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FREE Thursday, March 13, 2025 Volume 45, Issue 10



Pictured are members of Humberview Secondary School's Alpha Dogs robotics team — the team is currently ranked first in Canada and fifth world-wide. MAHMOUD SAROUJI PHOTOGRAPHY

## Humberview's robotics team goes undefeated at first tournament of the year

BY ZACHARY ROMAN  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Caledon is home to the country's best high school robotics team.

After a commanding 17-0 performance at a recent robotics tournament in Newmarket, Humberview Secondary School's Alpha Dogs robotics team is ranked first in Canada and fifth worldwide.

The undefeated record was good for the

tournament win and the tournament's quality award for best robot build.

For those who aren't aware of the Alpha Dogs and the tournaments they compete in, here's a quick summary:

The Alpha Dogs are a FIRST robotics team — FIRST is a global non-profit dedicated to inspiring students to pursue careers in STEM. On the first Saturday of every January, FIRST robotics teams around the world are given a challenge. They then have eight weeks to design and build a robot that

will be able to meet this challenge and be better and faster at it than other robots in competition.

Students are responsible for all aspects of the robot, from designing it to machining parts to programming it for operation.

Becky Krauter, a teacher at Humberview, and one of the Alpha Dogs' coaches, explained this year's Alpha Dogs team is made up of 50 students, 22 per cent of whom are female.

Continued on Page 11

## Caledon students see success with book drive

BY ZACHARY ROMAN  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Two Caledon students have organized a book drive to share the joy of reading with students in Cape Coast, Ghana.

Kendra Addo and Allyson Fritsche are Grade 11 students at Robert F. Hall Catholic Secondary School and since February 15, they have been running the "Read On, Pass On" book drive they launched.



Kendra Addo and Allyson Fritsche, students from Robert F. Hall Catholic Secondary School, are currently running a book drive to collect books and educational materials for students in Cape Coast, Ghana. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Continued on Page 6

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# Close 2 Home Caledon Local women start new non-profit to provide housing for individuals with diverse needs

Housing options for those with diverse needs are very limited in Caledon

BY ZACHARY ROMAN  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

With a goal of providing housing for individuals with diverse needs, three Caledon women have started a new non-profit.

Liana Cancian, Elena Rosati, and Blanca Polanco are the founders of Close 2 Home Caledon.

Cancian said there's currently no place in Caledon for individuals with higher needs to live once they have aged out of high school.

"Myself, I am a mother of a special needs girl... there's always that million-dollar question, what is she going to do after?" said Cancian. "She lives beautifully with us, but we need to start planning today, planting that seed for the future."

She explained there's currently a wait list of about 15 years for housing through the Province, and a lack of funding to help families find their own housing options.

Cancian said many parents, who are get-

ting older, live with the fear of wondering where their children will go when they can no longer take care of them.

Even if somewhere can be found, it's often far from the Caledon community. Rosati was able to find a place for her son, who is in his 20s, but it's in Paris, ON. She has to drive two hours just to have lunch with him.

"The frustrations are real," said Cancian. "If other towns can have housing options, why can't Caledon?"

This core mission is what united Cancian, Rosati and Polanco and led them to start Close 2 Home Caledon.

"The initiative is to raise funds so one day we can provide a house that is close to home where people with diverse needs can live in their own community where they are known, loved and respected," said Cancian.

Close 2 Home Caledon is currently building its Board of Directors and advisory council and looking for volunteers. It's also looking for partners and investors.

"We're still in the early stages but we continue to work hard and believe this can happen," said Cancian.

The non-profit is currently working on a website, and they can be found on Instagram for those looking to get in touch.



Liana Cancian, Elena Rosati, and Blanca Polanco are the founders of the new non-profit Close 2 Home Caledon.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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## Commemorative cookbook being sold to raise money for International Plowing Match & Rural Expo

BY ZACHARY ROMAN  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Those looking for farm-to-table recipes can find them in a new cookbook out now.

Ahead of this year's International Plowing Match & Rural Expo (IPM), a commemorative cookbook is being sold to raise funds.

The cookbook is called "From our Farm to Your Table" and features a carefully-curated selection of appetizers, salads, main dishes and more contributed by community members, farmers, and IPM volunteers and supporters. Each recipe proudly lists its contributor's name.

The IPM is one of the largest agricultural events of its kind in Canada and draws thousands of visitors each year to celebrate farming, rural living and innovation. It's hosted in a different community each year and this year it

will be held in Niagara Region.

The IPM features plowing competitions, vendors, educational exhibits, entertainment and more.

Organizing the IPM comes at a significant cost so each year local and provincial organizers fundraise to offset these costs. Community cookbooks have been a popular part of fundraising efforts and have become a time-honoured tradition.

The cookbook costs \$20 and can be purchased at the following locations: Devries Fruit Farm, 825 Canboro Road, Fenwick; Lowden's Feed Supplies, 7269 RR #20, Smithville (cash only); and Lincoln Line Orchards, 9764 RR #20, Smithville.

Proceeds from sales of the cookbook will go directly to supporting IPM 2025. For more information on the event and fundraising efforts, interested parties can visit [www.plowingmatch.org/ipm2025](http://www.plowingmatch.org/ipm2025).

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# Caledon Meals on Wheels launches multigenerational story-writing program

Youth volunteers will connect with adults 55+ to capture and write their life stories

BY ZACHARY ROMAN  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Different generations will be connected through an interesting new program run by a Caledon non-profit.

Caledon Meals on Wheels (CMOW) is launching "Bridging the Gap", a multigenerational story-writing program.

The nine-week program will connect youth volunteers aged 14 to 18 with older adults (55+) for the purpose of capturing the adults' life stories.

Each older adult in the program will be paired with two youth volunteers, and through a series of guided weekly sessions, the youth will listen, ask questions, and write the older adult's life story. At the end of the program, the story will be transformed into a professionally-published book. Each older adult will get a copy of their book, which will become a

lasting keepsake for themselves and their families.

CMOW Bridging Generations Coordinator Sara Abdi said the program is a unique and valuable experience for high school students looking to earn volunteer hours. She said it will help students build their interviewing, storytelling and communication skills, all of which will help in their future academic and professional endeavours.

"This project not only preserves personal histories but also fosters deep and meaningful intergenerational connections," said Abdi.

The program is set to run from mid-April to early June and will require a time commitment of 90 minutes per week. It will run Thursdays or Fridays after school (4 or 4:30 p.m.) at the Albion Bolton branch of the Caledon Public Library. The final timing of the program will be decided based on majority preference once volunteer and older adult spots are filled.

Registration for the program for volunteers and older adults is now open, and spaces are limited.

Anyone looking to register or learn more can contact Abdi by phone at 905-857-7651 extension 130 or email at sara.abdi@cmow.org.

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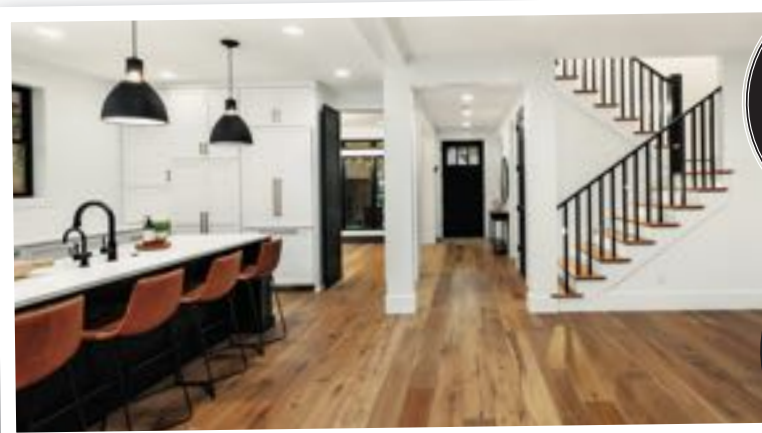
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### SPOOFING SCAM WARNING

Ontario residents continue to receive deceptive phone calls designed to mislead them into sharing personal information or making fraudulent payments.

