter of PUCK.

Imrie said PUCK is always looking for more volunteers, especially as the group looks to get back into doing more cooking. PUCK is currently working on its strategic plan for the next ten years, and Imrie said that means it's a great time to get involved.

In addition to its other initiatives, PUCK is also a small business incubator, offering local businesses an affordable certified kitchen to start their food-based business in.

"We're very economical, we're not charging an arm and a leg," said Imrie. "For \$25 an hour, you don't have to find all the equipment and drag it here. You just have to have your ingredients."

Imrie said since the beginning of the pandemic, five small businesses have started up with the help of the kitchen and continue to use it to this day.

Those interested in learning more about PUCK's programs or getting involved can visit www.palgravekitchen.org or call 905-880-0303.

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DRUG TRAFFICKING CHARGES

The Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have laid charges in relation to a drug trafficking investigation. "In the fall of 2022, the Caledon Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU) entered into a drug trafficking investigation in the community of Bolton," say Police. "As part of the investigative steps, a Controlled Drugs and Substance Act (CDSA) warrant was authored and granted. With the assistance of City of Kawartha Lakes CSCU, Orillia CSCU, Central Region Emergency Response Team (ERT), and members from the Caledon Detachment, the warrant was executed at a residence in Brampton on November 16, 2022."

- The following items were seized:
- A revolver with ammunition
 - 777 grams of suspected cocaine
 - 38 grams of suspected crack cocaine
 - 6 suspected Benzodiazepine pills

- Canadian currency
 - Scales and cell phones
- Jamaal Gayle, 33, of Brampton, was subsequently charged with:
- Possession of a Schedule I substance for the purpose of trafficking - cocaine - two counts;
 - Possession of a Schedule IV substance for the purpose of trafficking;
 - Careless storage of firearm, weapon, prohibited device or ammunition;
 - Unauthorized possession of a prohibited or restricted firearm;
 - Possession of a loaded prohibited or restricted firearm;
 - Possession of a prohibited device or ammunition;
 - Possession of proceeds of property obtained by crime under \$5000;
 - Resist peace officer.
- The accused was held for a bail hearing. The charges have not been proven. If you suspect illegal activity in your

neighbourhood, call 1-888-310-1122. You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at www.peel-crimestoppers.ca. When you contact Crime Stoppers you stay anonymous, you never have to testify, and you could receive a cash reward of up to \$2,000 upon an arrest.

PHARMACY ROBBERIES

Officers from the Caledon OPP have responded to an armed attempted robbery in Bolton and are now requesting the public's assistance in identifying four suspects. "On November 16, 2022, at approximately 6:41 p.m., Caledon OPP responded to a report of a robbery at a pharmacy on McEwan Drive East in the Town of Caledon. The investigation revealed that four males entered the establishment and demanded narcotics. They are described as being 15 to 16 years of age, smelling of marijuana, Black or of Latin descent, and wearing black clothing, masks, and gloves. Part of a pistol was displayed from inside a clothing pocket. The suspects left without any property and no injuries were sustained as a result of this incident."

The investigation is ongoing with the assistance from the OPP Forensic Identification Unit (FIS). If you have any information in relation to this incident, please contact the Caledon Major Crime Unit at 1-888-310-1122. You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at www.peelcrimestoppers.ca. When you contact Crime Stoppers you stay anonymous, you never have to testify, and you could receive a cash reward of up to \$2000 upon an arrest.

"On November 18, 2022, at approximately 6:47 p.m., Caledon OPP responded to a report of a robbery at a pharmacy in Bolton. The preliminary investigation revealed three males entering the establishment and leaving with a large quantity of narcotics and an unknown quantity of currency. No weapons were observed in the commission of the offence and no injuries were sustained."

The suspects are described as males, Black, and wearing black clothing with hoodies. They were all wearing face masks and purple gloves.

- Suspect 1: 5' to 5'3" and described as looking young;
- Suspect 2: Heavy build and approximately 6' tall;
- Suspect 3: Cornrow-style hair

The OPP Forensic Identification Unit (FIS) as well as members of the Central Region Canine Unit and Emergency Response Team (ERT) were also engaged to assist with

the investigation.

IMPAIRED CHARGES

Last weekend, officers from the Caledon OPP took four drivers off the road for alcohol-related offences.

"On November 20, 2022, at approximately 2:54 a.m., officers responded to a traffic complaint on The Gore Road, approaching Old Church Road in the Town of Caledon," say Police. "The vehicle was described as being operated in an unsafe manner. Officers located and stopped the vehicle. During the investigation, officers formed grounds that the driver's abilities were impaired. The driver was subsequently arrested for impaired operation and transported to the Caledon OPP Detachment where breath tests were conducted."

Navpreet Singh, 20, of Brampton, was charged with:

- Operation while impaired – alcohol;
- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus);
- Disobey stop sign - fail to stop;
- Driver fail to surrender licence.

"In the same morning, at approximately 7:58 a.m., Caledon OPP responded to a report of a suspicious person. The complainant reported a vehicle parked in their driveway at a residence on Airport Road. Officers attended the residence, spoke to the driver, and suspected that the driver's abilities were impaired. A breath sample into an Approved Screening Device (ASD) was requested. As a result of the investigation, the driver was arrested."

Opeta Okoto, 33, of East York, was charged with:

- Refusal to comply with demand

"The two vehicles from the two incidents were impounded for a period of seven days, and the driver's licences were suspended for 90 days. The two accused are scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on February 2, 2023, to answer to the charges."

The charges have not been proven.

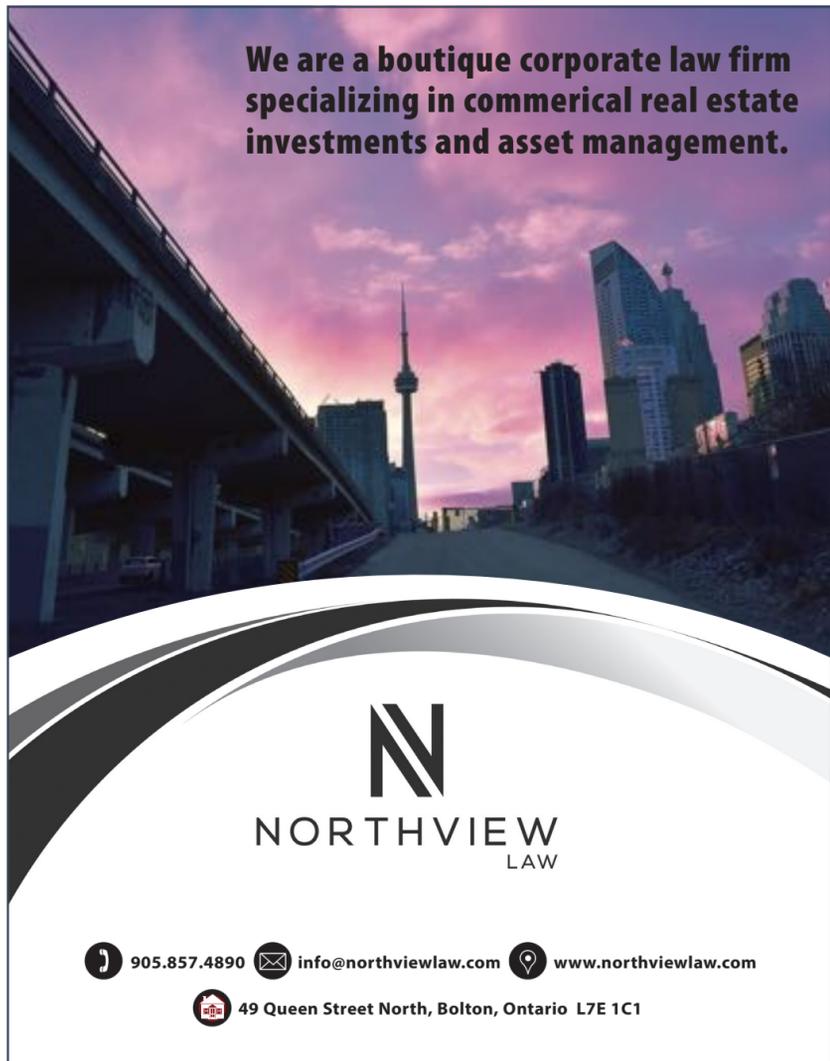
"On November 11, 2022, at approximately 11:17 p.m., officers responded to a traffic complaint on Mayfield Road in the Town of Caledon. A motorist contacted the OPP to report concerns regarding the manner in which a vehicle was being operated. Officers located the vehicle on The Gore Road and spoke to the driver. Grounds were formed that their abilities were impaired. The driver was subsequently arrested for impaired operation and transported to the Caledon OPP Detachment where breath tests were conducted."

