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Simply translated, a Zeppole is a cream puff doughnut. This scrumptious Italian pastry can vary in size and contain delicious fillings such as custard, jelly or a cannoli-style pastry cream. Traditionally, this pastry celebrated the Feast of Saint Joseph, commonly known as St. Joseph's Day. Any way you celebrate, Zeppole are a delicious treat for all!



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The crowd, including the Mayor and members of Council, gave a wave at the official send-off of the 2024 Coldest Night of the Year walk.
PHOTO BY ZACHARY ROMAN

Over 250 residents come out for annual Coldest Night of the Year walk

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Caledon community came out in droves for an annual fundraising event last weekend.

On February 24, Caledon Community Services (CCS) hosted its annual Coldest Night of the Year (CONY) walk. The walk's goal is to raise money for CCS programs and ser-

vices that help people who are in need of food and/or shelter.

Donna Cragg, CCS' Director of Communications and Marketing, said CONY is always a fantastic, family-friendly event and this year's walk was no different.

"When I was getting dressed... I was putting on layers of warm clothes... and I was thinking about how the people we're walking for often don't have an option like that," said

Cragg.

One of the goals of CONY walks, which are held across Canada, is to have participants think about the struggles and hardships that people facing hunger and homelessness go through.

"It really hits home when the temperature drops," said Cragg.

Continued on Page A7

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Peel non-profits call for increased Provincial funding

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Peel non-profits are calling for more support from the Provincial government.

The Metamorphosis Network is a group of over 100 Peel non-profits that joined together to advocate for support when the dissolution of Peel was first announced. Even though dissolution has now been cancelled, the network is still working together

as it says Peel is in dire need of more funding for community services.

On February 22, in partnership with local labour groups, the Metamorphosis Network held a press conference to share their concerns about funding inequities in Peel's social service and public sectors.

According to the Metamorphosis Network, government reports show that compared to Toronto,

Continued on Page A3


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Bolton students present proposals for how best to use garden project grant money

Humberview Secondary School gets \$3,975 to improve vegetable garden

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Students at a Bolton high school recently completed a unique project. Last year, Caledon public school students, with the help of staff, volunteers, community partners, and their trustee Stan Cameron, planted vegetable gardens on their school grounds. It was a successful project, with teachers touting its educational benefits, and it will be continuing this year. On behalf of Humberview Secondary School and the team working on the garden there, Cameron, along with Albion Hills Community Farm manager Karen Hutchinson and Peel District School Board (PDSB) outdoor education specialist Sabrina Zito-Insalaco, applied for a \$3,975 grant from the Whole Kids Foundation. The Whole Kids Foundation is an U.S.-based non-profit dedicated to improving



Humberview Principal John Colton, Humberview curricular Head of Science Andrew Hagen, Humberview vice-principal Ranbir Singh, Albion Hills Community Farm manager Karen Hutchinson, PDSB outdoor education specialist Sabrina Zito-Insalaco, and Caledon's PDSB trustee Stan Cameron. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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/or 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.

Drew Jurecka Jazz Trio
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Caledon Concert Band
Come join us Caledon Hills Fellowship Baptist Church
16595 Airport Rd., Caledon East
Sunday, March 17th, 2024 at 2pm
Tickets available at the door. \$20 for adults, \$15 for high school students/seniors. Children are free.
For more information – www.caledonconcertband.ca

Event: Caledon Community FREE Breakfast
Date: Saturday, March 2, 2024
Time: 8:30 am to 10:30 am
Place: Caledon East United Church
Pancakes, eggs, sausages, fruit, refreshments
All are Welcome

children’s health and wellness through their nutrition. The grant application was successful, and Humberview Secondary School will be able to put the grant money towards improving their garden. When it came time to decide how best to use the money, Humberview’s Curricular Head of Science Andrew Hagen thought there was no better place to go than his Grade 11 environmental science students. Hagen had his students form groups and research and create detailed garden plans and proposals about how the grant should be used. He then had students present their plans and proposals to himself, Cameron, Hutchinson, Zito-Insalaco, and Humberview’s principal and vice-principal. Cameron said the presentations were amazing, and that he and his colleagues were very impressed with the work done by students. He said the plans and proposals were well-researched and presented. “We saw this as an incredible pedagogical link to so many lessons: math calculations, deep-dive research, fact-finding, costing estimates, understanding plant growth, gardening aesthetics, soil additives, and so much more,” said Cameron. He said Hagen has been a champion of the school vegetable garden project. Cameron explained the garden project team will be recommending ideas from each student group’s presentation. He said the money will be put to very good use thanks to the students. “In my role I can honestly say there is no greater feeling than spending a full class learning what students have researched and presented for consideration,” said Cameron. Cameron wanted to express his thanks to Hagen, Hagen’s students, Humberview principal John Colton, Humberview Vice Principal Ranbir Singh, and everyone who has worked on the vegetable garden project across Caledon.

Yard waste collection begins week of March 4

Yard waste collection begins the week of March 4 in Peel, with the cities of Brampton and Mississauga receiving weekly yard waste collection and urban areas in the Town of Caledon receiving bi-weekly yard waste collection. Rural areas of Caledon will have yard waste picked up on designated Fridays. Residents can check their collection calendar to find their pick-up day or sign up to receive free weekly waste collection reminders at peelregion.ca/waste/reminders.

Reminders:

- Yard waste must be at the curb by 7 a.m. on your collection day.
- Put yard waste at the curb in kraft yard waste bags (plastic bags not accepted), or containers that are clearly labelled “yard waste” by marker or sticker.
- Peel Region no longer accepts grass clippings at the curb or at Community Recycling Centres.

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Metamorphos(s)

Metamorphosis Network says Peel gets less funding per capita than Toronto in many areas

Continued from FRONT

Peel receives as much as 30 to 50 per cent less Provincial funding per capita on items like children’s services, housing, seniors’ programs, disability supports, healthcare, emergency services and education.

Angela Carter, a strategic advisor at Roots Community Services and a representative of the Metamorphosis Network, said Peel faces crises in mental health, homelessness, youth services, addictions, family violence and seniors’ support.

“We have a community services sector that is stretched to the breaking point by COVID-19, poverty and inflation,” said Carter. “...The people we serve deserve services in Peel that adequately and equitably reflect their needs. We will work collaboratively with the Region and other partners to ensure that all sectors get a new, equitable deal for Peel that works for everyone in the community.”

Fred Hahn, President of CUPE Ontario, a union that represents over 290,000 public employees, said he wonders why the Province has given Peel less funding per capita for housing, health care, emergency services and education.

“Why has Queen’s Park left Peel, Ontario’s most diverse community, to pay the price with less access to services?” said Hahn.

The Metamorphosis Network has been gathering data on program funding in Peel. Some of its findings include that Peel’s Children’s Aid system is underfunded by \$27 million; Peel has about half the shelter beds per capita of Toronto; Peel has 20 per cent fewer long term care beds per capita than the provincial average; and Peel has 35 per cent less child care funding per capita than the average community.

The Metamorphosis Network held its third general meeting on January 30 and over 60 non-profit leaders attended to discuss plans now that Peel won’t be dissolved. At the meeting, it was agreed that the Metamorphosis Network would continue its work with a focus on ending underfunding in Peel.

On February 22, the day of the news conference, two Metamorphosis Network members delegated to Region of Peel Council about the underfunding of community services in Peel.

The first to delegate was Arvind Krishendehol, who is the Manager of Settlement Programs at Indus Community Services.

He said nothing is more important than ensuring the programs people rely on are funded properly. Krishendehol said provincial underfunding of community services is bad for Peel taxpayers too, as Peel has to make up the difference.

“The people we serve need to see services in Peel that reflect what everyone else in Ontario enjoys,” he said. “We are here to let you know the non-profit community services sector is prepared to do some of the heavy lifting to ensure this happens.”

Next to delegate was Ray Applebaum, CEO of Peel Senior Link. He said Peel is a rapidly-growing municipality that is perennially underfunded, and that the impacts of that are significant.

“[There’s] significant structural issues driven by a shortage of funding, largely

from the provincial programming,” said Applebaum. “...we’re going to work with all of our partners and ensure we get a share of funding from the Province that is equitable and sustainable.”

Regional Councillor (Caledon, Wards 4, 5 and 6) Mario Russo said the work the Metamorphosis Network is doing is im-

perative. He said by joining together, Peel non-profits have been able to make their voices heard.

“You’re going to make our jobs a little bit easier when we reach out to our provincial partners and our federal partners to say this is how important this is in our community,” said Russo.

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sale 16⁹⁹

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sale 9⁹⁹

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FAIL TO COMPLY

Officers from the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have charged two individuals with failure or refusal to comply with demand.

“On February 23, 2024, Caledon OPP officers were conducting general patrol on Mayfield Road, near Coleraine Drive, in the Town of Caledon,” say Police. “Shortly before 3:30 a.m., a traffic stop was conducted upon a vehicle and officers subsequently formed grounds the driver’s ability to operate a motor vehicle was impaired by alcohol.”

As a result of the investigation, Mohinder Multani, 51, of Bolton, was charged with:

- Failure or refusal to comply with demand

The charge has not been proven.

“Just hours later, on the same day, Caledon OPP officers were conducting a RIDE (Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere) spot check on Bush Street at Old Main Street. Shortly after 8:30 p.m., a vehicle entered the area and officers formed grounds the driver’s ability to operate a motor vehicle was impaired by alcohol.”

Following the investigation, Tanvir Singh, 23, of London, was charged with:

- Failure or refusal to comply with demand

The charge has not been proven.

Both accused are scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on March



14, 2024, to answer to their charge. The vehicles were also impounded for a period of seven days, and their driver’s licences were suspended for a period of 90 days.

“The OPP remains committed to keeping our communities safe through enforcement and public education. Penalties for failure or refusal to comply with demand are the same as those imposed upon a driver charged with impaired operation. These penalties include an immediate 90-day licence suspension, seven-day vehicle impoundment, as well as licence reinstatement fees. Additional penalties are imposed upon conviction and increase for each proceeding offence.”

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

CALL FROM CONCERNED DRIVER RESULTS IN CHARGES

Officers from the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have charged an Orangeville resident with Impaired Operation after they registered over three times the legal limit.

“On February 24, 2024, shortly after 1:00 a.m., Caledon OPP received a report from a motorist expressing concern as to how a motor vehicle was being operated,” say Police. “Officers

located the vehicle on Highway 9, near The Gore Road, in the Town of Caledon. Officers formed grounds that the driver’s ability to operate a motor vehicle was impaired by alcohol and was subsequently arrested.”

As a result, William Wall, 58, of Orangeville, was charged with:

- Operation while impaired – alcohol;
- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus).

The driver is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on March 14, 2024, to answer to the charges.

The charges have not been proven.

Additionally, the driver’s vehicle was impounded for a period of seven days, and their driver’s licence suspended for a period of 90 days.

“Caledon OPP would like to take this opportunity to remind motorists that no amount of alcohol or drugs in your system is safe when driving. If you plan on drinking or consuming drugs, plan to not drive. Instead, arrange for a designated driver, take a taxi or public transit, or come up with another plan that takes impaired driving out of the picture. If you suspect that someone is driving while impaired by alcohol or drugs, it is important to call 9-1-1 to report it. 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.”

R.I.D.E. CHARGES

Officers from the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have charged a Creemore resident following a RIDE program.

“On February 19, 2024, Caledon OPP officers were conducting a RIDE (Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere) spot check on the Highway 50, near Queensgate Boulevard, in the Town of Caledon,” say Police. “Shortly after 9:00 p.m., a vehicle entered the area and officers subsequently formed grounds that driver’s ability to operate a motor vehicle was impaired by alcohol and they were arrested.”

As a result, Jean Wenger, 69, of Creemore, was charged with:

- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus);
- Driving motor vehicle with liquor readily available.

The accused is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on March 7, 2024, to answer to the charges. The charges have not been proven.

Additionally, the driver’s vehicle was impounded for a period of seven days, and their driver’s licence suspended for a period of 90 days.



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“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.”

FATAL COLLISION

Members of the Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) along with Dufferin County EMS, and Fire Services attended a serious two vehicle collision in the Township of Melancthon.

“On Sunday, February 25, 2024, just after 11:30 a.m., officers attended Highway 10 and County Road 17 in Melancthon Township for the report of a serious collision involving two vehicles,” say Police. “The collision resulted in one fatality, along with one person transported to a Toronto area trauma centre. Sadly, as a result of the collision, a 32 -year-old, female from Grand Valley was pronounced deceased at the scene.”

A 61-year-old male was air-lifted by Ornge to a Toronto area trauma centre with non-life-threatening injuries.

Highway 10 remained closed for several hours while the Traffic Collision Investigation (TCI) team of the OPP investigated. The investigation is continuing and anyone who may have witnessed the collision is asked to contact the Dufferin OPP 1-888-310-1122.

If you had witnessed the collision and wish to speak to victim services, Caledon/Dufferin Victim Services can be reached at 905-951-3838.


SHOOTING IN ALLISTON

Members of the Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are currently investigating a shooting incident in Alliston.

“On February 22, 2024, at approximately after 5:00 p.m., officers responded to a report of a shooting in front of a residence on Kidd Crescent,” say Police. “The victim sustained non-life-threatening injuries and was transported to the hospital shortly after the arrival of police and paramedics. The victim is in stable condition.”

The three male suspects were wearing dark clothing and masks. The suspects were seen leaving the area in a white Toyota Camry.

Investigators believe this is an isolated incident and there is no immediate threat to public safety. Members of the public should always be aware of their surroundings and personal safety.