"Callers use spoofing technology to manipulate caller ID information, making it appear as though a local number, business or government agency is calling," say Police. "The goal is to create a false sense of trust and pressure the recipient into responding. Many of these calls rely on Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) technology, which allows individuals to make calls over the Internet while disguising their real phone numbers."

#### Common Caller ID Spoofing Tactics

- Neighbouring - The caller ID is altered to match the first six digits of the recipient's phone number, making it seem like a local call;
- Mirroring - The recipient's own phone number appears on the caller ID to encourage them to answer;
- Impersonation - The caller ID is changed to appear as a trusted organization, such

as a financial institution, police service or government agency.

#### How to Protect Yourself

- Don't trust caller ID - Numbers can be manipulated to appear legitimate;
- Let unknown calls go to voicemail - If it's important, the caller will leave a message;
- Never provide personal or financial information. Legitimate businesses and government agencies will not ask for sensitive details over the phone;
- Hang up and verify - If unsure, contact the organization directly using a phone number from its official website;
- Report suspicious calls - Contact the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501 or report online via the Fraud Reporting System at [www.services.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/chooser-eng.html?ipeReferrer=CAFCFRS](http://www.services.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/chooser-eng.html?ipeReferrer=CAFCFRS).

For more information on fraud prevention, visit [opp.ca](http://opp.ca) and [sfo.opp.ca](http://sfo.opp.ca).

If you suspect fraudulent activity or have been a victim of fraud, report it immediately to your local police and the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501 or online via the Fraud Reporting System.

### IMPAIRED CHARGES

Officers from the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have charged a driver with impaired operation following a traffic complaint.

"On March 6, 2025, shortly after 11:00 p.m., Caledon OPP responded to a traffic complaint," say Police. "The officers located the vehicle in the community of Southfields Village. During the interaction, grounds were formed that the driver's ability to operate a motor vehicle was impaired by alcohol and was subsequently arrested."

As a result of the investigation, Kiran Singh, 22, of Caledon, was charged with:

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

The accused are scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on March 27, 2025, to answer to the charge. The charge has not been proven.

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 and/or drugs, call 9-1-1. You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at <https://peelcrimestoppers.ca>. When you contact Crime Stoppers, you stay anonymous, and you never have to testify.

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

### ADDITIONAL SCAMS IDENTIFIED FOR FRAUD PREVENTION MONTH

The Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is issuing a warning to residents about ongoing fraudulent activities in Dufferin County. Fraudulent schemes are becoming more prevalent, and it is important to remain vigilant. If you suspect you have been a victim of fraud, please contact the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501 or the Ontario Provincial Police at 1-888-310-1122.

Here are some common fraud types currently circulating in the area:

#### Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) Scams/Fraud:

The caller claims to be a CRA agent; You may be told that you have outstanding balances or owe taxes from previous years, or that there is an issue with your social insurance number; The caller will request your personal information and may threaten arrest if you don't comply immediately.

diately.

#### Bank Scams/Fraud:

The caller pretends to be a bank official; You may be asked to help with a local bank investigation; The caller will request that you withdraw money from your personal account to assist in the so-called investigation; The caller may ask to meet in a private location to obtain the cash.

#### Emergency Scams/Fraud:

The caller impersonates a loved one claiming to be in an emergency; The caller may pose as a police officer or lawyer representing your loved one and urgently requests financial help.

#### Romance Scams/Fraud:

Suspects use social media or dating platforms to create fake profiles and establish quick, emotional connections; They work hard to gain your trust, ultimately asking for money with broken promises in return.

#### Contractor Scams/Fraud:

The contractor requests large deposits upfront and may promise the world while refusing to pull the necessary permits; The contractor may claim that additional funds are required to start or complete the job; The contractor may offer "great deals" on leftover materials from another job, pressuring you to pay more.

#### Residence Location Scams/Fraud:

The scammer may contact you with photos of your residence, stating that they know where you live and can see your property; This tactic is designed to intimidate and manipulate you into responding or taking action; Important: Do not click on any links in unsolicited emails or messages, especially if you are not 100% certain that they are legitimate.

Residents are urged to be cautious and skeptical of unsolicited calls, messages, or requests for money. Always verify the legitimacy of any individual or company before making financial commitments.

For more information or to report suspicious activity, please contact the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre or the Ontario Provincial Police.

"Members of the Dufferin OPP are committed to public safety, delivering proactive and innovative policing in partnership with our communities. Officers value your contribution to building safe communities."

If you suspect someone is driving while under the influence of drugs or alcohol call 9-1-1. If you have information about suspected unlawful activity, please contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers to remain anonymous at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or [www.crimestoppersdm.com](http://www.crimestoppersdm.com).

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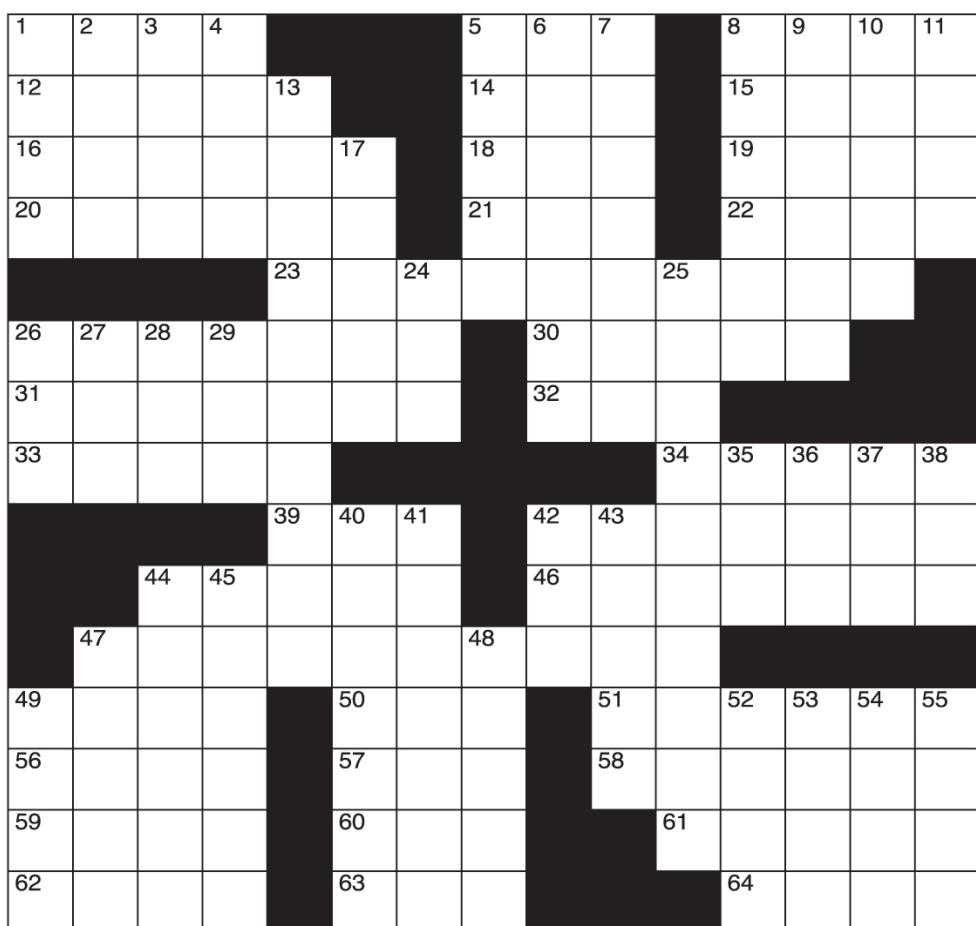
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## The Citizen CROSSWORD