As a result of the investigation, Jaskaran Garcha, 27, of Burlington, was charged with:

- Operation while impaired – alcohol
- Failure or refusal to comply with demand
- Driver fail to properly wear seat belt

Continued on Page 17

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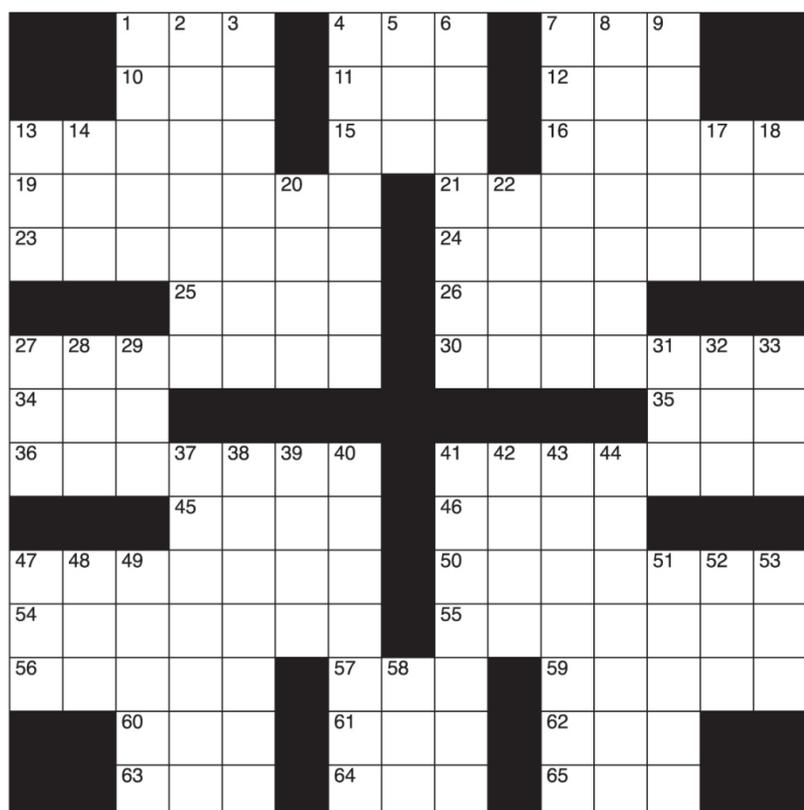


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- Winged horse
- Soft drink maker
- One who doesn't live up to expectations
- Nursemaid
- Inheritor
- Hot, often dusty wind
- Serves as an introduction
- Earned top billing
- Mansion
- A partner to a carrot
- War-horse
- Midway between northeast and east
- It checks the heartbeat
- Aquatic salamander
- CNN's founder
- Being precisely suitable and right
- Strongly alkaline

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36. Winged horse
41. Soft drink maker
45. One who doesn't live up to expectations
46. Nursemaid
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63. CNN's founder
64. Being precisely suitable and right
65. Strongly alkaline
29. Birth swine
31. 7
32. Useful keyboard key
33. Letter of the Greek alphabet
37. Edible mollusk
38. Stitched up
39. Utilized
40. ___ in tradition
41. A way to get through
42. Let off
43. Fashionable source of shade
44. In due time
47. Printing speed
48. A major division of geological time
49. Nocturnal, cat-like mammal
51. ___ de la ___
52. After B
53. Unusual viper
58. Former money of the EU

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New Executive director at Hills of Headwaters works to streamline health care access

BY SAM ODROWSKI

There's a new leadership role at a local organization focused on providing excellent, integrated health and social care to people living in Dufferin-Caledon.

The Hills of Headwaters Collaborative (HOHC) Ontario Health Team (OHT) recently hired its first Executive Director and "easy" is the main word that she wants patients to associate with accessing services through the organization.

Tracy Coffin, who became Executive Director in September, is familiar with many obstacles people might face when going through the health care system. One of her daughters had significant medical challenges growing up, receiving 13 surgeries through pediatric care, and the other was in a serious motor vehicle accident and used the health care system for many years after.

Coffin is also the primary caregiver for both her parents with dementia.

"I'm not just somebody who works in health care, I'm an expert user of the health care system," she explained. "That's probably the main thing that drives me in all of this, making a system that's easy for everyone, including myself, including my loved ones."

Coffin's experience utilizing health services helps her identify potential gaps in services and areas that need improvement. It also fuels her passion for improving the coordination of care and services for patients and their families in Dufferin-Caledon.

Another unique perspective that Coffin brings to the HOHC OHT is her experience working for the National Health Service (NHS) in England for six years.

"I learned a great deal about how the health system works in England and knew that it was ahead of the health system here in Canada, just in the fact that it's been around a bit longer, it's more established, it's a national system," she said. "So, what I really wanted to do was, when I returned to Canada... take those experiences, the knowledge that I gained through that, and use it here in Ontario."

Coffin said she's excited about her new role as it's an opportunity to make progress on the health system at a local level and better connect people to the services they need.

"I've worked in healthcare for 15 years



TRACY COFFIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
HILLS OF HEADWATERS COLLABORATIVE OHT
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

now or I worked in social care for 20 years, and I think probably the most rewarding thing for me is with those two experiences, I'm able to bridge the gap and almost act as a liaison between all the partners at the table," said Coffin. "Because often in OHTs, you've got the health care people, then you've got the social care people, so bringing them together

and helping them understand what each other does is important. I think the thing I am most proud of and happy with is that we've already started to strengthen those ties."

She told the Citizen one key area of focus for the HOHC OHT is palliative care, providing quality support to people with complex medical issues as well as their families.

Another priority for the organization is making sure people are getting the right care at the right time.

"The perfect example is somebody who is more senior, plus 80-years-old, them being in the hospital receiving maintenance care is not the best place for them to be. We know seniors do much better if they're in their own home, in their own community, and able to have services brought to them," said Coffin.

Improving mental health and addiction support is also a priority for the HOHC OHT, she noted.

"Mental health is not just about those people that show up at the hospital," Coffin said. "It's about the whole community at large. How do we improve the mental health and the availability [of services] for people when they need them?"

Data shows that many of the people who have mental health-related Emergency Room (ER) visits have accessed services in the community beforehand and the HOHC OHT is trying to build upon that to reduce ER visits, Coffin told the Citizen.

"We want to make sure the right services are in place in the community so they never have to show up at the hospital," she said.

In hospitals across Ontario and many parts of the world, there is currently a human resource issue and Coffin noted that the HOHC OHT is working on strategies to attract and retain good health care workers locally.

"Caledon and Dufferin are great places to live and work, and we want to make sure that we tell people about that and get them to come work with us," she explained. "We're trying to do some work to set ourselves apart to create a value proposition."

Meanwhile, the HOHC OHT is getting input from community members patients and caregivers to guide its strategic plan and focus over the next five years.

"We have a lot of ambitious plans around making sure that integrated care is a reality so that anyone that needs health care receives it in an integrated, joined-up way, so they're not having to run from place to place, we're doing that for them. We're making that seamless and making that easy for them," said Coffin.

Going forward, she told the Citizen her work will be focused on maintaining, strengthening and growing partnerships in health and social care to provide services to the community in a more integrated way.



If you are taking better care of your car than your health, it may be time to ponder your priorities.

It isn't always easy to stay up to date on the preventive care that helps us all to enjoy our best possible health. It has been especially difficult during the pandemic.

"We are seeing a huge rise in cases of colds, flu, RSV and COVID-19," says Dr. Michael Gagnon, a family physician in Bolton. "It's easy to understand that urgent and immediate illnesses may be top of mind. However, it is also important to get up to date on preventive care, including cancer screening, because we are seeing a higher number of more advanced cases of breast cancer, for example, which may be due to missed mammograms."

Two breast cancer survivors are passionate advocates for getting preventive cancer screening with mammograms.

"Mammograms provide the best chance at diagnosing breast cancer early," says Charlene, 58, who is currently a 4-year breast cancer survivor. "Early diagnosis can reduce the amount of surgical treatment and overall amount of treatment required. I could go on and on with the medical jargon and statistics, but let me make it simple for you. Mammograms saved my life and allowed me to be a mother and wife to my family longer. I look forward to my annual mammogram because it gives me power and knowledge about my health."

Another survivor, who prefers to remain anonymous, shared that her mother had been diagnosed with breast cancer at age 32. Given her high risk, her family physician referred her to the Ontario Breast Screening Program (OBSP) and she began breast screening in her 30s. "I was given the all-clear year after year, until 2020. My doctor called after looking at OBSP notes following a mammogram. He told me that if it was cancer, then the screening process was working perfectly and had caught a tumour while it was still small. The way he framed that news gave me hope in a very hard moment. I am thankful to have been and to continue to be a part of the OBSP — and that the program worked exactly how it was designed to work."

Anna Sanniti-Gordon's cancer journey

began when she noticed a bit of blood after going to the bathroom. "I visited my family physician and requested a colonoscopy. My doctor agreed, but also wanted to do a PAP test, which I was overdue for. During the examination, he saw some lesions. The biopsy results showed I had cervical cancer and I had a five-and-a-half-hour operation in May 2019 which took nearly three months recovery time. I was fortunate that I didn't need chemo or radiation because we caught the cancer early. I still wonder if I'd stayed up to date on my PAP test, if the cancer would have been caught even sooner," says Anna. "Today, I live a very healthy lifestyle and I feel great."

"If you are taking better care of your car than your health, it may be time to ponder your priorities," Anna jokes. "Whenever someone shares they are not feeling well, I always emphasize the importance of listening to their body and pursue care immediately. There may be a day when you can't avoid getting care and the news may be really bad and there will be nothing you can do about it. It's better to address it and give yourself the best chance of living a long and happy life."

The importance of preventive screening has become a key focus for Hills of Headwaters Collaborative (HOHC) Ontario Health Team.

"Dr. Gagnon and I are co-chairing a new Quality Improvement Program around preventive cancer screening for residents of Dufferin County and Caledon," says Lianne Barbour, Executive Director of Dufferin Area Family Health Team. "It is also a priority for Ontario Health as the statistics on missed tests is concerning. We are reaching out to residents and encouraging eligible Ontarians to get their free breast, cervical and colon cancer tests. Through our medical practices and our patients' stories, we know testing saves lives."

To learn more and how you can access preventive cancer screening, please visit hillsofheadwaterscollaborative.ca.

