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Town to build skatepark in Southfields Village, seeks feedback

Construction set to begin in spring or summer

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

There will be a new spot to shred in Caledon this year.

On January 17, the Town of Caledon announced it would be building a skatepark in Southfields Village on the property of the Southfields Community Centre (225 Dougall Avenue).

It said construction will begin in spring or summer of this year.

Alongside its announcement, the Town released a survey on its community engagement website (haveyoursaycaledon.ca) to see what Caledon residents want to see in the new skatepark.

In a media release, Town Communications staff said residents that enjoy skate-

boarding, BMX, inline or roller skating, and scooting should take part in the survey.

“Tell us what you’d like to see in your new skate park by rating a number of optional designs and features,” staff said.

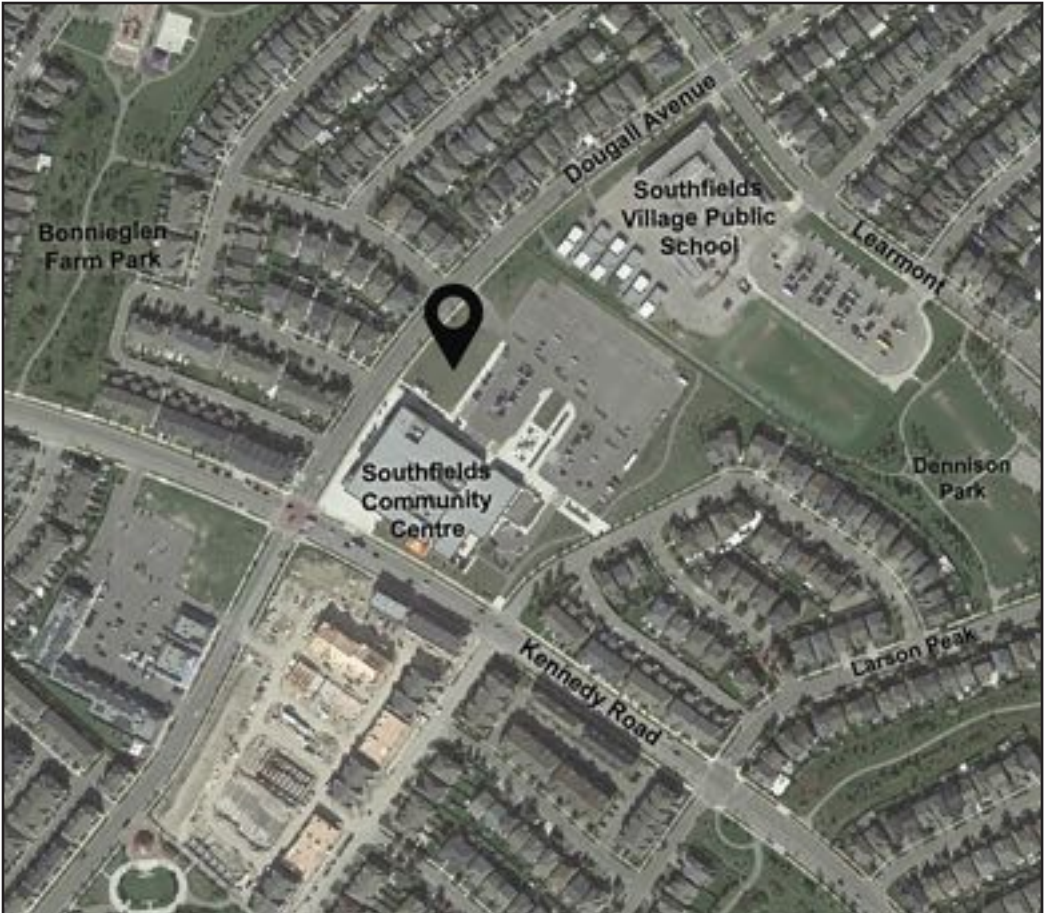
The survey asks residents a number of questions about their skatepark desires, such as whether they prefer more street or transition-oriented obstacles. It even shows specific skatepark features and asks for a rating out of five based on how much a resident wants to see that feature included.

There’s also space in the survey for residents to add their own additional written comments.

In the media release, Mayor Annette Groves said she encourages people to get involved in the skatepark project and share their opinions.

“We are thrilled to be entering the design phase of this exciting new skatepark in our Southfields Village community,” Groves.

Communications staff said the skatepark



The Town of Caledon will be building a skatepark at this location later this year.
TOWN OF CALEDON IMAGE

exemplifies the Town’s commitment to enhancing community vitality and livability.

“This project, like numerous others, is shaped by input from residents, reinforcing the Town’s dedication to fostering a

healthy, caring, engaged, and inclusive community through the creation of a new outdoor space,” staff wrote.

The survey about the skatepark will be open until February 7.

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Headwaters to build modernized hemodialysis unit

BY PAULA BROWN

Patients receiving hemodialysis treatments at Headwaters Health Care Centre (HHCC) will be able to experience them in comfort with the construction of a newly renovated hemodialysis unit.

The local hospital announced on Monday, January 22, that construction for the modernly renovated hemodialysis unit had begun.

“This renovation of our hemodialysis unit will ensure that our patients continue to have access to excellent care, close to home. Patient experience has been at the forefront, as we engaged them throughout the planning and design process,” said Kim Delahunt, President and CEO of Headwaters. “In partnership with the Headwaters Health Care Foundation and the generous support of our community, we are thrilled to complete this work.”

Hemodialysis is a treatment that filters the blood of a person whose kidneys are not working normally. Hemodialysis treatments are life-sustaining for patients with end-stage kidney disease. Since treatments take up to four hours and are required three times per week in a specialized treatment chair, patient comfort is a priority.

The renovation to the Hemodialysis Unit was made possible with donations from the community through the Smart Headwaters fundraising campaign.

“The need for dialysis services is growing and the Foundation and donors are proud to see new renovations for the dialysis unit underway,” said K.C. Carruthers, CEO of Headwaters Health Care Foundation. “Hemodialysis patients spend four to five hours, multiple times a week receiving treatment. We want their experience to be as positive and convenient as possible.”

Key features of the renovated hemodialysis unit will include:

- A return to its original location on the main level of the hospital within the Ambulatory Care wing. The unit will have direct access from a patient drop-off area adjacent to the hospital;
- The capacity to expand to nine stations, capable of treating up to 54 patients annually. To support the longer-term needs of the community, the unit will also have the capacity for a future expansion to 12 active stations that will serve up to 72 patients in total;
- Brand-new water treatment room for water purification and a technical workroom to support monitoring and maintenance of the water treatment system and the hemodialysis machines;
- New in-floor scale, designed to be level with the floor to ensure both safety and ease of use for patients
- New ergonomic treatment chairs with customizable features for each patient and a renewed layout to bring in more natural light.

The hospital is expecting a few changes during the renovation construction phase including the temporary closure of the Ambulatory Care patient drop-off parking, entrance area, patient waiting areas and clinic locations.

Patients with Ambulatory Care will continue to register at the Welcome Centre before proceeding to their appointment, while there is no change to registration for hemodialysis patients.

During renovation construction, Hemodialysis and Ambulatory Care patients will continue to be seen and Headwaters says there will be minimum disruption to patient appointments.

Construction of the newly renovated Hemodialysis Unit is anticipated to be completed by summer 2024.

For more details about the renovation visit www.headwatershealth.ca or sign up for the hospital’s newsletter for regular updates.

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Caledon Community Services gearing up for Coldest Night of the Year fundraiser



community Complex (6215 Old Church Road). CCS helps Caledon residents with food and basic needs support, care coordination, and connections to resources. It has a host of other programs and services like accessible transportation, settlement services, and employment services for job seekers.

Its wide range of services align it with the Coldest Night of the Year walk's goal of supporting those experiencing hurt, hunger, and homelessness, as CCS provides help for those struggling with those issues.

Since 2011, the Coldest Night of the Year walk has raised over \$96,000,000 across Canada for charities in 166 communities.

Last year's Coldest Night of the Year event was a resounding success.

PHOTO BY ENZO VILLA

Last year's event raised over \$100,000

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Excitement is heating up for an annual fundraising walk in Caledon.

On February 24, Caledon Community Services (CCS) will host its Coldest Night of the Year fundraising walk. The walk is held annually in communities across Canada to raise money for charities that help people experiencing hurt, hunger and homelessness.

CCS is aiming to raise \$120,000 from the walk this year — it's a new milestone, as in 2023 the Caledon community helped CCS smash past its \$100,000 goal for that year's walk. Over 200 people attended the walk last year.

Those interested in registering for this year's walk, as a team, participant, or volunteer, can visit cnoy.org/location/caledon. CCS is also looking for sponsors for the event, and prospective sponsors can visit the same website.

There's already over 80 people signed

up for this year's walk, and CCS Communications Manager Donna Cragg said she expects to see the number grow rapidly as excitement for the walk builds.

Fundraising for the walk has begun too, as nearly \$20,000 had already been raised for CCS as of January 23. On January 24, the team captains of teams participating in this year's walk met at The Exchange in Bolton for a launch event.

In 2023, a team of Caledon firefighters were the top fundraisers for the walk, raising over \$17,000.

Cragg said Caledon firefighters will be participating in the walk again this year, and she said it's awesome to have their support.

The annual Coldest Night of the Year walk asks people to take a moment and think about what it would be like to experience homelessness; to not have a warm home to go back to after the walk, or to not know where their next meal will come from. By hosting the walk in the bitter cold of February, CCS leads people in this reflection each year.

There will be two and five-kilometre walks that people can choose to go on for the 2024 Coldest Night of the Year walk, both beginning at the Caledon East Com-

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R.I.D.E. CHARGES

Officers from the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have charged two individuals following a RIDE program Thursday night.

“On January 18, 2024, Caledon OPP officers were conducting a R.I.D.E. (Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere) spot check on Olde Base Line Road, near Dixie Road,” say Police. “Shortly after 2:00 a.m., a vehicle entered the area and officers determined that the driver and a passenger had switched seats within the vehicle. Grounds were formed that both driver’s ability to operate a motor vehicle was impaired by alcohol and they were subsequently arrested.”

As a result of the investigation, Navpreet Singh, 21, of Brampton, was charged with:

- Failure or refusal to comply with demand;
- Having care or control of a motor vehicle with liquor readily available.