#### CLUES ACROSS

1. Unsheared sheep
5. Rock TV channel
8. Streetcar
12. Concerning
14. Expression of recognition
15. Greek goddess of youth
16. An iPad is one
18. Adult beverage
19. Manning and Wallach are two
20. Makes a petty verbal attack
21. Tyrion Lannister's nickname
22. Pointed ends of pens
23. Wristwatches
26. Body part
30. Made a mistake
31. Adjusted
32. Turkish honorific title
33. Yell
34. Historic Alabama city

39. Cub

42. Type of sea bass dish
44. To call (archaic)
46. Unfortunate
47. Separate oneself from others
49. Hero sandwiches
50. Former OSS
51. Open spaces in a forest
56. Innermost brain membranes
57. Fortune
58. Hunting expedition
59. Doomed queen
60. Peyton's little brother
61. Type of wrap
62. Scottish tax
63. Soviet Socialist Republic
64. An increase in price or value

#### CLUES DOWN

1. Works of body art
2. Abba \_\_, Israeli

3. A desert in Asia
4. Eat greedily
5. Doomed French queen
6. Beat
7. One who survives on blood
8. As a consequence
9. Counted on
10. Acquired Brain Injury Behavior Science
11. Unclean
13. One who does not drink
17. Wild ox of the Malay Archipelago
24. \_\_ student, learns healing
25. Bacterial skin infection
26. Expresses surprise
27. What one says on a wedding day
28. Crony
29. Where you entered the world (abbr.)
35. Unit of length
36. Side that is sheltered from the wind
37. More (Spanish)
38. Autonomic nervous system
40. Violent troublemakers, originally in Paris
41. Statements that something is untrue
42. Greek alphabet letter
43. Suspends from above
44. Popular types of cigars
45. Girls
47. U.S. philosopher and logician
48. Nocturnal hoofed animal
49. Relaxing spaces
52. From a distance
53. Form of Persian
54. Amounts of time
55. Trigonometric function

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



PHOTO BY ZACHARY ROMAN

## James Bolton Public School students collect over 500 boxes of cereal for food bank

Students and staff set up the boxes for epic domino display before donating them

BY ZACHARY ROMAN  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Bolton elementary students are learning the true meaning of kindness.

Students at James Bolton Public School recently collected and donated over 500 boxes of food to The Exchange, Caledon's food bank run by Caledon Community Services.

Before donating the cereal, the school community had great fun with the boxes they collected.

On March 6, they set up all the boxes like dominoes around the school. The train of

boxes went all around the school and even upstairs. All the school's students came out of their classes to watch the awesome dominoes display. Then, the boxes were packed up for donation.

Caledon's Peel District School Board trustee Stan Cameron noted the school only has around 365 students, making the total number of boxes collected even more impressive.

"It's quite a gift to see children and families donating to those with less than they have... giving for the love of giving," said Cameron.

Jeremy Taylor, principal at James Bolton Public School, said teaching students about the value of kindness is incredibly important to him.

"Kindness will take people a long way in society... if they're good people, the world is going to be a better place," said Taylor. "We've thought of ways we can infuse kindness into everything we do as a school."

## Bolton Family Dental Centre celebrates 25 years

Bolton Family Dental Centre recently celebrated its 25th anniversary with a well-attended party at the Albion Bolton Community Centre. Dr. Rosanna Porretta, her dedicated staff, and patients of the practice all joined in the night of food, music, fun, socializing, and prizes.

PHOTOS BY ZACHARY ROMAN



### PUBLIC NOTICE



## RESCHEDULED: Notice of the Intention to Amend User Fee By-law 2024-106

### 2025 USER FEES – UPDATES

The amendments to the User Fee By-law previously scheduled for consideration at the Planning and Development Committee meeting on **Tuesday, March 18, 2025**, has been rescheduled for **Tuesday, April 15, 2025 at 2:30p.m.** in the Council Chambers located at the 6311 Old Church Road, Caledon East, ON. The Committee will consider amendments to various schedules of User Fee By-law 2024-106, as amended, including:

- Schedule B - Building Services
- Schedule D – Planning
- Schedule G – Legal, Clerks & Provincial Offences Administration
- Schedule L - Engineering

Meeting agenda information, including a copy of the related report, will be available for review on the Town's website prior to the meeting.

Anyone interested in addressing Committee of Council on this matter may file a written submission, or request to delegate in person or remotely at the meeting, by emailing the Clerk's Office at [agenda@caledon.ca](mailto:agenda@caledon.ca) by April 14, 2025.

In the event Committee chooses to refer or defer consideration of this matter, no further public notice will be given.

Dated at the Town of Caledon, March 13, 2025.

Robert Cummings, Commissioner, Finance  
Chief Financial Officer  
TOWN OF CALEDON  
6311 Old Church Road  
Caledon East, Ontario, L7C 1J6



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# 60 EARTH HOUR

## Community Event

The Town of Caledon and ecoCaledon invite you to be part of our Earth Hour Community Event!

**DATE:** Saturday, March 22, 2025

**LOCATION:** Caledon East Community Complex

**TIME:** 6 – 10 p.m.

Join us for an evening packed with exciting and educational activities:

- Family-Friendly Fun & Activities
- Sustainable Vendor Showcase
- Pledge for the Planet
- Eco-Friendly Giveaways & Prizes
- Free Treats & Refreshments

Can't attend in person?

You can still participate! Turn off all non-essential lights from 8:30 – 9:30 p.m. to show your support for Earth Hour.

Let's come together to make a difference—one hour, one action at a time.



For more information visit [caledon.ca/environment](http://caledon.ca/environment)

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## La Casa di Riposo: Local author Glenn Carley publishing new book

Carley's latest work is an honest, inspired look at caring for aging loved ones

BY ZACHARY ROMAN  
 LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Glenn Carley's latest book, "La Casa di Riposo: The House of Rest", gives readers an honest look at what it's like caring for an aging loved one with dementia.

La Casa di Riposo is a novella-in-verse filled with inspiration from Carley's own life. It's been in the works for many years; it evolved from stream-of-consciousness writing done after each visit with his father-in-law before his death.

"La Casa is a story of making a life and finding love where it was least expected to exist... and this is the resilience of all of us," said Carley.

La Casa di Riposo, as a setting, can be viewed as a universal "long-term care" place, but Carley notes it too can be seen as the house of the heart.

Carley is a Bolton-based author who's published a number of books for both children and adults; The Citizen has previously profiled his children's book: The One About Stella: A Little Fish.

Inside his home studio, Carley writes with intentionality and draws inspiration from music. He writes with the primary goal of sharing his art with the world.

"For every book I've done, I'll have a muse that's a musician," said Carley. "It



Bolton author Glenn Carley's latest book, "La Casa di Riposo: The House of Rest" will be available for purchase through Rock's Mills Press in the coming weeks.

PHOTO BY ZACHARY ROMAN

just makes me feel creative."

For La Casa di Riposo, Carley enlisted his nephew Michael Angelo Molinaro – a photographer – for the cover art. He said he loves Molinaro's work and the fact he can showcase it through his book.

La Casa di Riposo's main character is an old farmer who has to go into a long-term care facility.

"He doesn't know what's going to happen, he doesn't want to go... we have to try to find out how to get him safe," said Carley. "We go with him and we're frightened... but you have to find a way."

Carley said his book can bring up intense feelings, especially for someone who has gone through something similar in their life. But that can be said to be the point. He said finishing and

publishing the book has been a therapeutic experience.

"It's written very rawly... it's not pretty to write some of this stuff," said Carley.

Despite the hardships in the book, Carley notes it's still ultimately about "unity and love and making friends that have similar experiences."

La Casa di Riposo is being published through Rock's Mills Press and will be available shortly

## 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** is a non-profit group. We meet weekly on Wed. evenings in the basement of Bolton United Church. Weigh-in is from 6:00-6:30PM, followed by a meeting. 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. Your first meeting is free. Annual fee including a starter kit is \$70 USD. Monthly chapter dues are \$15.00 CAD. Come join us! For more information, visit [www.tops.org](http://www.tops.org) or call Marion at 905-857-5191.