Look around you.

You're important to so many people.
They need you to take care of yourself.
That includes getting screened for cancer.

Breast, cervical and colon cancer screening programs are FREE for eligible people in Ontario. Early detection provides the best chance of treating cancer successfully.

DON'T WAIT. Make your appointment today.
It could be the first step to saving your life.

To learn more, visit:
hillsofheadwaterscollaborative.ca



Caledon Community Services, Caledon Fire & Emergency Services team up for Season of Hope program

Program was formerly known as the Santa Fund

BY ZACHARY ROMAN

Caledon residents looking to make a difference in another family's life over the holidays can do so with this year's Season of Hope campaign.

On November 14, the Town of Caledon announced that Caledon Community Services (CCS) and the Town's Fire & Emergency Services team are collaborating to continue the program previously known as the Santa Fund.

Now called Season of Hope, the program's goal is to ensure that all families in Caledon have food and gifts for the holidays.

CCS' Director of Communications and Marketing, Donna Cragg, said Season of Hope is CCS' annual year-end campaign and that year-end campaigns are the most critical for any non-profit organization.

She said the campaign was renamed to Season of Hope because what people need most these days is hope, and that the name change also makes the campaign more inclusive.

This year, gift cards are being sought instead of toys and gifts, so that parents can shop for their items they know their kids need and desire. Gift cards of any denomination are welcomed, and all cards will be given to parents and caregivers.

"They know their children best," said Cragg. "It's very well received across the community and by the families struggling, it allows them to make their holidays special."

Cragg said she thinks the transition to gift cards is excellent for many reasons. One example is when donating gifts, people often think about young kids but forget about preteens and teens, who can be harder to buy for. With gift cards, parents can buy their older children a gift they'll really like.

A number of drop off locations have been set up around Caledon for residents to bring their gift cards to. Residents are asked to bring gift cards to one of the following locations by December 7: Town Hall, Caledon OPP, or Caledon Fire Headquarters in Caledon East; the Bolton fire station; Snelgrove fire station; Caledon Village fire station; or the Inglewood Fire Station during their Pancake Breakfast With Santa on December 4.

For addresses and drop off times, visit the Town of Caledon's website.

Residents can also donate to the Season of Hope initiative at csc4u.org/donate or by donating food items to The Exchange at 55 Healey Road in Bolton.



Santa will visit Palgrave's annual tree lighting event again this year.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Palgrave community to gather for annual tree-lighting ceremony

Sarah's Tree was donated to community by the Thomas family in memory of Sarah Thomas

BY ZACHARY ROMAN

Palgrave residents are invited to gather and celebrate the holidays at the community's annual tree-lighting ceremony.

On December 3, the Palgrave Rotary Club will host its annual Palgrave and Area Community Tree Lighting and Home Decorating Contest Winner Announcement at Stationlands Park.

The event runs from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Park, which is located at Highway 50 and Brawton Drive.

The event is going to begin with a welcome and Christ-

mas carols sung by singers from Hit That Note Studio in Bolton. At 6:30 p.m. will be Sarah's Tree Lighting, the main event.

Sarah's Tree was planted and is maintained by Palgrave Rotarians, and it will stay lit for the holiday season. The tree was donated to the community by the Thomas family in memory of Sarah Thomas and all cancer victims worldwide.

At 7 p.m. Santa will make an appearance, and closing out the event at 7:25 will be the announcement of the winner of Palgrave's home decorating contest.

The Palgrave Rotary Club's chuckwagon will be on site at the tree lighting, serving a tasty trio of hot items: hot chocolate, hot dogs, and hot apple cider. Girl Guides will also be at the event with a holiday craft table.

On December 2, Palgrave Rotary members will be driving around the community in search of the best lights and decorations, and will choose a winner of the home decorating contest for the following day's event.



News

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Job Fair Dates:

Thursday, December 1
5 – 8 p.m.

Caledon Centre for Recreation and Wellness

Saturday, December 3
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Southfields Community Centre

Snow Removal Financial Assistance Program



The Town is offering a NEW financial grant for low income residents aged 65+ and low income persons with a disability living in Caledon. Eligible residents can apply for a one-time payment of \$350 towards snow removal costs during the winter months.

For more information visit caledon.ca/snowremoval or call 311

Home for the Holidays Fitness Special



10x Pass and Personal Training special
On sale until December 31st

Take advantage of great discounted rates this holiday season! For full details, visit caledon.ca/membership

Winter Parking Restrictions

Chance of Snow? Street parking is a **NO!**

Winter parking restrictions are in effect from November 1 until April 30.

During this time, there is no street parking permitted in Caledon when winter operations, such as salting or plowing, is taking place.

Parking on the street or blocking a sidewalk during winter operations can result in a \$90 ticket, and potentially having your vehicle towed at the owner's expense.

Visit caledon.ca/winterparking for details

Volunteers Needed



We're looking for volunteers to support several community rinks around town. You will be responsible for maintaining the ice surface from January until March (weather dependent) and communicating with a Town-appointed liaison on the status of the rink throughout the season.

Interested in volunteering?
Contact recreation@caledon.ca by December 1, 2022.



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Dalia Al-Ali, Senior Project Manager, Stormwater Engineering; Ward 6 Councillor Cosimo Napoli; Cassie Schembri, Senior Project Manager, Stormwater Engineering; and Andrew Pearce, Director, Engineering Services, are pictured at the Columbia Way Stormwater Management Pond.

IMAGE COURTESY OF THE TOWN OF CALEDON

Town completes rehabilitation of stormwater management pond in Bolton

Columbia Way Stormwater Management Pond first built in 1990s to provide flood control

BY ZACHARY ROMAN

The Town of Caledon has completed work it said will prevent flooding and protect water quality in Bolton.

On November 17, the Town announced the rehabilitation of the Columbia Way Stormwater Management Pond (SWMP) was complete.

According to the Town, the pond is designed to mimic a natural wetland, and the vegetation in it both provides a habitat for animals and increases water quality. The pond is designed to hold stormwater and release it slowly to reduce flooding.

The Town noted that final improvements to the pond will be made in early 2023 to meet conservation authority permit requirements. In 2023 and 2024, the Town will monitor vegetation planted at the pond to ensure that it is established and will be around for years to come. The Town noted rehabilitation of the pond was delayed by an unusually wet summer in 2021.

The Columbia Way SWMP is located between

Taylorwood Avenue and St. Michaels Crescent in Bolton. During the pond rehabilitation efforts, the trail there from Schaefer Place and St. Michaels Crescent was closed. However, it was reopened on November 15.

First built in the 1990s, the Columbia Way SWMP was installed to provide flood control; but, according to the Town much has changed in the field of stormwater management since then. A 2017 Town of Caledon environmental assessment and 2019 design exercise highlighted the need to improve the Columbia Way SWMP and bring it up to modern standards.

"In part, the objective of this work was to improve the flow of water impacting the stream that is currently flooding over a section of trail near Kingsview Crescent," said Town's backgrounder on the project.

Some of the rehabilitation work undertaken by the Town included: removal of sediment and grading within the pond and around its perimeter; repaving of the trail from Columbia Way to St. Michaels Crescent; installation of new habitat features within the pond; and the planting of 36 trees, 4,000 shrubs and 10,000 aquatic plants.

According to the Town, a public information meeting about the rehabilitation project was held on February 24, 2021, where it heard from residents who said they'd like bird habitat to be protected, and requests to protect a community planting area and increase tobogganing safety (the Town noted it does not condone tobogganing in the area, but did create a "deceleration zone" at the bottom of a hill identified by residents).

Mayor Annette Groves said she's excited to see the outcome of the project and thanked the community for its patience during construction.

"This rehabilitated stormwater pond offers the community enhanced natural landscaping from the new plantings around the pond," said Groves.

Ward 6 Councillor Cosimo Napoli attended the announcement of the project's completion alongside members of the Town's engineering department. Ryan Grodecki, the Town's Manager of Engineering Capital Design and Construction, said the Columbia Way SWMP demonstrates the Town's evolving understanding of stormwater management best practices.

"The pond's rehabilitation is exemplary in that it not only provides flood control and water quality improvements but enhances the aesthetics of the natural area and supports local wildlife through bird and amphibian habitat features," said Grodecki. "The lessons learned throughout the design and construction processes will be carried forward by the team to inform future capital stormwater improvements."

Earlier this year, the Town of Caledon received an award from the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority for its leadership in the field of stormwater management. Town of Caledon staff received the "Healthy Water Award" for holding stormwater management pond inspection and maintenance workshops for municipalities across the province.

Andrew Pearce, Caledon's Director of Engineering Services, said stormwater is a critical Town service that's needed to protect our water.

Trucking company operating illegally in Caledon hit with \$30,000 fine

BY ZACHARY ROMAN

The Town of Caledon has achieved a victory in its ongoing battle against trucking companies operating illegally in Town.

On November 9, the Ontario Superior Court of Justice charged a trucking company with illegal land use, handed out a court order for it to cease its illegal operations, and ordered it to pay a \$30,000 fine.

The company in question, 6230 Mayfield Inc., pled guilty to Provincial Offences Act charges against them from the Town of Caledon. According to Ontario's Business Registry, 6230 Mayfield Inc. was incorporated in March 2016 and its registered head office is in Brampton.

"In addition to the substantial fine, the order prohibits 6230 Mayfield Inc. from continuing to illegally use their property as a trucking depot and orders they remove all illegal trucking equipment and imported fill by an agreed upon date," reads a Town of Caledon media release.