The charges have not been proven.

The accused is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on February 15, 2024, to answer to the charges. Additionally, the driver’s vehicle was impounded for a period of 7 days, and their driver’s licence suspended for a period of 90 days.

The other occupant, a 21-year-old of Belleville, was charged with:

- Novice driver - B.A.C. above zero;



- Having care or control of a motor vehicle with liquor readily available.

The charges have not been proven.

The driver was also issued a 3-day driver’s licence suspension.

“Although the OPP runs its annual Festive RIDE campaign, RIDE spot checks are conducted throughout the year, 24/7. The OPP remains committed to taking alcohol/drug-impaired drivers off our roads through enforcement and public education. If you know or suspect that a driver is impaired by alcohol or drugs, call 9-1-1. In doing so, you may save a life.”

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, and you never have to testify.

For more information about the penalties of driving impaired, visit: www.ontario.ca/page/impaired-driving

VEHICLE THEFTS

Members of the Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are investigating the theft of four pickup trucks from the Town of Orangeville and the Town of Mono.

The thefts took place between the evening of January 21, 2024, and the early morning hours of

January 22, 2024.

The pickup trucks were stolen from the driveways of residential addresses in Mono and Orangeville. The vehicles are described as the following:

- 2023 black Ford F-150 crew cab bearing Ontario marker BV62917 from Perry Road in the Town of Orangeville;
- 2023 black Ford F-150 bearing Ontario marker BW34470 from Ashwood Drive in the Town of Mono;
- 2023 grey Ford F-150 bearing Ontario marker BX76254 from Meek Avenue from the Town of Mono;
- 2023 grey Ford F-150 bearing Ontario marker BT97565 from McMaster Road in the Town of Orangeville.

“Officers secured video surveillance where a dark colour sedan is observed pulling up to one of the residences,” say Police. “Two suspects are viewed exiting their vehicle and entering the stolen pick-up. After a couple of minutes within the truck, they get it started and are viewed driving it out of the driveway.”

If you have any information or video surveillance footage in relation to any of these thefts, please call the Dufferin OPP Detachment at (519) 942-1711 or 1-888-310-1122.

You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or submit your information online at ontariocrimestoppers.ca/.

The OPP is committed to enforcement initiatives targeting this issue and will continue to educate residents on crime prevention strategies to minimize victimization.

Auto theft crime prevention tips:

Residents can help protect their vehicles by taking any of the following crime prevention measures:

- Ensure your vehicle keys are kept well away from doors and windows;
- Use a signal blocking pouch/box - they can block your key fob from transmitting its code to the vehicle as the pouch is lined with layers or metallic material;
- Turn off the keyless fob wireless signal at night (refer to your car manual for instructions);
- Use a steering wheel lock or car alarm - this could add a significantly delay or be a deterrent for thieves;
- Consider a secondary audible car alarm - which works by using sensors placed in different points of your vehicle;
- Park in the garage (if possible);
- Insert a car tracker - unusual activity is monitored, and car can be tracked using GPS if stolen.

Police and its insurance industry partners also want to raise public awareness about the opportunities for criminals who intend to



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steal personal identification from unsecured vehicles.

Licenses, insurance, vehicle ownerships, passports, as well as mobile devices or laptops, offer criminals the opportunity to further victimize individuals who do not lock their vehicles, or who leave their valuables in plain view.

Vehicle owners/passengers can do simple things to decrease the risk of being victimized, such as:

- Never leave a running vehicle unattended;
- Lock your doors;
- Roll up your windows;
- Keep valuables out of sight;
- Keep your registration and proof of insurance in your wallet or purse, not in the glove box;
- Pocket your keys;
- At night or during extended parking periods, always park in a well-lit area.

Anyone with information regarding this investigation of any other criminal activity is asked to contact Dufferin OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers to remain anonymous at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). You can also submit your information online at <https://ontariocrimestoppers.ca/>.

HUMAN REMAINS DISCOVERED IN ADJ-TOR

The Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is investigating the discovery of human remains in the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio.

“On January 21, 2024, at approximately 8:40 p.m., police located a body in the area of 25th Sideroad,” say Police. “A post-mortem will be conducted to confirm the identity and determine a cause of death.”

The investigation is ongoing, and more information will be released as it becomes available.

The Nottawasaga OPP Crime Unit is continuing the investigation, under the direction of the OPP Criminal Investigation Branch, with assistance from OPP Forensic Identification Services, and in collaboration with the Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario and the Ontario Forensic Pathology Service.

If you have any information in relation to this investigation, please contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122. You can also contact Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or www.crimestoppersdm.com. Crime Stoppers does not subscribe to call display, and you will remain anonymous. You will not testify in court and your information may lead to a cash reward of up to \$2,000.

Question: My brother and I are the estate trustees for our mother’s estate. We have never really seen eye-to-eye on things and the estate is no different. We cannot seem to make any progress on the estate and other beneficiaries are losing patience. What can I do?

Answer: This is not an uncommon situation. Often when making a Will the testator appoints their adult children as estate trustees jointly to avoid upsetting the adult children, without really considering whether the siblings can work together. In your case there are a number of potential solutions, including retaining a lawyer to assist with administration of the estate, each estate trustee retaining separate lawyers to help them work through the issues, or appointing a neutral third-party to act as estate trustee. A lawyer assisting you with the administration is common, and the lawyer will provide the estate trustees with advice and attempt to resolve differences. The appointment of a neutral third-party will typically require that the existing estate trustees renounce their own appointment as executors. Once appointed, the neutral third-party takes over the administration of the estate. You and your brother may still have to pass accounts for the period of time for which you acted as executors, and you can claim compensation for the work you did as executors. Keep in mind that the beneficiaries (or the neutral estate trustee) may require you to pass your accounts before the court.

If you are dealing with an estate issue, give us a call to set up a free ½ hour consultation. Stay safe and enjoy the weekend!

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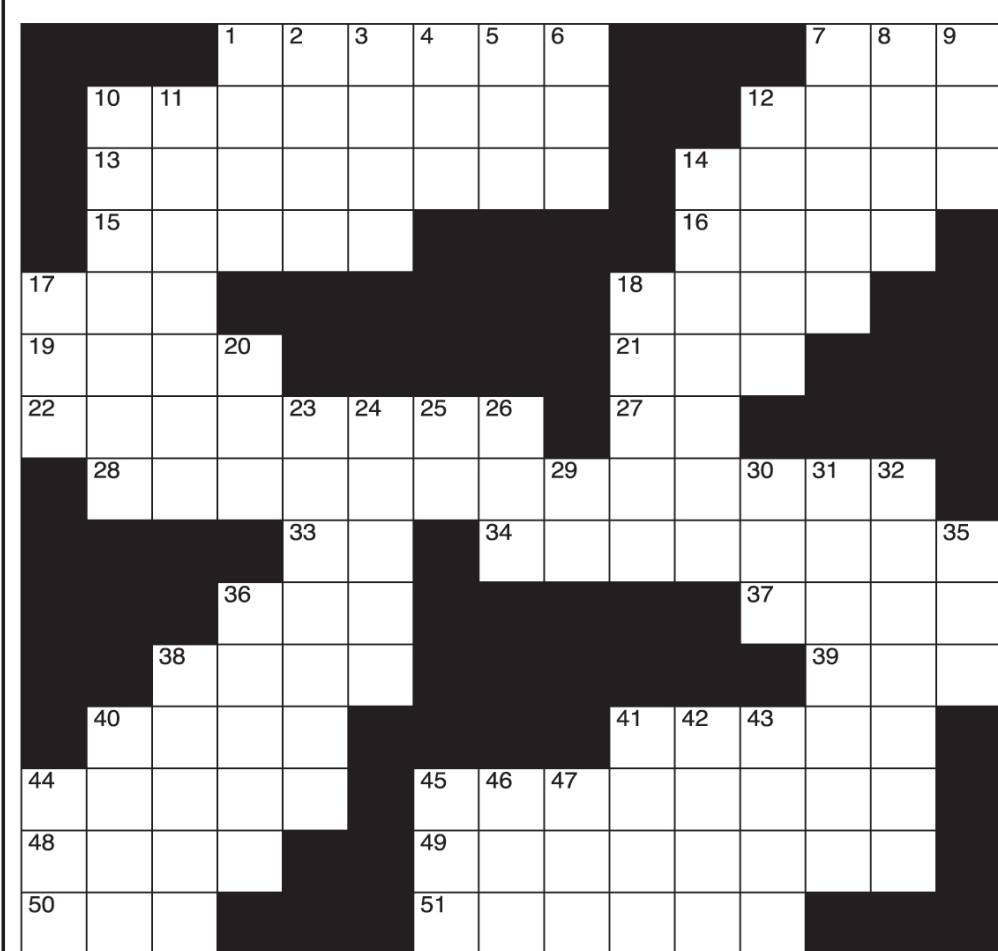
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This advice offered in this column is intended for information purposes only. Use of this column is not intended to replace or substitute and professional, financial, medical, legal, or other professional advice.

The Citizen CROSSWORD

Solution in CLASSIFIEDS



CLUES ACROSS

1. Winged nut

7. ___ Humbug!

10. One who sets apart

12. Circle above a saint’s head

13. Unpleasantly loud and harsh

14. Expressed pleasure

15. Feminine given name

16. Company of badgers

17. Popular Dodge pickup truck

18. Witty sayings

19. Leader

21. Autonomic nervous system

22. Premolar

27. Atomic #28

28. Holiday decorative item

CLUES DOWN

33. Exclamation of surprise

34. Rusk or cracker

36. Returned material authorization (abbr.)

37. Scottish or Irish Gaelic language

38. Eat

39. Marxist economics theory (abbr.)

40. Ceases to exist

41. Male Arabic name

44. Series of ridges on an organ wall

45. Places where bees are kept

48. One-time Yankees sensation Kevin

49. Church office

50. Single lens reflex

51. Pieces of fibrous tissue

1. Classify

2. Dismounted

3. Produced

4. Consumed

5. Director Howard

6. The products of human creativity

7. Thai monetary units

8. Away from wind

9. Builder’s trough

10. Relating to Islam

11. It can sometimes ache

12. Small quantities (Scot.)

14. Poisonous plant

17. Laugh at

18. Vogul

20. C. European river

23. Type of cat

24. Exclamation of disgust

25. Stephen King novel

26. Without armies

29. Expression of sympathy

30. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)

31. Previously

32. Illegal drug

35. Kiloelectronvolt

36. Large, flightless birds

38. For smoking

40. Binary

41. Competition

42. Mark resembling an arrow

43. Containers

44. Root mean square (abbr.)

45. Commercials

46. I.M. __, architect

47. 007’s creator

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

Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club celebrating 60th anniversary

Numerous events and initiatives planned to celebrate milestone

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

A local club is celebrating 60 years of connecting people with nature.