**Saturday, March 15, 2025 - St. Patrick's Day Lunch & Euchre Tourn.**  
 The Caledon Seniors Centre at Rotary Place in Bolton  
 Menu: Corned Beef, Cabbage, Mashed Potatoes, Green Pistachio Dessert  
 Costs: Lunch & Tourn - \$20, Lunch Only-\$16, Tourn. Only - \$15  
 Check-in starts at 11:30 AM  
 Lunch p/U: 11:30 am  
 Lunch Dine-in served at 12:00 pm  
 Tournament Play Starts @ 1:00 pm  
 Pre-registration required by Thurs. March 13. Call the Centre at 905-951-6114 to purchase your tickets.

**Tuesday, March 18, 2025 - Men's Lunch**  
 The Caledon Seniors Centre at Rotary Place in Bolton will be having their Men's Lunch on Tuesday, March 18 at 11:00 am. Dr. Joe Niedoba will be presenting Senior Men's Health.  
 Learn about: determinants of health; diet, exercise and so much more; your prostate & you – all you want to know.  
 Lunch menu is panini sandwiches, salad and fruit crisp. Cost is \$11.  
 Call the Centre at 905-951-6114 to register by Friday, March 14 at 3:30 pm.

**Wed. March 19, 2025 - Special Lunch**  
 The Caledon Seniors Centre at Rotary Place in Bolton will be having their Special Lunch on Wed., March 19.  
 Menu: Shepherd's Pie, Broccoli, Bun, Carrot

**Cake**  
 Cost: \$11  
 P/U: 11:30 am  
 Dine-in served at 12:00 pm  
 Local delivery available for \$2  
 Pre-registration required by Mon. March 18. Call the Centre at 905-951-6114 to register.

**Friday, March 28, 2025 - Monthly Dinner**  
 The Caledon Seniors Centre at Rotary Place in Bolton will be hosting their Monthly Dinner on Friday, March 28.  
 Menu: Guinness Stew, Mashed Potatoes, Cabbage, Bun, Guinness Chocolate Cake for dessert  
 Cost: \$16  
 P/U: 5:15 pm  
 Dine-in served at 5:30 pm  
 Local delivery available for \$2

Pre-registration required by Wed. March 26. Call the Centre at 905-951-6114 to purchase your tickets.

**Friday, April 4, 2025 - Spring Birdhouse Paint Night**  
 The Caledon Seniors Centre at Rotary Place in Bolton will be having a Spring Birdhouse Paint Night on Friday, April 4 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm.  
 We will be painting spring designs on hand made, wooden birdhouses.  
 Tickets are \$30 which includes hors d'oeuvres, wine and cheese, birdhouses and paints.  
 Limited space available. Tickets must be purchased in advance.  
 Call the Centre at 905-951-6114 to purchase your tickets.

**Saturday, April 5, 2025 - Income Tax Clinic**  
 The Caledon Seniors Centre will be hosting a free Income Tax Clinic on Saturday, April 5, 2025 from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm. Qualifications are as follows: Single income up to \$45,000, Couple income up to \$55,000 and 3-Person Income up to \$57,500. This will be by appointment only. Call the Centre at 905-951-6114 to book your time.

## Kendra Addo and Allyson Fritsche collecting books for students in Ghana

Continued from FRONT

Addo and Fritsche are aiming to collect 1,400 new or gently-used books and educational materials for Calvary Hillcrest Schools and Cape Coast University Practice Senior High School in Cape Coast.

Fritsche said she and Addo are avid readers who believe in the transformative power of reading, and wanted to share that passion and its positive impacts with students in Ghana.

Addo explained the origins of the book drive.

"It started as a simple idea to give books to my grandmother, Charlotte, who was visiting from Ghana, for my cousins' school libraries," said Addo. "We were amazed by the overwhelming support from our fellow students and the wider community, which led us to create the 'Read On Pass On' drive."

Addo and Fritsche have received support for their book drive from their principal, Diana Speranza, teachers at Robert F. Hall, and the Southfields Village branch of the Caledon Public Library.

Anyone interested in donating books or textbooks, suitable for primary and high school students, can do so at Robert F. Hall Catholic Secondary School (6500 Old Church Road, Caledon East) until March 26.

Addo and Fritsche are also looking for support from a company in the freight and shipping business to assist with the transportation of donated books.

Addo and Fritsche encourage all to join in making a difference in the lives of students in Ghana.

"Every book donated is an investment in their future," they said.

# BED AND BREAKFAST

by Mark Crawford  
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# Inglewood Schoolhouse Performers presents new show written by Caledon resident Barb Jensen



Overburdened housemaid and massage therapist Carmen (Jennifer Hamilton) berates Alfonso owner Leonardo (Dan O'Reilly) for the schedule she to work under, as well as the hotel's overall conditions.

INGLEWOOD SCHOOLHOUSE PERFORMERS PHOTO

## "There's Nothing to Tell... (If It All Goes Well) is a two-act comedy

BY ZACHARY ROMAN  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

A local theatre group's upcoming production is written by a Caledon resident.

The Inglewood Schoolhouse Performers will soon perform Barb Jensen's "There's Nothing to Tell... (If It All Goes Well)" at the Inglewood Community Theatre (15673 McLaughlin Road).

The play is a two-act comedy about

the adventures – and misadventures – of guests and staff at the Alfonso, an old-world Spanish hotel that's former grandeur is beginning to fade.

Jensen is a retired teacher who taught at Meadowvale Village Public School, Credit View Public School, Herb Campbell Public School, and Southfields Village Public School.

During her time as a teacher, she wrote numerous musicals and plays for students. "There's Nothing to Tell... (If It All Goes Well)" is her debut play for adult performers.

Jensen has been a part of other successful Inglewood Schoolhouse Performers productions, including last year's production of "RSVP".

Inspirations for Jensen's play include

the traveler's spirit, embracing the unexpected, and maintaining a positive attitude in the face of challenges.

The showtimes for "There's Nothing to Tell... (If It All Goes Well)" are as follows: 8 p.m. on Saturday, March 29; 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 30; 8 p.m. on Saturday, April 5; 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 6; and 8 p.m. on Friday, April 11 and Saturday, April 12.

Tickets to the show are \$25 each and can be purchased online at [inglewoodperformers.com](http://inglewoodperformers.com) or by emailing [inglewoodperformers@hotmail.com](mailto:inglewoodperformers@hotmail.com).

They are also available at Lost Bear Market (15660 McLaughlin Road) and Riverdale Fitness Mill (104 Maple Avenue).

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# Springing forward into the future

It's that time of year again!

No, not tax season – although, in fairness, if you haven't begun the process just yet, it might be a good time to start – but the season of springing forward.

We all have something of a love-hate relationship with the seasonal time change. I think we can agree that the time change, whether you're springing forward or falling back, is invariably a pain in the butt, what with not only re-setting all the clocks in one's life that don't do so automatically, but also in re-setting one's internal clock, which can be a longer process for some of us than others.

With the time shifts in either direction come the annual calls for the archaic process to be abandoned – personally, I am yet to hear a compelling reason for keeping it in place that is relevant in our present timeline – but springing forward has far less detractors than those who come out in the late fall to call for change or otherwise vent their spleens.

I get it, though. On the one hand, in falling back, we are all susceptible to feeling the proverbial walls close in as our daylight hours dwindle. But, on the other hand, falling back gives us, in theory, a borrowed extra hour to play with, whether spend it wisely on accomplishing something on a to-do list or getting an extra dose of worthwhile sleep.

Springing forward, again in theory, presents far fewer challenges.

While we might begrudge having to pay back that bonus hour of autumnal slumber, the trade-off that comes with the longer day-time hours is well worth it, as far as I'm concerned. Being able to leave the office at 6 p.m. in anything other than complete darkness is a unique luxury at this time of year and, if you will pardon the pun, never fails to make me have an extra spring in my step.