The Town's Director of Building and Municipal Law Enforcement, Mark Sruga, said illegal trucking operations negatively impact Caledon and court decisions like this one are a win.

"We share this win with owners and operators of legal trucking businesses in Caledon. We will continue to take legal action against those who defy the Town's bylaws to ensure Caledon remains a fair and sustainable location for businesses," said Sruga.

According to the Town, investigation into 6230 Mayfield Inc.'s illegal land use began in June of 2020 when complaints of noise, debris, and property alteration in the Tullamore area — directly across from a residential neighbourhood — were brought to the Town.

Mayor Annette Groves said the Town's legal action against the company reinforces its commitment to protect Caledon's natural landscape, and protect community members from the impacts of illegal trucking operations.

The Town's media release notes residents are encouraged to help the Town fight illegal trucking operations by reporting them when they see them. Residents who think illegal trucking activity may be happening on a property are encouraged to share their concerns by dialing 3-1-1 on their phone or emailing info@caledon.ca.

A healthy, engaged compassionate community for all



Employment Services · Transportation · Evolve Retail · Seniors Supportive Housing · Transitional Care · Respite Care · Care Coordination · Language Training · Volunteerism · Food Support · Youth Services · Season of Hope · The Exchange

"Season of Hope arrives in Caledon"

by Mariia Kupriianova, Chief Development Officer



Your gift this season can help those in need get through the cold winter months ahead.

Hundreds of our Caledon neighbours are laying awake at night, feeling hopeless about providing for their families.

Unprecedented inflation, job loss and slow post-pandemic recovery make groceries and a warm home a luxury for many families in our community; families like mom Alicia and her three children.

Every day, more and more families are turning to Caledon Community Services (CCS) for help with nutritious meals, keeping their homes warm and forging a path to health and independence. For more than forty years, your donation to the Season of Hope (formerly the Santa Fund) has brought help and hope to those in need. We can't do it without your generosity.

"I have supports that I did not have before," says Alicia. "I am a prime example of all the good that CCS programs have done and will continue to do with help from people like you. Thank you very much for all that!"

You have the power right now to make a difference in the lives of Caledon

families and individuals in need. With your Season of Hope gift, you will give hope through this holiday season and through the cold winter months ahead.

Your generosity helps eliminate the impossible choice between putting food on the table and paying rent. Your gift can make the difference between a cold, dreary winter and one filled with warmth and hope.

We know that everyone is feeling inflation, the many rising costs of daily necessities, but if you can, please consider making a donation - financial, gift cards or food, to bring hope to those in need. We can't thank you enough for your kindness.

Financial donations are vital to allow us to respond to shifting community needs. You can donate securely online at www.ccs4u.org/donate.

Gift cards of any denomination are appreciated. (\$25 denominations are most popular; cards received by December 7th will support holiday distribution.)

To inquire about most-needed items, please call 905-584-2300 ext. 202. Gift cards and food donations can be dropped off at the Exchange (55 Healey Rd, Bolton).

If you or someone you know could use a helping hand, we're here to help. Please call 905-584-2300.

How Do You See It?

Tell us how you see it.

Mariia Kupriianova, Chief Development Officer, Caledon Community Services at 905-584-2300 ext. 269 or mkupriianova@ccs4u.org

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

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Riding the waves through a digital washout

I don't think it's anything ground-breaking or controversial to say that, by and large, the general population doesn't necessarily sit up and take notice of an issue unless it has directly impacted them or someone they love – or is threatening to do so.

Don't misunderstand me; I'm well aware of the tireless people around us who work day in and day out for countless causes. They recognize problems regardless of whether they have walked down that road themselves, and spend no end of energy brainstorming and executing solutions to the identified problems.

Not at all. Rather, the issues I am talking about are generally more political in nature.

Take, for instance, the results of the recent U.S. Midterm Elections.

In a country that is so bitterly divided at present, with some of the freedoms we hold so dear in Canada always seeming to be on the chopping block down there in what we're continually told is the "most important election in our lifetimes," look at what the results of the election turned out to be.

While furious reaction to the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade may have prevented the so-called "Red Wave" that so many pundits had been predicting in the final days of the campaign, regardless of this or so many other nation-redefining issues that were essentially on the ballot, for many their vote simply came down to inflation.

Pocket book issues, again the issues that have the most immediate impact on the individual, are always going to be a key driver any time people go to the polls, but it's not only an economic factor; even issues that are comparatively mundane but have a direct impact on our daily routine can capture the imagination.

In the latter half of last week, people were all atwitter (Don't worry, for this pun, I'll see myself out at the end of the column for another week) over the endless cavalcade of drama coming out of the head office of a certain social media giant that was recently purchased by a billionaire.

After the initial bluster and bravado subsided, the realities of the new and unfamiliar business settled in upon the purchaser. Said purchaser's execution of the decisions that followed illustrated that lack of familiarity with the business model they bought themselves and the building blocks of the company appeared to crack and come crashing down.

With a decimated workforce and cryptic clues trickling out of HQ, users settled in with a proverbial bag of popcorn to watch Twitter's "death" in real time. Suddenly, the giant that was once heralded as a global public square – for better or so, so, much worse – was more like the villain of the latest entry in a stalwart horror movie franchise: all the virtual townfolk came out of their homes to watch the menace die.

How quickly the tides turn in a digital world.

But, as this was going on in the online realm, there was another development that is the complex network of our world – physical or electronically ephemeral – that was much more dire and consequential.

As world leaders gathered in Egypt for the COP27 conference on climate change, Simon Kofe, a Minister of the Government of Tuvalu, a Commonwealth cousin, delivered a startling virtual announcement.

Given that projections have the first nation to be

irreparably impacted by rising sea levels as Tuvalu, the island nation's government said they are taking the first steps "into the metaverse" to ensure their country and their culture lives on digitally when there is no longer land to call their own.

"As our land disappears, we have no choice but to become the world's first digital nation," said Kofe from a podium placed on a beach with water lapping nearby. "Our land, our ocean, our culture, are the most precious assets of our people and to keep them safe from harm no matter what happens in the physical world we will move them to the Cloud. Islands like this won't survive rapid temperature increases, rising sea levels, and droughts...so we'll create them virtually. Piece by piece we'll preserve our country, provide solace to our people, and remind our children and our grandchildren what our home once was.

"This is also a matter of sovereignty. We in Tuvalu are taking bold steps to ensure that our statehood and our maritime boundaries are permanently maintained despite extreme land loss due to climate change and sea level rise. Our digital nation will provide an online presence that can replace our physical presence and allow us to continue to function as a state. We have been working on these initiatives for the past year, building our capacity to retain and preserve our nation and the unity of our people even as climate change spirals out of control.

"Global action must be taken to provide the best-case scenario but we in the Pacific are planning and preparing for a worst-case scenario. We need to be able to secure our statehood, our maritime boundaries and our endowments, no matter what happens in the future. The world's inaction has led our Pacific region to take greater action and forge our own path as leaders on the international stage, but our action alone cannot stop the current trajectory of climate change. Only considered global efforts can ensure that Tuvalu does not move permanently online and disappear forever from the physical plane.

"Our Tuvaluan culture dictates that we all must share responsibility for the global predicament caused by the climate crisis."

As he called for the end of fossil fuel production and emissions, a hefty boost to financing loss and damage, as well as adaptation and mitigation measures, he pointed out that this is not just a Tuvaluan concern, but a global one.

"Without a global conscience and a global commitment to our shared wellbeing, we may soon find the rest of the world joining us online as their lands disappear," he concluded. "It has long been the time for action, but we have not stepped up to the challenge. We must start doing so today."

That certainly puts the Twitter "death watch" into perspective. While there will always be a new, sexy social media platform to come along and fill up any sort of vacuum and, sadly, provide no end of echo chambers, there will not be another physical Tuvalu if action is not taken.

Nor will there be another physical Canada, that is a Canada as we know it today, in worst-case scenarios.

So, while phone-scrollers make contingency plans on where to continue following their friends, favourite celebs and influencers if the bluebird was found feet-up in the bottom of its cage the next morning, and our leader's take a page out of Nero's songbook, I guess the rest of us can start brainstorming just what we would like to preserve for posterity in a digital Canada.

Let's hope it doesn't come to that.



Thank goodness for that ooey, gooey, cheesy goodness!

by Mark Pavilons



As tough as things get sometimes, I think it's important to think about the really nice things we get to enjoy as human beings.

Many of our own personal "Kodak moments" are priceless.

We are all foodies and I think we were given senses to enjoy our meals. We were given our opposing thumbs mostly for culinary purposes, and opening those processed cheese slice wraps.

Our bodies are well designed machines and our taste buds are no exception. These small things located primarily on the tongue give us our joy. The tongue contains between 2,000 and 8,000 taste buds, each of which are made up of 50 to 150 taste receptor cells. Taste receptor cells are responsible for reporting the sense of taste to the brain.

Scientists have learned that taste buds are able to detect every kind of taste quality – salty, sweet, bitter, and sour.

Judging by members of my own household, I think we can divide people into two main categories – salty or sweet. My eldest daughter and I love spices and a variety of flavours. We are willing to try almost anything. The other three in our brood love sweets – chocolate, donuts, cannolis, you name it!

Food is our one common ground, no matter how old you are or where you are from. Food brings people together like nothing else.

How many good memories do you have where food was involved?

Food is not only our go-to love, but it brings us back to our past – those home-made meals only mom or grandma could make. It's interesting that our brains can light up and recall in great detail, those amazing childhood dishes.

