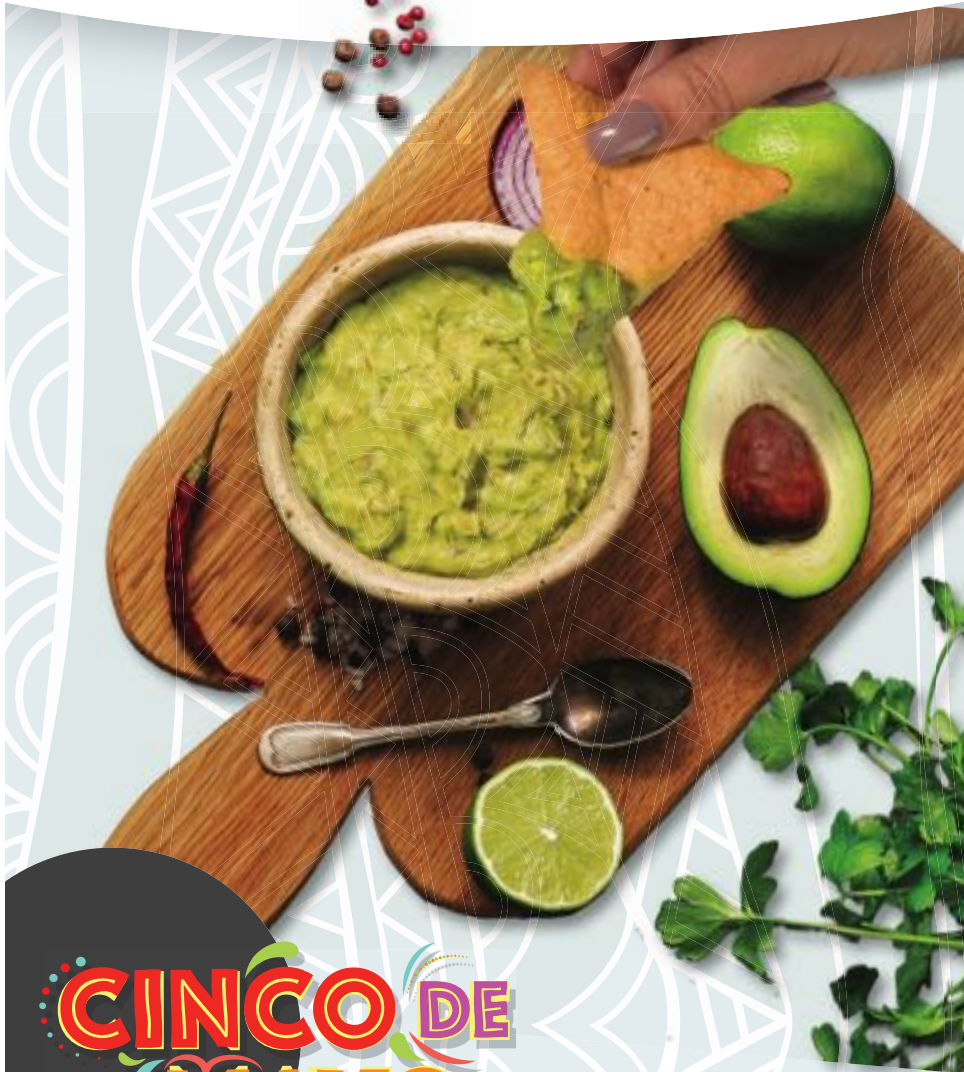


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FREE Thursday, May 2, 2024 Volume 44, Issue 19



Premier Doug Ford was in Caledon on April 30 to announce that his government plans to start construction of Highway 413 in 2025. PROVINCE OF ONTARIO IMAGE

Premier Ford announces construction of Highway 413 to begin in 2025

Critics say announcement is just "bluster"

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Highway 413 is going to be built, according to Premier Doug Ford.

Ford made the announcement at an April 30 press conference in Caledon.

"I'm thrilled to announce that construction on this highway will begin in 2025," said Ford. "We're already starting field work and land acquisition that will help make sure we get shovels in the ground on time."

The Premier said in mid-May, the Province will host a market sounding event with "key private sector experts" to discuss ways to move construction of the highway forward quickly and

efficiently.

Ford was joined at the press conference by David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development, and Vijay Thanigasalam, Associate Minister of Transportation. Also at the announcement were Brampton Mayor Patrick Brown, Region of Peel Chair Nando Iannicca, and representatives from numerous labour groups and industry associations.

Continued on Page A11

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Mayor puts fast-tracked zoning bylaws on hold after significant public backlash

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Many Caledon residents were not happy with a recent decision, made using Strong Mayor powers, to advance zoning bylaws for 12 development applications that would bring 35,000 housing units to Caledon.

Residents made their voices and concerns heard at an April 17 citizens' forum (held by newly-formed volunteer group Democracy Caledon) and April 25 public meeting (held by the Town of Caledon) on the zoning bylaws for the 12 development applications.

The mayoral decision residents took issue with was issued by Groves on March 26.

There were around 150 people at the citizens' forum, and even more at the April 25 public meeting, which had well over 30 delegates.

Continued on Page A3

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Peel to submit comments to Province on Bill 185

Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act has many implications for Region of Peel

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Region of Peel will see many impacts from the Province's Bill 185, the "Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act".

In a staff report submitted to Regional Council at its April 25 meeting, staff said through Bill 185, Peel's planning responsibilities under the Planning Act will be transferred to its lower tier municipalities and the Province by July 1.

"As the date for implementation has now been identified, staff are working with Regional Council, the Transition Board and local municipalities to finalize the implementation plan in the coming weeks," reads the report.

Bill 185 will also give Peel's lower tier municipalities the ability to pass bylaws providing for the allocation of water supply and sewage capacity to support developments approved under the Planning Act.

Introduced on April 10, Bill 185 proposes a wide variety of amendments to existing legislation in Ontario, according to the staff report. Among them are changes to the Hazel McCallion Act that confirm the Region of Peel will not be dissolved.

Among other changes, the Development Charges Act is being changed through Bill 185 to restore studies, such as development charge background studies, as eligible development charge (DC) costs.