Aside from the usual hemming and hawing over the semi-annual time change, the switch-over is rarely remarkable in the grand scheme of things. Yet, this past weekend, it brought us one hour closer to having an idea of what our future might look like amid a sea of uncertainty.

Members of the Liberal Party of Canada met in Ottawa over the weekend to choose a new leader, one who is expected to become the country's next Prime Minister as early as this week.

Ultimate victor Mark Carney sealed the deal with a landslide victory over former cabinet minister Chrystia Freeland, House Leader Karina Gould, and former MP Frank Baylis. Carney's victory was all but certain going into Sunday's convention climax – the support he received from Liberals from coast to coast left barely a shadow of a doubt on what the outcome would be – but what surprised me was just how high his support was, with the present cabinet ministers each failing to crack more than four per cent of the vote.

It's one heck of a mandate from dyed-in-the-wool supporters for him to fall back on, but a mandate from the Canadian people writ large will make itself clear – or not – sometime this spring with the inevitable election we'll soon find ourselves in.

While I offer no personal report card on the performance of Justin Trudeau as his chapter as Prime Minister closes, it will be nice – again, in theory – to turn the page and start reasonably fresh.

While, of course, there have been healthy

and not-so-healthy debates across the country on Trudeau's policies and performance as a leader since he was first elected, so much criticism has come solely on the alleged basis of personality.

In the beginning there were comments about his hair and socks in an attempt to detract from substance. There were attacks on his previous career as a teacher, although I was never sure what message that was intended to send to our educators, apparently making that factor, in and of itself, one rendering him unfit for office.

As the pandemic rolled in, along with other challenges that came from beyond our borders, attacks trebled, with comments again focusing on the man rather than the party or the policy.

It was, to my eyes, indicative of something of an obsession on the part of his detractors, after all, I don't remember the same types and volumes of attacks being levelled at, say, Paul Martin against Stephen Harper and vice versa, or involving Jean Chretien vs. Preston Manning or Stockwell Day, wetsuit choices notwithstanding.

With a new leader in the offing, I was hoping that ads from the opposition would shift substantively towards policy and offering a vision for the future; but even before Carney's appointment – or, according to the opposition, his "coronation" – ads rolled out with the slogan, "He's just like Justin."

Enough already.

At a moment when we are facing unprecedented challenges from our neighbours, including the trade war we now find ourselves in the midst of, personality politics should be left by the wayside in favour of healthy national conversations about how we – and the parties vying to represent us on the world stage – should respond to said threats and, elsewhere, strengthen our country and our people to withstand whatever unpredictable threats that might come our way in the future. We have, thankfully, experienced an upswing in national unity in recent days against these very threats and our political conversation should reflect that seriousness, no matter what way you politically lean.

It's what we deserve, what we used to expect, and it's what we should expect from our leaders, our parties, and those who hope to represent their neighbours in Ottawa.

"In Canada, our elbows are up," said Chretien on Sunday. "We're working together to unite, to deal with this threat – the threat to our economy and our sovereignty. In other words, our very existence as a country. At the beginning of the week, tariffs became a reality and there will only be losers if you measure it in financial terms alone. But, for Canadians, it is more than that – it is more than money that is at stake here. We love our country and our independence. We love who we are because we're unique in the world."

Elections are always a time for conflict, but let's keep said conflict to an exchange of ideas and visions of how our country can address these threats and remain united in the process. Personality politics and attacks for the sake of attacks serve no one; we can't do with any more cracks in solidarity than the necessary ones that come with these exchanges.

It will take more than our fall "bonus hour" to repair the damage.



## Taking a look at our purpose in life

by Mark Pavilons



"Our prime purpose in this life is to help others. And if you can't help them, at least don't hurt them."  
– Dalai Lama

Wise words indeed. He's right, you know.

My oldest daughter, as an offshoot of her own spiritual journey, asked me to reflect on a series of questions to help me "heal."

"What do you think is your purpose in life, and how do you want to fulfill this purpose?"

Wow. We all have a *raison d'être* I suppose, but one's real, true purpose may be elusive. How do we know why we're here on earth? Some say there's a plan, it's just not revealed to us very often, if at all.

Many believe that all of our experiences and relationships are put in our path for a reason – a purpose – to help us learn.

And Joel Osteen noted that our fellow men and women won't reach their full potential without someone else believing in them.

In this piece, I've boiled down "purpose" to two main areas in our lives – work and family.

Do we set out in life to make a difference; evoke change; encourage discussion and an exchange of ideas? Are these even possible today?

When I was in college taking journalism, we did believe our efforts could change the world, along with spreading knowledge and information. I still believe that today.

The written word can be powerful, beautiful, even magical.

"The written word is the only anchor we have in life. How extraordinary would it be if we had even three or four paragraphs written honestly about their lives or our ancestors?" asked Randy Wayne White.

I don't know if that was my purpose from the outset. I always had a fondness for the written word, poetry and literature. To me, "spreading the word" through journalism is honest, genuine, even wholesome. It's grass roots; it's where we live.

Some have asked me over the years why I didn't head to the Big Smoke and land a job with one of the big daily papers. I did apply early in my career. But as time went on, I really appreciated the heart and soul of the community newspaper. Reporting on local events – recording history if you will – is important. It's what makes us who we are and it builds our sense of community.

What a shame it would be if we lost the local paper, the bastion of our "corner store" lives. We help breathe life into a community, filled with souls with common interests.

It's about sharing, shaping, documenting. Thanks to the internet, our local history can be filed forever, giving future generations much food for thought.

Is that my purpose, and the purpose of thousands of journalists across the country? Perhaps. Are we "born to procreate?"

Raising a family is never easy and it can be fraught with challenges, disagreements, and conflicts. I think what parents do is provide a loving, safe and comfortable environment for their offspring. They draw on their own knowledge and experiences and pass the vital components on to their children, arm-

ing them with a powerful arsenal to make it in this world.

Of course, you know what they say about "best laid plans?"

Now, whether pursuing a career in journalism and giving our kids the best head-start possible can be considered my "purpose," I really don't know. I sort of fell into both, and plowed ahead, yes, with a sense of purpose.

In all honesty, though, we humans kinda feel our way through the dark when it comes to life.

We're not total experts at either our jobs or our parental responsibilities. Our skills, in both areas, are honed through years of blood, sweat, tears and hard work.

In the end, we can only hope we are solid and comfortable in our roles. They say to become an "expert" at anything, you have to put in 10,000 hours (90 minutes a day for 20 years). Of course, that number has been picked apart as it all depends on the quality of those hours putting our skills to the test.

Regardless, if we raise our children through adulthood, almost all parents can say we're "experts," but few will admit they are. I'm still learning.

In this area of life, there are so many aspects, influences, changes, nuances and individual characteristics that make it virtually impossible to become an "expert parent."

Authors and parenting pros have a lot to say about raising children through certain stages, and at certain ages. They will also point out there are differences between first-borns, middle children, and last-borns. But back to purpose.

In a way, you can somewhat assume that humans were designed to procreate, to keep the species thriving. Through many previous generations, it was considered "the thing to do," no questions asked. Young men and women got married and raised families and worked to obtain the "glue" to keep families together.

Easier said than done, of course, especially through war and post-war years. Each generation is fraught with its unique interpretations.

In the last decade or so, many have sought the ideal "work-life" balance. The pandemic put us all to the test and expanded the parameters of the remote work model. Some loved it, others not so much.

While employers allowed leniency, the hammer has come down, particularly in government, to spend at least three to four days a week in the office.

I have always made it into the office for a number of reasons. It's pretty close to home and I find it more conducive to getting things done. At home there are too many distractions.

It's weird because even during my medical treatments for cancer, I still made it in. Somehow, I believe I would not be complete if I hadn't turned in at least a few hours of work per day in front of my office computer.