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CLUES ACROSS

1. Home of Iowa State University

5. ___-fi (slang)

8. Mottled green and yellow fruit

12. Capable of thinking and expressing oneself clearly

14. Sports broadcaster

Eagle

15. Midday

16. Kinsmen

18. Cable network

19. Simpleton

20. Brunch beverage

21. Fed

22. European capital

23. Native inhabitants

26. Mechanical device

30. Rare geese native to Hawaii

31. Bedroom furnishing

32. The products of human creativity

33. Mass transit option

34. Made a mistake

39. Sacred sound symbol

42. Large N. American reindeer

44. Dull and flat

46. Partner to huffing

47. Written works

49. Monetary unit of Serbia

50. Midway between east and southeast

51. Peninsula of southwestern Asia

56. Widely used multiuser OS

57. Aggressive dog

58. Varnished

59. Hindu queen

60. Time units, abbr.

61. Farm animals

62. Capital of Latvia

63. Where golfers begin

64. Takes to civil court

CLUES DOWN

1. One who graduated person

2. An inspired holy person

3. Electronic counter-measures

4. A place to store things

5. Indian instrument

6. Spanish saloon

7. Whole number

8. Not fastened

9. Gives a boost

10. Lounges about

11. Interested in

13. Remove salt

17. Type of sword

24. Naturally occurring solid material

25. Gets involved without being invited

26. Feline

27. Bobby ___, NHL champ

28. “Kill Bill” actress Thurman

29. Hawaiian dish

35. Moroccan coastal region

36. Baseball statistic

37. Long period of time

38. Moved earth

40. Central Netherlands city

41. Take stock of

42. Central processing unit

43. Distinctive qualities one generates

44. Getting stuck

45. Loss of bodily movements

47. Veranda

48. Abrupt

49. What cats do

52. Expresses pleasure

53. Type of cheese

54. Professional STEM organization

55. Automatic data processing systems

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Peel moving toward “sustainable solution” for influx of asylum claimants

Update on Peel’s asylum claimant response presented at February 22 Regional Council meeting

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Peel’s shelter system is now operating at 383 per cent capacity.

This is due to an influx of asylum claimants in the region. Asylum claimants currently occupy 72 per cent of available shelter and overflow hotel beds in Peel.

This data was presented in a staff report submitted to Region of Peel council at its February 22 meeting by Sean Baird, Peel’s Commissioner of Human Services.

“Continuing to support asylum claimants

through the shelter system and overflow hotels is not sustainable,” reads the report. “A different approach, with appropriate sustainable allocation-based funding is required to improve service to asylum claimants, while reclaiming space in the shelter system for local individuals and families experiencing homelessness.”

The report said that Regional staff are continuing to move towards a more sustainable model for helping asylum claimants; one that’s outside of the shelter system. Staff said the Region will do this by opening dorm-style shelter facilities for asylum claimants and designing a Regional reception centre with federal, provincial and municipal partners.

On November 24, 2023, the Government of Canada announced it would be providing \$7 million for the creation of a reception centre and temporary shelter for asylum claimants in Peel.

Baird explained in his report that Regional staff were seeking approval to enter into “direct negotiation contracts with service providers to operate facilities and with required specialized

vendors, contractors and suppliers for the capital improvements required for facility start-up.”

Council supported the request unanimously.

Baird’s report noted that Regional staff are preparing a proposal for the federal and provincial governments to request additional funding for the reception centre, as well as temporary shelter facilities and ongoing supports.

As of February 4, Peel housed 1,529 asylum claimants. It says it expects to see the influx of asylum claimants continue at current, or increased levels in the future. Historically, asylum claimants accounted for about five per cent of Peel’s shelter capacity, compared to the current 72 per cent. Global conflict and crisis has caused an increase in asylum claimants not only in Peel, but in other municipalities across Ontario.

Peel has had to open six more overflow hotels to meet demand and now operates 11 overflow hotels. Regional staff say running the hotels will cost \$68 million in 2024 and they have submitted a claim to the federal government’s Interim

Housing Assistance Program to manage these costs. Staff said this funding model is not cost-effective or viable in the long run.

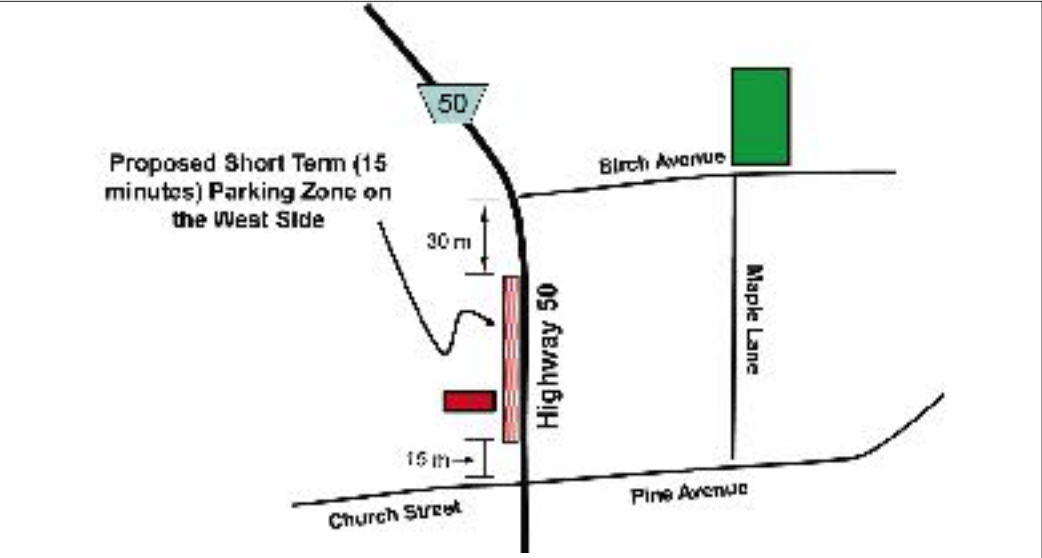
Peel opened a dorm-style temporary shelter site for asylum claimants in December 2023 that has 228 spaces and is operating at 100 per cent capacity. Part of the approved request to Council would see more of these facilities opened.

Regional staff said the Regional reception centre “will serve as a point of intake for asylum claimants in the (Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area) and will provide streamlined services and supports, immediate respite, and additional shelter spaces for asylum claimants staying in Peel.”

The centre will also refer asylum claimants to other “participating municipalities” for ongoing provision of housing and settlement supports.

Baird’s staff report said full details on the reception centre service model, referral pathways to other municipalities, costs, and a proposed funding model will be brought to Regional Council in March.

New 15-minute parking zone coming to Palgrave



The location of a new 15-minute parking zone in Palgrave.

REGION OF PEEL IMAGE

Time limit to be enforced in front of businesses on west side of Highway 50

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

In response to concern from a local business, the Region of Peel will be implementing some new parking rules in Palgrave.

On Regional roads, the standard parking time limit is three hours. Highway 50 (Regional Road 50) runs through Palgrave and is subject to this standard limit.

However, thanks to a traffic bylaw amendment passed unanimously at a February 22 Region of Peel Council meeting, there will be a new zone on Highway 50 where motorists can only park for 15 minutes.

The zone consists of the west side of Highway 50 from 15 metres north of Pine Avenue/Church Street to 30 metres south of Birch Avenue.

A Region of Peel staff report notes that within this zone are three businesses: a variety store, a travel office, and a pharmacy.

“The owner of the convenience store... on the west side of Highway 50 requested the Region to establish limited duration parking... to assist all businesses which are normally operating with high turnover of short duration customers,” said

staff in the report.

The report notes that the Town of Caledon has added additional longer term public parking at the Palgrave Tennis Court on Birch Avenue to support businesses with longer-term parking needs.

“Directional signage has been installed along Highway 50 and other Town roads to guide customers to the additional parking,” reads the report.

A parking survey done by the Region showed that about 80 per cent of on-street parking on Highway 50 between Pine Avenue/Church Street and Birch Avenue was utilized by convenience store customers.

Staff noted the new limited-duration parking on Highway 50 is a first on a regional road in Peel. A violation of the limited-duration parking rules comes with a \$45 fine.

Now that Peel has added the new fine, it will need to be approved by the Regional Senior Justice of the Ontario Court of Justice. Staff said this process is routine, and that minor adjustments may be made by the Justice.

In their report, staff said if the new zone was not implemented, Palgrave businesses and visitors would continue to be negatively impacted by parking shortage concerns.

“Public communication and education will be conducted prior to implementing the limited duration parking area in Palgrave Village to inform residents and visitors of the benefits and mitigate concerns,” said staff.



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Caledon’s new Head of Planning
Eric Lucic comes to Caledon from Halifax Regional Municipality



Eric Lucic, Caledon’s new Commissioner of Planning and Development/Chief Planner.
TOWN OF CALEDON IMAGE

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

There’s a new boss in the Town of Caledon’s planning department. On February 22, Town Communications staff announced in a media release that the Town has hired Eric Lucic as its new Commissioner of Planning and Development and Chief Planner. Lucic’s first day on the job in Caledon will be April 1. Lucic is coming to Caledon from Halifax Regional Municipality, where he is currently their Director of Community Planning, Planning and Development. “Lucic spearheaded numerous transformative projects in one of Canada’s most rapidly-evolving regions,” said the Town in a statement. “His tenure in Halifax saw him at the helm of groundbreaking development and redevelopment initiatives, showcasing his adeptness in navigating complex planning landscapes.” Lucic worked in Halifax for nearly six years, and before that he gained 14 years of experience in various planning roles with the City of Brampton and City of Mississauga. Lucic has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Geography/Environmental Management/GIS from the University of Toronto, and a Masters in Spatial Analysis from the same school. He’s a registered professional planner and a member of several professional planning institutes. Recently, Lucic became a board member on the Council for Canadian Urbanism. “Lucic brings a comprehensive skill set and a professional expertise to the Town,” said the municipality. Caledon’s Chief Administrative Officer Nathan Hyde said Lucic’s leadership and “innovative approach” will play a pivotal role in building the best of rural and urban life in Caledon.

Region of Peel staff, Peel Regional Police raise over \$268,000 for United Way

Regional staff raise money for United Way Greater Toronto each year

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Region of Peel and Peel Regional Police employees raised a significant amount of money for charity in 2023. On February 22, 2024, the Region of Peel announced that employees of Peel Region and the Peel Regional Police Service had raised \$268,130 for United Way Greater Toronto in 2023. United Way Greater Toronto is the largest non-government funder of community services in the Greater Toronto Area and supports agencies and initiatives that support people living in poverty. “United Way Greater Toronto supports 71 agencies that deliver more than 90 programs to communities across Brampton, Caledon, and Mississauga,” said the Region of Peel in a statement. “Last year,

over 300,000 Peel residents received a helping hand from United Way Greater Toronto.” On February 22, Regional Chair Nando Iannicca presented cheques for the money raised in 2023 to United Way Greater Toronto Chief of Staff and Corporate Secretary Anita Stellinga. In the media release, Region of Peel staff said Peel Region has been partnering with United Way Greater Toronto for 45 years straight. “Funds support United Way in delivering services that meet the urgent needs of Peel residents who have been affected by economic downturns, unaffordability and the inequities that divide our community,” said staff in the release. “Through these donations, Peel employees help those in need in our community and unite under a worthy cause.” Iannicca said he’s proud of the generosity and dedication shown by Peel employees. “It’s heartwarming to see the impact of coming together with such enthusiasm to support this great cause,” said Iannicca. “Thank you to everyone from every corner of the organization who participated and helped make the campaign a resounding success.” Gary Kent, Peel’s Chief Admin-

istrative Officer, said the amount raised shows Peel’s culture of compassion and giving. “I am immensely proud of our Peel Region employees for once again surpassing our fundraising goal for United Way Greater Toronto, despite the uncertainties and challenges faced last year,” said Kent. “This contribution will make a tangible difference in the lives of our neighbours in need.” Daniele Zanotti, President and CEO of United Way Greater Toronto, said United Way is extending its heartfelt gratitude to Peel employees for their continued support. “A sincere thank you to the exceptional staff and volunteers, whose generous support is a driving force in our ongoing fight against poverty,” said Zanotti. “These contributions power over 90 programs across Brampton, Caledon, and Mississauga, creating a meaningful difference in the lives of those in need. Through our long-standing partnership with decades of history and trust, together, we continue to build a region where every individual and family has opportunity and hope.” In the last ten years, Region of Peel and Peel Regional Police employees have raised over \$4 million for United Way Greater Toronto.



Regional Chair Nando Iannicca (third from right) presented a cheque from Region of Peel employees, and a cheque from Peel Regional Police employees, to United Way Greater Toronto Chief of Staff and Corporate Secretary Anita Stellinga (second from right) on February 22.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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\$92,000 raised so far from Walk which supports those facing hunger and homelessness



Continued from FRONT

This year’s CNOY walk in Caledon started out at the Caledon East Community Complex. Walkers gathered in a community room there around 4 p.m. to register, get their CONY hats, socialize, and listen to some send-off remarks.

CCS CEO Geraldine Aguiar thanked all of the sponsors, walkers, and volunteers participating in the event. She said there were 258-plus walkers, 40 teams, and 76 volunteers at the event.

“Every step you take brings someone closer to health, closer to home, and closer to safety,” said Aguiar.

Caledon Mayor Annette Groves was at the walk along with a team of her Council colleagues. She said the walk had an amazing turnout which made her so happy.

Groves said hunger and homelessness is very real in Caledon, and in the Region of Peel.