"In general, many of the changes to the DC Act appear positive for municipalities by reversing some changes originally introduced in Bill 23, which limited the ability of municipalities to collect DC revenue," reads the staff report. "While the DC Act amendments in Bill 185 do make some progress towards restoring municipalities' ability to fund growth-related infrastructure, they do fall short of making municipalities financially 'whole'."

In their report, Region of Peel staff asked Regional Council for approval to provide their comments on Bill 185's impacts to the Province. Councillors provided unanimous consent for this.

Bill 185 was referred to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs on April 17. As of April 25, the committee had not met to consider the bill.

Alton Mill Arts Centre hosting spring open house



The Alton Mill Arts Centre is hosting a spring open house on May 4 and 5.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Open house will take place on May 4 and 5

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Caledon residents are invited to celebrate spring and the arts at an upcoming event.

From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on May 4 and 5, the Alton Mill Arts Centre is hosting its spring open house.

Bri Wilson, the Centre's Marketing Manager, explained this year's theme is "Spring Rejuvenation".

"Alton Mill Arts Centre invites you to join us... for a weekend filled with artistic exploration, hands-on workshops, and celebrations of springtime and Mother's

Day," said Wilson. "Experience a day filled with creativity and inspiration as you explore our open studios, meet working artists, peruse galleries, and immerse yourself in the rich history of our heritage site."

There's a number of different workshops taking place during the course of the open house weekend.

On May 4, guests can learn how to create their own teacup beeswax candle. There will be an assortment of teacups available to choose from, or guests can bring their own. No registration is required for this workshop, which costs \$20 to \$30 depending on the cup one chooses.

Also on May 4, attendees of the open house can learn how to use wool fabric to make a bunch

of lavender flowers. They can be used as a table decoration, and participants can take their flowers home in a vintage milk glass vase. Pre-registration is required for this workshop, and it can be done online at altonmill.ca.

On May 5, guests can get artsy while doing something good for the environment. That day, there will be a workshop where attendees can learn how to turn their unwanted garments into a beautiful rug. Pre-registration is also required for this workshop, and it can be done online at altonmill.ca.

All weekend at the open house, there will be special children's art programming, where kids will learn to make a beautiful Mother's Day gift.

CJ Shelton, an artist-in-residence at the Alton Mill Arts Centre, will be doing tarot card readings from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on May 4. Readings are \$30 for 15 minutes.

Gallery Gemma, which is in the centre, will host a "Pearl Roundtable" on May 4 and 5. Those interested in attending can reach out to Gallery Gemma at 519-938-8386 or info@gallerygemma.com.

A special community project will take place on May 4 and 5, as the Alton Mill Arts Centre looks to implement a pollinator garden — using a canoe.

On the Saturday, help is needed moving stones for the base. On Sunday, people will work together to plant the garden full of plant species pollinators love.

"Join us for this celebration of art, creativity, and springtime," said Wilson. "Admission is free, and all are welcome to join in the festivities."

Those looking for more information about the open house can email Wilson at bri@altonmill.ca.

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Residents packed Town Hall on April 25 for public meeting lasting almost seven hours



Mayor Annette Groves spoke at a recent meeting of the new community organization Democracy Caledon.. PHOTO BY ZACHARY ROMAN

Continued from FRONT

Caledon's Town Hall was packed past capacity, and the meeting didn't finish until nearly 2 a.m. — it lasted around seven hours.

Groves said there were nearly 200 people at the public meeting, while Democracy Caledon volunteer Nicola Ross said there were 350.

"The Council chamber was filled, the atrium was filled, the cafeteria was filled... then they took people over to the community center which is where we asked the meeting to be held in the first place because we knew it was going to run over this space here," said Ross in a delegation at Caledon Council's April 30 meeting at Town Hall.

Regional councillor Christina Early also estimated around 350 people were at the public meeting, and called it unprecedented.

As a result of residents' concerns, Groves removed the 12 zoning bylaws from the agenda of Council's April 30 meeting, where they could have been approved if just one-third of Caledon Councillors supported Groves' decision.

At the April 30 meeting, Groves said there were questions and concerns about the

zoning bylaws that weren't addressed.

"The message was loud and clear that people in Caledon need and deserve more information, information about the process and why we are considering this action, and the details about each of the 12 parcels of land," said Groves. "We're scheduling three public information sessions for the next month in different areas of the town to provide more transparency and share detailed information with residents and stakeholders."

Groves said she'll address the questions and concerns of residents, and encouraged residents to keep checking the Town of Caledon's website (caledon.ca) and social media feeds for information about the upcoming public information sessions.

"Thank you, Caledon for helping us realize we must do better," said Groves.

Groves' decision, now on hold, was expected to expedite planning procedures by one to two years for 12 development applications which are generally in the areas of Mayfield West, Tullamore, Alloa, Wildfield and Bolton. Loopstra Nixon, an outside law firm, was used to draft the zoning bylaws for the 12 applications.

During her April 30 delegation, Ross said the minutes from the April 25 public meeting do not accurately represent the com-

ments made by many of the delegates on April 25.

"I could not find reference to the criticism many delegates expressed... from reading the notes, the unassuming reader may understand that the delegates were in favor of the process with only minor technical comments," said Ross, reading a letter from a delegate. "You were there... you know it could not be further from the truth."

Later in the Council meeting, Caledon Council unanimously voted in favour of referring the minutes from the April 25 public meeting back to Caledon's town clerk so they can be amended to more accurately represent what was said at the public meeting.

Democracy Caledon volunteer Debbie Crandall also delegated at the April 30 Council meeting.

"Zoning is not supposed to precede secondary planning, zoning is not supposed

to precede detailed environmental studies, fiscal analysis, transportation planning, allocation of water and wastewater servicing, and community building," said Crandall. "Zoning is supposed to codify all of that work; zoning is a municipal tool to ensure that all the work is done properly and that it reflects what is truly needed to meet the affordable housing crisis with input from all of council and input from the public."

Crandall said Democracy Caledon will be attending the three public information sessions and continuing to ask questions.