In 2024, the Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club (Caledon Hills BTC) is celebrating its 60th anniversary.

It’s planning a series of events to celebrate the major milestone.

The Caledon Hills BTC was founded in 1964 and since then, its club members and volunteers have been working hard to maintain trails, restore ecosystems, secure land to protect, and promote biodiversity.

It’s why the Caledon Hills BTC said its 60th anniversary marks six decades of commitment to conservation, environmental stewardship, and fostering deeper connections with nature.

The Caledon Hills portion of the Bruce Trail is 72 kilometres long and spans from the Cheltenham Badlands to Mono Centre.

Along the trail one can find diverse forests and meadows, rocky outcroppings, and meandering streams and rivers. Thanks to handshake agreements, the trail passes through private property unhindered in places, and in others, it passes through conservation areas and provincial parks.

Caledon Hills BTC volunteers steward 25 protected natural areas along the trail that have a total area of 800 acres. The Caledon Hills BTC said the trail has much to offer hikers, like bird watching, magnificent fall colours, and many natural treasures.

Caledon Hills BTC club president Sandy Green explained the club has donated over \$284,000 to the Bruce Trail Conservancy over the years.



“Our mission to ‘preserve a ribbon of wilderness for everyone, forever,’ continues to inspire generosity and reminds us of the responsibility we all share for this land and future generations,” said Green.

There are numerous events planned to celebrate the club’s 60th anniversary. More information about all of the following events can be found online at caledon-brucetrail.ca.

Guided hikes from experienced hike leaders will occur, and there will even be some commemorative challenge badges for hikers to earn. Hikers can get the “60 for the 60th” badge by hiking 60 kilometres of the trail, and get another badge for hiking all 72 kilometres of the Caledon Hills section of the trail end to end.

On April 21 and May 4, the Caledon Hills BTC’s biodiversity team and partners from the Bruce Trail Conservancy will be planting native shrubs and trees in two protected areas to restore ecological health to them.

A photo contest will be held this year, and hikers are encouraged to submit their best photos from the Caledon Hills section of the trail to the Caledon Hills BTC for a chance to win prizes.

The club’s Youth Program Team is looking to partner with schools and youth leaders in the community to provide hiking experiences with a goal of inspiring lifelong environmental commitment.

Green said she encourages Caledon residents to come out and celebrate with the Caledon Hills BTC this year.

“Embrace nature, and actively help to make a difference. We look forward to having new members join us and for our community to learn more about the Bruce Trail,” said Green.

Council meets with Provincial officials at ROMA

Town of Caledon representatives had successful meetings with several provincial ministers at the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) Conference from January 21 to 23 in Toronto.

Mayor Annette Groves and Members of Council met with: Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Hon. Paul Calandra; Minister of Transportation, Hon. Prabmeet Sarkaria, and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, Ric Bresee.

“Municipal advocacy is integral to fostering collaboration with higher levels of government and advancing Town priorities,” said Mayor Groves. “At ROMA, we had great discussions with our provincial leaders, paving the way for promising opportunities and collaborative endeavors.”

The theme of this year’s conference was Closer to Home. The Caledon delegation brought forward Council-approved positions on a number of issues, including:

- Local service delivery growth and improvement;
- Support to deliver on Caledon’s Housing Pledge;
- Advancing the Caledon-Vaughan GO Rail service;
- Sustainably managing aggregate operations and rehabilitation;
- Strengthening municipal enforcement powers to address illegal land uses

These priority areas align with those outlined in the 2023-2035 Strategic Plan and will continue to guide Caledon’s advocacy efforts throughout 2024.

Led by the Town of Orangeville, Caledon representatives also participated in a joint delegation to Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, Hon. Sylvia Jones to advocate for communities facing critical physician shortages.

The ROMA conference provides municipal leaders the opportunity to meet with provincial ministers and advocate on behalf of citizens to influence legislative, regulatory and policy changes at all levels of government.

For more information, visit caledon.ca/advocacy. To learn more about ROMA, visit www.roma.on.ca.

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9:30 am to 10:30 am – Exercises with Sandy - Caledon East Community Complex

TUESDAYS:
9:30 am to 10:30 am – Exercises with Clare – Bob Smith Room, Bolton
9:00 am to 9:30 am – Beginner Tai Chi – Beverley Nurden Room, Bolton
9:30 am to 11:00 am – Tai Chi – Beverley Nurden Room, Bolton

WEDNESDAYS:
9:00 am to 10:00 am – Exercises with Cheryl – Beverley Nurden Room, Bolton/Zoom
10:00 am to 11:00 am – Exercises with Soraya – ZOOM ONLY
9:30 am to 10:30 am – Exercises with Sandy - Caledon East Community Complex

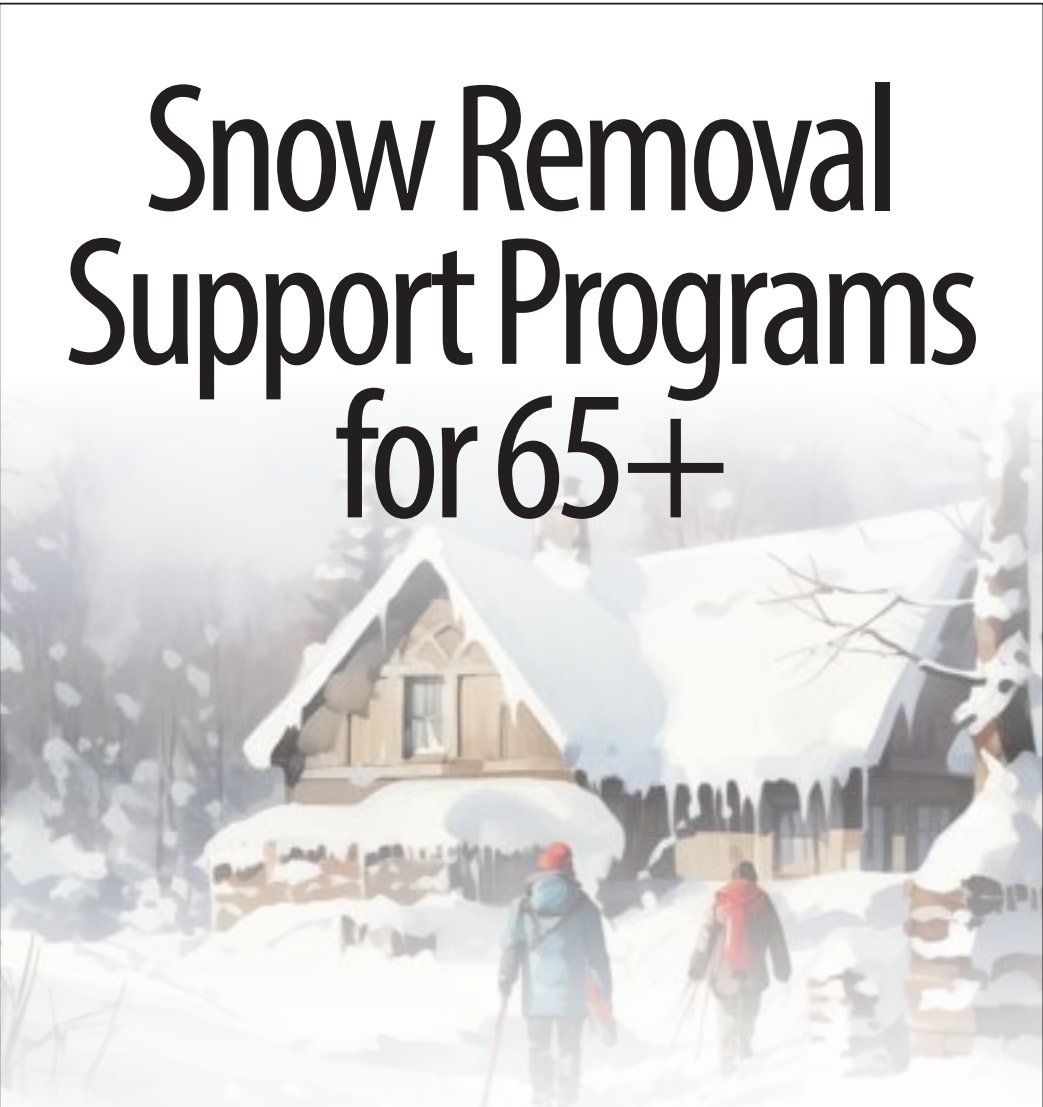
THURSDAYS:
9:00 am to 10:30 am – Nordic Pole Walking – Reception, Bolton
11:15 am to 12:15 am – Chair Yoga with Clare – Beverley Nurden Room, Bolton/Zoom
11:00 am to 12:00 pm – Exercises with Liz – Margaret Dunn Community Room

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NEW! - Windrow Removal Assistance Pilot Program:
Windrow clearance from January – March. First-come, first-served for up to 200 residents. \$200 non-refundable fee applies. Application period for this program closes January 31, 2024

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Proof of low income is no longer required for residents 75+. Eligible residents receive up to \$500 to purchase snow removal services.

Visit caledon.ca/adult55 for more information on the programs and how to apply. Note: Residents cannot enroll in both programs.

Need Assistance with your application? Please call 311



3.5 per cent tax increase proposed in Caledon’s 2024 budget

Continued from FRONT

Cummings said high inflation since the pandemic is impacting the cost of operations and service delivery in 2024. He said Caledon is facing significant pressure with cost increases, especially in areas like insurance (17 per cent increase), natural gas (4.5 per cent increase), and non-residential construction (6.6 per cent increase).

The Town is also proposing a 2.5 per cent cost of living salary increase for non-union-eligible staff, which Cummings said will support recruitment and retention of staff.