“We have seen a lot of families who are truly, truly in need,” said Groves. “This walk, we are shining a light on hunger and homelessness and raising awareness. Raising awareness is extremely important.”

Groves said while it may not seem like there’s hunger and homelessness in Caledon, there very much is. In recent years, CCS has seen unprecedented demand for its food services.

“By walking today, by showing support, by pledging and raising funds... you’re helping to end homelessness, you’re helping to save families that are on the streets,” said Groves.

So far, over \$92,000 has been raised from this year’s CNOY walk. The fundraising goal for this year is \$120,000, and donations are being accepted until March 31.

Caledon Firefighters, who have historically supported the CNOY walk, put a team together for the walk this year again and are currently the top fundraisers at over \$12,000.



(TOP LEFT) CCS CEO Geraldine Aguiar spoke to walkers about the importance of their charitable efforts. (BOTTOM LEFT) Walkers left from the Caledon East Community Complex to embark on two or five-kilometre journeys. They were guided by volunteers, who also manned rest stops along the way.

PHOTOS BY ZACHARY ROMAN

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Town of Caledon Provincial Offences Office acquires Part III and Part IV prosecutions from the Province of Ontario

Effective March 4, Part III and Part IV prosecutions under the Provincial Offences Act are being transferred to Town of Caledon Prosecution Services from the Province of Ontario.

This transfer will not interrupt court operations or existing appointments. Caledon Prosecution Services and the Crown Attorney’s office are working closely to ensure a successful transition of duties.


What is a Part III prosecution?

Part III prosecutions trial offences that are issued by a summons. They are more serious charges related to the Highway Traffic Act and require the accused or their representative to appear in court.

What is a Part IV prosecution?

Part IV prosecutions trial offences against rights of property, such as trespassing and property damage.

For up-to-date information on Caledon’s prosecution services, visit caledon.ca/legal or contact Nicole Klein, Supervisor of Prosecutions, at 905.584.2272 x. 4001 or nicole.klein@caledon.ca.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Public Meeting Regarding Development Charges

Take notice that on Tuesday, March 19, 2024, the Council of the Town of Caledon will hold a public meeting pursuant to The Development Charges Act, 1997, regarding proposed development charge rates and policies that will be applied throughout the Town. It is proposed that enactment of a development charges by-law by Council would occur on a date subsequent to the public meeting.

Development charges are levied against new development, and are a primary source of funding for growth-related capital expenditures. The 2024 Development Charges Background Study relates to the provision of all eligible DC Services (i.e., Fire Protection, Parks & Recreation, Library Services, By-law Enforcement, Services Related to a Highway: Operations and Roads & Related, and Development Related Studies*).

* Pending review of eligibility by MMAH as announced on December 13, 2023.

Council is required under The Development Charges Act, 1997, to hold at least one public meeting to allow the public the opportunity to review and provide comments on the 2024 Development Charges Background Study, related staff reports and the proposed development charges by-law.

All interested parties are invited to attend the public meeting:

Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2024
Time: 7 p.m.
Location: Council Chambers, Town Hall, Town of Caledon, 6311 Old Church Road, Caledon East, ON

Any person may attend the public meeting and make written or verbal representation either in support of or in opposition to the by-law. Written submissions are invited and should be directed to Kevin Klingenberg, Municipal Clerk (agenda@caledon.ca) no later than 12:00 p.m. on March 8, 2024. Written comments received prior to the meeting and submissions made at the public meeting will be considered by Council prior to the enactment of a new development charges by-law.

Technical inquiries should be directed to Kim Lichti, Project Manager, Office of the CAO at 905-584-2272 x.4394 or kim.lichti@caledon.ca.

A copy of the 2024 Development Charges Background Study will be made available on the Town’s website caledon.ca on Thursday, February 29, 2024. A copy of the development charges by-law will be made available on Town’s website on or before Monday, March 4, 2024.

DATED AT the Town of Caledon this 22nd day of February, 2024.

Kevin Klingenberg, Municipal Clerk

Interim Property Taxes are Due

Property tax due dates are March 7, 2024 and May 2, 2024.

Regular late payment fees apply.

For payment options visit: caledon.ca/tax.

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Cashing in an invaluable bonus

Are you ever reminded that “time is a human construct?”

I don’t have an exact formula to calculate that frequency in my own personal life, but it happens far too often than I’d care to experience.

Sometimes it’s mentioned with mock indignation when one is turning a certain age. In other instances, it’s busted out by a person still in the bloom of youth who just picked up this little bit of basic philosophical savvy.

For them, it’s almost a profound epiphany as though a profound existential building block slid into place, like it is the only human construct we have today, but why rain on their parade?

They’re not wrong, of course. Our ancestors did tremendous work constructing a system of measuring time, the movement of our planets, and the general and overall depreciation all of us experience to varying degrees each time we complete a revolution of the sun. Whatever we would come to define as “time” would, of course, march on regardless of whether we gave it a name or a few formulae to break it down into more bite-size and less overwhelming pieces.

Whether constructed or not, we humans have a complex relationship with it.

When we’re kids, whether we realize it or not, we spend so much time wishing it away, just counting down the days where we cross over the threshold of childhood to the teen years and thence counting down those days ahead of us until we hit the arbitrary numbers of 18, 19, and 21 – and all the new privileges, and, indeed, responsibilities that come with those years.

Often, once we get all those romanticized privileges and responsibilities that come at those relatively arbitrary thresholds, time suddenly seems more precious as our twenties give way to our thirties, our thirties to our forties and so on.

As a child, it felt we had all the time in the world. By the time school let out in June, the intervening couple of months before we had to hit the books again in September felt like a world of endless possibilities where just about anything could be accomplished.

Now, July and August seem to go by all too quickly.

On the flipside, as much as the 60-odd days of summer vacation were a luxury, the 250-ish days spent in school for the balance of the year, excluding weekends, of course, felt arduous and nearly insurmountable.

In today’s world and perception, not only do July and August go by in nothing short of a flash, the balance zips by with equal speed.

As we get older, the perception that time is accelerating is unavoidable.

Personally, I still can’t believe we’re just about to begin the third month of 2024. Then again, sometimes it’s equally hard to believe we’re in the 2020s. Heck, we were a few years into the then-brand-spanking-new millennium before my reflexes got their house in order and I finally stopped writing the date as nineteen-ninety-whatever. It’s all a work in progress.

Speaking of works in progress, how about our sense of time during and coming out of the global pandemic?

I don’t know about the rest of you, but I found those three dark years wreaked havoc on my internal calendar.

The perceived speed of time, or lack thereof, fluctuated wildly with what we were – and were not – able or allowed to do. So many of our days felt the same, no matter the time of year or the weather. Our respite were those summer days where things subsided just a little bit and then, naturally, those windows closed almost as soon as they were opened.

As a consequence, even as things returned to what is now our normal, my own sense of time emerged battered and bruised. Events that were once a fixture on my professional calendar slowly but surely returned, in one configuration or another, and largely at the same time of year they used to land previously – and yet I found myself losing track not only of the event, but consequently both the speed in which they were approaching.

Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas – all the biggies – almost felt like they took one by surprise when they were a week or two away.

It took a while, but the dawn of 2024 has brought a bit more balance.

The ship feels like it has been righted, the calendar less ephemeral, and the previous rhythm of life restored, at least for me.

And not a moment too soon as Leap Day arrives today, February 29.

For some, it may be nothing more than a novelty, but in a period where time is putting the proverbial pedal to the medal, it’s something of a bonus day – and it will only be what you make of it.

Sometimes we ask ourselves what we would do if we had “just one more day” to... well, you can fill in the blank. But how many of us will take advantage of this Leap Day to realize all the possibilities of an extra 24 hours?

For so many organizations in our community, an extra hour or three with a few more volunteer hands can make a world of difference. Taking a few minutes to check in with family members, whether they’re close by or further flung, particularly if it has been a while, can also be a game-changer – as can simply making contact with someone experiencing social isolation.

Maybe it’s a chance to, even if your own cupboards are groaning under the weight of food, take a few hours to do a round of grocery shopping for a local food bank and deliver it to the people who can get it to those in need. Of course, we should be doing all of that more often, if we’re able, but it doesn’t have to be anything on a grand scale.

Maybe it’s simply taking some time to further your creative passions, get outdoors, cross items off your “to do” list that have been hanging over your head for far too long, or just do something out-of-the-ordinary to recharge your internal batteries in order to be the best person you can be for yourself or others.

The possibilities are almost limitless – and, granted, Leap Day falls on a Thursday, an inconvenient factor as work could be in the way, but there’s nothing wrong with banking these extra 24-hours for later.

Take advantage of them.

Scarlett O’Hara once famously said, “I’ll think about that tomorrow,” but, by my estimation, she was never a particularly good role model for anyone. Let’s instead think about it now and make the most of it – today, or whenever you can.



We need to be
leery of human stupidity

by Mark Pavilons



“Never underestimate the power of stupidity,” Robert Heinlein once warned.

Martin Luther King, Jr. contended that “nothing in the all the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity.”

And the late, great Stephen Hawking said we are destroying ourselves by our greed and stupidity.

Try as we may, no government has been successful in legislating against stupidity.

The dull-minded among us are growing in number. It’s like they have a secret club where they’re cloning the most deficient humans en masse. Sounds like a great theme for a novel or Netflix movie.

The astute members of society are constantly plagued by these morons and they continue to outpace all expectations.

From warnings on consumer packaging to dumb crooks and dim-witted everyday actions, our brethren keep on bringing us down.

I pause for a moment, with head bowed, asking God for forgiveness in wasting the grey matter he gave us.

I’m not sure if it’s the aspartame or radiation leaking from our smart devices, but mindless behaviour is here to stay.

We buy “miracle cures” on infomercials and invest in expensive gadgets that we can’t explain or maintain. We look for the toy in the bottom of the cereal box, only to be disappointed.

Edward Abbey once noted that for “real bona fide stupidity, there ain’t nothin’ can beat teamwork.”

Right on.

Herd behavior is among the main causes of stupidity. Scientific studies have shown how individual humans can be swayed by the crowd to adopt positions which go against all logic.

And our “collective stupidity” is something we all need to be leery of. Sometimes, stupid people are elected to run our communities and our country. More stupid people, who have no obvious power, vote.

Let me definite it a bit better. Stupidity, in our current state of affairs, is not about intelligence or knowledge. It’s about using one’s cognitive abilities – what God gave you – effectively.

And you can “fix stupid,” by offering guidance, knowledge, common sense and awareness.

Politicians, bureaucrats, experts and spin doctors run our democratic system. They must be skilled, intelligent, hard-working types, right? I am reminded we’re talking about people, not dolphins.

Given the barrage of scandals, government waste and freedom-infringing laws, it seems something is off.

Where do harebrained schemes, policies and laws

come from?

Our MPs and MPPs are surrounded by competent staff, who research, draft and vet all sorts of documents, speeches and pieces of legislation. They are not supposed to be biased or politically swayed. But I suppose the reality is, when politicians get their hands on well-crafted documents, sometimes their party bias and desire to stay in office rules out. What we can be left with is a watered-down, self-serving democracy that backtracks more often than innovates.

For a profound thought on evil and stupidity: “Reasons fall on deaf ears; facts that contradict one’s prejudgment simply need not be believed ... and when facts are irrefutable they are just pushed aside as inconsequential, as incidental. In all this the stupid person, in contrast to the malicious one, is utterly self-satisfied and, being easily irritated, becomes dangerous by going on the attack,” said Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who was executed for his role in the attempted assassination of Adolph Hitler in July of 1944. He also noted that, in order to combat evil and stupidity, you have to first recognize them.

An inherent problem with human beings, particularly the dumber of the species, is they don’t recognize their own ignorance. Add to that, they underestimate the ignorance of others.

That’s a recipe for disaster, to coin a phrase.

Sir Richard Branson, CEO of Virgin Airlines, admitted he was “dumb” in school, was dyslexic and hated math. He attributes his success to being surrounded by “highly knowledgeable and extremely competent people.”

That’s what anyone in a seat of power would, and should, do.

We only have to look at the current conflicts in the Middle East and Ukraine to prompt our collective heads to shake. Doesn’t someone, somewhere, know this is all really stupid? No one can argue that losses on all sides – economically, socially and human lives – are worth it, or make any kind of sense.

Does that mean these countries are led by madmen or half-baked lunks? Just what is the end game here? More land, changing borders on a map?

History will judge the actions of all participants.

Back at home, in our comfy abodes, sometimes dopiness slips in, just under the door where the draft comes in.

Social media and the internet are additional methods of infecting the masses with nonsensical ideas. Heck, anyone is allowed to own and use a computer, tabloid and smart phone. With great power ... yet people continue to wreak havoc using these tools. They insult, bully, berate and hate with impunity.

In our society, we allow those with the bare minimum of intelligence to operate a motor vehicle, fly a drone, order on Amazon, raise children, vote in elections and stream reality TV. Some of the reality TV shows make me cringe in embarrassment and I find myself welcoming the Second Coming.

As a herd, we all share in the blame because we empowered it. It wasn’t hidden in our deli meats – we welcomed it with open arms.

At times, I look at our primate cousins and ponder how we took the right path to evolution. Maybe it’s better, and less stressful, to simply pick fleas off of our mates and live off the land.

My friends, do not operate heavy machinery while watching the news and refrain from drinking prior to entering the voting station!

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THE
EDITOR**

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Fame through failure

It was May 26, 1975 when legendary daredevil Evel Knievel revved the engine on his motorcycle to get ready for his attempt to jump 13 buses at Wembley Stadium in London.