"We will continue to ask you, Mayor Groves, why you are using your Strong Mayor powers to pre-zone to allow 35,000 homes that far exceed the 2031 housing pledge," said Crandall.

Caledon's housing pledge to the Province says Caledon will have 13,000 new housing units by 2031. Council endorsed this pledge in 2023.

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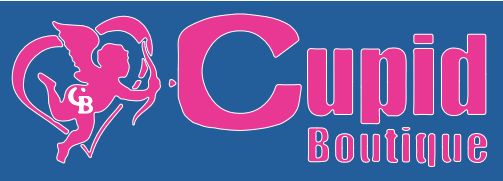
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FATAL COLLISION

Officers from the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are currently investigating a fatal collision on Winston Churchill Boulevard.

“On April 30, 2024, just after 7:30 p.m., Caledon OPP and emergency crews responded to a collision involving a passenger vehicle and a cyclist on Winston Churchill Boulevard, just north of King Street,” say Police. “The 60-year-old male cyclist of Brampton was pronounced deceased at the hospital.”

Winston Churchill Boulevard between Isabella Street and Ballinafad Road was closed for several hours while the OPP Technical Collision Investigators and Reconstructionists assisted with the investigation. Anyone who may have witnessed the collision or has dashcam footage is asked to contact Caledon OPP at 905-584-2241 or 1-888-310-1122.

If you are affected by this incident or witnessed the collision and wish to speak to victim services, Caledon/Dufferin Victim Services can be reached at 905-951-3838.

BREAK & ENTER CHARGES

Officers from the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have

charged two individuals following a break and enter investigation.

“On April 22, 2024, officers were dispatched to a commercial address on Simpson Road to investigate a theft,” say Police. “The preliminary investigation revealed a break and enter that occurred on April 20. Aluminium products valued at approximately \$48,000 were taken.

“On April 23, 2024, an officer patrolling the Bolton area observed the vehicle seen in the surveillance footage during the break of enter. With the assistance of Caledon OPP’s Community Street Crime Unit, the two occupants of the vehicle were arrested.”

As a result, David Balogh 28, of Scarborough, was charged with:

- Break, enter a place;
- Possession break-in instruments;
- Fail to comply with probation order – two counts.

The accused was held for a Bail Hearing. The charges have not been proven.

Jozsef Toth, 33, of Toronto, was charged with:

- Break, enter a place;
- Possession break-in instruments.

The charges have not been proven. The accused is scheduled to appear before

the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on May 23, 2024, to answer to the charges.

If you suspect illegal activity in your neighbourhood, call 1-888-310-1122. You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at www.peelcrimestoppers.ca.

SERIOUS COLLISION

Officers from the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are currently investigating a serious collision.

“On April 26, 2024, just after 7:00 a.m., Caledon OPP and emergency crews responded to a two-vehicle collision at the intersection of King Street and Mississauga Road, in the Town of Caledon,” say Police. “One person was air-lifted to a Toronto-area trauma centre with serious and life-altering injuries.”

Sections of King Street and Mississauga Road were closed for several hours while the OPP Technical Collision Investigators and Reconstructionists assisted with the investigation. The investigation is ongoing. Anyone who may have witnessed the collision or has dashcam footage is asked to contact Caledon OPP at 905-584-2241 or 1-888-310-1122.

“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.

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

CAMSafe PROGRAM LAUNCHED

The Caledon detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) has implemented the CAMSafe program. CAMSafe is a program aimed at creating a database of residential and commercial security cameras within a community that may act as a resource for police when investigating offences/crime.

“When a police officer uses the CAMSafe database, they will see a map of the local area,” say Police. “Officers can click on registered addresses to view further details, such as property owner contact information. Officers cannot access your security cameras or cloud-based accounts. If police would like to examine camera footage, they can make a request to the property owner using contact information from the database.

Interested community members (both residential and commercial) are only required to provide basic contact information and camera location but, can include more details if desired, such as direction the camera faces, footage retention details or screenshots of the camera view. Registrants can only view their own information and can delete their account or change their information at any time.

“I am excited to launch this crime-prevention tool in Caledon. CAMSafe is a simple, yet cutting-edge solution that will provide our investigators with information with the goal to solve crimes faster and more efficiently. We are stronger together. Public safety is a shared responsibility”, said Inspector MaryLouise Kearns, Detachment Commander, Caledon OPP.

To learn more about the CAMSafe program and to register security cameras please visit camsafe.ca.

FAIL TO COMPLY CHARGES

Officers from the Caledon Detachment of Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have charged a driver for refusal to comply with a demand following a traffic complaint.

“On April 19, 2024, at approximately 7:30 p.m., officers responded to a traffic complaint from a concerned motorist over the manner in which a vehicle was being operated on Highway 10, near Charleston Side Road, in the Town of Caledon,” say Police. “Officers located the vehicle.”

As a result of the investigation, Hemraj Persaud, 38, of Brampton was charged with:

- Failure or Refusal to Comply with a Demand

The accused is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on May 23, 2024, to answer to the charge. Additionally, the driver’s vehicle was impounded for a period of seven days, and their driver’s licence suspended for 90 days.

The charge has not been proven.

“Caledon OPP would like to take this opportunity to remind motorists that failure or refusal to comply with a demand in an impaired operation investigation is a criminal offence. Furthermore, the consequences an individual will face are the same as being charged with impaired operation.