Catherine McLean, Caledon’s Commissioner of Community and Human Services, said Caledon will be completing its Recreation and Culture Strategic Plan in 2024. She also said it will be planning for a new community centre and fire station in Mayfield West.

McLean said Caledon is looking to permanently offer its aquatic leadership program at no charge — this program was implemented to train people to work as lifeguards and swim teachers in Caledon’s recreation facilities and saw success.

The proposed 2024 budget also includes the addition of five full-time firefighters at the Valleywood fire station, and replacement of fitness equipment at the Caledon Centre for Recreation and Wellness.

Caledon Fire will also look to replace two tankers and one squad truck this year as they have reached the end of their life cycle. Caledon Fire Chief Dave Pelayo said new trucks are beneficial as they have new safety features, increased water capacity, reduced carbon footprints, and anti-lock braking systems.

Rita Juliao, Caledon’s acting Commissioner of Engineering, Public Works and Transportation, said in 2024 Caledon will work on a Stormwater Master Plan and continuing to implement the Resilient Caledon community climate change action plan. She said Caledon will be working to “green” its fleet and buildings, and expand transit partnerships.

Six new full-time employees in the areas of environment, transportation, and service

were requested in the 2024 budget. Juliao said Caledon will be looking to streamline development approvals, have growth pay for growth, and build complete communities.

Juliao said Caledon is spending \$26.4 million on roads and infrastructure this year, about \$19 million of which is going towards repair and maintenance.

Caledon Public Library CEO Colleen Lipp said the Library is looking to expand its “Library of Things” and collections in languages other than English. It’s also planning for a new library branch in Mayfield West, to reimagine its brand and logo, and start a student employment program.

Ward 1 Councillor Lynn Kiernan said she applauds Town staff’s commitment to maintaining the Town’s infrastructure.

Regional Councillor, Wards 4, 5, and 6 Mario Russo said he would like to see Town staff inform residents how unavoidable budget increases work at a future presentation.

Mayor Annette Groves said it’s been a challenging year for everyone and that she’s really happy with the proposed 2024 budget given all of the pressures Caledon is facing.

Caledon residents are faced with a proposed 3.5 per cent property tax increase this year.

In the proposed 2024 budget there’s nearly \$6 million in unavoidable operating budget increases — budget items approved in previous years of Council that have a 2024 impact.

Inflationary pressures account for a \$2.5 million increase in the Town’s expenses. New staff and/or programs, and increased service levels, account for just over a \$1 million increase in expenses.

The Town will earn \$3.5 million in tax revenue from new homes and businesses in Caledon in 2024. It’s also drawing over \$1.6 million from its operating contingency reserve to offset operating budget increases on the taxpayer. The Town’s next budget meeting is scheduled for February 14. More information about the Town of Caledon’s 2024 budget process is available online at the following link: caledon.ca/en/government/budget-and-finance.aspx.

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TOWN OF CALEDON





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TOWN OF CALEDON



CALEDON STRATEGIC PLAN
COMMUNITY VITALITY
AND LIVABILITY
2023 - 2035

BROCK WEIR
BROCK'S BANTER

Having the chance to meet yourself

Do you ever stop for a moment and think back on your formative years and wonder whether the “you of today” would have been friends with the person you were decades ago, or even as a child?

Maybe you have, maybe you haven’t, maybe you have no intention to. That’s fine. Perhaps you’re focused on always looking forward rather than backward, but recently I have found this to be a worthwhile exercise.

I’ve had plenty of opportunities to get to know my childhood self once again as we prepare to move after 20-odd years in the same abode.

The last time we were on the move, when I was just starting university, the moving process was greatly aided by a neighbour who, although helpful, didn’t have the best sorting system. As I’ve been working on excavating the contents of the basement, I’ve found dusty plastic totes that appear to have been packed with wild abandon – that is without any rhyme or reason for their contents.

Sorting? I guess there was no time for that. Amid pieces of school room art going back to Grade 1, perhaps even earlier, were high school papers written well over a decade later, photos from no single year strewn about, once-fresh chestnuts that withered accordingly over the decades to little more than dust, ancient chocolates and candies left over from Halloween and Valentine’s Days of yore, and handfuls of Flintstones trading cards that somehow made their way into EVERY. SINGLE. BOX.

I don’t know how they managed it, but in some perverse way it is awe-inspiring.

I have to admit, however, going through some 15 totes of substantial volume was never an enticing prospect; but after going through seven grab-boxes of trash, opening up that eighth one and seeing a still-wrapped but melted piece of Quality Street solidified onto a wallet-sized image of Pebbles and Bamm-Bamm was more than a little disheartening.

Last fall, as this process hit its midway point, I wrote a bit about this. At the time, I had come across a cache of documents from my early school years where, at least on paper, I was experiencing some difficulty in the classroom.

For whatever reason, apparently I was lashing out at people, whether my classmates or my teachers, primarily verbally. There was a full run-down of my behaviour, suggestions to my parents on what to do about it, some pages quite prescriptive, and even some “contracts” drawn up by my teachers, and signed by them, my parents and myself, agreeing to specific methods of dealing with frustration, anger, and more.

At the time, it was a slightly disconcerting discovery as I had no recollection of this apparently troubled time. I was reading about myself, yet it described a person I had no recollection of let alone a connection.

But things have turned in a more positive direction.

Over the last couple of weeks, as the clock has ticked down to moving day, we’ve done another deep dive into the basement. With the intention to cull even more ruthlessly than the first attempt over the fall, I found a couple of boxes that only made me smile.

One box contained scores of magazines from the first half of the 1990s I felt appropriate to save for future reference. These ranged from informative tabloid-adjacent “Where are they now?” volumes that updated

us on what stars from the so-called “Golden Age of Hollywood” have been up to recently – to rags firmly in the tabloid camp, one of which was entirely, and inexplicably, devoted to celebrities, mostly of a certain age, caught at their very worst.

These were, mind you, celebrities my peers of that age had likely never heard of, but they were very well-known to me and, admittedly, still of great interest – although, today, there is little interest in seeing them at their absolute worst, but back then I had to take what I could get!

The other box contained a wild collection of elementary school presentations – on Bristol board, of course – through the years that were almost invariably on topics related to I Love Lucy. A presentation on newsmakers? Why, Lucille Ball (presented in a red heart) and Desi Arnaz (presented in a black conga drum) of course! A poster for French class on the book we’re currently reading? While I’d wager that a lot of my peers wrote about the latest from R.L. Stein, for me it was the latest book on Vivian Vance.

These are enduring passions for me, but the funny thing is when I previously looked back on the interests that made me tick in these years, I remember being self-conscious of them, trying to keep them hidden and on the backburner as any time they came up, they would elicit no small degree of mockery at best and bullying at worst from my fellow youths.

I was so relieved this wasn’t quite the case and whatever light this represented wasn’t hidden under the proverbial bushes – my truth was lived, as one might say, damn the consequences.

One key conclusion was that if I met my young self today, I’d think I’d find him a good egg and we’d probably be friends – and that realization helped many other elements of my childhood fall into place.

A few years ago, thanks to Marie Condo, there was a movement to get rid of everything that didn’t spark joy, the theory being that it weighs you down – and not just as far as boxes are concerned. But who knows what will spark joy at any one period of time?

A few years ago, would an old Bristol board from a long-forgotten French class from 1994 spark joy? Probably not, but as I’m more reflective in this time of transition, it certainly did recently.

In fact, it has only reinforced my view that we – all of us – need to be kinder to ourselves – even if it is a version of ourselves in memory or with the material goods we’ve brought with us over the years.

Even if your childhood was no picnic, I can only hope your adult self can look back fondly on these building blocks that formed the foundation of who you are now, whether or not the surface memories are less than rosy.

If that is the case, I hope you learn from the experience and now have the tools today to have been a friend to that youngster who might have needed someone beyond their family in their corner during these formative years.

And, with this in mind, if you have a child in your life, whether they are your own, nieces or nephews, a godchild, or simply even a kid who belongs to someone in your friend circle, I hope you encourage their quirks, their interests, even if they seem just a little bit weird, and foster their wholly unique outlooks on life.



Rewriting my ever-changing guide

by Mark Pavilons



It’s been a while since I put pen to paper with my inner-most thoughts.

I typically have a keyboard – virtual or physical – at my disposal for these things.

It’s not always easy to come up with new, informative and enjoyable subjects for my weekly rants. But I try.

It was a struggle recently as I sank into a bit of a funk, a kind of new year cloudiness.

As the world gets even more troublesome, we hide in the comfort of our own homes and pleasant surroundings not impacted by hate, conflict or political unrest.

I tried to find distractions of all sorts, from Facebook reels to uplifting quotes and even favourite songs. None provided any solace at all, despite a few smiles and even a couple of tears.

I thought maybe it’s time to rewrite my personal “job description,” my six-decade-long curriculum vitae that describes my life as a husband, father and human being. Where to start?

There’s way too much for a chronological account of my growth, achievements, highs and lows.

There’s also way too many tattered suitcases (baggage) from my early adventures.

I never buried a treasure chest or time capsule, containing trinkets for my future self. It never seemed relevant.

As a youngster, I never gave much thought to my future self. In high school and even entering college, I still couldn’t see myself in the future, being a responsible professional, an adult ready for the world.

At times, I still don’t. I feel like I’m 30, with the sense of humour of a teenager and yet I bear the scars, aches and pains of an older man.

So, here I am. I made it up another flight of stairs, another rung in the never-ending wobbly ladder. For better or worse, I have arrived and each new day is another opportunity to do well, love, embrace hope and joy.

We will all have to “shuffle off this mortal coil” as the Bard once wrote, but until that day comes, we have all the power to summon up newness – new courage, new fortitude and a new hope. But does that mean we have to become new ourselves? It’s pretty hard for humans to become “new and improved” like our infomercial products. But we can create a new journal and jot down some new thoughts for this road map of our new direction.

We are smart enough to get in from the cold and keep ourselves warm and safe from the frightful weather outside. We can excel in both our professional and personal lives, given enough wiggle room.

So, let’s start with the new “Men’s Guide for Evolving Dummies,” or “Practical Maleness for Changing Times.”