I was huddled around the television with my brother and dad to watch the attempt which was being broadcast live.

I remember my dad saying something like “he’ll never make it.”

Sure enough, Evel landed short, bounced off the motorcycle, skidded across the stadium, and was seriously injured – again.

After watching this, I remember thinking, this guy is the worst daredevil in history.

A daredevil is someone who takes big, but planned risks, and comes out in one piece, to impress the crowd and live to do it again another day.

Evel was known more for his crashes than his successes. If you ever want to see bones breaking in slow-motion, look up Evel’s attempt to jump the fountains at Caesar’s Palace in Las Vegas. It was another failed jump.

Evel became famous for failure, and yet he turned that around somehow, to his advantage, and presented himself as the greatest daredevil on the planet.

He once boasted that he had broken over 200 bones.

Do you think if you’re doing a job where you keep getting seriously injured, that maybe you’re

just not good at it?

It’s surprising how many people have achieved fame through failure.

Eddie “The Eagle” Edwards was a ski jumper who competed in the 1988 Olympics in Calgary. He represented the UK.

The UK is not known for its Winter Olympic performances.

He managed to qualify for the Olympics as the only British entrant for the sport after competing at the 1987 World Championships.

However, he was terrible. It became a bit of a joke during the Olympics every time he was going to jump because he barely made it off of the jump and always landed short. I think people were expecting him to flap his arms to achieve some extra distance.

He finished dead last – but he became famous because of his failure.

The International Olympic Committee made changes in qualifying after the Calgary Olympics so this wouldn’t happen again.

Even so, you’ve got to admire the man’s determination.

Tonya Harding was an American Olympic figure skater. Unless you really followed figure skating, it was unlikely you had heard of her prior to an event that became international news.

In 1994, Harding was involved in a scandal after her husband conspired with a friend – a local halfwit

– to injure Harding’s main competitor in the skating world by breaking her knee.

This clown couldn’t even get that right, and ended up just giving her a bruise.

Harding was never known for being what they call a “darling” of the sport. She had a rough upbringing, wore garish makeup, wasn’t particularly cute, and because of her homemade skating outfits, the judges often looked down her and gave her low marks for presentation.

She was an excellent athlete, but was shunned by the skating world for not being Dorothy Hamill cute, and not having parents who were affluent.

She achieved international fame because of the attack on her competitor. In the end, she lost the right to compete and her career was over.

She didn’t win a medal in the Olympics, and that was a forgone conclusion after what had happened. It probably cost her millions in endorsements – but it made her famous.

A guy named Robert Overacker achieved fame, for at least a few days, although he didn’t live to read about himself in the newspapers.

In October of 1995, Robert decided to jet ski over Niagara Falls with a rocket propelled parachute. He claimed his motivation was to raise awareness for the homeless.

The chute didn’t open, and Robert’s fame came from a single photograph of him leaping from his

jet ski at the brink of the falls.

You would think his friends would have told him his plan was just not a good idea.

Another man, named Jessie Sharp, in 1990, decided he could kayak over Niagara Falls due to his skill as an experienced kayaker. He was so confident, he made a dinner reservation at a downstream restaurant for later in the day.

Jessie didn’t wear a life jacket, and chose not to wear a helmet because he didn’t want his face obscured from cameras recording the event, so he would be famous.

The photo of him plunging over the cataract did indeed make him famous – for a couple of days, and posthumously.

I’m pretty sure when he crested the brink of the falls and saw the house-size boulders below, his final thoughts were that his attempt was probably a mistake. His body was never recovered.

Some people just want to be famous, no matter what the cost.

If I ever became famous, I would hope it’s for doing something right.



BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW

Today is a BONUS!

At the risk of trotting out all the old cliches about a Leap Year, the fact remains that you only have a chance once every four years to celebrate February 29th. I don’t care whether it’s your birthday or not – today is a BONUS day and you should treat it like one. It’s an entirely EXTRA 24 hours of 2024. What are you going to do with it?

If budget permits, perhaps you can start the day by heading to Gather Cafe in Alton before walking over to the Millcroft Inn for a day of hot and cold plunging. Follow it up with lunch at Ray’s 3rd Generation Bistro then walk off the calories with a hike through one of the many local trails. If Caledon East is more your speed you’ve got plenty to choose from including Gabe’s and Four Corners, or breakfast at Tom’s. Take a spin on the ice at the newly opened (and beautiful) Reese’s Rink with the kids, grab a book from the awesome new location of the Caledon Public Library before you leave the arena and then head up to the Villa Caledon Inn for a late lunch/early dinner. You might even want to hit Adella and do some shopping for yourself or your significant other before you do. If the north end of

Caledon is your favourite place to be, a visit to Palgrave wouldn’t be complete without a stop at “The Church” for a Caledon Hills Brew (or two) and if you’re at the south end of Caledon, a scone and “a cuppa” from Butter and Cup in Southfields might just hit the spot.

Maybe you’re thinking of heading from south Caledon to the northern portions – if so and the sun is shining, take a side trip off Highway 10 and venture through the Forks of the Credit and stop in Belfountain for a coffee and a treat. I’m told Higher Ground makes fantastic fancy coffee. (I take mine black so anything with “cino” in the name is beyond me.) You don’t have to wait until the fall to enjoy the view at the Forks – it’s pretty no matter what the time of year! If you take the back roads instead of Highway 10, you could pass through Inglewood, Cheltenham or both and stop for fresh baked goods and a cider at Spirit Tree Cidery. Got the kids in tow? Head to Terra Cotta Conservation Area for Maple Syrup season then stop by GoodLot for ethically, environmentally produced, excellent beer at their new barn called The Oast.

Bolton readers will no doubt be quick to point out the myriad of options now available on the east side of Caledon including the cool vibes of The Wine Spot downtown, great places for sushi and fantastic Italian food peppered throughout town. If you are on a budget (and really, who isn’t these days) or don’t have a designated driver for all those pub stops, there over 35 kms of trails on the Caledon Trailway which are always open and with plenty of spots to picnic – yes even at this time of year if you’re dressed appropriately and plan accordingly!

Of course, if you’re reading this at the end of the day on February 29, it might be too late to plan your cross-Caledon adventure for today, but technically you’ve still received a bonus day in 2024 so what are you doing this weekend or perhaps during March Break? There’s so much to see, do, eat and explore right here in our own community. Sure, I’d exhort you to be extra careful on Highway 10 and yes, we have big trucks travelling haulage routes right in front of schools and through small villages, but the recently approved Caledon budget promises “service improvements” including “traffic calm-

ing,” so maybe, just maybe, you’ll arrive at your destination safely.

As a bonus for those who are walking the Caledon trails, included in that same budget are allocations for “trail maintenance on Trans Canada Trail, (including) gateway maintenance and invasive species,” so perhaps your walk will be even more pleasant than you’re anticipating. In more good news for pedestrians I understand the Region of Peel is also weighing in on road safety and a “new, safer crossover equipped with overhead flashing lights and push button controls” is coming soon to Marilyn Street in Ward 3. That’s great news and we can only hope it sets the precedent for another, urgently needed identical crossover in Ward 2 where seniors and schoolchildren are left dodging four lanes of traffic as they head out to enjoy their “bonus” day.

Happy Leap Year to one and all – may you never have to LEAP out of the way of a speeding car!



SHERALYN ROMAN
TALK CALEDON

The gas-powered car era is coming to a close

Federal Environment Minister Steven Guilbeault stirred up a hornet’s nest two weeks ago when he said Ottawa will stop investing in new large-scale road infrastructure projects.

Even before Guilbeault spelled out Ottawa’s polarizing new policy, the federal government announced a few months ago that it was phasing out the sale of gasoline-powered vehicles by 2035.

The truth is we’re now living through a period that can best be characterized as the last gasp of the gas-guzzling vehicle.

Even without government-imposed electric vehicle mandates, the future of the gas-powered vehicle is bleak at best. There are simply too many factors lined up against the continued production and sale of vehicles with internal combustion engines.

One of them is the growing concern about the amount of carbon emissions that come from vehicles.

Another factor is the price of gasoline, which I believe will skyrocket over the next few years. The coming price increase will be

driven by various causes, including the gradual depletion of oil reserves and continued global instability resulting from regional conflicts.

However, the major cause for soaring gas prices in the years ahead will be food shortages triggered by population growth, drought, soil depletion, and vanishing farmland.

What does food have to do with gasoline?

The price of fuel in Canada and the US is being kept artificially low by the increased use of ethanol, which is made mostly from corn, and then blended with gasoline. When drivers fill up their gas tanks, around 10 per cent of the fuel they’re pumping comes from ethanol.

Approximately 40 per cent of the annual US corn crop, representing well over 100 million tons of grain, goes toward the production of ethanol for use as automotive fuel. But in a world grappling with growing food shortages, there will be zero tolerance for turning one of our biggest food staples into automotive fuel.

So, if this scenario pans out, as I expect it will, how will we get around?

I believe we’ll move toward an increased reliance on public transportation – specifically, the light rail transportation you see in many large Canadian cities.

But I also think we’ll see the widespread adoption of small electric vehicles, sometimes referred to as “micro-mobility” vehicles. These zero-emission, one-or-two-person cars are small and very affordable. Best of all, they only cost around a dollar per day to charge, and they come with much lower maintenance and insurance costs.

Micro electric vehicles are also tailor-made for the tight confines of urban driving and could put a real dent in the traffic congestion clogging up most of Canada’s big cities.

The biggest impediment to the large-scale transition to electric vehicles is the North American electric power grid, which isn’t up to the task of powering millions of electric battery-powered vehicles. It will take decades and trillions of dollars in investment. The best and most environmentally friendly way to get there, in my view, is to build small nuclear power reactors across the country to boost the

capacity of our electric grid.

Micro electric vehicles will get us to net zero carbon emissions a lot faster and at a much lower cost. I also believe that Canada can become a world leader in micro-mobility technologies and other green transportation solutions, but we have to first wrap our heads around the fact that the days of driving around on fossil fuels are about to end.

When it comes to transportation, we’re going electric come hell or high water. We might as well start preparing for it.

To learn more about how we can “Regenerate Canada”, email me at info@economic-charter.ca.



FRANK STRONACH
PRINCIPLES OF AN ECONOMIC
CHARTER OF RIGHTS

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.

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ELIF

MICHAEL

Georgian College’s Orangeville Campus to train RPNs as RNs with new program

BY PAULA BROWN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Georgian College is offering a brand-new program to help students who already have their registered practical nurse (RPN) designation move into a career as a registered nurse (RN).

Georgian College announced on February 21 that a three-year degree program would be available at the Orangeville Campus starting in fall 2024.

This program will give registered practical nurses in the area the opportunity to obtain their nursing degree locally and remain in the community working as a registered nurse.

“We are thrilled to provide this pathway for career advancement to the RPNs in our local communities. This continues Georgian’s long-standing commitment to providing local nursing education designed to create a robust nursing workforce to meet the health and wellness need of our local communities,” said Dr. Sara Lankshear, Associate Dean of Health, Wellness and Sciences for Georgian College.

The Honours Bachelor of Science – Nursing RPN to BscN Advanced Standing Pathway (Bridge) degree program will provide students with opportunities for careers spanning the health care sector, including hospital, long-term care, primary care, and community and home care health services.

The program, which will also be available at the Barrie and Owen Sound campuses, includes a clinical placement where students will get hands-on learning under the supervision of an experienced registered or licensed professional.

Students in the program will have access to practice on lab equipment that will look and feel like the equipment they will use in a modern hospital or clinic setting, preparing them for their clinical placements and careers. This equipment includes a newly renovated high-fidelity lab space and technology at the Barrie and Owen Sound campuses.

Orangeville students will be able to complete the majority of the program at



the local campus, but will need to travel to Barrie or Owen Sound to participate in high-fidelity simulation learning.

In addition to access to industry-quality lab equipment, students in the new program will benefit from more industry connections, hands-on practice, and one-on-one training with small class sizes.

“We are excited that Georgian College’s new nursing pathway program will be offered in Orangeville. We are pleased to work in partnership to provide an opportunity for students to gain practicum experience at Headwaters Health Care Cen-

tre,” said Annette Jones, Vice President of Patient Experience and Chief Nursing Executive for Headwaters. “Our hospital has a strong history of supporting education and training, and students will be able to access a wide range of programs and services.”

Practical nurses already registered with the College of Nurses of Ontario are eligible to receive up to one year of advanced standing.

Eligibility requirements include:

- Completion of a Practical Nursing

diploma program from a recognized post-secondary institution with a graduating GPA of 75 per cent or higher;

- Registered and in good standing with the College of Nurses of Ontario
- Be entitled to practice with no restrictions

Registered practical nurses interested in learning more about the program or applying can do so by visiting www.GeorgianCollege.ca/HBNA.

Optimist Club celebrates 100 years in Canada

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Optimist Club is celebrating 100 years in Canada as a service organization.

In Canada, the Club was founded as the Toronto Optimist Club on January 22, 1924, making it an international organization. The Club first started in Buffalo, New York in 1911.

The Club was founded on a vision of “community betterment,” aiming to “help delinquent boys and to spread the doctrine of optimism.”

Since the beginning, the Club’s mission has evolved to bring out the best in youth, the community, and themselves. The Optimists are proud that the same passion and hope for the future that inspired the original Toronto Club still drives the Club today.



In its first 20 years, the Toronto Optimist Club sponsored 16 other Canadian Clubs, and Canadian membership grew to more than 1,000 by 1944. Today, there are over 10,000 Optimists in Canada, and the organization continues to grow.