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- CLUES ACROSS**
- Lions do it
 - In favor of
 - Rest here please (abbr.)
 - Pulpits
 - Leisure activity
 - Fertility god
 - Financial obligations
 - When you anticipate getting somewhere
 - Spanish river
 - Sporting events
 - Type of tree
 - Ceased to be
 - Persons
 - Synthetic resin
 - Relates to photochemical reactions
 - Father
 - Former Cowboys coach
 - City in Finland
 - Run batted in
 - Got through
 - They darken skin
 - In a harmful way
 - Form of weaving
 - City of Angels
 - hoopster
 - Caucasian language
 - Syngman __, Korean president
 - Sun up in New York
 - Paddled
 - Fishes
 - Affirmative
 - Nimble
 - Doctor of Education
 - Soviet Socialist Republic
 - A small island
- CLUES DOWN**
- Cool!
 - Hebrew unit of measure
 - Swedish rock group
 - College army
 - Favor over another
 - Called it a career
 - Egg-shaped wind instrument
 - Israeli statesman
 - Hurries
 - Slog
 - Midway between south and southeast
 - Benedictine monk
 - Self-immolation by fire ritual
 - Family of regulator genes
 - Surrendering
 - Political action committee
 - S. American plant
 - Long-term memory
 - Bark
 - Breathes in
 - Take hold of
 - Everyone has one
 - Valentine’s Day color
 - Drivers’ licenses and passports
 - Outer walls of castles
 - Enters with force
 - One thousandth of an inch
 - Deceased Chinese politician
 - Sugary secretion of plants
 - Expressed pleasure
 - Shelter
 - Utilizes
 - Forest resident
 - Fashion accessory
 - A sharply directional antenna
 - __ Kristofferson, actor
 - A bad place to end up
 - MLBer Gordon

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

Province to “crack down” on cell phone use, vaping in schools

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The 2024-2025 school year will see stringent new rules across the Province when it comes to cell phone use and vaping within the educational environment.

On Sunday, Ontario Education Minister Stephen Lecce announced sweeping changes which will come into effect in September.

Students in Kindergarten through Grade 6 will be required to keep phones on silent and out of sight for the entire school day, unless “explicitly permitted” by an educator. For older students up through Grade 12, there will be a slight relaxation of the policy, with the ban in force only within class time, unless otherwise permitted by a teacher.

“We have heard loud and clear from parents and teachers alike that cellphones in classrooms are distracting kids from learning,” said Minister Lecce in a statement. “Our government is introducing the toughest policy in Canada to tackle this issue by cracking down on cellphone usage during class time, as well as banning vaping in all schools. When it comes to cellphones, our policy is ‘out of sight and out of mind,’ as we get students back to the basics by restoring focus, safety and common sense back in Ontario schools.”

The Minister also announced on Sunday that the Ministry would be “strengthening” rules around students caught using – and also carrying – vapes or cigarettes. In these instances, students will be “required to surrender these products, along with parents being notified immediately of the situation.”

\$30 million, the Government added, has been allocated within the 2024 Budget to install vape detectors and other security measures in schools.

“To support these initiatives, the Government is investing in \$17.5 million in new wrap-around supports for student mental health and parent engagement,” said the Province.

These measures and supports will in-

clude \$15 million to provide supports for students at risk of addictive behaviours; \$1 million to partner with School Mental Health Ontario to develop webinars and resources “targeted to parents and students” across Ontario to “learn how to talk about the adverse effects of vaping and excessive cellphone usage; and \$1.5 million to Parent Involvement Committees and students to run local prevention campaigns to “deter” vaping and cellphone distractions.

“Our government is taking action to protect children and youth from the harmful risks of vaping and build healthier communities across the province,” said Minister of Health Sylvia Jones, who also serves as Ontario Deputy Premier and MPP for Dufferin-Caledon, in a statement. “We are building on the changes we have already made to restrict the sale of flavoured vapour products by taking this next step to make students surrender vape, tobacco and nicotine products in student possession to ensure our children receive their education in a safe and healthy learning environment.” Added Dr. Kieran Moore, Ontario’s Chief Medical Officer of Health: “Ontario is seeing a growing number of youth in Grades 7 through 12 report using vaping products that contain and emit many toxic substances. These products can affect the respiratory, immune and cardiovascular systems, and nicotine in these products is particularly harmful to youth brain development. Removing vaping products from Ontario schools will help protect our students from these preventable threats.”

Since the April 28 announcement, groups representing educators have expressed concerns about how they will be equipped to enforce the new rules.

The Elementary Teachers’ Federation of Ontario (ETFO), for instance, said during recent bargaining, they fought for improvements that would address what they describe as “increasing violence and disruption in schools” and noted that some of the concerns they outlined to the Ministry were reflected in last week’s announcement.

But, they added, measures to address violence are yet to be reflected.

“Despite our attempts to make im-

provements to school environments in a collaborative way with this government, ETFO was not given the opportunity to review the revisions before the Ford government released them,” said the group in a statement. “This is extremely disappointing, but true to form for a government that has, for years, consistently disregarded input from its education partners.”

Their recommendations included clear definitions when it comes to “unacceptable” student behaviour and the enforcement of consequences for non-compliance, defining such behaviours as including “bullying, cyberbullying, intimidation, harassment, racism, discriminatory behaviour, physical violence, sexual assault, shoving and pushing, profanity, disrespectful behaviour that shows disregard for a teacher’s or other supervising adult’s position, failing to follow directions, sig-

nificant disruptions to the learning environment, misuse of technology and social media, and repeated use of tobacco or e-cigarettes.

“Education is a shared responsibility, and decisions affecting our schools should be made through transparent and inclusive processes that prioritize the well-being of students and the professionalism of educators,” they said. “It is only through respectful dialogue and true collaboration that we can develop policies that reflect the diverse needs of our school communities and uphold the highest standards of education.”

HAVE YOUR SAY – Do you agree with the Province’s decision to crack down on cell phone use and the use of vapes? Send your thoughts to brock@lpcmedia.ca.

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ARTS & CULTURE



Rohit Rao (CSAA), Hunar Kahlon (CSAA), Maneet Chahal-Gill (Soch Mental Health), Uzma Aziz Irfan (Malton Women Council) and Dr. Vikas Puri (CSAA) at the Caledon South Asian Association's April 26 mental health event. PHOTO BY ZACHARY ROMAN

Caledon South Asian Association hosts mental health awareness event

Community groups come together for event at Southfields Community Centre

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Local non-profits came together to promote mental health awareness last Friday. On April 26, the Caledon South Asian Association (CSAA) hosted a mental health awareness event at the Southfields

Community Centre.

For the event, the CSAA brought together community partners such as Caledon Community Services (CCS), the Caledon OPP, Soch Mental Health, and the Malton Women Council.