There are so many books, programs and virtual exercises for men to become better husbands and fathers. According the latest that’s come across my smart phone, Man on Fire says we need to reclaim our power and potential, to shed that feeling of helplessness.

It’s a consciousness, and awareness of our purpose in life. It’s coming full circle with who you are, and what you want to become.

We all live with regrets and I’m sure we all want to reignite that spark, that flame that had driven us in the past.

As a suitor and newly married man, I was on my best behaviour and put my wife Kim on pedestal. Boy, does she miss those days.

Am I less caring, loving and romantic than I used to be? In terms of romantic gestures, yes. We males express our love and devotion in many ways and being a “rock” and go-to guy is one way.

Providing for the family, through thick and thin, is one of our mandates, perhaps an outdated one passed on by the previous generation.

Most households include dual breadwinners and it’s a team effort, not one-sided. We rob Peter to pay Paul and we share expenses as best we can. At times, we all come up short, but that’s when our shoulders broaden and we carry the extra weight.

It’s like trudging through mud up to our shins, pushing to get ahead. We can celebrate when we pull ourselves out, even if we have to leave a boot behind.

Unfortunately, the trenches aren’t getting any easier to navigate and the hurdles keep coming. Toss in a few sleepless nights, errands, car repairs, sudden expenses and mayhem rears its ugly head again and again.

But maybe that’s something I need to reimagine and re-focus. Perhaps blowing on the embers of that forgotten spark will not only start a fire in me, but in my wife, too.

There was a time when it was just us and we could face anything together. We laughed and explored and experienced.

Perhaps the new chapters will include reflecting on the love we share, reveling in that, and only that.

The verses on parenting are always unfolding anew. Our early parenting days are but a blur and our children are now 25, 22 and 18.

I have gone from dotting dad and floor-level motivator to wise, old owl. They still marvel at the fountain of information I have locked away in my nogging, but I fear some of it is now irrelevant or no longer applicable. The pendulum of the world has swung so far that there is still much to learn and understand.

The love I have for my children is not a mushy, feely marshmallow kind of fondness. It’s more of a life coach, professional career counsellor and problem-solver. Dads try to “fix” things and yet my wife says I simply need to be more present, in the moment with them, empathizing their plight.

This part of the guidebook will need a lot of tweaking, just as it did through every previous phase of our children’s development.

Parenting is a full-time job that never stops, wanes or eases. We continue to put the children first, and enjoy what’s left for ourselves.

We are always “doing.”

It’s unfortunate that many things in our lives have become “chores” and not pleasantries.

I aim to revisit the “footnotes” and “index” of this book of mine. Perhaps these will hold some gems for me to call upon as we brave the future.

Use the ink wisely, my friends!

Submit your
**LETTERS
TO
THE EDITOR**

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“Service,” Ontario Style

Seeking service in Ontario? The province that’s “Open for Business” but not much else? Hoping to renew your license or have a knee replaced? Whatever you’re looking for, if crossing the border to shop used to be your favourite pre-pandemic activity, no worries - you’ll soon have the opportunity to receive a variety of services that rival any of those previously offered only in the US. In other words, services you’ll have to pay for out of pocket. That’s the new “Service,” Ontario style.

There have been just a few announcements from the Ford government lately, including the recent re-announcement about making booze available in corner stores and grocery stores. Wait, insert pause here, isn’t it already available in these locations, you ask? Yes, yes, it is, but I digress. The announcements I’m concerned about happened just in the last week or so and included this one, about “expanded and enhanced” (quotes are mine) access to Service Ontario locations through two large retail outlets, at least one of which is wholly American owned. It was followed by recent assurances from Minister Jones that yet more health care services are coming our way with “expanded and enhanced” (again, quotes are mine) locations to have

knee and hip replacement surgeries done at private clinics. Lucky us. It seems “Service,” Ontario style is getting more and more like America every day!

The idea that Service Ontario locations are – in many instances – independently owned and operated was news to many. Of the 270+ locations, only about one third are provincially run. The rest, privately run, earned a commission for each transaction they completed and many were family-owned businesses. I’m already not sure how I feel about finding out what some thought was a government run resource has been in private hands, but with this latest news, what I am sure of is that handing over responsibility to big corporate entities, particularly those that are American owned, is just wrong, and quite possibly not in our best interests. Surely if change was required, and these mom-and-pop Service Ontario locations (including some here within our own Caledon borders) were not allegedly meeting the communities needs, there were other ways the government could have intervened? To begin with, they could have used an open bidding process rather than making secret deals behind closed doors. Why Staples? Why Walmart? Perhaps Shoppers’ Drug Mart parking lots weren’t big

enough? In case you missed it, apparently parking lot size was one of the considerations ranked as important in granting the contract to Staples. Or, maybe Galen was simply too busy to fulfill yet another request from his friend.

Claiming the move will enhance convenience for Ontarians, the government answered no questions about the secretive process, or why it has, in one instance, already reversed its decision to close and relocate a downtown Toronto location. CityNews reporter Richard Southern, who first broke the story, has been relentless in questioning the Ford government and on Monday of this week was able to confirm that, according to Mr. Ford, while the deal, “at the end of the day (is) saving taxpayers over \$1 million” Ford also acknowledged that “We’re going to help them.”

“Them” being Staples and Walmart, not us taxpayers! It appears we’ll be funding at least some of the retrofit costs associated with this transition but no business case has been put forward as to whether the cost of these retrofits will be more, or less, than the alleged savings for taxpayers. Reminds me of a certain other deal the Conservatives were a part of – involving a highway we paid for

years ago, and are still paying for the privilege of driving on now. The opposition was quick to react with the Green Party calling for the Auditor General to once again take a look at how the Ford government does business, and NDP critic Catherin Fife stating, “This is not an expansion of service, but another attempt for Ford to quietly hand over more of our public services to private corporations.”

Finally, that Staples issued a job posting soon after the Ford government announcement, looking for a Regional Services Manager who would be “responsible for the monetization of Service Ontario traffic” and to “drive sales & profit results related to Service Ontario traffic,” simply adds to mounting suspicions around the deal.

If we weren’t already incredulous, how could we not be after reading these job requirements? Be prepared to pay more “folks,” that’s “Service,” Ontario style! (Oh, and I haven’t forgotten, we’ll get to those easily accessed hip and knee replacements another day!)



SHERALYN ROMAN
TALK CALEDON

What is it with Europe?

Are we really headed for another war in Europe?

Already, in Sweden, the government has called on its population to prepare for a future war.

Really? Sweden? If a peaceful, successful nation like Sweden is preparing for war, then something is seriously wrong on the European continent.

The Chairman of the NATO Military Committee has now declared that an all-out war between the West and Russia is inevitable.

The news story reporting this said, “Western countries should also be prepared for a conflict that will require significant changes in their lives.”

Significant changes? Like what? Death? Mutation? Bombings? Artillery shells landing on retirements homes and schools? Having your home destroyed, your family killed, and fighting with the guy next to you for a potato because you’re starving and living waste deep in mud in some refugee camp?

Yeah, I think you should consider those to be “significant changes” in your lifestyle.

Again, it is war in Europe.

How can one continent be so entrenched in destruction all the time?

The entire history of Europe has been one

constant conflict. They didn’t build all those castles for leisure and recreation purposes.

Some historians claim that we’ve already had three world wars, as the Napoleonic Wars should be considered World War number one.

After the period of 1914 to 1918, that war was called The War to End All Wars. That period was the first modern war that caused mass destruction and a huge loss of life.

Yes, it should have been an experience you don’t want to repeat.

Did Europe learn a lesson from this?

No, apparently not, because just 21 years later, they were at it again.

By the end of 1945, Germany was destroyed, Belgium, and the Netherlands were in ruins. Most of Europe was in rubble. Poland had almost six million deaths. Russia lost a staggering 20,000,000+ people.

You would think that experience would teach them that having a war with your neighbours is not a good thing.

There have been several smaller wars in Europe over the past few decades, with entire countries disappearing – remember Yugoslavia?

At the time, Canada was drawn into both European wars, first as a duty to King and Country, and because of our close ties to the United Kingdom.

If we had not gone to war in Europe, would the outcome have been different? Probably not. All those dead Europeans would still be dead, and all those countries would have still been left in ruins.

This time, if a war does occur, we will again be drawn into another European conflict because of our obligations to NATO. Do you really want to see more names etched on the cenotaphs around the country because of yet another foreign war?

While we are relatively safe in Canada, due to our location and size, which makes any type of invasion almost impossible, the difference between past wars and current conflicts is the danger of long-range missiles.

I’m not sure what Russia’s plans are. In the time they have been warring with Ukraine, they have lost more tanks, support vehicles, artillery pieces, weapons systems, aircraft, and personnel, than most countries have in their entire arsenal.

They can’t have that much left, and Russia does not have the resources to start building new war machines.

Reports have said that prisoners serving time in prison, including very dangerous people, have been released, handed a rifle and sent to the front line.

That is mark of a very desperate regime that is trying to raise bodies to act as cannon fodder, because the prisoners are not being well trained, and are poorly equipped, but they can stop a bullet.

Another war in Europe would be an absolute disaster. Russia cannot win a war against NATO in the conventional sense. It would no doubt resort to the use of nuclear weapons.

Even then, that may not be something to be overly concerned about.

Russia can’t even manage to maintain the playgrounds in its cities and towns, let alone a nuclear arsenal.

Their system is so corrupt, the plutonium cores in their bombs have probably already been scavenged and sold, and the missiles covered in cobwebs.

I’ve heard the question before, that if you could go back in time, and meet Hitler before his rise to power, would you do something about it?

It don’t think time travel is the answer, but I do know you don’t kill a rabid dog by cutting off its tail.



BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW

Canada needs to spur the growth of new small businesses

The Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) called last Friday “a sad day for many Canadian small business owners.”

The reason: many businesses will be unable to repay the emergency government loans they received in the middle of the pandemic.

Approximately 900,000 businesses took out loans. But many had little choice – small businesses such as restaurants were forced by the government to close their doors for long stretches, and many struggled to survive. Now, with the loan deadline kicking in, some of them will go under.

It’s not just the weight of the government loan payments crushing these businesses – it’s also the current business climate.

According to the CFIB, only about 50 per cent of small businesses have returned to the sales levels they enjoyed before the pandemic. When you add on top of that the rising cost of doing business, coupled with high inflation and labour shortages, it’s no wonder we’re bracing for a spike in business bankruptcies.