"So long as you have food in your mouth, you have solved all questions for the time being."
– Franz Kafka

I find it interesting, and strange, how our ancient ancestors first discovered certain edibles on this planet. Who was the first to yank a hot pepper from the ground, munch on it, and thought it was great? What person or group made the first meal out of oysters? Who thought grabbing a fungus off a tree would be a good idea?

We all have our favourites and even "essentials" in our home kitchens or when eating out.

I think a staple for many of us is cheese, or things that go hand in hand with cheese. Like pasta – spaghetti, penne, rigatoni, shells, elbows, fettuccini...

Of course, the Italians elevated it and brought it to

the world's table. It's noted that Marco Polo brought pasta to Italy after his exploration of the Far East in the 13th century, but pasta goes back as far as 3,000 B.C.

Whether it's Mac and Cheese or nonna's special dish, how can you turn down a dish of pasta?

Don't trust me, believe Sophia Loren who once said: "Everything you see I owe to spaghetti!" By the way, she also said it's best if you inhale it like a vacuum cleaner!

I'm a cheese-lover and perhaps it's due to my European (German) heritage. My mom loved all kinds, the stinkier the better!

When I'm at an event, I head to the cheese table to see what special offerings are available.

I love watching TV shows about dishes from around the world and how they're prepared.

Cheese is an amazing product and people in every culture have their own brand and way of making this staple. From mountain-top caves, to ancient cellars, there are cheese wheels all over the globe maturing as we speak.

No one knows when humans first made cheese, but archeologists believe it dates back 8,000 years. It's likely it was done by accident, when milk curdled and our ancestors thought it would be good on bread!

Who knew that useful microbes and molds, doing their thing, gives aged cheeses their distinctive and interesting flavors?

In a pandemic-era poll by the Parmigiano-Reggiano Consortium (the organization that guards the UNESCO-protected cheese like the Stanley Cup), it was found that Canadians can't live without cheese.

When asked, "What food could you not live without?" six in 10 Canadians chose cheese (59%). This topped a list that included favourites such as bread (56%), pasta (46%), pizza (45%) and burgers (37%). There are more than 1,800 different kinds of cheese varieties in the world. We produce more cheese than coffee, tobacco, tea, and cocoa beans combined. Cheese is also the most stolen food item in the world!

The French have a different cheese for every day of the year.

Pule cheese is the world's most expensive cheese and it comes from the milk of Balkan donkeys from Serbia. It's valued at \$600 per pound

Our ancestors sent their departed friends and relatives off to the next world with some essentials. Most were tools, weapons or clothes. Not sure if any sent them with a cheese wheel. I can put cheese on just about everything – bread, toast, French toast, on top of any meat, on an omelette and grated and sprinkled on everything!

Cheese goes with pretty much every known comfort food – the aforementioned pasta and pizza; burgers; hot dogs; chili; in sandwiches; in quesadillas; on nachos; chunks in salad; mixed in sauces ...

I feel bad for those who don't like it or are intolerant.

If I were King of France in the Middle Ages, I would say, "Let them eat cheese!"

Hot, cold, fresh or old, pasta, cheese and pizza were made to make humans smile.

When you're down, order a pie. When you feel depressed, make pasta.

If you look in your fridge, chances are you'll find some kind of cheese.

I'm with Sophia on this!

Our Readers Write

We should be "outraged" over Bill 23: Reader

As citizens we should be outraged by the undemocratic nature of some of the proposed changes in Bill 23.

It is as if every effort has been made to find and block any avenue a citizen might have to legitimately challenge ill-advised development:

1. The Planning Act will no longer require that the public is notified of proposed development.

2. The public will not have the right to appeal municipal council decisions, only developers may do so.

3. The Ontario government will have the power to override municipal council decisions, change official plans and impose development.

4. The Ontario Land Tribunal will have power to order an unsuccessful party (read citizens) to pay a successful party's (read developer) costs. Previously, costs orders were based on egregious or frivolous

behaviour, not on the outcome of a decision.

5. The Ontario Land Tribunal will have expanded power to dismiss an appeal without a hearing.

At no point during the June election were Ontario voters told of these plans to disenfranchise them of a say in how their communities and neighbourhoods are to change, and at no time were they debated.

Now, debate is being curtailed to an extreme extent by the government's intention of rushing through the legislation – at a time when there is a hiatus at the Municipal level, with existing Councils departing and new Councils only just being sworn in. This is profoundly wrong.

We should all urge the Ford government to find a better way.

LARRY FLINT
INGLEWOOD

Distributed throughout the Town of Caledon, the Citizen is published Thursdays by Caledon Publishing Ltd.

The CALEDON CITIZEN is a member of the Ontario Press Council, an independent body set up by the newspapers of the province to uphold freedom of expression and deal with complaints from readers. The Press Council encourages complainants to first give the newspaper an opportunity to redress their grievances. If not satisfied, they may then write to the Council, enclosing a copy of material that is subject of the complaint, at 80 Gould St., Suite 206, Toronto, ON M5A 4L8.

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Subscription Rate:
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\$70.35+GST beyond 65km
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Pave paradise, put up a parking lot

If you are an urban dweller, you probably don't give a whole lot of thought about rural areas, wetlands, fields, floods, and wildlife.

Most people tend to focus on things close to home. There are, of course, many suburbanites who take a real interest in nature and the environment. After all, we all share it no matter where you live.

When people take over a land mass, you have to take care of it because you are interfering with the natural process that takes place when trees grow, rivers flow, and turtles need a place to live.

The Conservation Authorities Act, in Ontario, was established in 1946, when it was realized that much of renewable natural resources of the province were in an unhealthy state as a result of poor land, water and forestry practices during the 1930s and 1940s.

When Hurricane Hazel ravaged the province in 1954, it caused millions of dollars in damage as well as loss of life.

There are many dams and old mills across Ontario with an historic plaque that details how the dam was washed out during that storm.

I interviewed a local man who told me the story of coming out of his farm house as a kid, the day after the storm, and their entire lake had been drained. A

friend of his family, downstream, spent two days in a tree waiting to be rescued.

That storm underscored the importance of the Conservation Authorities act to protect lives and property.

The provincial government's proposed Bill 23 – called the More Homes Built Faster Act, calls for the building of 1.5 million more homes in Ontario over the next decade. That's an ambitious goal, but is it good for the province?

Bill 23 raises some serious questions about where these houses will be built and the processes that are currently in place to keep development in check.

There are plans now to open up parts of the so called "greenbelt" to development. The greenbelt was put in place for a reason – to keep it green, and protect environmentally sensitive areas and farm land intact.

If the greenbelt was so important when it was created, it must still be important today.

The Bill as proposed would undermine with Conservation Authorities' ability to control interference with rivers, creeks, and wetlands.

It would also pretty much eliminate a municipality's ability to have a say in its own growth, as it

would remove requirements for public meetings on certain planning matters, and remove the people's right to appeal planning decision.

The Ministry would have the power to override municipal planning decisions.

In short, the Bill would give developers a pretty free hand to build where they want, with little input from other sources including local government, residents, and Conservation Authorities.

The Bill also has very little respect for designated heritage properties that my bulldozed to build another 20 town homes jammed together like ant colonies.

The Bill will exempt developers from developer's charges, that municipalities use to meet critical infrastructure needs. This means they will have no real obligation to build the 'affordable housing' that people are calling for.

There's a whole list of other considerations in this Bill that should be closely examined by the public.

We definitely have a housing problem in the province right now. There are plenty of younger people who cannot buy a house in their own home town due to rising housing costs.

We can only fit so many people into the number of available houses, and yet the federal government

is planning on bringing in over 400,000 immigrants over the course of a year.

Do the math here, and you can easily find the problem. People have to live somewhere, but being pushed out of your own hometown because too many people have moved the housing market above your ability to afford a home does not serve the public well.

Just building massive developments is not the solution – especially when the province is calling for "intensification" in a society that relies on automobiles. Whether you like it or not, automobiles are a necessity for most people across the province.

New neighbourhoods are jammed with cars parked on the streets because when a family grows, so does its need to have more than one spot to park a car, even though you paid over \$1 million for your home.

Bill 23 needs some serious opposition before the long-term effects are realized and we all pay the eventual price.

BRIAN LOCKHART FROM THE SECOND ROW



We're all complicit

There are days when I truly feel sad for Caledon, a beautiful place indeed but overseen by a Provincial government intent on destroying everything that makes it beautiful.

I feel sad because Caledon, a town of rolling hills, farmers' fields and quaint villages and hamlets, appears to consistently vote for a party that wants nothing more than to pave over this little piece of paradise. Progress is one thing – a very necessary thing – but paving over previously protected lands isn't progress; it's potentially an environmental and socio-economic experiment "gone horribly wrong" and frankly Caledon, we're all complicit.

It's no secret that I occasionally rant about Mr. Ford in this space but he sits in the Provincial Legislature, at least in part, because about 40% of the 40% who voted in the last election, voted for him and/or the PC party generally. That's our neighbours, our friends and our family. He is also there because the rest of us couldn't be bothered to vote in any kind of numbers that might have led to a different outcome. Shame on us for treating democracy with such flagrant disregard, only to complain about it now that the consequences are so clearly obvious. He might even be in office because some of us believed him when he said he wouldn't pave over the greenbelt. More shame, this time for disregarding the publicly released "secret" recording of Mr. Ford as he told his

business developer friends that he'd be opening up the greenbelt for development. Why did we collectively give him the benefit of the doubt and assume he was lying to his friends and not us? We're all complicit.