Hunar Kahlon, Vice-Chair of the CSAA, explained the non-profit wanted to host an event as May is Mental Health Awareness Month.

"We'll get a jumpstart on that... we're putting a spotlight on what resources are available for mental health," said Kahlon. "Our goal at the CSAA is to bring people up to date... sometimes people don't know these services are available to them."

Kahlon said newcomers to Canada face many challenges adjusting to a new language and culture.

"They don't have those community connections already... we want to bridge those gaps," said Kahlon.

Dr. Vikas Puri, Chair of the CSAA, said as a non-profit it's great to be accomplishing goals.

"The fact that we are able to do this more and more... I think we're on track to accomplishing our mission and vision, opening up opportunities for people," said Puri.

Puri explained the CSAA is going to be a part of Culture Days in Caledon this September and October.

"We're going to be able to bring South Asian culture to people and educate them on some of the history, the culture, traditions, dance, music and so forth," he said.

Uzma Aziz Irfan, Executive Director of the Malton Women Council, a non-profit dedicated to empowering women, explained the group, which started in Malton,

recently held its first meeting in Caledon and had 45 women come out.

"We are offering many services like mental health services, programs for survivors of domestic abuse, one-on-one counselling, skill-building workshops, as well as the women's support group," said Irfan.

At the first meeting, Caledon women shared ideas for the types of programs that could be offered by the Malton Women Council in Caledon.

"We will support as much as we can the residents of Caledon, this is our first step," said Irfan.

Maneet Chahal-Gill is a registered nurse and one of the founders of Soch Mental Health, a non-profit that's goal is to enhance mental health awareness in the South Asian community by using culture and language. She explained that "Soch" means "to think" or "a thought".

"We identified a huge gap in the South Asian community... the stigma was so large no one was really addressing (mental health)," said Chahal-Gill. "We do a lot of community workshops, we do online anti-stigma campaigns, and we're really present in ethno-cultural media outlets."

Chahal-Gill said many people from Caledon have reached out to her as they or someone they love is struggling with their mental health.

"This is my first presentation here, but with the power of social media... we've already had a presence here," said Chahal-Gill.

Attendees of the mental health event received refreshments and were able to listen to a variety of presentations from all the groups in attendance.

Resident input needed for future north-south railway

Orangeville-Brampton Railway Corridor to become multi-use trail

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Caledon residents are invited to share their thoughts on a future rail trail that will run through the municipality.

In July of 2022, the Region of Peel, alongside Caledon, Brampton, and Mississauga, came together to acquire the Orangeville-Brampton Railway Corridor. It was acquired so it can be converted into a new north-south multi-use trailway for residents and visitors to enjoy.

The municipalities are sharing responsibility for the cost of developing, designing, constructing, and maintaining the future trail.

The Town of Caledon recently launched a survey about the Caledon section of the trail.

"The Town of Caledon is responsible for converting the 36 kilometre section of rail line within our boundary to a multi-use pedestrian and cy-

clist railway," wrote Town staff on haveyoursay-caledon.ca, which is where residents can take the survey on the trail. "The decision for the Town of Caledon to acquire 36 kilometres of the rail line was passed by Council in April 2022."

The survey on the trail opened on April 22, and will remain open for residents to complete until June 17.

The Town held two open houses about the trail — one on April 29 in Southfields and another on May 1 in Caledon East.

Some of the Town's goals with the new trail include: connecting communities in Caledon; promoting walking and cycling for recreation and enjoyment of nature; and supporting healthy living, economic development and tourism.

There are three phases of the trail project and Caledon is currently in the first phase: initial consultation, safety review, defining scope, and public consultation to inform preliminary design.

Phase Two includes preliminary trail design, public consultation on the design, and completion of studies relevant to trail construction.

Phase Three of the project is detailed design and construction of the trail.

Phase One of the project is expected to be completed in 2024.



This locator map shows the path a future railway will follow through Caledon.

TOWN OF CALEDON
IMAGE

Caledon hires new Commissioner

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

There's a new commissioner at the Town of Caledon.

In an April 24 media release, Town communications staff announced Domenica D'Amico had been hired as Caledon's new commissioner of engineering, public works and transportation. Her first day on the job will be June 17.

D'Amico will be in charge of Caledon's engineering, operations, facilities, and energy management/climate change business units. She'll also be tasked with providing oversight on her department's operating and capital budgets.

The Town stated that D'Amico has over 26 years of professional engineering experience in progressively senior roles. She previously worked at WSP, an engineering and professional services firm. Her most recent role there was director of the Ontario roads team, and staff said in that role she oversaw the work of 35 professional engineers and technical staff on major municipal projects like road design

and contract administration.

"She also has extensive experience in environmental assessments, intelligent transportation systems and major highway interchange construction," said staff in the release.

Staff said D'Amico is a "talented people leader and expert project manager with a strong eye for cost containment."

D'Amico has a Bachelor of Applied Science in Civil Engineering degree from the University of Toronto. She's a member of Toronto Metropolitan University's Civil Engineering Advisory Council, and has previously served on the board of directors for the Association of Consulting Engineering Companies of Ontario.

Caledon's Chief Administrative Officer, Nathan Hyde, said D'Amico has an impressive track record of delivering major transportation and engineering projects on time and on budget, ensuring value for stakeholders.

"Her proven leadership will ensure Caledon can meet the intense demands of new projects and stakeholders that come with significant population growth," said D'Amico.

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NEWS

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A Caledon firefighter could visit your home between May and October as part of the Home Safe Home program. Caledon Firefighters will be in uniform during house visits and participation is optional. Residents can opt to have their smoke alarms checked or have a chat to learn more about fire prevention and safety. For more information, read our media release at caledon.ca/news. To learn more about fire safety, visit caledon.ca/fire.

Exciting changes to transit in Bolton!



TOWN OF CALEDON | BRAMPTON

The Bolton Line bus route will now be operated by Brampton Transit (Route #41). This transfer of services will improve the route map and service hours, better serving our community and expanding transportation options for Caledon and Brampton residents. To learn more, visit brampton.ca/transit or caledon.ca/transit.