It’s tough running your own small business in the best of times. But just as frustrating is the fact

that we make it increasingly difficult for Canadians to open up their own business in the first place.

According to the Business Development Bank, fewer Canadians are starting their own businesses compared to 20 years ago.

The decline in new business start-ups matters for many reasons. It matters because small businesses are the country’s biggest job creators and they’re also the source of many of our new technologies and products.

But most importantly, it matters to millions of Canadians. The pursuit of economic freedom is what drives many Canadians to start their own business. It’s a dream held by Canadians of all ages and backgrounds and beliefs – the desire to be your own boss and chart your own path to financial success.

And for many entrepreneurs and business owners, myself included, it has been the key to achieving financial independence.

But that dream is becoming harder and harder to achieve.

Over the years, we’ve added more and more hurdles for Canadians trying to get their business

up and running – everything from new fees and forms to registrations and licenses. Starting your own small business shouldn’t be difficult.

We should do everything we can to encourage people to start a small business, rather than install roadblocks at every step of the process. To spur the growth of more small businesses, there are a number of measures we can take.

One of the most important would be to scrap all of the forms, licenses, permits and fees that are not absolutely essential in launching a new business. It wouldn’t take long to draw up that list, and it would save new business owners invaluable time and money.

Beyond that, we also need to start fostering entrepreneurship skills and training in our high schools in addition to technical skills apprenticeships. Both these roads will lead to the creation of many new small businesses and will give young Canadians a path to financial rewarding careers.

Getting government off the backs of our small businesses is one of the key elements in the national economic charter of rights I’ve proposed. But we also need to remove all of the many barriers

that are keeping small businesses from being formed in the first place.

If we did that, we could set off a chain reaction of economic growth that our country hasn’t seen for many years.

To learn more about the economic charter and how it could generate economic growth and prosperity, email me at info@economiccharter.ca. Or to learn more about the economic charter, visit: www.economiccharter.ca.

Author Bio

Frank Stronach is the founder of Magna International Inc., one of Canada’s largest global companies, and was inducted into the Automotive Hall of Fame.

fstronachlpc@gmail.com



FRANK STRONACH
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Peel District School Board reschedules PA Day due to eclipse

An important change has been made to the Peel District School Board’s current (2023-2024) school year calendar regarding an upcoming Professional Activity (PA) Day.

The PA Day originally scheduled for Friday, May 17, 2024 has been rescheduled to Monday, April 8, 2024.

“This change has been made due to a total solar eclipse occurring on Monday, April 8,” said the Board. “The eclipse is expected to begin at approximately 2:00 p.m. and end around 4:30 p.m., coinciding with student dismissal times.

“As noted on the Government of Canada’s website, there are risks associated with viewing a solar eclipse. Looking directly at the sun, without appropriate protection can lead to severe eye damage or loss of eyesight, even during an eclipse. PDSB’s decision to change the date of the PA Day was made to ensure that students will not be outdoors during the total solar eclipse.

“We understand that this change may cause inconvenience for some families, however, the health and safety of our students is our top priority and this decision was made with these factors in mind.

“As always, we appreciate your understanding and cooperation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child’s school.”

Safe snowmobiling means not going out until it is safe: OPP

During Snowmobile Safety Week, the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) reminded snowmobilers to stay off Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) Trails, which remain closed at this time.

They are also urging snowmobilers to stay off frozen waterways, which unseasonably mild temperatures have made particularly unpredictable and unsafe throughout the province.

“In the past 10 years, 158 snowmobilers did not make it home to their families in what were almost all preventable riding incidents,” say Police. “Common factors included driving too fast for the conditions, alcohol/drugs and riding on unsafe frozen waterways. 41 per cent of the fatalities were linked to alcohol/drugs and 36 per cent of them occurred on frozen lakes and rivers (in OPP jurisdictions).”

Added Rohan Thompson, Deputy Commissioner of Traffic Safety and Operational Support for the OPP, added: “Safe and responsible snowmobiling means not going out if there is any doubt about whether it is safe to do so. This cannot be overstated where frozen waterways are involved, which are never guaranteed to be 100 per cent safe. Making smart decisions before and during your ride, such as always riding sober and drug-free, is what will get you home to your family.”

The OPP remains committed to saving lives on more than one million square kilometres of land and waterways throughout the province.

Snowmobile Safety Week ran from January 13 to 21, 2024.

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 or emailing admin@caledoncitizen.com 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 6:00-6:30 followed by a meeting. The initial annual fee incl. a bi-monthly magazine and starter kit is \$59, and monthly dues are \$20. Today is the best day to make changes to your lifestyle! If you have weight to lose and/or want to improve your health, we can help! We promote healthy eating and support the efforts of all our members, and your first meeting is free. Come join us. 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.

Caledon Church of Canada. Every Sunday morning @ 10 am. Monday prayer meeting @ 7 pm. Resources: Prayer counselling, Baby/child dedication, Visit the sick, Wedding Services, Food bank and more!
For all your pastoral services:
647-891-9400 • caledoncoc@gmail.com
Location: 34 Nixon Rd., Bolton

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 from 7pm-9pm. Meetings are free. For more info: <https://evsociety.ca/caledon/> or email Kenneth.bokor@evsociety.ca

Free Chair Yoga Program at Bolton United Church. Every Saturday at 8:30 am and Monday at 9:30 am starting on January 6

2024. To reserve your spot call 905-857-2615 Mon to Thurs mornings or email us at office@boltonunitedchurch.com. Taught by an experienced and qualified Yoga Instructor. Brought to you by an Ontario Trillium Fund grant.

Friday January 26 at 6:30 pm
Let's Talk ... Climate Change and What We Can Do
In person and online (see website for link)
6:30 pm Gathering
7 pm Guest Speaker Esther Collier, United Church of Canada
Followed by discussion.
Bolton United Church
8 Nancy Street, Bolton L7E 1C7 905-857-2615 www.boltonunitedchurch.com
office@boltonunitedchurch.com

FREE COMMUNITY PANCAKE BREAKFAST
Saturday, Feb. 3rd at Caledon East United Church
8:30 to 10:30

Albion Bolton Historical Society - February 12, 2024, 7:30 PM meeting at the Albion Bolton Community Centre, 150 Queen Street South, Bolton, Meeting Room C. Upper Canada Preserved presented by noted historian Richard David Feltoe. He is an enthusiastic speaker and re-enactor and will be in the uniform of a 1800s British soldier. He will also have some artifacts on display.

Kinsmen Toonie Treasure Sale: Saturday February 10th from 10 am till 1 pm at the President Bldg, Albion Bolton Fairgrounds. Racks and racks of new /gently used apparel for men women and children all for a TOONIE !! All proceeds help support community needs.

PAYADORA TANGO ENSEMBLE
Feb 3 - 7:30 pm
St. James Anglican Church – Great Hall
6025 Old Church Road
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TICKETS: www.CaledonChamberConcerts
Need Info? Call 905-880-2445
Adult \$40; 16 years old and younger FREE

REMEMBER TO SHOP LOCALLY!

Growing community: “Seedy Saturday” event set for March 2 at Community Centre

Event a collaboration between Library, Palgrave United Community Kitchen, and Albion Hills Community Farm

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

An upcoming event in Bolton will bring together Caledon’s gardening community. On March 2, the Caledon Public Library (CPL), Palgrave United Community Kitchen (PUCK), and Albion Hills Community Farm (AHCF) are



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joining forces to host “Seedy Saturday.”

The event will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the auditorium at the Albion Bolton Community Centre and feature a seed exchange, café, garden-themed Friends of the CPL book sale, and family-friendly activities.

Laura Nolloth, Communications and Community Development Coordinator for the CPL, said the event promises to be engaging and informative for all gardening enthusiasts. She said it will be a celebration of the upcoming gardening season.

The seed exchange is always a highlight of Seedy Saturday events. Gardeners will be able to swap seeds with each other to expand and diversify their gardens. The café will feature delicious treats, and the book sale will be filled with gardening books and literature.

A benefit of Seedy Saturday is the ability for residents to ask their questions to the many experienced gardeners who will be there, excited and ready to share their knowledge.

“Whether you’re a novice looking to start your first garden or a seasoned pro seeking new ideas, Seedy Saturday has something for everyone,” said Nolloth. “Explore a wealth of gardening resources, connect with local vendors offering unique products, and immerse yourself in the vibrant gardening community that defines Caledon.”

There will be maker, potting, and kids zones at the event, with the goal of inspiring an early love of gardening and nature in children. Nolloth said it will be a great chance for children to learn, play, and explore the wonders of the natural world.

“Seedy Saturday is more than just a gardening event; it’s a celebration of nature, growth, and the shared passion that unites us all,” she said.

Caledon’s first-ever Seedy Saturday event was held last February. Seedy Saturday events started in 1990 in British Columbia, growing from simple seed exchanges to become winter festivals for gardeners.

Karen Hutchinson, President of the AHCF, said it’s great to be doing the Seedy Saturday event again. She said in the 2020s so far, she’s seen an increase in interest in gardening and getting outdoors.

“There are so many seeds out there... that are amazingly productive and grow great vegetables. That’s anywhere from the professional market gardeners who use different seeds and produce different vegetables to the home gardeners who save seeds for years and years,” said Hutchinson.

Getting more kids involved in gardening is a good thing, said Hutchinson, noting the Seedy Saturday event will be raising money for the Caledon school vegetable garden project as it too enters its second year.

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The Fire & Ice Festival's super snow slide is always popular with kids.

FILE PHOTO

Alton Mill Arts Centre hosting annual Fire & Ice Festival

Event being held on January 27 and 28

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

A much-loved celebration of winter and the arts is happening this weekend. On Saturday, January 27 and Sunday, January 28 the Alton Mill Arts Centre is hosting its annual Fire & Ice Festival. Bri Wilson, Marketing Lead for the Alton Mill Arts Centre, said the event is set to be an extraordinary experience. There will be numerous outdoor activities at the Festival, such as pond skating, a snow slide, and live ice sculpting and blacksmithing. Artist Paul Morin will be creating a fire sculpture for the event once again, and at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday it will ignite. Inside the Alton Mill Arts Centre, there will be live music, a vendor market, open artist studios, art demonstrations, tarot card readings, and candle-making and wet felting workshops.