Now, we find ourselves in the position of getting the government we deserve and we're complicit. Collectively we need to assume at least some responsibility for voting (or not voting) when we knew, deep down inside, what the potential consequences for Caledon would be. A highway to nowhere running smack dab through our hills, fields, forests and (at least formerly) environmentally protected wetlands. A highway that will cost billions in the name of getting trucks off our local roads, when improving the north/south routes that already exist - and creating connections via those routes to another highway that already exists – is not only better for the environment, it's significantly less costly. But then... not a single developer who currently owns any of the land closest to the proposed 413 will make any money. How did they know to invest in land purchases? Sure, history sometimes rewards the risk takers and perhaps developers simply took a risk that these lands would "open up." Generally speaking though, risk takers only take educated risks. Risks that are carefully researched, calculated and which promise a significant risk/reward ratio. We're all complicit

when we refuse to acknowledge what's right in front of us, and when we can't find the time to actively participate in preventing it.

It isn't just the highway putting our greenbelt at risk, now also it is housing. Caledon has been told for years that growth is coming and we need to take a more active role in our own planning processes to ensure that growth is managed well. I get it. Caledon, as previously stated, is a beautiful place; the perfect blend of country, community and quaint, while still close to the city. But now Mr. Ford is telling us it's perfectly ok to pave over significant portions of what makes us a great place to live, in the name of providing housing.

The real issue here is the unlikely reality that any of this housing will be affordable and that's what is truly needed right now. Young adults have nowhere affordable to live and seniors have nowhere to downsize but paving over paradise to build more monster homes that people commute to (necessitating more cars on the roads) is not the solution, it is only adding to the problem. What we actually need are more infill housing projects that meet the specific needs of our changing demographics. An infill project might mean that a perfectly good piece of available land, in an accessible location, (and not on greenbelt land) is developed as a multi-unit dwelling. Such spaces exist across our community but once again we are all

complicit in preventing positive progress. How? Because the minute someone uses the words "multi-unit dwelling," or "affordable housing" that old acronym "Nimbyism" rears its ugly head.

Sure, we all want our own children to have some place to live or our parents to be able to downsize, live comfortably and perhaps even walk to the local pharmacy but an apartment building? Not in my backyard thank you very much.

I would like to blame Mr. Ford for all of this and certainly when a developer buys a parcel of protected greenbelt land for \$80 million dollars and mere weeks later that land is magically no longer part of the greenbelt, the blame game seems easy. The reality is however, that we all play a role in what's happening locally. We want a nice family home - for some of us the bigger the better. We want to live in a nice place even if that means it becomes less so in the process. We want our children and seniors to "live, work and play" in Caledon but nope - we sure don't want an apartment, condo or a townhouse in our backyard. Finally, when given the opportunity to protest either literally, or via our democratic right (and responsibility) to vote, we don't. We're all complicit.

SHERALYN ROMAN TALK CALEDON





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Education workers, government agree to a tentative contract

BY JAMES MATTHEWS
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Education workers and the provincial government agreed to a down-to-the-wire tentative agreement on November 20 that staved off a strike that was to kick off the next day.

Details of the tentative agreement are scarce. It's been reported that the Canadian Union of Public Employees secured a 15 per cent wage increase for its members over the life of the four-year pact. That's about a \$1 per hour raise.

The union is taking the proposed contract to its 55,000 members to vote to accept or refuse the deal.

Secretaries, clerks, computer technicians, custodial and maintenance staff, and educational assistants represented by the CUPE walked off the job November 4 in protest of Bill 28.

That legislation, the Keeping Students in Class Act, was designed to make a strike by CUPE members illegal. The provincial government used Section 33 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, called the Notwithstanding Clause. It was the first time any of Canada's premiers used that clause.

The labour action was short-lived and picket lines were dismantled days later when the crowd at Queen's Park agreed to repeal Bill 28 if negotiators for both sides would resume talking.

Fast forward to last week when the union threatened to hit the streets November 21 if an agreement couldn't be reached over the weekend.

The Upper Grand District School Board, which operates schools in Dufferin County, warned parents that schools would close and classes will be held online. Such arrangement was averted, thanks to the Hail Mary effort to bear fruit on the final day.

This is the first tentative agreement reached through the 2022 round of collective bargaining in the education sector.

Education Minister Stephen Lecce said the government's focus throughout negotiations with CUPE has always been to keep children in school.

"I am pleased to formally announce that the Crown, the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), and the school board trustee associations have reached a tentative agreement that keeps schools open so that kids can stay in class," he said in a prepared statement.

"This is not a win for governments or education unions. It's a win for Ontario families who finally have peace of mind knowing their children will remain in the classroom. After two and a half years of unprecedented disruptions, nothing matters more than stability in our schools. We are pleased to have reached a deal today that will make sure kids are in class catching up on their learning."

COMMUNITY events

This column is provided as a free public service to non-profit organizations to announce up-coming events. Please contact the Caledon Citizen by calling (905) 857-6626 if you wish to have an announcement published.

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) ON 1344 Bolton – Real People, Real Weight Loss is a non-profit group. We meet weekly on Wed. evenings in the basement of Bolton United Church. Weigh-ins are 6:15-6:45 followed by a meeting. The initial annual fee incl. a bi-monthly magazine and starter kit is \$59, and monthly dues are only \$15. If you have weight to lose and/or want to improve your health, we can help! We promote healthy eating and your first meeting is free. Come join us! Now that the COVID19 protocols are starting to ease, it's a good time to make any necessary changes to your eating habits. For more information call Marion at 905-857-5191 or see www.tops.org. Online memberships are also available.

The Bolton Al-Anon Group has recently moved the regular meeting location to the Bolton United Church at 8 Nancy Street (across from Bolton Post Office). We still meet every Thursday at 8:30 pm. We welcome anyone who is/has been affected by someone who has problem with alcohol. If you have any questions please come any Thursday evening or email: boltonalanon@gmail.com.

Open to all - Electric Vehicle Society Caledon Chapter meetings. Come out to learn from the expertise of electric vehicle owners and enthusiasts about helping Canadians transition to electric transportation through education and advocacy.

Local meetings are held in the Southfields Community Centre Community Room on the third Thursdays of the month from 7pm-9pm. Next Meeting Dates: November 17 & December 15. Meetings are free. For more info: <https://evsociety.ca/caledon/> or email Kenneth.bokor@evsociety.ca

The last Toone Sale until 2023 is scheduled for Saturday, November 26 from 10 am to 1 pm in the President's building at the Bolton Fairgrounds. Check it out at www.boltonkin.com/toonie-sale.

Friday November 25, 2022
Free Community Event on zoom hosted by Bolton United Church
Let's Talk ... Climate Change – see website for link www.boltonunitedchurch.com
6:30 pm Social Supper time (on zoom)
7 pm Guest Speaker Cristina Guido, Town of Caledon (on zoom)
For more info call 905-857-2615



Caledon Community Services' Home for the Holidays Gala will be held at the Royal Ambassador Event Centre again this year.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CCS to host milestone 25th annual Home for the Holidays gala

Continued from FRONT

CCS Director of Communications and Marketing Donna Cragg said 2016 was the year in which Home for the Holidays became a full-blown upscale gala, a suggestion from then-Regional Councillor and CCS board member Johanna Downey.

Former Caledon Mayor Allan Thompson's wife, Anne, chaired the gala committee for the first two years after the change, and Cragg said the new format was a runaway success.

Downey, alongside Stephen Julian, are the 2022 gala's honorary co-chairs.

The 2022 Home for the Holidays Gala will be the first to be held in person since 2019, as the 2020 and 2021 events were moved to a virtual format due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It's proving to be a very exciting year," said Cragg, noting that maybe 10 tickets at most were available as of November 21 for the almost-sold out event. "We're trending towards the highest attendance in the history of the gala. It's got live auctions, silent auctions, a deluxe antipasto bar, lovely meals, it should be really lovely."

Frances Fripp, one of Canada's only benefit auctioneer specialists, will be the auctioneer at the gala. She has many ties to the Caledon community, as she grew up in Caledon East and was a student at Macville Public School. Fripp graduated from the Canadian Auction College in 2008 and cut her teeth working at Bolton's Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers. Since then, she's assisted foundations and organizations across Canada in raising millions of dollars in funds.

Cragg said it's phenomenal the way ticket sales have gone, and she thinks people are really excited to get back to events like the gala after two years of being stuck inside due to the pandemic.

The title sponsor for this year's gala is Tribal Partners Inc., a large real estate developer. Cragg wanted to express CCS' thanks to the company and all others who sponsored this year's gala. Cragg said without volunteer gala committee members, and sponsors, the gala could not be the continuing success it is each year.



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Cheltenham artist takes pride in vibrant lawn art creations



Rod Smith stands among some of his lawn art characters outside his house in Cheltenham.

PHOTO BY ZACHARY ROMAN

Rod Smith started making lawn art when pandemic slowed down his other work

BY ZACHARY ROMAN

It's hard to miss Rod Smith's house. When driving north down Creditview Road, just before the big hill into Cheltenham's village core, people are greeted by an eight-foot tall "Bumble" from the classic Christmas movie Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer. It's one of the many classic characters local artist Smith has fashioned into high-quality lawn art through a meticulous process he perfected throughout the pandemic.