The organization recently welcomed the newest club in the country – the Seaway Optimist Club in Central Ontario.

The Optimist Club has expanded into more than 27 countries worldwide, including Uganda, Jamaica, Japan, and South Korea, with Districts also in the Caribbean and Nepal.

The Orangeville Optimist Club has been operating for 50 years.

At a recent meeting, the Orangeville Optimist Club collected 100 cans of food for the Orangeville Food Bank.

During the Coldest Night of the Year

Fundraiser on February 24, they raised over \$8,100 for the Orangeville Food Bank.

Supporting local not-for-profits continues to be the Optimist Club’s focus. Other causes they’ve supported in the past include Big Brothers Big Sisters, Westminster Milk Program, the Dufferin Child and Family Foundation, Scouts and Guides, and Orangeville minor sports.

In addition, the club has supported Orangeville District Secondary School and Westside bursaries, bike rodeo, junior golf, One Voice One Team, the Canadian Children’s Optimist Foundation, Youth Empowerment Day, Oratorical and Essay contests, and Central Ontario Leadership Seminars. They also make donations to Family Transition Place and the Headwaters Health Care Foundation.

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“Diabetes Education is Available in Caledon”
by Dufferin Area Health Team (DAFHT) Diabetic Educators

Did you know Type 2 diabetes accounts for 90 per cent of diabetes cases in Canada according to Diabetes Canada?

Caledon Community Services (CCS) is excited to announce a Diabetes Education Clinic at the Caledon Specialist Clinic, facilitated by Dufferin Area Health Team (DAFHT) Diabetic Educators, every other Thursday, 1:00-4:00 p.m. with a referral from your primary care physician, in partnership with Headwaters Health Care Centre.*

Type 2 diabetes is being diagnosed more often and many of the risk factors are completely out of our control. This means that paying attention to the aspects that are within our control is vitally important.

The first step to managing diabetes comes before you even have a diagnosis: Screening.

A1C is a blood test to measure the amount of sugar in your blood and it is used to diagnose diabetes. Adults 40 and older should have their A1C checked at least once every 3 years. This may happen more often, or at an earlier age at your doctor’s discretion.

If you are not sure if you have been getting this test or think that you may have diabetes, ask your doctor if they have checked your A1C.

Your lifestyle is particularly important in both preventing diabetes and managing the disease:

Ensure you’re including high-fibre foods in your diet, such as vegetables, fruits, legumes and whole grains. Reducing your intake of foods high in saturated fats and refined carbohydrates can help stabilize your blood sugar.

Research shows that at least 150 minutes of moderate exercise weekly (30 min/ day, five days/week) can help and sedentary people are more likely to develop diabetes. Obesity can increase your likelihood of developing diabetes and even minimal weight loss can reduce your risk.

Unfortunately, even if you follow a healthy lifestyle, it is still possible to be diagnosed with diabetes. Often diabetes has no symptoms, and it is important, even if you feel fine, to be screened regularly. When caught early and managed properly, many diabetes complications can be prevented.

Receiving a diabetes diagnosis can be overwhelming, but there are supports available here in Caledon.

For more information on our Diabetes Education Clinic, and other offerings at the Caledon Specialist Clinic, or to let us know topics you’d like us to cover, call 905-857-4327 or visit www.ccs4u.org.

*The Caledon Specialist Clinic is brought to you through a partnership between Caledon Community Services (CCS) and Headwaters Health Care Centre.

How Do You See It?

Tell us how you see it.
Carolyn Langan, Senior Manager, Health Services, Caledon Community Services at 905-584-2300 ext. 225 or clangan@ccs4u.org

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

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Drew Jurecka will be performing in his jazz trio this Saturday in Caledon.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Drew Jurecka Jazz Trio performing concert in Caledon this Saturday

Jurecka is a Grammy-nominated violinist, composer and producer

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

An upcoming concert will delight local jazz fans.
At 7.30 p.m. on Saturday, March 2 the Drew Jurecka Jazz Trio will play in the great hall at St. James Anglican Church (6025 Old Church Road).
Tickets to the concert are \$40 for adults and free for anyone 16 and under. Tickets can be purchased online at caledonchamberconcerts.com; by calling 905-880-2445; or by emailing gordonkmorton@gmail.com.

The Drew Jurecka Jazz Trio is, of course, led by Jurecka, who is a Grammy-nominated violinist, composer and producer. While violin is his primary instrument, Jurecka also plays viola, saxophone, clarinet and mandolin.
Those who frequent Caledon Chamber Concerts events may recognize Jurecka, as he also tours with the Venuti String Quartet and Payadora Tango Ensemble, both of which have been featured on the great hall stage.
In the jazz world, Jurecka also performs with the Hot Jazz String Quartet and the Hogtown Syncopators. For five years, he played with Jeff Healey’s Jazz Wizards.
Joining Jurecka for the upcoming Caledon concert will be guitarist Nathan Hiltz.
Hiltz is a composer, educator, and performer who teaches guitar at Humber College. He’s written several pieces with Jurecka, some of which will be played at the con-

cert.
Playing bass at the concert will be Clark Johnston, who has been performing with Jurecka’s trio for over a decade. Johnston is a prominent fixture in the Hamilton music scene and is in high demand across Canada as a collaborator.
Here are some of the songs that will be played at this Saturday’s concert: Lady Be Good by George Gershwin; Russian Lullaby by Irving Berlin; Softly as in a Morning Sunrise by Sigmund Romberg; Rebekah by Drew Jurecka; On the Roof by Drew Jurecka and Nathan Hiltz; Kiddin’ on the Strings by Harry Bluestone and Bobby Sherwood; Wild Cat by Joe Venuti and Eddie Lang; Caravan by Duke Ellington and Juan Tizol; Tea For Two by Vincent Youmans and Irving Caesar; Manoir Des Mes Reves by Django Reinhart; Nuages by Django Reinhart; Desert Sands by Stuff Smith; and Black & Blue Bottom by Joe Venuti and Eddie Lang.

Region to spend \$130M upgrading its largest wastewater treatment plant

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Region of Peel is investing in infrastructure for growth.
At Region of Peel Council’s February 22 meeting, Councilors approved a \$130 million investment to increase capacity at the G.E. Booth Water Resource Recovery Facility in Mississauga.
The investment will allow the facility to treat an additional 40 million litres of wastewater per day. According to the Region of Peel, this additional capacity can support up to 47,000 housing units, depending on the type of development.
The G.E. Booth Water Resource Recovery Facility serves the eastern part of Peel Region, as well as part of York Region. It’s Peel’s largest wastewater treatment plant and currently has a capacity of 518 million litres a day. It went into service in 1955 and is designed to treat municipal wastewater from residential, commercial and industrial customers.
Region of Peel staff said advancing construction through the region’s current contractors, ROMAG Contracting and CIMA Canada, would allow for the additional 40 million litres of capacity to be available by 2028, rather than 2039 when it was initially planned for.

In a media release, regional communications staff said that Peel staff are working on a new capital works master plan which is scheduled to be complete in 2025. Staff said part of the work in the plan is assessment of infrastructure required to meet growth projections outlined in Bill 23, the More Homes Built Faster act.
“As part of this planning work staff are identifying projects that can be advanced earlier. The investment to increase capacity at G.E. Booth is one such project,” reads the release.
Regional Council chair Nando Iannicca said approval of the \$130 million upgrade demonstrates Peel’s commitment to building more housing.
“Together, we are focused on ensuring a healthy and sustainable community for years to come,” said Iannicca.
Peel’s Chief Administrative Officer Gary Kent said the investment in the G.E. Booth Water Resource Recovery Facility is dependent on future flow of development charges.
Kealy Dedman, Peel’s Commissioner of Public Works, said Regional staff are ready for the challenge of supporting accelerated housing growth.
“By advancing this extra work we will have increased capacity at G.E. booth years sooner and at a lower cost,” said Dedman.



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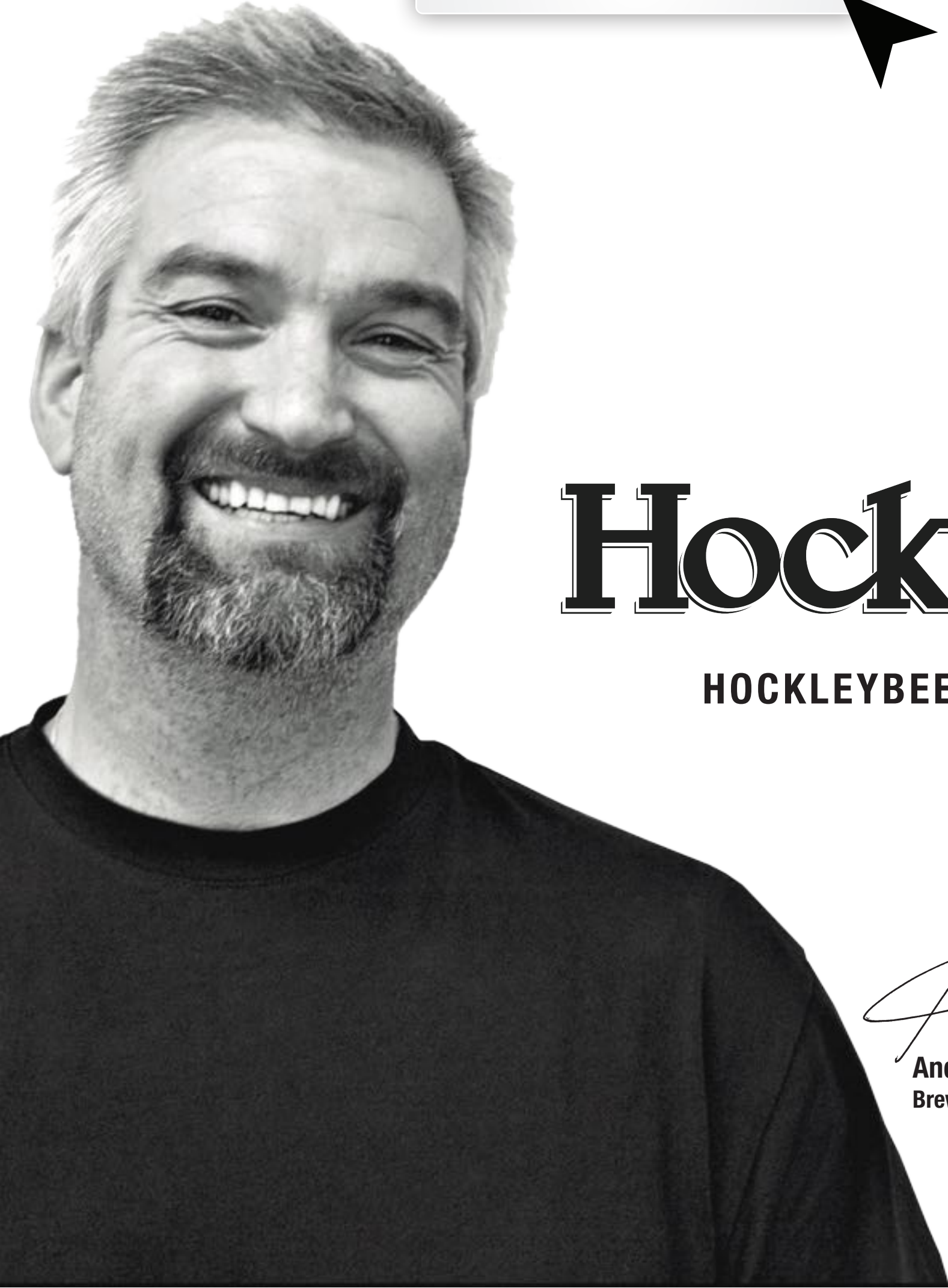
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Kohnen'.

Andrew Kohnen
Brewmaster



SOLOMON VAHEY
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Advocating for autism: Ambassador chosen to lead 8th Annual Autism Speaks Canada Walk

BY SAM ODROWSKI

The 2024 Autism Speaks Canada (ASC) Walk Ambassador for Orangeville has been named, and efforts are already under-way to fundraise and raise awareness for a cause that impacts him personally.

Solomon Vahey, 11, will be the local face and voice of autism for ASC from now until September 29, when the 8th Annual Orangeville and Area ASC Walk comes to Fendley Park. The announcement was made in early February.

Solomon, who was diagnosed with autism at age five, told the Citizen he’s excited to take on the role of ambassador and lead the walk.

The goal of the walk, and several community events leading up to it, is to raise \$20,000 for ASC and increase understanding among the public about what autism is and how it impacts everyone differently.

“We’re trying to educate people, spread awareness, and increase acceptance, because even though we’ve come so far, there’s just so much more that we need to do,” said Karrie Daponte, lead walk organizer. “Almost every day, either at school or in the community, [autism] families deal with those stares or those looks, people laughing, making comments.”

Solomon is a Gestalt language learner, meaning he processes language as “strings of sounds” or “chunks” rather than processing single words.

More commonly, children develop language as analytic language processors, meaning they learn language in a sequential order. They first learn a word and then combine it with other words before moving on to full sentences.

Not all gestalt language learners have autism, but many verbal children on the autism spectrum use this mode of communication. They may use quotes from movies or phrases to communicate a statement, emotion or question.

Petho noted the importance of having kids with autism who may act, think or learn differently, be leaders through the ASC Walk’s ambassador role.

“I think it’s a great opportunity for him to show that even kids who don’t speak the same way as others still have a chance to have a voice and be represented in the community,” she said.