However, I will admit that these days, in contemplating mortality, I do understand that the minutiae of work doesn't really matter.

And it's a fact that we can all be replaced at work, but not at home.

They say home is where the heart is and that's where we really shine and make a difference.

Our purpose? Well, that remains to be seen. But counting our blessings and witnessing the growth and maturity of our offspring is certainly one for the books!

Dolly Parton advises us to "Find out who you are and do it on purpose."

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# Caledon Citizen

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## Hope. It's what makes us human.

Spring has me thinking there is hope after what has been a very, very, long winter. Looking out at the view from my window across a sea of snow, the sun shines so brightly I have to squint and there amongst the windswept dunes of white, I glimpse the tiniest hint of green. Well, not so much green as a dull, earthy greenish-brown, but still it's a patch of colour against the vast white backdrop. That alone is enough to remind me that hope really does, "spring eternal."

"Hope springs eternal" is, to my mind, the very essence of what it means to be human. The optimistic saying is defined as continuing to hope that something will happen (for the better) despite all odds indicating it is unlikely. This definition of hope, when viewed against a backdrop of relentless snow, and our current geo-political climate, aptly represents the difficulty of maintaining hope against what seems like insurmountable odds and yet, us humans maintain the unique capacity to do so.

I believe it is hope that defines us, not just in the sense that consciousness separates us from all other creatures on earth, but that in having hope, we don't just have the will to survive, but the absolute conviction that we will. Hope

isn't just that either. It's that we will also thrive. Against all odds, the sun rising in spring reminds us that seasons too shall pass, the snow will melt and hope for longer, brighter and better days ahead is renewed.

Hope is what gets us through the tough times and there have been some tough times lately. There may be yet more to come. Tariffs continue to loom and the "on again-off again" nature of their threat makes them all the more - well - threatening. But hope for a future that sees a resumption of diplomatic relations with, and amongst, world leaders, is what keeps us going.

Hope is faith that humanity (in general) will see the error of their ways and collectively come to their senses before any worldwide consequences arise from these current contentious and concerning times we find ourselves in. Hope is what sustains us as we here in Canada engage in democratic and free elections (even if we don't always agree on the outcomes), choosing governments that we hope and believe will make meaningful change; whether that's locally, provincially or nationally. It's hope that helps encourage and nurture a faith that other countries will do similarly, preventing a dangerous backward slide into autocracy, or worse.

### SHERALYN ROMAN TALK CALEDON



Hope is a group of women, coming together after an unimaginable tragedy, believing that their actions will finally have a direct impact on truck traffic, illegal trucking and on the carnage experienced on our roads. Maintaining a laser-focus on making our community a better, safer place to live, work and play, against what might seem to be insurmountable odds dealing with multiple layers of government, is the very definition of having hope, and the unshakeable conviction they will make a difference.

Hope is someone in New York, staring out their window during the early days of COVID, and deciding to start a facebook page called View from my Window. It was (and remains) an optimistic opportunity to see the world from the various perspectives of its many inhabitants, acknowledging our similarities and how we are all just people trying to make our way in this world. At a time when we couldn't travel, nor even leave our homes, we could travel the world simply by viewing what others saw when they looked out their own kitchen window. What has been really cool to witness over these last several years, is that diehard fans of the page have, in many cases, become friends with folks halfway around the world. Some are now meeting up

in person so they can see those same views in real life. Talk about hope when the world was looking pretty bleak indeed!

Hope is so many things. Hope is what gets us through a difficult diagnosis. Hope is a newborn baby and the belief they will inhabit a better world than we do. Hope is Team Canada defeating Team USA when we needed a morale boost more than ever, and hope is what we cling to (even as we hope we don't need to) that Canadians will stand up for our country in the face of apparent threats to our democracy and sovereignty. Hope is the sun shining brightly in spring, watching it illuminate the bare branches of a tree, knowing that soon buds will appear, green grass will grow and birds will sing their happy song. Hope is that Caledon may yet resume the mantle of "Greenest Town in Ontario," with the help of democratically elected officials doing all they can to preserve it. Hope. It's what makes us human.

## Fortress North America?

"Today the United States launched a trade war against Canada, their closest partner and ally, their closest friend," said Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on 4 March. "At the same time, they're talking about working positively with Russia. Appeasing Vladimir Putin, a lying, murderous dictator."

"Make that make sense."

All right, let's try to make sense of it, starting with the obvious fact that the trade war cannot be about what Donald Trump says it's about: forcing Canada to stop a flood of the drug fentanyl that he claims is coming across the border into the United States.

Trump needed some legal excuse to declare an emergency and ignore American obligations under the US-Mexico-Canada free trade agreement, but less than one-thousandth of the fentanyl entering the United States comes in across the Canadian border. Trump abuses everybody, but the particular way he abuses Trudeau is a giveaway.

He habitually addresses Prime Minister Trudeau as "Governor", the title given to the chief executive of one of America's fifty states - and he calls Canada "the 51st state." At first Canadians thought it was just another example of Trump's school-bully style banter, but gradu-

ally they realized that there was something sinister behind it.

"This is not a joke anymore," Canada's Foreign Minister Mélanie Joly said after Trump activated his threatened 25% tariff on Canadian exports to the US. She took his intention to annex Canada to the United States seriously, she said. She is quite right.

It's as bizarre as Britain annexing Ireland or Germany seizing Austria (both of which did happen in the Bad Old Days), but that's what the current US administration has in mind. For the moment, at least, it intends to do it non-violently, by crushing the Canadian economy in a trade war and picking up the pieces.

Justin Trudeau figured it out, and in his last week in office he felt free to say it out loud. He accused the US president of seeking to bring about "a total collapse of the Canadian economy, because that will make it easier to annex us. That is never going to happen. We will never be the 51st state."

Maybe, and maybe not. It's still Donald Trump at the helm, so any US government policy can be reversed overnight (and flip back again by week's end). For example, US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick said last Tuesday that Trump would probably announce

a deal to reduce the anti-Canada tariffs on the Wednesday. ("Reduce", not cancel)

You will know whether that is true or not by the time you read this, but it really doesn't matter. All the back and forth, the unkept promises and the sudden cancellations, are just standard Trumpian tactics to confuse the enemy - and the "enemy" is any country that doesn't fall in with Trump's plans. Well, maybe not exactly his plans.

Many people would say that Trump has whims, not actual plans, but some of the people around Trump certainly have plans that make an ugly kind of sense. It's the consolidation of the new American empire, in a world that suddenly starts to look like a cross between the late 19th century and Orwell's "1984."

There will be the spheres of influence of the three superpowers: Oceania (the Americas), run from Washington; Eurasia, run from Moscow; and Eastasia, run from Beijing - all perpetually or at least periodically at war with one another. South Asia and Africa will be disputed colonies or borderlands, and that's where most of the wars are actually fought.

I'm not saying that this is the inevitable or even the likely future. However, it is where the behaviour of the three would-be hegemon,

Trump, Putin and Xi, and their multifarious enablers, is leading us at the moment. (To be fair, Xi is less bellicose than the other two.)

Seen in this light, Trump's apparently random enthusiasms for taking over Canada, Greenland and Panama make a kind of sense. He just wants to nail down and fortify the (extended) boundaries of the Homeland. But wait a minute!

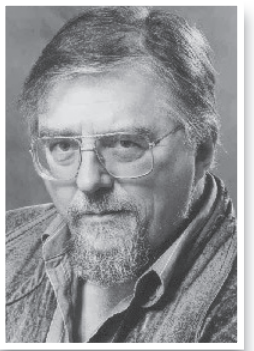
What about his plans to expel about two million Palestinians from Gaza and build Trump-town-on-the-Riviera on the ruins of their former homes? Maybe there is no grand plan at all - or at least none that makes sense to anybody beyond the "base?"