Interim Property Taxes are Due

Property tax due date is **Thursday, May 2, 2024.**
Regular late payment fees apply.
For payment options visit: caledon.ca/tax.



PUBLIC NOTICE

Firearms By-law Amendment Postponed

Please be advised the proposed Firearms By-law previously scheduled for the General Committee Meeting on May 7, 2024 at 2:30 p.m. is being postponed until a later date for further consideration. The public will be notified on the next steps as more information becomes available.

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Out of sight, out of mind?

I don't know about the rest of you, but I get a rude awakening just about every Sunday morning.

Despite my best efforts, and valiant attempts to stop and find alternatives, I'm in the terrible habit of charging my phone overnight on the bedside table. It's a practical location, sure, but leaving it there to do its thing is not only habit forming in and of itself, but it also leads to other habits. For example, it sometimes seems like a wasted morning if I don't solve the daily Wordle puzzle before getting out of bed to truly start the day, but, at the same time, it's made getting up and at 'em as soon as possible every day more and more of a chore. Completely my fault.

And yet, just about every Sunday morning, comes an on-screen notification on just how much of my time was spent looking at the device over the previous seven days and the percentage change from week to week.

It's informative, I'll grant them that, but it can also feel a little judgemental when the number ticks up, particularly if one already knows not-so-deep down one's usage is up.

If you'd told me when I got my first mobile phone back in my high school days that this would ever be a worry, it would have been laughable. The first mobile phone I ever encountered was not, as is the case of many of my generation, seeing Mark-Paul Gosselaar's Zack Morris in Saved By The Bell talk into his oversized, hulking device. Instead, it was a groovy little number my grandfather had installed in his car, which gave him to my young eyes a sort of super-villain mystique. But it was a good decade before I got my own, and even then it was only secured by my mother after a spate of threats were made to my school. Given its intended use, I thankfully had little reason to use it, but it was nice to have just in case.

Now, not having a connection like that readily available at all times, is almost unthinkable. Yet, I'm interested to see how the Provincial Government's Sunday announcement of a crackdown on cell phone use in Ontario schools will go over and evolve before its targeted implementation in the fall.

"We have heard loud and clear from parents and teachers alike that cellphones in classrooms are distracting our kids from learning," said Minister of Education Stephen Lecce. "Our government is introducing the toughest policy in Canada to tackle the issue by cracking down on cellphone usage during class time, as well as banning vaping in all schools. When it comes to cellphones, our policy is 'out of sight and out of mind,' as we get students back to the basics of restoring focus, safety and common sense back in Ontario schools."

Should the new rules come into force as written, students in Kindergarten through Grade 6 will be "required to keep phones on silent and out of sight for the entire school day, unless explicitly permitted by an educator." Further, social media websites will be "removed" from all school networks and devices and, if that wasn't enough, report cards this fall will include remarks from teachers on "student's distraction levels in class."

Older students – those in Grades 7 to 12 – will have a little bit more leeway with cellphones being permitted during class time only with the explicit direction from the teacher or educator.

"At a time when young people are facing so many distractions, mental health pressures, and even potential dangers, such as addictions, cyberbullying and online predators, we are taking measures to protect students by cracking down on vaping and other addictive substances, removing social media from school networks and devices, and increasing student mental health supports," said Burling

MPP Natalie Pierre, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Education in a statement. "Students deserve positive and distraction-free schools that promote positive mental health and allow for uninterrupted learning."

One can't argue with the sentiments, but I feel a missing piece of this puzzle is just exactly what kind of role parents and parenting will play in this. After all, in most cases, the phones and devices provided to students are done so within the household, as is the amount of data they are able to use, and, when push comes to shove, the content they're able to consume.

I also question whether the principle of "out of sight out of mind" will hold water in this case.

The very absence of a device could, in my view, prove an even greater distraction and make "out of sight out of mind" simply wishful thinking.

In March, for instance, the Peel District School Board, Toronto District School Board, Toronto Catholic School Board, and Ottawa-Carleton District School Board, joined together to begin legal action against the owners of such popular platforms as Facebook, Instagram, SnapChat, and TikTok for "disrupting student learning and the education system" and calling for the tech giants to provide resources to the Boards to address mental health costs and costs related to "redesigning products to keep students safe."

"The lawsuit claims that social media products, negligently designed for compulsive use, have rewired the way children think, behave, and learn, leaving educators and schools to manage the fallout," the plaintiffs said in a statement. "Students are experiencing an attention, learning, and mental health crisis because of prolific and compulsive use of social media products. The fallout of compulsive use of social media amongst students is causing massive strains on the four school boards' finite resources, including additional needs for in-school mental health programming and personnel, increased IT costs, and additional administrative resources."

Added Brendan Browne, Director of Education for the Toronto Catholic District School Board: "Fostering a nurturing environment of learning is critical to student success and stands at the heart of our educational mission. Yet, the intricately crafted and inherently addictive nature of social media platforms can hamper a students' capacity to absorb knowledge. Social media has an undeniable toll on student mental health which cannot be overlooked. In the absence of effective measures from the architects of these digital platforms, our educators find themselves increasingly involved in mitigating social media-induced matters, diverting precious time away from academic instruction."

Social media has indeed had an "undeniable toll" on student mental health and, I would argue, mental health for people in just about every demographic, but pressing measures from the aforementioned digital "architects" would go further than an outright ban. Further, it shouldn't be forgotten, that as harmful as these platforms are, students and people of all ages might be using them to seek out those individuals and resources that offer coping mechanisms and other methods to deal with many of the listed problems – and apps that offer music for concentration and study, that help comfort and calm the individual, and expand educational horizons.

The upcoming rules are well-intentioned, well-reasoned and practical – but if these platforms have "rewired" the way youth think and behave, I certainly hope going in this direction doesn't exacerbate an existing issue, or create an entirely new set of challenges.



Democracy impeded by unrest, conflict and politics

by Mark Pavilons



Our love-hate relationship with democracy is unique to the western world.

While we find ourselves constantly at odds with government policies and decision-makers at all levels, we forget just how lucky and blessed we are.