Smith had a successful career painting huge murals at shopping malls and on the side of buildings. After that, he switched careers; but when work slowed down due to the pandemic, Smith knew it was time to pivot. He made his first few pieces of lawn art and posted them for sale on Facebook, and news of his work spread online and by word of mouth. Soon, people were calling Smith to place orders, and he turned his lawn art side hustle into a full-fledged business: Krafty Moose Workshop. When Smith began creating his lawn art, he used plywood as the base. He explained there's a lot of work involved, such as cutting, sanding, and, of course, many coats of primer and paint. When the pandemic caused lumber prices to skyrocket, Smith had to pivot once again and he began using Medium Density Fiberboard (MBF) as a base. While it's more expensive, Smith said it's higher quality and better suited for outdoor use. "I've done some tests, I left some plain

stuff outside in the rain and all that, and it holds up wonderfully," said Smith, adding he uses top of the line paints and lettering enamel to help the art last for years and years. "The colours are solid. Some colours are a bit more difficult, like reds and greens need at least four coats of paint to get them solid." Smith said because he has a lot of experience as an artist, he wanted his lawn art work to be at a different level of quality, where you can't even see any brushstrokes. While Smith gets lots of business from homeowners, he gets business from businesses too. He recalled a time when a business in Collingwood bought a whole bunch of art at one time to use to decorate their float for the local Christmas parade. The company ended up winning first prize for their float, something that Smith was very proud to be a part of. Smith will sell smaller lawn art in the four feet tall range for around \$275. In the six-foot range, prices are around \$500 to \$600,

and in the eight-foot jumbo range, prices are around \$750. Smith said he understands his work might not be in everyone's budget and that he's just trying to occupy the high-end range of the market. "There's a lot of prep work involved and it's not easy work. I get sore at the end of the day, I tend to make 10 or 15 of one character at a time," said Smith. "I'm using the higher-end materials... with my years of experience, I'm trying to get everything perfect, colours and all." Smith has a workshop behind his house, and that's where he makes each and every one of his lawn art characters. There's famous ones like The Grinch, Santa and Ms. Claus, Darth Vader, Baby Yoda, Homer Simpson and Peter Griffin. Smith does lawn art for both Halloween and Christmas, and he also takes on custom orders — he recently completed some work for a tattoo parlour, for example. "One day, I will do a bunch of drawing to get all the designs drawn out. The next day, I will head out here to the front of my shop with my jigsaw, I'll cut by hand and sand by hand," said Smith. "After that, they're all laid out on tables. All of the backs get two coats of water-based paint to seal the wood, and then two coats of oil to seal the wood, so you have a nice black background." Once that phase is complete, Smith will flip the wood over and apply three coats of white paint to the front so he has a bright and fresh surface to work on. Only then does he begin painting the characters. "It's going to look exactly how you'd see on TV or in comics," said Smith, adding that he jokes with people he doesn't cut corners unless it's with his jigsaw. "People really do prefer something that's hand-made, as opposed to buying something on Amazon or at a big box store." Smith said he believes in supporting local businesses and that it's a great feeling when he sees a piece of his art in the community. He's been in Cheltenham for about 15 years and said he loves how close-knit it is. Krafty Moose Workshop is online on Facebook and Instagram for those looking to learn more or reach out to Smith. "I love doing it. I put my earbuds on and listen to some great tunes while I work," said Smith. "When you're surrounded by all these characters, how can you not smile?"

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Caledon Hockey Update: Admirals defeat Chargers again, other clubs lose



BY ROBERT BELARDI

The Caledon Admirals were the lone club to earn a victory in this week's Caledon Hockey Update.

The Admirals of the OJHL (Jr. A), defeated the Mississauga Chargers 6-4 last Thursday before falling 7-2 to the Toronto Patriots Saturday night.

Against the Chargers, Admirals forward Dawson Hettiarachchi and Jake Barkley both recorded one goal and two assists.

Tyler Bortkiewicz recorded one goal and one assist in the game.

Antonino Rizzo stopped 41 of 45 shots in the win.

In the loss to the Patriots, Tanner Greenwood and Owen Norman scored both of the Admirals' goals.

In the Greater Ontario Junior Hockey League (Jr. B), the Caledon Bombers suffered two terrible losses in their week.

The Bombers dropped their home game against the Cambridge Redhawks 6-3 before losing a tough 14-1 defeat on the road against the Kitchener-Waterloo Siskins.

In the loss to the Redhawks, Brady Hunter scored twice and Ethan Sharpe scored the club's third goal of the game. Nathan Catalano and Ethan Finlason both recorded two assists each.

And finally, in the Provincial Junior Hockey League (Jr. C) the Caledon Golden Hawks fell 4-1 to the Innisfil Spartans. The Golden Hawks, outshot their opponents 37-22 on the night.

The Hawks could not capitalize on the man advantage despite having five chances.

Lucien Williams had the lone goal for the boys.

To keep up with all three clubs and their progress this season, please head to thep-jhl.ca, gojhl.ca and ojhl.ca.

OJHL all-star game coming back in the New Year

BY ROBERT BELARDI

The Ontario Junior Hockey League All-Star Celebration is making its return in January.

Presented by the Dairy Farmers of Ontario, the two-day event set to take place January 13 and 14 will be held in Collingwood.

"We are a proud and long-time supporter of youth hockey and highlighting the benefits of milk in a healthy and active lifestyle. We have partnered with the Ontario Hockey Association, and through that with the OJHL for two years," said Cheryl Smith, CEO of the Dairy Farmers of Ontario, in a statement.

"We are thrilled to showcase our commitment to the league's young athletes as this season's presenting sponsor for the All-Star Celebration for the first time."

On Friday, January 13, the league will begin their weekend with the OJHL Alumni taking on the Collingwood Alumni at 5:30 p.m. At 7:00 p.m. the skills competition will commence at Eddie Bush Arena in downtown Collingwood.

The next day, the famous All-Star game will take place at 3:00 p.m. live on CHCH. At 7:30 p.m., the InStat Top Prospects Game will take place featuring up-and-coming young talent in the league.

Other events will also take place throughout the day to fill any voids.

"The OJHL is excited to bring the very best of the league to the community of Collingwood, on behalf of the OJHL I would like to thank all of the local organizers, volunteers, sponsors and supporters

who are all working together to make this an event to remember. The two-day event is a celebration of the OJHL with a number of events for fans of the league to enjoy that will showcase the past, present and future of the League

of Choice," said OJHL Commissioner Marty Savoy in a statement.

Selections will be made in the coming weeks. We'll see if anyone hometown selections will be made.



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David Neame, Artistic Director

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Canadian Premier League unanimously voted the removal of FC Edmonton Monday

BY ROBERT BELARDI

The Canadian Premier League released a statement on Monday announcing the league's Board of Governors have "unanimously" voted on the termination of FC Edmonton.

In a shocking development earlier in the week, the league voted to remove Fath Sports Limited's rights of owning and operating the franchise.

"I have made it clear since I became Commissioner that we need certain conditions in each of our markets for our clubs to be successful on and off the field. After careful review, these conditions simply didn't exist at FC Edmonton, consistently resulting in the smallest league average attendance, lowest revenue, and poor performance in the standings, despite incremental league investment. The die-hard supporters and soccer community of Edmonton deserve better," said Canadian Premier League commissioner Mark Noonan said in a statement.

With FC Edmonton out of the Canadian Premier League for the 2023 season, Noonan will not rule out the return of the club should certain conditions be met.

The Canadian Premier League, announced at the beginning of November that Vancouver FC will the newest addition to the league.

Noonan publicly thanked Tom and Dave Fath; owners of the club, for all of their services and their commitment to FC Edmonton.

Former players from the club will either return to their parent clubs or will be up for selection by clubs around the league.

"Let me be very clear: FC Edmonton is a unique, one-off situation, and is not at all reflective of the overall health and viability of the CPL. Building on record post-season crowds, exceptional corporate partnerships, increases in player compensation, and with active expansion discussions in no less than six prospective markets, I couldn't be more optimistic about the future of the CPL and soccer in Canada as we head into our fifth season," Noonan added.

FC Edmonton finished with the worst record in the CPL last season with four wins, eight draws and 16 losses.

Reports have come out from numerous fans, previous season ticket holders and former head coach Alan Koch, showing their distress and frustration regarding this news.

The conclusion of the CPL season came at the beginning of October.

Forge FC defeated Atlético Ottawa in the CPL Finals 2-0 to capture their third title in four years.



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Volunteers needed for outdoor community ice rinks across Caledon

BY ZACHARY ROMAN

Outdoor ice rinks are a winter staple in Canada.

The Town of Caledon has announced it is seeking volunteers to support ice rinks at various locations in the community.

Ice rink volunteers will be in charge of maintaining the ice surface at their chosen rink from January until March (weather dependent), and will communicate with the Town about the status of their rink throughout the season.

Jessica Stovin, Caledon's Manager of Community Recreation, explained the outdoor rink program has been around for a long time but really took off during the pandemic.

The Town ran a few outdoor rinks during the pandemic, but has now switched back to its usual support role. That being said, the Town will still manage two outdoor ice rinks at the Caledon Centre for Recreation and Wellness this winter, noted Stovin.

The Town's support role in helping Caledon residents build and maintain ice rinks in their community includes the following: providing tarp for the rinks' bases, wood for the rinks' frames, help building the rinks, ice maintenance education, and coordinating with local fire departments for the initial flooding of the rink.

Stovin explained there's a lead volunteer at each outdoor community rink, who must be supported by at least six other volunteers. The volunteers provide daily rink inspection logs to the Town.

There are a number of communities which already have a team ready to build a rink, and those are: Inglewood, Alton, Valleywood, Mono Mills, Caledon Village, Palgrave, and Humberview.