There is certainly a domestic strategy for re-making the United States as an authoritarian "illiberal" democracy on the Hungarian model. Trump is certainly okay with a "Christian" republic as well. (Shades of Gilead)

It's also enough to explain his attachment to Putin, even if the Russian dictator doesn't have anything on him. Birds of a feather, etc. But a coherent foreign strategy? Who knows?

I'm tired and my brain hurts. You have a go.

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The pennant-winning 2024 Bolton Braves (19-5-0) scored 211 runs in 24 regular season games. Three of their players won major NDBL awards on Sunday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Bolton Brewers' Chater, Sterritt, and Larmer win major awards at NDBL's Annual Awards Night

BY JIM STEWART

The convergence this weekend of daylight savings time, double-digit temperatures, sunny conditions, and maple sap running through blue lines strung across Central Ontario suggested that Spring is just around the corner. The North Dufferin Baseball League distilled the celebratory spirit of the emerging season by recognizing the outstanding accomplishments in 2024 at its Annual Awards presentation on Sunday at the Royal Canadian Legion in Lisle.

Two prodigious Brewer hitters—Brett Chater and Ben Sterritt—won multiple awards after catalyzing the high-octane Bolton offence last season.

The Brewers plated 211 runs in 24

games. Chater and Sterritt produced a significant portion of those runs, provided a 1-2 spark atop the batting order, and impelled the 19-5-0 Brewers to the NDBL pennant.

Chater was named the MVP of the Senior Division and led the circuit with 36 runs scored.

Bolton Brewers' Head Coach and Second Baseman Mike Wallace appraised the qualities of his veteran shortstop and lead-off hitter.

"Brett is one of the better ballplayers I have coached and played with. He earned the MVP award this past season. He was tremendous offensively and defensively. His great speed makes him a constant threat on the basepaths. He has that 'Die Hard' spirit as a competitor who demon-

strates great athleticism but Brett shows great respect towards the opposing team."

Sterritt was recognized as the Senior Division's Best Batter with a gaudy .548 average as well as the Best On-Base Percentage (.667). Coach Wallace appraised his young centerfielder's 2024 performance: "For a young ballplayer, he's light years ahead of others his age."

"Usually the younger players suffer a setback in their first season in Senior, but Ben's transition to the next level of baseball was a good one. He's calm and collected at the plate, I never saw him strike out on a bad pitch, and Ben has a good swing that generates contact."

Despite the stellar achievements of Chater and Sterritt, Sunday's ceremony belonged to Jack Larmer of the Barrie Junior Baycats.

Larmer, who also played a handful of Senior Division games with the Bolton Brewers in 2024, won four of the Junior Division's awards, including Most Valuable Player. Larmer compiled the best Batting Average (.556), best On-Base Percentage (.647), and most Home Runs (7) — the highest total slugged since 2006.

The hard-hitting corner infielder will begin his NDBL senior career on a full-time basis with Chater, Sterritt, and the Brewers in 2025 to create a triple threat at the top of Bolton's offense.

Coach Wallace discussed the top third of his batting lineup that will feature the 2024 Senior Division MVP, the 2024 Senior Batting Crown Winner, and the 2024 Junior Division MVP: "We're really fortunate to have the option of Chater, Sterritt, and Larmer hitting 1-2-3 for us for the upcoming season. Jack will be joining us full-time in 2025 after playing very well for us over the course of a few games last season."

In addition to Chater, Sterritt, and Larmer, the North Dufferin Baseball League recognized an array of players and teams in both the Senior and Junior divisions on Sunday night.

In the Senior Division, Bryan Post of

the 2024 champion Owen Sound Baycox won his second consecutive Home Run title with seven homers while his teammate Trevor Smith was named Best Pitcher.

Their coaches, the father-son duo of Don and Ryan Bartley, won the Coach of the Year award.

Brett Beardsall of the Orillia Majors was voted Best Catcher and the Most Sportsmanlike award went to Emerson Pendleton of the Mansfield Cubs.

Former NJCAA Genesee Community College Cougar Josh McBride of the Creemore Padres received the Best Pitcher award in the Junior Division and his teammate Anson Dupuis was voted the Most Sportsmanlike player.

A highlight of the event was the presentation of the prestigious President's Award to Pete Kinghan for his years of service and dedication to baseball in the NDBL. Kinghan's remarkable career includes coaching the Creemore Junior Braves, the Creemore Braves' senior team, and the New Lowell Knights.

Over the course of forty years, he has won seventeen league championships, three provincial titles, and served twenty-four years as league statistician with two stints as president in 2003 and 2014.

Kinghan is the eleventh person to receive such an award since it was created in 1984.

NDBL Past President Chris Fafalios amplified Kinghan's significant contributions to the league: "As a player and a coach, Jack's won an incredible number of championships. He's always coached so well—the right way always. He's a really good person, too. Jack's dedicated his life to the North Dufferin Baseball League."

After the awards, team representatives and the league's administrators planned the 2025 season. A 22-game schedule for the twelve Senior teams is in the process of approval. The Senior loop expanded to twelve teams over the Winter when the expansion Caledon Cardinals were welcomed into the NDBL.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Caledon residents to benefit from “Next Generation 9-1-1”

BY ZACHARY ROMAN  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

New technology is being used to improve the 9-1-1 system in Peel Region.

On March 5, the Town of Caledon announced it was joining in the launch of “Next Generation 9-1-1”, which is being launched across Peel.

“While the process for callers to connect with a 9-1-1 operator remains the same, the technology driving the system offers several improvements,” said Town Communications staff in a news release.

The technology in Next Generation 9-1-1 provides emergency operators with more accurate data to determine a caller’s location and phone number. It also provides more backup in case of a system failure and increased reliability and cyber security.

Another major upgrade in Next Generation 9-1-1 is an automatic abandoned call-back feature that eliminates the need for manual callbacks.

According to preliminary data from Peel Regional Police, Next Generation 911 has led to a 78 per cent decrease in 9-1-1 wait times in Peel. Since its implementation, 81 per cent of 9-1-1 calls were answered within 20 seconds, versus just 43 per cent in 2023. Over 75,000 calls have been processed by automated abandoned call-back.

Along with the implementation of Next Generation 9-1-1 comes a dedicated non-emergency public-facing number for the Joint Fire Communications Centre: 905-456-5724. This number can be used for non-emergency enquiries like complaints about fireworks or fire code violations.

Caledon’s Fire Chief Dave Pelayo said as Caledon grows, so does its need for emergency services.

“With our population projected to reach 300,000 by 2051, we are investing in the resources and cutting-edge technology to ensure our residents remain safe and have easy access to emergency services, should they need it,” said Pelayo.

## Team is currently ranked #1 in Canada and #5 worldwide

Continued from FRONT

There are a number of different sub-teams within the team: the design, programming, build, and business and media teams.

The team practices seven days a week, running its robot in the President’s Building at the Bolton Fairgrounds thanks to a partnership with the Albion Bolton Agricultural Society. The team has many part-

nerships in the community, such as with the Bolton and Palgrave Rotary clubs and many local businesses.

“We have lots of great sponsors; we’re sitting at about 35 sponsors right now... not only do we have new ones coming in every year, we have sponsors that have been with us for many, many years,” said Krauter.

Being a part of the Alpha Dogs makes a big impact on students. Krauter said

around 90 per cent of graduates who participate in the Alpha Dogs go on to STEM-based post-secondary education.

The Alpha Dogs must play in one more qualifying tournament to make it to the provincial championships, where they then hope to qualify for the FIRST Robotics world championships which will be held in Houston in April.

## Junior C hockey starts semi-final round across Ontario

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

Junior C hockey has moved into the semi-final round of division championships after completing the quarter-finals that knocked out half of the teams in the Provincial Junior Hockey League.

There are now 32 teams playing in eight divisions.

In the North Carruthers Division, four teams remain in the quest to claim the 2025 Division Championship.

The first-place Allison Hornets are up against the fourth-place Penetang Kings.

The Hornets eliminated the last-place Muskoka Bears in the quarter-final round in a series that went four games.