Wilson said these activities will let attendees connect and create while supporting local artists in their community. Admission to the Fire & Ice Festival is on a “pay what you can” basis. All proceeds from this year’s festival are going to Headwaters Arts, a non-profit that supports local artists. On Saturday evening, there will be a ticketed comedy show and concert called the “Hot Stove Lounge.” At 7:30 p.m., the comedy show will begin, featuring comedians Kyle Lucey, Jwalit Bharwani, Olivia Stadler, Jacob Silva, Finn Einarsson, and Oliver Kouprrie. After the comedy show, the bluegrass band Rag Maple will begin their performance. “Each comedian brings their unique style and achievements to the stage,” said Wilson. “The dynamic musical duo Rag Maple will provide a concert experience like no other, blending traditional bluegrass with their own creative touch.” Hot food and drinks will be available at the show, and more information about purchasing tickets can be found online at altonmill.ca. A full schedule of Fire & Ice Festival events can also be found on the website.

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ARTS & CULTURE



Caledon Parent-Child Centre hosting fundraising gala on March 1

Disco Daze show featuring
Juno Award-winner
Liberty Silver
headlining gala

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

A Caledon non-profit is hosting a fund-raising gala in March.

On March 1, the Caledon Parent-Child Centre (CPCC) will host its “Warm Hearts” gala at Caesar’s Centre in Bolton.

CPCC is a non-profit that promotes the healthy social, emotional and educational development of children. It supports parents and caregivers in developing and expanding their skills in dealing with children’s needs.

The upcoming gala will feature the Disco Daze show, with Juno Award-winning singer Liberty Silver, the Escapade band, and R&B/soul artist Julie Mahendran. When the show is finished, DJ Tommy will take over so guests can continue dancing into the night.

The gala begins at 6 p.m. and features an antipasto bar, inclusive sit-down dinner, silent auction, and lots of dancing.

Tickets for the gala are \$120 and can be purchased at the following link: tinyurl.com/yc7ny9r9

Shelly Ives, CPCC Manager of Community Relations, said that CPCC provides an important blend of services that strengthens families and assists them in their critical role of raising young children.

“All proceeds from the Warm Hearts Gala fundraiser benefit Caledon families and children,” said Ives.



She explained the CPCC used to hold a large comedy night fundraiser called “Laugh Out Loud”, but when the pandemic hit it had to be cancelled. The Warm Hearts Gala is the CPCC’s return to hosting major

fundraising events.

Ives said the CPCC has been enjoying preparing for the gala, and that everyone has been excited to get back to hosting a large event. She said often people that have used

the CPCC’s programs come to the event and it’s a great chance to reconnect with them.

“We’re kicking off our return to gala fundraising with a lot of sparkle and a lot of fun,” said Ives.

Iconic filmmaker Norman Jewison, first inductee to Caledon Walk of Fame, dead at 97

Continued from FRONT

“...Jewison’s legacy will endure as a testament to his artistic brilliance and his impact on both the local community and the

global film landscape.”

Jewison is recognized as a Canadian icon, and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau issued a statement on his passing on January 22.

“Norman Jewison was an iconic filmmaker, writer, and director. He made some of the most memorable films of the 20th century — films that told stories of diversity and of our relentless humanity... they were his own creative works, but they echoed values that are held by all Canadians,” said Trudeau. “He was a proud Canadian and leaves behind a body of work that is still deeply relevant to Canadians, and all people.”

Trudeau said Jewison was a staunch believer in social justice and committed to working for the greater good.

“The world of movies has lost one of its greats, and Canada has lost one of its most talented storytellers,” said Trudeau. “On behalf of the Government of Canada and all Canadians, I offer my deepest condolences to Mr. Jewison’s family and friends. I know his legacy will remain an inspiration for generations.”

Jewison was born in Toronto in 1926 and served in the Royal Canadian Navy during World War II. He graduated from the University of Toronto’s Victoria College in 1949, where he was active in writing, directing, and performing in theatrical productions.

After a brief stint working in London, England for the BBC, he returned to Canada to work for the CBC as an assistant director.

In 1958, Jewison was recruited by NBC and went to work in New York, where his success in television eventually led to him directing his first film, “40 Pounds of Trouble”, in 1962.

Jewison directed a series of comedies before creating what would be his breakthrough film, “The Cincinnati Kid”, a drama about gambling.

After his breakthrough, Jewison experienced great success and directed many well-known movies, such as: “The Russians are Coming, The Russians are Coming”, “In the Heat of the Night”, “Fiddler on the Roof”, “...And Justice for All”, “A Soldier’s Story”, “Moonstruck”, and “The Thomas Crown Affair.”

Jewison gave back to film in Canada by creating the Canadian Centre for Advanced Film Studies in 1986. It opened in 1988 and was later renamed the Canadian Film Centre (CFC).

Throughout his career, Jewison was nominated for four Oscars, and won three Emmy Awards. His films received 45 Academy Award nominations, winning 12. Jewison was the first Canadian to receive a lifetime achievement award from the Director’s Guild of America.

In 1999, Jewison received the Irving G. Thalberg Memorial Award. Jewison has received the Governor General’s Performing Arts Award, was made an Officer of the Order of Canada, and is on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and Canada’s Walk of Fame.

Maxine Bailey, Executive Director of the CFC, said Jewison will be remembered as one of the world’s greatest storytellers, the CFC’s beloved and inspiring founder, and a true champion of Canadian talent.

“Norman had such charisma, such dynamism and such passion — and that extended into his work, his films, and his daily interactions and conversations,” she said in a statement.

Tributes to Jewison have been pouring in on social media, including from those he worked with.

Cher, star of “Moonstruck,” said working with Jewison was one of the happiest and most fun experiences of her life. She said he made “Moonstruck” into a great film people love, and that Jewison will live on through his work.



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Headwaters awarded Accreditation of Exemplary Standing for its quality of care

BY PAULA BROWN

Headwaters Health Care Centre (HHCC) has been awarded with Accreditation of Exemplary Standing in recognition of its quality of care.

The local hospital announced on Friday, January 19, that it had been awarded the accreditation following an assessment of its programs and services.

Accreditation is an internationally recognized evaluation and quality improvement process that helps organizations identify what they are doing well and where they need to focus their improvement efforts.

Being accredited means Headwaters has been assessed by an independent third-par-

ty organization, Accreditation Canada, and has proven it meets or exceeds current health care standards.

“This achievement is not only a source of pride for us, but also our reassurance to our patients, families and caregivers. It sends a very clear message that when anyone comes through our door at Headwaters Health Care Centre, and when they are in our care, we are always going to do our utmost to ensure a great patient experience and provide the highest quality clinical care,” said Kim Delahunt, President and CEO of HHCC.

“This achievement is not only a source of pride for us but also our reassurance to our patients and their families, and caregivers. It sends a very clear message that

when anyone comes through our doors at Headwaters Health Care Centre and when they are in our care, we are always going to do our utmost to ensure a great patient experience and provide the highest quality clinical care.”

In order to receive accreditation, Headwaters underwent a process involving a thorough and detailed review of hospital policies, programs and plans.

The local hospital also had a week-long onsite visit from health care professionals trained as surveyors with Accreditation Canada, who spoke with staff, volunteers, patients, physicians, families and caregivers to gain an understanding of care practices at the hospital. The surveyors participated in programs and services to observe

the hospital at every level.

“What became evident is that the process for accreditation is not just a regulatory requirement, it is our commitment to ongoing excellence,” said Dr. Grace Wang, Vice President of Medical Affairs and Chief of Staff. “By looking at our practices, ensuring we meet the highest standards, we take steps towards a healthier community. Each standard, each protocol ensures the safety of everyone who comes to us can trust us.”

Accreditation Canada identified a list of strengths at the local hospital which includes:

- Staff are dedicated to quality patient care and services;
- Headwaters is a learning organization with a commitment to resources, support and a strong focus on its health human resources challenges;
- Headwaters is investing in planning, design and continuous improvements;
- Patient engagement is at the forefront of the hospital’s activities and future plans;
- Headwaters has a unique and strong ethics framework and emergency preparedness plan;
- There is a focus on being a data-informed hospital, integrating data in decision-making;
- They have a quality improvement mindset;
- The hospital’s culture reflects its values;
- Teams are positive, proactive, and proud, with visible leadership.

“This achievement is an acknowledgment of what many of us in the community already felt about Headwaters, which is that they provide exceptional care. Getting then exemplary standing is really a reinforcement that the people who work here, who volunteer here, and the community partners are all very much engaged and working together to keep that level of service up,” said Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones. “I think it should give people a very high confidence when they have to have their loved ones or themselves interact with Headwaters that they’re getting exemplary care.”



BOLTON FIRM TESTING LUNAR EQUIPMENT: Bolton-based Canadensys Aerospace Corporation has had a team of guidance, navigation and control engineers and scientists at the Canadian Space Agency/Agence spatiale canadienne’s outdoor planetary test facility in St-Hubert, QC. The company designed a terrestrial carrier vehicle to put its lunar navigation sensors and system to the test. “We’re excited to be working closely with our Canadian Space Agency/Agence spatiale canadienne and NGC Aerospace colleagues on this test campaign, which brings us one step closer to having our rover operating on the Moon,” the company says.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Charlotte Vienneau and Michael Murad win top prizes in Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest

BY JIM STEWART

Free throws—a vital ingredient in winning or losing basketball championships—are becoming a lost art in today’s NBA which places much higher stock on shooting 3s and spreading defenses for the behemoths that grace the professional hard-court in 2024.

Watching this season’s version of the Raptors clang foul shots off the rim at crucial points in basketball games is enough to make a purist forego his or her cable or streaming package and turn to endless Hallmark Christmas movies for solace.

However, there is hope that the finer points of basketball are being honed right here in Peel Region and Simcoe County, based on the level of participation and performance in the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Event at Holy Family School in Alliston on Saturday.

More than fifty student athletes from 10 local schools participated in the annual test of foul shooting acumen. The event has been run by the Alliston Knights of Columbus since 1986.

Event organizer and retired high school basketball coach Richard Maguire—who has run the contest since 1993—outlined the aims and stages of the competition.