“Being different or speaking differently doesn’t mean that you’re less than, you’re still a part of the community. It’s important to be seen and heard, even if you don’t

communicate the same way as others.”

Solomon is very active in Orangeville and loves the town. He plays hockey at the Alder Arena with the Orangeville Wolves, a member club of Special Hockey International (SHI). SHI provides programming to children and adults who have special needs.

“He’s an outgoing kid, he really likes to interact in the community,” Petho noted. “He does a lot – he volunteers, even with the horticultural society, he helps do the gardens. He’s been a volunteer since he was six.”

He also regularly participates in swimming and skating lessons locally.

Walk ambassadors are chosen from across the autism spectrum, with some past ambassadors having strong verbal skills and others being entirely non-verbal.

“We try to kind of bring something different from this spectrum every year,” said Daponte.

The walk itself is one to three kilometres and on the day of the event, there will be activities for kids, a vendor market, and a festive atmosphere.

“It’s a fun filled morning for families,” said Daponte. “They don’t have to worry about what people are going to think...everybody that comes there is so supportive [of the autism community].”

Looking ahead, there’s a handful of fundraisers coming up to help reach the \$20,000 target for ASC.

An ongoing bottle drive, running now until September 30, is underway. Those interested in donating can email kdaponte1975@hotmail.com to coordinate drop-off or pick-up.

M&M Food Market in Orangeville will donate 10 per cent of its sales on April 18.

Organizers of the Party Rocker Dance in Shelburne will donate a portion of ticket sales on May 3

And Boston Pizza in Orangeville is hosting a “Celebrity Server” night starring Solomon on May 6.

Throughout that evening, 10 per cent of food sales will be donated.

Donations to ASC go towards innovative autism research and life-enhancing services for those on the spectrum.

To register a team or donate, visit autismspeakscanada.akaraisin.com/ui/walk2024/g/41985

To stay up to date with the local ASC Walk, follow the “Autism Speaks Canada – Orangeville” Facebook Page: facebook.com/AutismSpeaksCanadaOrangeville

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Caledon Citizen’s Student-Athlete of the Week

Captain Alyssa Kowal’s sparkling court play leads to consecutive volleyball MVP Awards

BY JIM STEWART

Two-sport student-athlete Alyssa Kowal had distinguished herself on two courts of play in her first three years at Robert F Hall Catholic Secondary School.

The Grade 11 Honor Roll student has starred for the Hall Wolfpack’s Girls Volleyball team as its Captain three consecutive seasons and has earned MVP honors at the last two Athletic Banquets.

In addition to her leadership and prowess on the volleyball court, Kowal has also performed admirably in badminton.

Kowal came up just short of qualifying for the ROPSSA championship girls singles finals in the 2022-23 season.

Hall Wolfpack coach Michelle Hayde nominated Captain Kowal for The Caledon Citizen’s Student-Athlete of the Week honors and praised the two-sport athlete.

“Alyssa has been a valuable member of the Robert F Hall Girls Volleyball team for the last three years. She continuously strives to improve her performance on the court. Alyssa attends every practice and participates in the spring volleyball club where players of all levels come out to enjoy volleyball. She also encourages other players by offering them suggestions to improve their skills. Alyssa has been captain of the volleyball team all three years of her high school career and received the MVP awards at the athletic banquets for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years. Alyssa also plays badminton and played in the girls’ singles division where she fell just shy of making it to the ROPSSAA finals.”

Coach Hayde described Kowal’s excellence as a student at Robert F Hall CSS: “Alyssa has been a model student that I have had the pleasure of teaching in both Grade 9 and 11. She is dedicated to producing high quality work that always exceeds expectations. Her commitment to education is evident as she has earned a spot on the Honour Roll, with averages over 90% in both her intermediate years. She was also awarded the Grade 10 History subject award for earning the highest mark amongst her peers. She showed her leadership skills through participation in the Pack as well as the Athletic

Council last year with plans to join the Pack once again this year.”

Coach Hayde has had the unique opportunity to both teach and coach this week’s Student-Athlete of the week. What impresses the teacher-coach the most about the Grade 11 student is a combination of athleticism and a key cardinal virtue.

“Aside from her strong athletic ability, I’m impressed by Alyssa’s humility. She is always ready to learn and readily accepts suggestions for improvement. She vocalizes her thoughts in a kind, courteous way and ensures those around her feel valued and respected.”

A recent superb serving performance by Kowal was presented as Coach Hayde’s highlight from this volleyball season.

“Our last home game was played against Notre Dame on January 17, 2024. We were down a couple of points as the game neared its end. We got the ball back at 20-22 and it was Alyssa’s turn to serve. Every serve had power and placement making them difficult to return. Her next five serves brought the 2nd set to a close and finalized the game victory for the Wolfpack.”

Alyssa Kowal took time from her busy schedule of Semester 2 studies and prepping for the Spring Badminton and Volleyball seasons to answer our interview questions:

Caledon Citizen: What qualities did you demonstrate in your sports season to earn Student-Athlete of the Week honors?

Alyssa Kowal: “I believe I show qualities associated with leadership such as determination and perseverance which are important to show as a team Captain. As well as my positive mindset towards the sport, volleyball is a game of mistakes, once you make one you have to focus on how to reset yourself and work with your teammates to correct it.”

Caledon Citizen: What were your key statistics and performance moments from the 2023-24 season that you are most proud of?

Alyssa Kowal: “I’m very proud of our team’s performance this season with some great competition. Despite some tough losses, we continued to work hard and we bounced back earning us some well-deserved wins. In one of our games this season, we were down five points in the set, the other team was close to game point, I served five in a row and the team gained the five points we needed to win the match, super amazing comeback.”

Caledon Citizen: In addition to your high school sports team(s), what other community teams do you play for and at what level?

Alyssa Kowal: “In addition to playing school volleyball, I have played Club volleyball for the last four years for Georgetown Impact Volleyball Club with my team 17U Empire.”

Caledon Citizen: How would you describe yourself as a student at Robert F Hall? To which sports teams and clubs do you belong? Honour Roll?

Alyssa Kowal: “I would describe myself as a very determined student who understands the importance of hard work and prioritizing. I was awarded Player of the Year for Junior Girls Volleyball for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 seasons. I was also part of the Varsity Badminton team, slotted in the



ALYSSA KOWAL

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

highest division for the ROPSSAA Qualifiers and came third place. I have received Honour Roll awards for my academics in Grade 9 and Grade 10 as well as the award for the highest mark in Grade 10 Canadian History.”

Caledon Citizen: What are your post-secondary plans regarding prospective academic/athletic destinations?

Alyssa Kowal: “My plan is to attend university to study Commerce, or anything related to business. I would like to become an accountant/CPA as my future career. I also am hoping to gain attention from University volleyball coaches and play for a varsity team.”

Caledon Citizen: Who is your role model in terms of the person you admire the most?

Alyssa Kowal: “My role model is my Mom because of her consistent faith and support in me. Whether it’s about school, volleyball, or life, my Mom is always there for me. She works full time and has shown me the value of hard work, determination,

and courage through her life and career. She inspires me every day.”

Caledon Citizen: How do you feel about being nominated as The Caledon Citizen’s Student-Athlete of the Week?

Alyssa Kowal: “I am so very honored to be nominated as the Caledon Citizen’s Student-Athlete of the Week, I am still so surprised. Growing up in Caledon East, I have seen other athletes being recognized and never believed that one day it would be me. Thank you, I am grateful for this opportunity and the recognition that I have been given, all because of the sport I love to play with my team.”

If you would like to nominate a local student-athlete for The Caledon Citizen’s Student-Athlete of the Week, please contact Jim Stewart at jim@lpcmedia.com. It’s our pleasure as a community newspaper to promote the achievements of local student-athletes who contribute mightily to their school communities both in academics and athletics.



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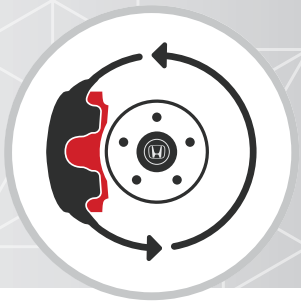
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OBITUARIES

**JACKSON, LORRIE ANN
ELIZABETH**

Peacefully surrounded by her loving family after a courageous battle on Wednesday, February 21st, 2024 at the age of 56. Beloved mother of Karley (Jade) and Victoria. Dear daughter of Clifford (Kippy) & Lorraine. Cherished grandmother of Dominic and Xander. Remembered by her brother Rodney (Stacey) and their children Adrian and Curtis. Predeceased by her sister Tammy (2001). Lovingly missed by her friend Cathy Rouse, who supported her until the end. Lorrie will also be greatly missed by other relatives and many friends.



Memorial visitation will be held at the *Dods & McNair Funeral Home, Chapel & Reception Centre*, 21 First St., Orangeville on Saturday, March 2nd, 2024 from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Memorial donations to CAMH or Hospice Dufferin would be appreciated by the family.

A tree will be planted in memory of Lorrie in the Dods & McNair Memorial Forest at the Island Lake Conservation Area, Orangeville. 22nd Annual Dedication Service will be held on Sunday, September 8, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. Condolences may be offered to the family at www.dodsandmcnair.com

**JOSEPH EDWARD BURTON
August 22, 1965 – February 22, 2024**

It is with heavy hearts and many tears, that we announce the passing of Joe, after a courageous battle with GBM.



Beloved husband of Adine. Proud father of Cody (Michelle) and Cade. Adoring grandfather of Chloe.

Joe was a dedicated associate at Honda of Canada Mfg for 35 years. He enjoyed trivia, the outdoors, listening to many genres of music, playing baseball and caring for his feline fur babies.

Joe will be missed by many family members and friends.

Many thanks to the care team and volunteers at Matthews House Hospice, who provided ongoing comfort, kindness and compassion for Joe.

To respect Joe's wishes, no services will be held.

In Joe's memory, donations to Matthews House Hospice would greatly be appreciated.

We love you, Joe! You are forever in our hearts and memories...❤️

OBITUARIES

BETTY WARD



Acknowledging a long, joyous and blessed life, Betty Ward died on Wednesday, February 21, 2024. A loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, daughter of the farm, teacher, faithful church member and community organizer. Born on the Thomas farmstead in Vaughan Township in 1933, she was married to the late Ginger for sixty years. Mother of Kent (Patricia), Lynn (Stephen), Paul (Alison). Grandmother of Dillon (Ali), Aaron (Sonia), Tim, Anna (Payton), Liam and Bailey. Great-grandmother of Dawson.

The family received their friends at the Egan Funeral Home, 203 Queen St. S. (Hwy. 50), Bolton (905-857-2213) on Tuesday, February 27 from 3 – 7 o'clock. Funeral Service was held in the chapel on Wednesday, February 28 at 11 o'clock. Interment Providence Cemetery. Donations to Caledon East United Church or the Caledon Trailway. Condolences for the family may be offered at www.EganFuneralHome.com



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Is buying a home on your mind? 4 things to think about.....2

A guide for first-time owners: Navigating property assessments and taxes2

How to improve the value of your home for the long-term3

3 reasons your home value matters3

Real Estate tips for seniors3

How to recognize when it's time to replace your windows4

5 tips for easy and complete spring cleaning.....4

2024 Mortgage rates and real estate outlook.....4

Design ideas that can create a peaceful feel6

Market Update.....6

It's not too early to buy.....7

What to know about replacing gutters7

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When you are buying or selling a home, having a realtor you can trust who can guide you through the entire process will make your experience less stressful and provide peace of mind knowing you have someone who can advise you through the entire transaction.

Cheryl Robb, sales representative with Royal LePage RCR Realty in Bolton, is a trusted realtor who has over thirty years of experience in the real estate industry.

In a business where word-of-mouth and a solid reputation for professionalism mean repeat clients, Cheryl is now helping second and sometimes third-generation of clients who seek her advice and knowledge based on successful relationships with their parents and grandparents.

While she is a sales rep, Cheryl says her real job is to be an advisor to those looking for a home. Her goal is to use her experience and knowledge of the real estate industry to help her clients achieve their goals and better their lives and the lives of their families.

"I really don't call myself a sales rep," Cheryl said. "I call myself an advisor. I don't feel like I'm in sales because I'm not going to sell you on anything – you know what you want. I'm here to assist and advise during this emotional rollercoaster."

With a working knowledge of the real estate market overall and an ability to listen to needs and wants but also realizing what can be accomplished when working within the parameters of the industry and the financial situation of an individual client.

Cheryl got her start in the industry working in the family business who had their own real estate business when she was still in high school. She learned the business from the ground up. She achieved her real estate license while also working on her university degree.

After deciding to give it a try, she realized she was a natural at dealing with people and enjoyed helping them achieve their goals.

"You can learn some things from the books, but they don't teach you how to treat people," Cheryl said. "It's not necessarily about what you do but rather about how you make people feel ...whether it be having an empathetic ear or the tough love reality of a situation this really is a people business"

...Everything from curb appeal to staging the inside of a home is necessary to make a good presentation...

As a lifelong Caledon resident, Cheryl has an intimate knowledge of the Town and the surrounding region. She knows the schools, the stores and shops, the amenities that are available, the parks, and the social clubs and recreation activities that are available.

When working with a client, this knowledge helps her to guide clients to a neighbourhood that meets their needs.

In a region that is largely rural, Cheryl is also knowledgeable of the nuances of country living, and what a potential owner must be aware of before purchasing a country property. This includes things like septic systems and wells, and property maintenance.

If you are selling your property, making a first impression is very important. Everything from curb appeal to staging the inside of a home is necessary to make a good presentation.

Cheryl can help guide you to making sure your home is ready and is presented in the best light for visitors.