We've enjoyed ever-expanding human rights under our Charter since 1982. The anniversary was April 17 and every year we quietly (very Canadian) celebrate its anniversary. It solidifies the very essence of democratic rights – religion, speech, media, assembly and more.

We get stuck on minor hurdles in our evolution to become truly "woke." But that's okay. And we constantly ask for more. And that's okay, too because we are allowed to.

Essential elements of a democracy include pluralistic political parties, fair elections, transparent governance, politically engaged citizens, civil liberties, and free media.

We have those in spade, but many, many countries do not.

According to the Democracy Index, the Scandinavian countries all rank as the most democratic nations on the globe. Canada, in 2021, was ranked 5th. That's impressive. The U.S. has the title of a "flawed democracy."

Believe it or not the least democratic country in the world is oil-rich Saudi Arabia.

Just recently, the African nation of Mali banned the media from reporting on political parties and associations, and also suspended all political activities.

How's that for a kick in the proverbial pants? It couldn't get more anti-democratic.

But this country is not alone.

A Freedom House report in 2019 says some 57 countries are not free because they fail to hold valid elections, don't have active independent media, and do not endow their citizens with basic civil rights.

North Korea is controlled by a dynastic totalitarian dictatorship, which maintains its harsh control with extensive surveillance, arrests and brutal punishment for those suspected of political offenses. The report adds that camps for political prisoners often implement "torture, forced labor, starvation, and other atrocities."

The ruling Communist Party in China has grown more restrictive with state agencies, the internet, religious groups, universities, and businesses.

Under Cuba's one-party communist rule, dissent is stifled and citizens lack basic civil liberties.

Thailand is ruled by a unit of military leaders

that has suppressed political opposition and exercised "unchecked powers" secured in the constitution that restrict citizens' civil and political rights.

In Qatar, other political parties are not permitted, and elections don't affect the highest levels of government. The report notes that Qatari citizens are among the wealthiest in the world, but the vast majority of the population are non-citizens with no political rights, few civil liberties, and limited access to economic opportunity.

Political parties are banned within the seven Emirates and hereditary rulers hold all power, with which restrict civil liberties of citizens and visitors alike.

The Communist Party's control over Vietnam has created a dangerous environment for human rights, as citizens and activists alike face restricted freedoms in speech, press, work, and religion.

Many of these are not developing (Third World) nations and they do have modern technology, decent economies and resources.

They just look at things differently. Yes, I realize that's a massive, somewhat facetious understatement.

Most of these are rampant with corruption. It seems humankind's hunger for power and greed are alive and well, and reducing citizens to serfs.

Some of these countries are also popular among western tourists, for various reasons. We seldom look for, or care about, such things when booking a vacay. Oh, what evil lurks in the hearts of men.

According to the World Bank, roughly one-third of the world's population – 2.6 billion – are not connected to the internet. The top countries with people offline include India (684 million), China (336 million) and Pakistan (131 million).

Many of these are not what we consider developing nations by any means and all have the resources to increase their country's digital literacy.

Government regulations and censorship of course impede internet access and freedom of expression in certain countries. For those with access, it amplifies marginalized voices, facilitates grassroots organizing, and fosters global solidarity around important issues. The vast source of knowledge can empower individuals with democratic goals.

By censoring the internet or barring access, authoritarian governments and dictators can more effectively keep their citizens oppressed, and people in these countries lose a vital tool that would help them set up fairer, more democratic institutions.

We see the problems; have identified the countries and leaders with poor track records. And yet, world trade, political dinners and pats on the back still take place among world leaders.

If we truly believe in furthering democratic principles around the globe, I say we take stronger actions.

I believe we should decrease ties, implement sanctions and shame those who routinely suppress human rights, imprison and harm their citizens.

I know the United Nations and its member countries have called out "offenders." And yet, we still happily trade in arms, oil and goods to anyone with a cheque book.

Enjoy our freedoms and embrace them in your very soul. And, at every possibly opportunity, thank those who helped make it happen.

Our Readers Write

Winning the Stanley Cup

In 1967 I was a 13-year-old hockey kid living in Montreal as I watched my then team (The Habs) loose to the Leafs not knowing I was watching such an historic moment for Leafs Nation.

I moved to Ontario in '69 and by '70 I was on board with Leaf Nation and watching the likes of Keon, Sittler, Wendel, Dougie and Mats – all true grit players who played with so much passion for the game.

Then in '88 Bruce McNall paid \$20 million to get Gretzky to move from the Oilers to the Kings.

This started huge paydays for so many.

If you watch the OHL games, you see so much talent and passion from all these young players

who hope to get scouted and eventually make the NHL. And they do not make big bucks. So, why not take a very good salary, say \$200K, and make that the base pay for all NHL players and everything else is based on agreed performance clauses?

The best players could still make their \$10+ million a year by showing up and performing.

Something the Leafs and so many others rarely show consistently.

Why is it we, the Leafs, have beat the best teams and yet so often can't beat the worst teams?

BRIAN PERRAS
CALEDON

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Phones in the classroom

If you have ever been in a conversation with someone and their phone rings, and they answer it, you know what an awkward situation you are thrust into.

Suddenly, you are the person who doesn't matter. Whoever the person is on the other end of the phone, has replaced you in that conversation.

For me, that's pretty much a conversation finisher. I won't stand there like an idiot, while the other person discusses their upcoming fishing trip or who's coming over for Christmas dinner, and delegates you to being a bystander.

Unless you are on a heart transplant list, or your wife is going into labour at any time, the polite thing to do, is let the call go to voice-mail, listen to the message later, and return the call if necessary.

When I was a kid, I was helping (sort of) my father do some work on a drain pipe in the backyard of our house. It was a summer day, and I heard the telephone ring through the open window.

When I pointed this out, my father said, "let it ring."

I insisted we should answer the phone. He said, "I'm not a slave to a machine. Just because a bell

is ringing, doesn't mean I'm going to stop my valuable work here. If it's important, they will call back."

That really stuck with me. Before cell phones, people really did run to answer the telephone, just because a bell told you to.