It wasn’t much of a contest. The Bears managed to win only 6 games all season and two of those games were from shoot-outs.

The Hornets out-scored the Bears 39-3 over that series.

The Kings won their quarter-final over

the Huntsville Otters in a series that went the full seven games and wrapped up with a 5-4 Penetang overtime win on March 5.

In the other Carruthers Division quarter-final, the second-place Orillia Terriers are up against the third-place Stayner Siskins.

Orillia eliminated the Midland Flyers in the quarter-final round in a four-game sweep that ended on March 1, with a 6-3 win in the final game.

The Siskins won their quarter-final series over the Innisfil Spartans in a contest that went five games and ended on March 3 with a 5-3 Stayner win on home ice.

In the semi-final round, the Hornets are leading Penetang 2-0.

The Alliston squad won Game One on Friday, March 7, leaving the ice with a 3-2 win.

They followed up with a 6-1 win in Game Two on Penetang home ice on Monday, March 10.

That series returned to Alliston on

Wednesday, March 12, with results not available at press time.

The Stayner versus Orillia series was tied 1-1 after the weekend.

Game Three of that series was scheduled for Wednesday, March 12 in Orillia with results not available at press time.

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**OBITUARIES**

**JAMES TOOKE RICHARDSON**  
MARCH 13, 1939 – MARCH 8, 2025

Jim passed away peacefully at his home on Goldgate Crescent, surrounded by his wife Anne, his sons and dear family friend Carroll.

Jim is survived by his wife of 60 years Anne (McKillop), his sons Mike, Greg (Meaghan), John (Alicia) and grandchildren Nicole, Jeremy and Thea. Predeceased by Grandson Adam, and fondly remembered by many other family and friends.

Jim's career was predominantly in construction, including sales and marketing, a field in which he was incredibly gifted.

Jim was passionately involved with Westminster United Church, serving on The Board and as Property Chair for many years. His community service extended to the Optimist Clubs of Orangeville and Caledon, Orangeville Cubs and coaching soccer. Jim was a strong supporter of Anne and her involvement with Orangeville Show Chorus, Sweet Adelines.

He was a loving husband, father and grandfather. He was a real gentleman and a warm human being with a great sense of humour...kind and caring and loved by everyone who knew him. Truly a life well lived.

Jim has been cremated, and a Celebration of Jim's Life will be held at Westminster United Church (247 Broadway, Orangeville, ON L9W 1K6) on Tuesday March 18, 2025 at 2:00 pm with Visitation starting at 12:00 pm. If you are unable to attend in person, a live stream will be available during the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to Westminster United Church, Canadian Cancer Society, Heart and Stroke Foundation or a charity of your choice would be appreciated by the family.

Online condolences can be made at [www.imfunerals.com](http://www.imfunerals.com)

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**OBITUARIES**

**CORPORAL (RETIRED) JOHN WALTER SIMMONDS**

Peacefully at home, in Bedford, Nova Scotia, on Friday, March 7th, 2025. John Simmonds, 78, loving husband of Linda Simmonds (MacEachern) of Bedford, NS.

Cherished father to James (Melanie) of Lewis Lake, NS and Daniel (Janina) of Sandford, NS. Loved by his two grandchildren, Charlotte and Lachlan, as well as Veronica Kelly and Matteo.

Dear brother of Gerald (Janice), George (Margaret, deceased), James (Wendy), and many other extended family members in Nova Scotia and Ontario.

There will be a Celebration of Life May 17th in Bedford for all those who knew and loved him.

A more detailed obituary and photo slideshow may be found on the website of JA Snow Funeral Home at [www.jasnowfuneralhome.com](http://www.jasnowfuneralhome.com)

In memory of John those who wish may make donations to Feed Nova Scotia, Hope for Wildlife and Team Rubicon Canada, or a charity of your choice.

A special thank you to all the medical staff involved in John's care.

**V. LUELLA THOMSON ED.D. (NEE ROSS)**  
FEBRUARY 9, 1934 – JANUARY 26, 2025

Family will receive friends for a celebration of Luella's life at the Dods & McNair Funeral Home, Chapel & Reception Centre, 21 First St. Orangeville on March 22, 2025 at 2:30 pm. Visitation will begin at 1:30 pm. Reception to follow. If you are able please RSVP on our site. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to an Art Gallery of your choice or to the Alzheimer's Society.

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**Ramadan Food Drive in Orangeville and Shelburne running all month long**

BY SAM ODROWSKI AND PAULA BROWN

Millions of Muslims are marking the Holy Month of Ramadan worldwide, and locally, a follower of Islam is looking to give back to the community.

This year, Ramadan runs from February 28 to March 29, and local resident Tricia Celik is organizing a donation drive for the Orangeville Food Bank and Shelburne Food Bank, encouraging halal and vegan items.

"I'm trying to build bridges in the community and have a face within the Muslim community at the food bank," said Celik of why she's organizing the food drive, which she's done since 2023.

"It shows support within the community that we're all here together."

She added, "There's been an increase every year since we've been doing this, with Muslims accessing it."

Heather Hayes, Executive Director of the Orangeville Food Bank said the demographics of individuals accessing the food bank has changed dramatically in the last few years.

"With the changing demographic, we started noticing that individuals accessing the food bank had different food needs than we had seen before," said Hayes. "We've worked to ensure we have halal food in the freezer at all times, that we have fresh fruits and vegetables because in certain cultures it's more common to make food from scratch. It's really important to make sure we have the right food so that people can stay healthy and engaged in their communities."

Celik said she's encouraging donations of perishable and non-perishable items, as the Orangeville Food Bank has refrigerated storage for products like milk, eggs and meat.

While Celik's encourages halal, vegan-friendly items to ensure food-insecure Muslims can eat in accordance with their faith over Ramadan, donations of any kind are appreciated by the Orangeville Food Bank and Shelburne Food Bank.

Some of the most needed food items at the local food bank's include dried lentils, canned pasta, cooking oils, dried beans, canned fruit, apple sauce,

snack sized items, canned tomatoes and canned meats.

The not-for-profit organizations have seen a steady increase in the number of people accessing food over the last several years.

When Hayes first started in the role in 2015, there were just 380 monthly visitors. Last month, the food bank served 1,402 different people.

The Shelburne Food Bank has reported a more than 600 per cent increase in the number of clients they see on a monthly basis since 2017, when they served 41 families in the community. They now serve roughly 250 families.

Celik said she's encouraging donations of quality items that people would enjoy for the Ramadan Food Drive.

"Give as you would like to receive yourself," she noted.

Celik said her goal with the drive is to bring the community together for a good cause.

"I'm trying to lift people's spirits. If they're walking [into the food bank] at Christmas time, they're going to be used to seeing Christmas stuff all around. So maybe there's a new Muslim that's going to come here [during Ramadan] and feel welcome," said Celik of her Ramadan display at the Orangeville Food Bank.

"It builds bridges, raises awareness, and people might feel more comfortable if they see a Muslim to ask some questions or learn a little bit."

Donations can be brought directly to the Orangeville Food Bank at 3 Commerce Rd or at donation boxes located at Orangeville Town Hall (87 Broadway) and Alder Recreation Centre (275 Alder Street).

A Ramadan table has also been set up at the Orangeville Food Bank by Celik, dawnng decorations, balloons, colouring pages for kids, and donations geared towards Muslims.

Donations for the Shelburne Food Bank can be dropped off at the No Frills (101 2nd Line, RR 1) and Foodland (824 Ojibway Rd.) in Shelburne as well as the Dufferin Muslim Centre (506195 Highway 89, Unit 1)

Any inquiries about donations can be directed to Celik by email at [theplace2biswithmrs.c@outlook.com](mailto:theplace2biswithmrs.c@outlook.com).

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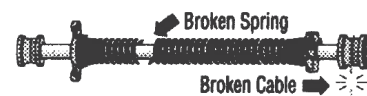


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