Pursuing her career with a passion, Cheryl is noted for her success as a realtor and has earned many awards which places her in the top two per cent of Real Estate Professionals in Canada.

As an active member of the community, Cheryl believes in giving back and has been involved in many local charities and supports the Royal LePage Shelter Foundation.

Cheryl can be contacted through her website at: www.cherylrobb.com, via e-mail at cherylrobb@royallepage.ca, or by telephone at 416-805-1316.

– Written by Brian Lockhart

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Is buying a home on your mind?

4 things to think about

(NC) Becoming a homeowner can be exciting, but is it the best decision for your circumstances? Here are four steps to help you decide if homeownership is right for you:

1 CONSIDER WHAT YOU CAN AFFORD

According to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, your monthly housing costs should not be more than 39 per cent or so of your gross monthly income. These costs include your mortgage payments, property taxes and utility costs such as heating and cooling. Review your budget to assess whether you can realistically take on these extra costs.

2 GET PREAPPROVED FOR A MORTGAGE

Getting preapproved for a mortgage with your bank will tell you what amount you qualify for. It provides a benchmark you can compare with your budget. Keep in mind that the amount you are approved for doesn't necessarily fit in your budget.

Once you've done that, you can start looking for homes that are right for you and your finances. You can also use the Financial Consumer Agency of Canada's free mortgage qualifier tool to see if you can qualify for a mortgage to buy a home based on your income and expenses.

3 REMEMBER ALL THE OTHER COSTS

When you buy a home, you must pay for upfront costs in addition to your mortgage. Referred to as closing costs, these are one-time fees you pay to complete the sale. Examples include home inspection fees, legal fees, property tax adjustments and title insurance.

Be prepared to spend between one and a half and four per cent of the home's purchase price on these costs at the time you close on the home. And don't forget ongoing expenses such as maintenance costs and insurance.

4 EXPLORE GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS AND INCENTIVES

The Canadian government has home-buying programs and incentives. If you're eligible, these can help you purchase your home:

- **HOME BUYERS' PLAN:** You may withdraw up to \$35,000 from your registered retirement savings plan tax-free to buy your first home.

- **FIRST-TIME HOME BUYER INCENTIVE:** You may receive five or 10 per cent of your home's purchase price for a down payment.

- **HOME BUYERS' AMOUNT:** You may be eligible to receive a non-refundable tax credit of up to \$1,500.

- **GST/HST NEW HOUSING REBATES:** You may be eligible for a rebate for some of the tax you pay when buying your home.

Find more information to help you decide if buying a home is right for you at canada.ca/money.

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A GUIDE FOR FIRST-TIME OWNERS: Navigating property assessments and taxes

(NC) First-time home ownership is a significant milestone, and with it comes unique experiences, like navigating property assessment and taxes for the first time.

If you're unsure how your property assessment is determined and how it relates to your taxes, here is what you need to know:

Over 5.6 million properties across Ontario are assessed and classified by The Municipal Property Assessment Corporation, an independent, not-for-profit organization.

There are five key elements that affect your property's value:

- 1 **LOCATION:** The neighborhood where your home is situated significantly influences its market value. The desirability of the area often plays a crucial role in determining how much a buyer is willing to pay.

- 2 **LOT SIZE:** The area of your lot is calculated by multiplying the frontage by the depth. A larger lot size can positively impact your property's value.

- 3 **TOTAL SQUARE FOOTAGE OF LIVING AREA:** The exterior of your home is measured to determine the total area of the building. It's important to note that this measurement excludes areas like the basement, deck, porch or garage.

- 4 **BUILDING AGE:** Property value is adjusted to reflect renovations or additions, considering the actual condition of the house rather than its original construction year.

- 5 **CONSTRUCTION QUALITY:** The type of building materials used, and the quality of finishes also play a role in determining your property's assessed value.

Property data is collected through on-site inspections, digital imagery and information provided by property owners, including via questionnaires. This data helps inform property assessments which are used by municipalities to help calculate property taxes.

Understanding your property assessment will help you become better equipped to navigate the financial responsibilities of homeownership. Find out more at mpac.ca/valuematters.

www.newscanada.com





How to improve the value of your home for the long-term

(NC) For most of us, our home is by-far our biggest investment. So, if we're going to spend more money on it for renovations, we want to make sure they're wise expenses for the long-term. Here are four things to consider when planning your next reno.

UPGRADE THE KITCHEN

In most surveys of the best renovation projects for return on investment (ROI), kitchen renos usually top the list. It makes sense given how much time we spend in there cooking, eating and socializing. If it's in your budget, opening-up walls and adding a kitchen island are trendy options. But a fresh coat

of paint and some new handles on the drawers and cabinets are a low-cost way to refresh the most popular room in the house.

REFRESH THE BATHROOMS

Next on the list of best renos for ROI are bathrooms. Turning a dingy old bathroom with inefficient fixtures into a home-based spa will do wonders for your day-to-day life, and the home's resale value. Some investments, such as low-flow showerheads and faucets, and water-conserving toilets are both environmentally friendly and will help lower your utility bills. Others, such as adding heated floors will have your feet thanking you for as long as you live there.

PREPARE TO AGE IN PLACE

As we start to get older and think about retirement living, most of us are planning to stay in our current homes – or, age in place. If you are planning on renovating some or all of the rooms in your house, there are some simple steps you can take to make it easier for you to stay there well into your golden years.

This includes adding extra lighting, widening doorways so a walker or wheelchair can fit through and having a barrier-free shower or bathtub.

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Learn more about radon, how to test for it and fix problematic levels at takeactiononradon.ca.

www.newscanada.com

3 reasons your home value matters

(NC) For many Ontarians, the place they call home is more than just a dwelling. It's an investment, a cornerstone of financial stability and often their single largest asset. It is also where they make memories with family and friends and connect with their community.

Whether you're buying a house soon, selling your current property, refinancing or renovating, it's important to understand the value of your home.

Here are three reasons why the assessed value of your home matters:

- 1 Navigating the housing market can be complicated but having access to accurate and reliable data can help you make informed decisions whether you're buying or selling a home, renewing a mortgage, renovating or even planning for retirement.
- 2 It can help you anticipate and budget for tax obligations since your property taxes are calculated based on assessed home values, at a tax rate based on what your municipality determines is needed to build and run a thriving community there.
- 3 It can provide insights into your local real estate market. These insights can impact potential decisions around buying, selling or investing in real estate.

The Municipal Property Assessment Corporation is responsible for assessing the value of every property in Ontario – that's more than 5.6 million properties across the province.

"Homeowners in Ontario want to know their home's assessed value and how it compares to others in their neighbourhood," says Carmelo Lipsi, the organization's vice president and chief operating officer. "We are committed to providing fair and transparent assessments so Ontarians can be empowered with accurate insights to make informed decisions and understand their local property market."

Find more information about property assessments at mpac.ca/valuematters.

www.newscanada.com



Real Estate tips for seniors

Real estate agents cater to a diverse range of age groups within their clientele.

From young families embarking on their homeownership journey to established families seeking a change in scenery, the real estate market encompasses a wide spectrum of buyers and sellers. Seniors, too, play a significant role in this landscape, whether they're downsizing to a smaller residence or transitioning to supportive living arrangements. However, seniors approaching the real estate process may require a different approach compared to those who are newer to the market. Here are some valuable **Real Estate Tips** For Seniors tailored to support them in their real estate endeavours:

1 DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:

Crafting a well-thought-out plan helps to alleviate uncertainties and provides a clear roadmap for achieving objectives. This plan should outline a realistic timeline and outline the necessary steps toward reaching desired outcomes. Flexibility is key, as timelines can be adjusted to accommodate individual circumstances.

2 VIEWING PROPERTY AS AN INVESTMENT:

Selling a long-term residence can evoke emotional attachments, making the decision challenging. By viewing the sale from an investment perspective, seniors may find it easier to navigate. Emphasize the importance of selling the property for the optimal price within a reasonable timeframe, minimizing inconvenience.

3 ENGAGE A SENIOR REAL ESTATE SPECIALIST PROFESSIONAL:

Not all real estate agents possess the expertise needed to assist senior clients effectively. Seek out a sales representative with the Senior Real Estate Specialist SRES designation. They specialize in working with elderly sellers, as they can anticipate and address potential issues specific to this demographic. This specialized support can streamline the selling process and minimize disruptions.

4 STRATEGIC PRICING:

For seniors seeking a swift turnaround, listing the property at a competitive price is paramount. Balancing the desire for maximum returns with the need for a quick sale requires careful pricing strategies. Partnering with a knowledgeable real estate professional can aid in determining the optimal listing price.

5 DECLUTTERING:

Before showcasing the property to potential buyers, thorough decluttering and cleaning are essential. Enlist the help of family members to remove excess furniture and personal belongings. There are companies that can help with this task as well. Consider redistributing or selling items, as an accumulation of belongings can detract from the property's appeal.

6 PRIORITIZE REPAIRS:

Addressing any necessary repairs upfront can prevent delays during negotiations and enhance the property's value. Conducting a preliminary home inspection can identify areas requiring attention, ensuring a smoother selling process.

7 ARRANGING MOVING ASSISTANCE:

As the sale progresses towards completion, make arrangements for packing and moving. Whether relying on support from family and friends or hiring a reputable moving company, ensure that adequate assistance is in place for a seamless transition.

Navigating the complexities of real estate, particularly for seniors, can be daunting but implementing the 7 Real Estate Tips for Seniors may make the process more manageable. By leveraging the expertise of qualified professionals and implementing strategic planning, the process becomes more manageable, ultimately leading to successful outcomes. Please feel free to reach out to our team's **Senior Real Estate Specialist** to help *Get You On The Move!*

– Written by Sheila Mullins



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5 tips for easy and complete spring cleaning

(NC) Spring cleaning can feel like your big chance to get your living space under control and this can be a source of stress for many of us. Here are some tips for a quick, complete clean.

PLAN YOUR APPROACH

It's not going to get done if you don't make time for it, simple as that. Think about what you need to tackle, and when you'll do each thing. Whether you go room by room or start with one task in every room, set a date (or a series of dates) to get it done.

DO AN INVENTORY

Once you've set aside the time, don't be sidetracked by a lack of cleaning supplies or tools. Include a moment in your schedule to check your stash of rags, stock up on cleaning products and make sure your vacuum is in good shape. Knowing you're prepared can be motivating too.

MAKE IT A PARTY

Whatever keeps you entertained while doing boring tasks, embrace it – maybe throw on some tunes, or set friendly competitions with family members about who can do the most. Plan a reward for once you're done – think takeout, your favourite TV show or something else you enjoy.

PLAY IT SMART

It's about time to toss loose paper like junk mail and ancient receipts, right? Just be sure to shred anything with personal information like your name, social insurance number or address before you throw it in the recycling. Tossing intact pages gives thieves an easy way to amass the details they need to steal your identity. A shredding machine makes things more convenient, but you can always use scissors or rip it up if you don't have one.

DON'T FORGET DEVICES

Your digital life deserves as much of a clean as your physical space. Not only do you spend a lot of time on devices like your phone, tablet and laptop, but you also leave yourself open to identity theft and hacking if you neglect good security hygiene for them.

Offload unnecessary files or apps that sit unused, install anti-virus and anti-malware software and make sure your devices will automatically update. Also check on and strengthen your social media security and privacy settings.

Find more information about cleaning and securing your devices from BMO's Financial Crimes Unit at bmo.com/security.

www.newscanada.com

How to recognize when it's time to replace your windows

Windows are a major component of a home. Window installation professionals will tell homeowners that the average life span of residential windows is between 15 and 30 years. Most well-maintained products can last 20 years, so homeowners who have windows approaching that age may want to schedule a window assessment and possible replacement.

Replacing windows is a job that requires advanced skill, and this is not a do-it-yourself project. There are many qualified professional window installation companies that will work with homeowners to measure, order and install windows that will fit with the style of a home and local weather, all while providing features the homeowner desires.

For those wondering when to replace windows, Pella and Renewal by Andersen, two of the premiere window manufacturers, offer these guidelines.



DIFFICULTY OPENING AND CLOSING WINDOWS.

A window that does not operate as it should can aggravate homeowners. If windows are sticking shut or cannot be securely closed, it's probably time for something new.

THERE'S APPARENT WINDOW DAMAGE.

Accidents happen, and if a rock is kicked up from a lawnmower and cracks a window or if spring baseball practice has gone awry with an errant throw, windows may require replacement.

DRAFTS IN THE WINDOW ARE COMMON.

If heating and cooling systems are working overtime, drafty, poorly-insulated windows could be to blame. Various agencies can perform energy efficiency tests in a home. Windows that are determined to be the weak spots should be replaced.

DATED WINDOWS ARE PRESENT IN THE HOME.

Older windows may pose safety hazards, especially

those in older homes. A larger window may be needed to comply with fire safety codes allowing for window egress. Dated windows also may simply look "old" and compromise the aesthetics of a home.

OUTDOOR NOISES ARE NOTICED QUITE READILY.

Newer windows can help reduce noise transmission. So those leaf blowers, airplanes, barking dogs, and kids playing basketball up the street won't disturb homeowners as they try to enjoy some peace and quiet indoors.

FADING INDOORS IS NOTED.

Windows that do not feature low-emissivity (Low-E) glass coatings will not block UV rays. Those rays can cause fading to wood floors and furniture or pretty much anything the sunlight touches. Replacing existing windows with Low-E coating alternatives can safeguard belongings and improve window efficiency.

Window replacement may be necessary when existing windows are showing signs of aging or damage.