Interested parties can volunteer to help with those rinks, or if they do not see their community represented, can contact the Town of Caledon to begin the process of planning for a rink in their community.

Stovin said many community rinks have been established for many years



FILE PHOTO BY GLENN RODGER

and have a dedicated team of volunteers who keep them going year after year.

Betty Starr is a member of the Alton community who helps out with the administrative side of her community's rink each year. Located at the local ball diamond, it's quite a big rink and because of its location, it's able to be lit up at night. Starr was quick to give a big shout out to Alton resident Mike Weston, who she said has been flooding the community rink for over 30 years.

Starr said after school and on weekends, the Alton rink is used by all kinds of community members, from kids learning to skate to hockey players playing shinny.

"It's nice to see that the kids have a place they can go (skating) that's safe," said Starr. "They used to skate on the ponds but you'd hate to see something happen. The ball diamond (rink) is really nice and it's safe."

Those interested in volunteering or starting a rink are asked to contact the Town's recreation department by email at recreation@caledon.ca by December 1.



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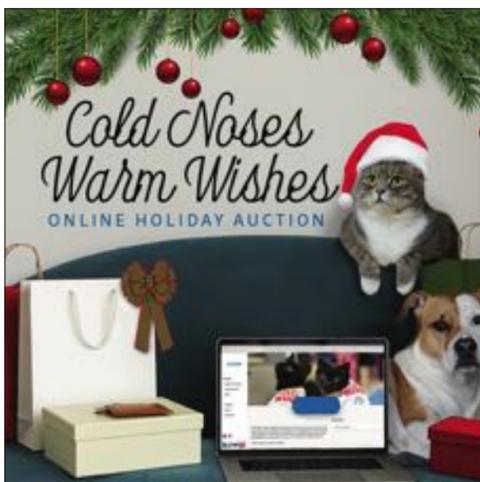
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Local SPCA launches online holiday auction, "Cold Noses Warm Wishes"

BY PAULA BROWN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Ontario SPCA Orangeville & District Animal Centre is encouraging the community to help animals in need this holiday season through an online auction.

The local SPCA announced the launch of their online holiday auction, Cold Noses Warm Wishes, which looks to benefit animals in the community.

"The Cold Noses Warm Wishes online auction is a great way to check a few gifts off your list while helping animals in our community who deserve a second chance," said Dawn Lyons, manager of the Ontario SPCA Orangeville & District Animal Centre. "You might just find the perfect gift for that special someone on your holiday list, plus you can feel good knowing you're changing the lives of animals in need."

Participants will be able to get a head

start on their holiday shopping and bid on items donated by local businesses and community members, while also helping local animals. Items in the online auction span from spa certificates to electronic and one-of-a-kind creations. There is something for everyone including furry companions.

As a registered charity, the Ontario SPCA Orangeville & District Animal Centre depends on generous donations to provide for animals in need. The Cold Noses Warm Wishes online holiday action will help raise critical funds to care for animals in the community from day-to-day care to adoptions.

The online auction went live on November 23 at 9 a.m. and closes on December 2 at 2 p.m.

For more information on Cold Noses Warm Wishes visit www.ontariospca.ca/orangeville and follow the Orangeville SPCA on Facebook and Instagram.



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RONALD (RON) FAZACKERLEY 1937-2022

Passed peacefully with family at his side on October 20th. Husband, father, grandpa - Ron was born in November 1937 and was one of 2 brothers and a sister. His sister, the eldest, survives to this day. A troubled childhood saw my father and siblings placed into foster care at early ages with the boys being split from their sister and then together in and out of endless group homes. He believed it was God's will that saw him living many of his influential teenage years with a deeply spiritual couple. We're certain that time forged his belief in The Almighty - a belief that remained with him and provided calm in his final days. Dad met my mom Corrie in 1962. They married on Feb. 15th 1964. My dad's last few years were difficult and she tended to him with love and devotion to the end. Standing at about 5.2 in a loafer, certainly not any towering figure of a man but in the last 40+ years we've called Shelburne home, there is to this day rarely a stretch of time that someone doesn't remind me that "Wee" Ron was a larger than life figure to them; a respected member of the community and just an honest, positive, happy and infectious soul. Thought nothing of it then, but do now remembering that it was Ron many would ask for help or assistance in times of trouble or need. Those were times of a smaller community where you earned respect. To many of a generation or two younger than mine, the whistling, smiling man known as "Mr. IGA" for over twenty years was rarely ever without a sucker or balloon tucked in his front pocket. For kids of all ages, he spread happiness. To all who sang with Ron over the years whether in barbershop or church - you gave him such great joy. To his many playing partners out on the course - few things he loved more other than his family. To all who called Ron friend - he would most assuredly tell you it was his privilege to have known you. They say some folks leave footprints on others. For those reading this who knew him, I expect there may still be a few on you. It was a life well lived. Many thanks to the wonderful caregivers at Shelburne Residence and Dufferin Oaks. You make a difference and we're grateful.



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IMPAIRED CHARGES

Continued from Page 4

“On November 12, 2022, at approximately 12:08 a.m., Caledon OPP was alerted of a single motor vehicle collision on Airport Road, near Old School Road. Officers responded and located the vehicle on its side. Since officers suspected the driver’s abilities to be impaired, a breath sample into an Approved Screening Device (ADS) was requested. As a result, the accused was arrested for impaired operation and transported to the Caledon OPP Detachment where further breath tests were conducted.”

Vishavranjit Kler, 29, of Caledon East, was charged with:

- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)

“On November 13, 2022, at approximately 1:53 a.m., officers responded to a vehicle into the ditch on Mayfield Road, near Heritage Road. Once on scene, officers formed grounds that the driver’s abilities were impaired and affected an arrest. The driver was transported to the Caledon OPP Detachment where breath tests were conducted.”

As a result, Ravi Tamakwala, 25, of Brampton, was charged with:

- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)
- Operation while impaired - alcohol

“In the same early hours of November 13, 2022, at approxi-

mately 2:48 a.m., an officer was conducting a proactive patrol on Mayfield Road. At that time, near McLaughlin Road, the officers observed a vehicle being operated in an unsafe manner. A traffic stop was initiated to speak to the driver. Grounds were formed to arrest the driver for impaired operation, who was subsequently transported to the Caledon OPP Detachment where breath tests were conducted.”

Fabian Brissett, 45, of Brampton, was charged with:

- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)
- Operation while impaired - alcohol

All four vehicles from the four incidents were impounded for a period of seven days, and the driver’s licences were suspended for 90 days. The four accused are scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on January 26, 2023, to answer to the charges. The charges have not been proven.

Caledon OPP has also conducted a number of R.I.D.E. spot checks through the weekend. On November 18, 2022, a 35-year-old from Caledon and a 20-year-old from Brampton were both issued a three-day licence suspension as part of their penalty for registering a Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) in the “Warn Range, which is between 0.05 and 0.079.

More information on the consequences of impaired driving is available at: www.ontario.ca/page/impaired-driving

“Lack of local democracy” Protest planned against province’s Bill 23

Continued from FRONT

Chiappetta, EcoCaledon’s co-chair, noted another big part of Bill 23 would be the elimination of development charges. These are fees that municipalities can require developers to pay in order to build parks and infrastructure to service their developments.

She added that the government is looking to get rid of the green development standards that many municipalities have been working diligently towards implementing. She noted that green development standards often cover affordability as well, and said the two go hand in hand. Chiappetta is worried that without green development standards, municipalities won’t be able to hold developers accountable to build the types of housing that are actually needed.

A Government of Ontario press release states the Bill will help achieve the following goals which will help get “more homes built faster”: building more homes near transit; supporting affordable and rental housing; freezing, reducing, and exempting fees for attainable, affordable, and non-profit housing; streamlining bureaucratic processes; improving the Ontario Land Tribunal; cracking down on

speculation; and more.

However, critics such as EcoCaledon, say Bill 23 will do nothing but tear up the greenbelt, encourage sprawl, and benefit developers. Chiappetta explained that on November 21, a coalition of over 125 groups including farmers, housing advocates, urban planners, environmentalists and community groups united to release a seven-page statement in firm opposition of Bill 23.

“The government’s scheme will not create more housing or improve affordability but will supercharge expensive and wasteful urban sprawl, undermine environmental protection, threaten farmers, prevent the transformation of existing sprawl communities into climate resilient communities and transfer money from taxpayers to land speculators and developers,” said the Coalition in a statement.

Max Hansgen, President of the National Farmers’ Union — Ontario, was quoted in the statement and said the proposal to remove farmland from the greenbelt will both harm farmers and reduce their ability to supply Ontarians with the food they need.

“These proposed actions would also take away farmers’ rights to

appeal development decisions that could harm their land and farm businesses and would make it much easier for land speculators to turn irreplaceable farmland into unsustainable urban sprawl,” said Hansgen.

Chiappetta said there’s already enough land designated for development in Ontario, and that even after that there’s whitebelt land that could be potentially designated for development.

“So, why are we jumping already to [planning to] opening up 7,400 acres of our greenbelt?” she asked.

Doug Ford and the provincial government had promised in the past to not touch the greenbelt.

O’Reilly said he’s hoping for a good turnout at the November 25 protest, and said another action interested people can take is to call or email Jones’ office to let her know their opposition to Bill 23. EcoCaledon is hoping to see support from members of Caledon’s recently sworn in Council at the November 25 protest.

Since the protest will be held in Orangeville, de Groot said EcoCaledon is looking forward to unity from community members and groups from both Dufferin and Caledon at the protest.

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