“Each student had 15 shots to see who was the best in their age and gender group. Our top scorers for the day were Charlotte Vienneau for the girls with 11 out of 15 while Michael Murad had a perfect round—hitting all of his 15 shots. These winners will now go on to the district finals which will be held on February 3 at Holy Family School in Alliston. They will compete against the winners of the Bolton competition and those winners will proceed to the regional finals to be held in March.”

Coach Maguire delineated the 2024 South Simcoe divisional winners (with their home town and school in parentheses):

- Girls 9 Division: Ava Silva (Alliston, Holy Family);
- Girls 10 Division: Alyssa Yokana (Alliston, St. Cecilia);
- Girls 11 Division: Drew Moran (Everett, Holy Family) tied Sophia Mejias (Beeton, Monsignor Ronan)
- Girls 12 Division: Charlotte Vienneau (Beeton, Monsignor Ronan);
- Girls 13 Division: Posi Ididapo (Alliston, St Cecilia).
- Boys 9 Division: Silas Tesseris (Alliston, Baxter Central);
- Boys 10 Division: Ethan Mawbey (Alliston, St. Cecilia);
- Boys 11 Division: Jackson Donker (Alliston, St. Paul’s);

- Boys 12 Division: Isaiah Manuel (Alliston, Ernest Cumberland);
- Boys 13 Division: Karson Carveth (Alliston, Ernest Cumberland);
- Boys 14 Division: Landon Cuddy (Alliston, Banting Memorial);
- Boys 15 Division: Michael Murad (Tottenham, St. Thomas Aquinas);
- Boys 16 Division: Harisan Naguleswaran (Alliston, Banting Memorial).

Coach Maguire acknowledged that the best part of running this free throw contest is “maintaining my involvement with basketball and staying involved to help kids.” “I spent so much time with it and I’ve always loved competition.”

Maguire, who started coaching basketball in 1969, retired from his dual role as teacher-coach at Banting Secondary School in 2000, but coached three more years as a volunteer Community Coach at Banting to help grow and maintain the program.

He noted that “coaching basketball was very fulfilling and the connections with the players was the best part of it.”

“I have great memories of players that went on to play the game at very high levels, I remember terrific tournament victories, and especially big learning moments for the players when we lost games too, most memorably with a team I coached at the Camp Olympia tournament where lessons learned about team building far exceeded the importance of the final score.”

In a humorous moment of self-deprecation, Coach Maguire also expressed his persistent struggle to “teach my players how to break a 1-2-1-1 press.”

Coach Maguire also spoke glowingly of the Knights of Columbus programs for youth which dovetail nicely with the Free Throw contest.

“We have programs like the Squires, a program for teenagers that introduces them to a life of community service with the Knights of Columbus, and we also have an annual poster design contest that raises awareness for teenagers regarding drug and alcohol abuse.”

It’s clear that Richard Maguire has discovered the Fountain of Youth through his service to teenagers for parts of seven decades. His actions inspire hope that free throws won’t be a lost art – with this retired, dynamic teacher-coach in charge of this annual shooting contest.

Perhaps the misfiring Raptors could hire St. Thomas Aquinas basketball player Michael Murad as their free throw shooting coach after he graduates high school. 15 for 15 from the charity stripe is a great score in a local competition – and a terrific resume item.



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As a Realtor, I have always believed in the sanctuary that is one’s home. A roof over one’s head is not just shelter; it’s a foundation for a better life and a refuge of peace, comfort and security.

From the very start of 2020, this belief has been my motivation to be "all in" to support Caledon’s annual Coldest Night of the Year (CNOY) charity event. Raising money to help neighbours who struggle with poverty, precarious housing and food insecurity is a cause near and dear to my heart.

In a community as tightly knit as ours, it’s often easy to miss the daily struggles silently borne by hundreds of our neighbours. Homelessness, hunger and poverty are not distant issues...they are a stark reality for many right here in Caledon. This year, more than ever, we must step up to help meet the needs of our community.

CNOY is more than just an annual fundraising walkathon; each step we take on that cold February night, and every dollar we raise, helps put food on the table; keep a roof over someone’s head; and provide that

someone a chance for a brighter and safer tomorrow.

It’s not just about the walk; it’s about the warmth we share and the responsibility to look after our friends and neighbours in need.

Team Britto’s cherished CNOY tradition is to prepare a special hot bowl of soup together with the team, after our walk, using the same food supplies that our neighbours can receive at Caledon Community Services’ (CCS) Exchange (Caledon’s Food Bank). In 2023 we prepared a crock pot full of Pasta e Fagiolo and bean soup. This really put things into perspective for us.

Community, to me, is synonymous with the concept of home – a place of belonging, unity and security, especially in times of need. As CNOY approaches, consider this not just a walk but a rallying cry for Caledon to stand together, ensuring everyone feels the comfort and safety of a caring community for all.

So, lace up your boots Caledon, and join Team Britto on February 24th as we walk together to build a future where no one faces the cold alone.

Walk, fundraise, volunteer, or donate: <https://cnoy.org/location/caledon>
Together, we’re building a community we’re proud to call home.

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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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on behalf of Rajendra Bissoon an application will be made to the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario for an Act to revive 1227068 Ontario Inc.

The application may be considered by the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs. Any person who has an interest in the application and who wishes to make submissions, for or against the application, to the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs should notify, in writing, the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Legislative Building, Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario, M7A 1A2.

Dated at Brampton, this 6th day of December 2023.



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OBITUARIES

RESO, CAROL LYNNE (NEE THOMSON)


Peacefully surrounded by her loving family on December 17th, 2023 at the age of 71. Beloved wife of Randy. Dear mother of Jeff (Tamara), Jason (Nicole) and Josh (Nancy). Cherished grandmother of Daniel, Isla, Kathryn, Ava, Victoria and Julia. Remembered by her brother Bob Thomson. Carol will also be greatly missed by other relatives and many friends.

Visitation will be held at the *Dods & McNair Funeral Home, Chapel & Reception Centre*, 21 First St., Orangeville on January 27, 2024 from 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm with words of remembrance at 3:30 pm. Carol's favorite color was purple, please feel free to wear something purple in her honor. Memorial donations to Bethell Hospice Foundation, The Golden Rescue or Alzheimer's Society would be appreciated by the family.

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


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OBITUARIES

FARQUHARSON, EDWARD BRUCE (EDDIE)


Peacefully at Headwaters Health Care Centre, Orangeville on Sunday, January 14th, 2024 at the age of 57. Beloved friend of Ann May, Chris May, Emma May, Cole May, Karen May, Chris Tombasco, Xander Smith and Alexis Tombasco. Eddie will also be greatly missed by his family at Community Living Dufferin.

Memorial service will be held at *Dods & McNair Funeral Home, Chapel & Reception Centre*, 21 First St Orangeville, Ontario on Sunday, January 28th, 2024 at 12:00 pm. with visitation beginning at 11:00 am. Condolences may be offered to the family at www.dodsandmcnair.com

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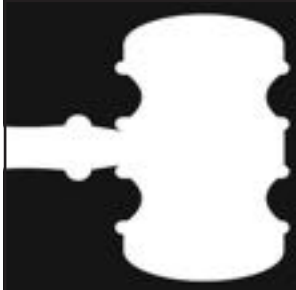
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Andreoli makes 48 saves and Poma pots the OT winner in Caledon's 2-1 conquest of Innisfil

BY JIM STEWART

Marek Andreoli turned aside 48 of 49 shots and Joseph Poma scored the game-winning goal in overtime as the Caledon Golden Hawks defeated the Innisfil Spartans 2-1 on Sunday afternoon at the Mayfield Recreation Complex.

Caledon strengthened their hold on the seventh playoff spot in the North Carruthers division with the narrow home ice victory.

Innisfil outshot Caledon 49-42 – including 22 shots on net in the third period – but Golden Hawks' goaltender Marek Andreoli repelled all but one of the shots he faced to earn the W. Andreoli

lowered his GAA to 2.81, raised his SV% to .929, and improved his record to 7-3-0-1.

After two scoreless periods, Golden Hawks forward Liam Noonan beat Spartans' netminder Francesco Sciabbarrasi at 2:41 to give the home side a 1-0 lead. Tyler Von Dehn and Brandon Orr earned assists on Noonan's fifth of the season.

However, Innisfil tied the game at 11:15 when Ryan Matthews tallied his sixth of the season – the only puck to elude the otherwise stellar Andreoli.

Less than two minutes into the extra period, Andrew Perrino and Caledon's leading scorer Patrick Polaczek set up Joseph Poma who fired a puck past

Sciabbarrasi. It was the overtime hero's eighth goal of the season.

The Golden Hawks host the Midland Flyers on Sunday, January 28 at 2.30 p.m. at the Mayfield RC.



OMHA announces championship details

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Ontario Minor Hockey Association has announced the dates and locations for the 2024 OMHA championships presented by the Egg Farmers of Ontario.

These are the championships where teams will compete for the coveted Red Hats.

As the second half of the season is now here, teams across the province will be gearing up for League playoffs, which will serve as qualifiers to determine who moves on to compete for an OMHA championship.

The OMHA Championships will take place over four weekends: March 15 – 17, March 22 – 24, March 29 – 31, and April 5 – 7

They will be hosted in six locations around the province. The locations include Brampton, Halton Hills, Kingston, Newmarket, Oakville, and Whitby.

Round-robin play will occur on the first two days, with the semi-finals and championship being decided on Sunday. New for this season's championships include the addition of the BB representative non-body-

checking category for the U14 and up.

The OMHA championships offer exclusive, discounted hotel rates for attending teams through the OMHA's partners at EventConnect. Hotel links will be released on the Championship website under specific age groups/categories.

"Encouraging youth in the pursuit of a healthy, active lifestyle is important to Egg Farms of Ontario," said Scott Helps, EFO Chair. "We are proud to partner with the OMHA to help support Ontario hockey players as they further develop their skills and discover the importance of teamwork, both on and off the ice."

Ian Taylor, OMHA executive director, said, "The OMHA Championships presented by Egg Farmers of Ontario are a special experience and bring together players ages ten through 21 to compete against teams from across the province. We are excited to welcome players and their families over four weekends for an unforgettable experience."

A full list of dates and locations can be found on the OMHA website.

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