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2024 MORTGAGE RATES AND REAL ESTATE OUTLOOK

The year 2024 has been a whirlwind of fluctuating fixed mortgage rates, keeping both buyers and lenders on their toes.

The initial months saw a dip in bond yields in Canada, leading to reduced longer-term rates. Some products and select mortgage lenders even offered rates as low as 4.99% for a five-year term. However, this trend has taken a turn, with banks now making slight increases in response to rising yields. The roller coaster ride of mortgage rates is expected to continue throughout the year, although recent yield surges have provided some relief.

Inflation reports in Canada have been a mixed bag, but January brought positive numbers. If the Bank of Canada sticks to its strategy, there may be a potential drop in variable rates if the BOC decides to lower prime rates in the upcoming

months. The most optimistic scenario could see rates decreasing by early summer, benefiting those with variable-rate mortgages.

2024 is anticipated to show an improvement in real estate sales figures compared to 2023. The housing market still holds a strong demand, with an increase in listings and Canadians adapting well to the current mortgage rates, leading to a warming market. Although housing starts have declined, this trend is expected to reverse by the end of the year.

In conclusion, investing in real estate remains a sound decision regardless of the market fluctuations. Real estate investment continues to be one of the most reliable ways to build wealth and secure a retirement portfolio. Remember, your home is your greatest asset - seize the opportunities that the real estate market presents.

– Provided by Dwight Trafford





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\$1,299,900





IN THE HILLS OF MONO

Beautiful rolling 10 acre property, just 6 km from town and fronting on paved road. Secluded from road for privacy, is this solid 3+1 bedroom, 2 bathroom raised bungalow style home with attached garage and brick exterior. Enjoy spacious living/dining area, an updated kitchen with walkout to rear deck, main floor laundry. The finished basement features recreation room with propane fireplace, cold cellar, 4 bedroom/office, convenient mudroom and walkout to yard. Plus detached workshop/barn with hydro/water, spring fed pond, open meadows and mature forest.

\$599,900





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Attention first time Buyers and anyone ready to move into a well presented, semi-detached home in the heart of Shelburne. This home features a modernized interior including refinished hardwood floors, updated kitchen with walkout to side yard, 3 spacious bedrooms and full bathroom. Lower level has a bright & spacious recreation room and dedicated laundry/utility room plus lots of storage space. Enjoy time outside with a 30' x 119' with garden shed and short walk to downtown shops.

Having trouble keeping pace with the ever changing real estate market?

Let us help you decide what works best for your buying & selling needs – Call us today



Design ideas that can create a peaceful feel

Homes are often characterized as sanctuaries for their residents. A calm place to come home to after a busy day at work or school is often just what people need to unwind.

Certain design components can help individuals turn their homes into relaxing respites from the daily grind. With that goal in mind, individuals can consider these ideas to create a peaceful feel inside their homes.

PAINT WITH NEUTRAL COLOURS

Wall colours can define the mood in a given room, and neutral colours have long been linked to a calming effect. Subtle shades like beige, taupe and light gray are known to create a relaxed vibe in a room, so these colours can be a go-to choice. Some people consider neutral colours a tad boring, so individuals concerned by that impression can limit neutral colours to rooms designated as sanctuaries, like a reading room, a spa bathroom or a bedroom.

EMPLOY NATURAL LIGHT

Natural light also can help to establish a serene setting at home. Large windows that let daylight in can improve anyone's mood. A 2022 study from researchers at the University of Chile in Santiago found that the more natural light that entered a home, the happier people said they felt. Study authors even noted that the largest uptick in well-being was found among participants who lived in homes in which windows covered

at least 40 percent of the dwelling's wall space. Opening blinds or curtains and, if possible, installing larger windows in a home can help to establish the relaxing, happy vibe individuals are aiming for.

UTILIZE PLANTS TO SET A PEACEFUL TONE

The United Kingdom-based Royal Horticultural Society notes that research has found that indoor plants can benefit psychological well-being. The RHS notes that improved mood and reduced stress levels are two benefits that indoor plants can provide. A good mood and less stress can help individuals establish the peaceful feel they're aiming for at home.

KEEP DEVICES OUT OF BEDROOMS

Watching television while lying in bed, scanning a smartphone before turning off a nightstand light and retiring for the night, or reading an e-reader instead of a print book at night can transform a bedroom from a serene setting into one that's overrun with stimuli. According to the Sleep Foundation, technology stimulates the mind, which can make it harder to fall asleep. In addition, blue light emitted by devices disrupts the natural production of melatonin, a hormone that makes it easier to fall asleep. That can negate any efforts individuals have undertaken to make their bedrooms as peaceful as possible. Designate bedrooms in the house as technology-free zones to ensure the peaceful vibe continues uninterrupted until everyone goes to bed.

A peaceful home makes for the perfect respite at the end of a busy day. Various design choices can help individuals establish a serene vibe throughout their homes.

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MARKET UPDATE

Orangeville Statistics - January			
	January 2024	January 2023	% Change
# of Active Listings	51	42	21.43%
# of Homes Listed	48	36	33.33%
# of Sales	28	21	33.33%
List Price vs. Sale Price Ratio	97%	96%	1.04%
Average Days on Market	45	39	15.38%
Average Sale Price	\$764,821	\$830,577	-7.92%

Buyers Market vs. Sellers Market

Current Number of Homes for Sale	51
Divided by Sales per Month	28
Months of Inventory	1.8

There are currently 1.8 months of inventory on the Market in Orangeville. In a Buyers Market, there is normally more than 6 months worth of inventory.

January 2024 vs. January 2023

The number of active listings in Orangeville increased by 21.43% in January 2024 vs. January 2023. 12 more listing came on the Toronto Regional Real Estate Board in January 2024 vs. January 2023, "which is an increase of 33.33%. The number of homes sold increased by 7 homes or 33.33%. The average days on the market increased from 39 days to 45 days. Average sale prices were down by 7.92%.

Peel - Caledon Statistics - January			
	January 2024	January 2023	% Change
# of Active Listings	180	201	-10.45%
# of Homes Listed	124	135	-8.15%
# of Sales	58	28	107.14%
List Price vs. Sale Price Ratio	98%	96%	2.08%
Average Days on Market	30	31	-3.23%
Average Sale Price	\$1,159,912	\$1,581,571	-26.66%

Buyers Market vs. Sellers Market

Current Number of Homes for Sale	180
Divided by Sales per Month	58
Months of Inventory	3.1

There is currently 3.1 months of inventory on the Market in Caledon. In a Buyers Market, there is normally more than 6 months worth of inventory.

January 2024 vs. January 2023

The number of active listings in Caledon decreased by 10.45% in January 2024 over the same month in 2023. The number of listings that came on the Toronto Regional Real Estate Board in January 2024 vs. January 2023 decreased by 11 homes or 8.15%. The number of homes sold increased by 30 homes or 107.14%. The average days on the market decreased from 31 days to 30 days. Average sale prices were down by 26.66%.

Simcoe - New Tecumseth Statistics - January			
	January 2024	January 2023	% Change
# of Active Listings	89	105	-15.24%
# of Homes Listed	67	77	-12.99%
# of Sales	45	35	28.57%
List Price vs. Sale Price Ratio	97%	97%	0.00%
Average Days on Market	57	29	96.55%
Average Sale Price	\$795,683	\$800,668	-0.62%

Buyers Market vs. Sellers Market

Current Number of Homes for Sale	89
Divided by Sales per Month	45
Months of Inventory	2.0

There is currently 2 months of inventory on the Market in New Tecumseth. In a Buyers Market, there is normally more than 6 months worth of inventory.

January 2024 vs. January 2023

The number of active listings in New Tecumseth decreased from 105 to 89 homes or 15.24% in January 2023 over the same month in 2023. The number of listings that came on the Toronto Regional Real Estate Board decreased from 77 to 67 or 12.99% in January 2024 vs. January 2023. The number of homes sold increased by 10 homes or 28.57%. The average days on the market increased from 29 to 57 days or 96.55%. Average sale prices were down by 0.62%.

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AREAS WE SERVE

Members of the Orangeville & District Real Estate primarily serve, but are not limited to, the following areas: all of Dufferin County which is comprised of the rural townships of Amaranth, East Garafraxa, East Luther, Melancthon, Mono, and Mulmur as well as the communities of Grand Valley, Orangeville and Shelburne. The members also serve the Township of Adjala, the Town of Caledon and the Township of Erin.



Dufferin Real Estate Market Update

Dufferin Statistics (excluding Orangeville) - January			
	January 2024	January 2023	% Change
# of Active Listings	157	147	6.80%
# of Sales	19	11	72.73%
Average Sale Price	\$994,205	\$1,062,455	-6.42%

Buyers Market vs. Sellers Market

Current Number of Homes for Sale	157
Divided by Sales per Month	19
Months of Inventory	8.3

There is currently 8.3 months of inventory on the Market in Dufferin (excluding Orangeville). In a Buyers Market, there is normally more than 6 months worth of inventory.

January 2024 vs. January 2023
The number of active listings in Dufferin (excluding Orangeville) increased by 6.80% in January 2024 over the same month in 2023. The number of homes sold increased by 8 homes or 72.73% in January 2024. Average sale prices decreased by 6.42%.

It's not too early to buy

As the spring market approaches, many potential home buyers have a tendency to wait until the weather changes before getting serious about looking for a home.

While warmer weather may start getting people outdoors, it doesn't necessarily mean better opportunities when it comes to finding the right home at the right price. Currently, the market in Orangeville and Dufferin County is seeing robust activity with good inventory levels. Sales are up 27 per cent compared to this time last year. The market is returning to a 'more normal' market as seen previous to the buying and selling frenzy that took place during the pandemic. Housing prices have dropped in the region making for a more attractive market for many potential buyers. Current interest rates are the result of several increases in the rate over the past year. This increase caused many people to reconsider getting into the market while causing concern among some homeowners who borrowed heavily at a lower rate and have mortgage renewals coming up within the next couple of years. While interest rates are a concern to anyone borrowing money, that shouldn't stop you from borrowing if the timing is right and it can work in your favour. Experts are predicting that the Bank of Canada may lower the rates this year. It is not known for sure when, or if this will happen, but a lower rate is generally considered a likely scenario now that inflation rates have begun to stabilize.

Because of this speculation, many potential home buyers are waiting to see what happens over the coming months, especially heading into summer. However, waiting and hoping the rate will drop will present other challenges. It is not guaranteed that rates will drop. Currently, that is only speculation. If a potential buyer does wait for the rates to drop before getting serious about buying there is an inherent problem that goes along with this. That is, many other potential buyers will be doing the same. This means more competition when looking for a home. As more people try to take advantage of the lower rate, there will be more people looking at the house you are interested in. This could translate into another situation where more than one buyer is bidding on a house, and you could end up paying more than if you had decided to buy earlier when there was less competition. Housing prices have dropped over that past year to a more realistic level than they were during the pandemic days. This means there are some homes on the market within reach of many potential buyers who have done their homework and have their finances in order. It may be possible to buy a home at the current interest rate with a better price and lower mortgage rate than if you wait for rates to go down and prices to increase once the summer arrives. In the current market the old adage about being the 'early bird' just might be the right move for some potential buyers who take advantage of current housing prices at the current interest rate. There's never really a bad time to invest in real estate, and sometimes it is better to take advantage of a current opportunity rather than wait for something else to happen.

Written by Brian Lockhart



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

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



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Certain home renovation projects are more glamorous than others. A remodelled kitchen is sure to garner its share of "oohs and aahs," while a newly paved driveway is much less likely to dazzle guests.

A gutter replacement is another job that might not have the wow factor. However, fully functioning gutters are a must and can help to prevent potentially expensive roof damage. Gutters rarely draw attention, but homeowners can keep an eye out for signs that indicate gutters need to be replaced.

SIGNS GUTTERS SHOULD BE REPLACED
Various signs indicate it's time to replace existing gutters. Homeowners should act promptly if any of the following signs arise, as poorly functioning gutters can make it hard for water to get into the downspouts, ultimately pushing it backward and likely underneath roof shingles, where the result can be costly water damage.

- Peeling paint
- Cracks
- Pooling water in the gutter
- Mildew in the gutter, which can sometimes be seen even from the ground
- Water damage: Water damage on the gutter can be limited to certain spots and will be noticeable on the underside of the gutter
- Soffit damage
- Sagging gutters
- Detached gutters, which can be detached from other pieces or the house
- Rust

WHO SHOULD REPLACE GUTTERS?
Many home improvements can be completed successfully by skilled do-it-yourselfers, but a gutter replacement is best left to the professionals. Homeowners who live in single-story homes may be able to replace gutters on their own, but the issues that can arise when gutters are not functioning at optimal capacity make this a job best suited to professionals, even in residences without high roofs.

Some gutters may be under a manufacturer's warranty, so homeowners can check to see if their gutters qualify for a free upgrade. Experience is one of the best reasons to work with a professional gutter installation team. Experienced professionals can identify which gutters are the best fit based on a host of factors, including the pitch of the roof, local conditions and the size of the house. In addition, gutter installation requires the use of various tools that many DIYers may not have on hand, which can cut into the cost savings of doing the project yourself.

Homeowners also should not underestimate the challenges of working on ladders that are high up off the ground. Professionals are accustomed to such challenges, while DIYers may not be comfortable or used to climbing ladders with materials and tools in hand.

A gutter replacement is a worthwhile investment that can ensure rainwater efficiently and effectively runs through gutters and away from the roof. Leaving this task to the professionals can ensure the job is done right.



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