Most of the telephone calls I get via my landline these days are nonsense calls. There is either no one there, or someone is trying to sell me something. I still have a landline because it makes a huge difference when doing a telephone interview.

However it is still frustrating to answer a call and hear dead air, which is a signal that someone at a call centre is waiting for someone to answer an automatically dialed call before flipping a switch and deciding to speak.

I usually hang up before they start their spiel about telling me my computer is infected with a virus and I need to pay them to "fix it."

The province has just announced it is introducing "new measures" to crack down on cellphone use and vaping in a school. It's not legislated, so I assume it's guidelines for teachers.

Reports say both parents and teachers have

shared the "growing problem of cellphone distractions in class."

What took them so long, and why does it need some kind of provincial decree to tell a kid not to be on their phone during class time?

A kid shouldn't have to be told not to be on their phone during class. That's just common sense.

It must be frustrating for a teacher to be at the head of a classroom only to see a student focused on a phone rather than listening to the lesson.

The problem obviously starts at home.

I don't know why a kid needs a phone in the first place. Anyone they want to speak to, and if you're a kid, that's another kid you know at school, is probably only a few feet away for the entire day.

The parents are paying for the kid's phone. They should explain the phone is a privilege, and should apply rules about its usage before the kid leaves home.

Pretty simple – this phone is for emergencies only, don't use it in the classroom.

The fact that this problem requires action by the Ministry of Education is disturbing. The report says teachers will undergo mandatory training re-

garding kids using cell phones.

Haven't teachers already undergone training on how to control kids in the classroom? Isn't this why they go to teacher's college?

Every kid knows the teacher is in charge when the bell rings to signal the start of the school day.

It's pretty simple - make an announcement at the start of the school year.

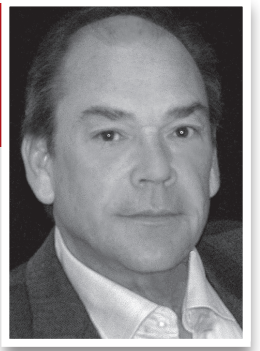
"I'm Ms. Crabapple, your new teacher. The use of phones is not allowed in this class room. If you have a phone, it must be turned off and kept in your backpack or locker."

If a kid complains about the rule, parents need to back up the teacher and let the kid know the teacher controls the classroom, and they must abide by the rules.

I can't think of a single reason why a parent would insist their child be given permission to use a phone during class.

Phone etiquette in general needs to be observed by everyone, not just in the classroom.

BRIAN LOCKHART FROM THE SECOND ROW



Arctic seals and coral reefs: Every little bit helps

"Without extinction, there would likely be insufficient ecological 'space' available for new species."

What? Is this person saying that extinction is a good thing? But what about the scarlet-throated goat-batherer? There's only 23 of them left in the wild, and half of them live on the slopes of an active volcano. We must do something.

Not necessarily. I was idly leafing through the pages of a textbook on Historical Geology, and I chanced on this passage:

"The pattern we see in the fossil record is not one of continuous diversification with new species being added, but none ever removed. Instead, the average species lasts a few million years, and then vanishes forever from the face of the planet. It goes extinct."

Human beings are uncomfortable with this fact, because we feel guilty for accelerating the extinction of so many other species. Our attempts to make amends began with simple measures like nesting boxes for rare owls and wildlife bridges over busy highways – local fixes for local problems – but global warming requires more complex interventions.

Consider, for example, the ringed seals of Lake Saimaa, the biggest lake in Finland. They are

freshwater seals unique to this lake, and 30 years ago they were nearing extinction. In winter they used to build shelters into snow-banks on the ice to protect their pups from storms and predators, but in a warming climate the deep snow-banks have disappeared.

So, people from Finnish parks and wildlife agencies are going out each winter with hand-held snowplows to create manmade snowdrifts on the ice. They even stomp the piled snow down tight, although they leave the final excavation of the dens to the seals themselves. And the seal population has recovered on Lake Saimaa – up to 400 adults at last count.

It's a much bigger deal when an entire existing ecosystem threatens to go extinct, but the first such event is now knocking at our door: the mass death of the coral reefs.

Almost all the world's shallow-water coral reef systems are now suffering bleaching episodes that leave them severely damaged or just dead. It's a direct result of global warming: the added heat causes the little coral animals to expel the algae that provide most of their food. Then they starve to death, leaving only the bleached "bones" behind.

That's a poor design for the present circumstances, although it must have had some practical ben-

efit in the past to make it through the evolutionary process at all. Given how many other environmental crises we are now facing, however, we could be excused for just letting the corals go.

Extinction is not a measureless catastrophe, just the normal end-point in the evolutionary trajectory of the vast majority of species that have flourished on this planet. Whatever is lost will be replaced with something else, often something more interesting than its predecessor.

The thousands of coral species died back, or even died out, in each of the five great extinction episodes of the past half-billion years, only for identical or similar creatures to recolonize the reefs when the climate moderated again. As Ariel suggests in *The Tempest*, nothing is ever really lost. It just "suffers a sea change into something rich and strange."

However, the current array of coral species has a certain economic value to human beings (though surely not the six trillion dollars claimed by the World Wildlife Fund). Moreover, the corals have a powerful emotional importance to the divers (including my entire family) who actually spend time with them. So many people are trying to save them.

The effort that has made the most progress is an attempt at "assisted" evolution. It's really a glori-

fied form of selective breeding, choosing the most heat-resistant of each generation of coral polyps as the parents of the next generation and discarding the rest.

This may or may not include direct genetic modification of the corals or their symbiotic algae.

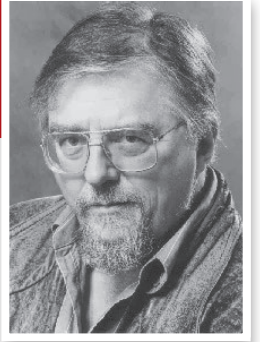
A second intervention is working on a sort of "coral IVF" (in vitro fertilisation) in which the goal is to ensure that a large proportion of the "gametes" (male and female) that are released into the ocean when corals breed actually take root.

This may involve "coral condoms" to capture large numbers of the gametes in a cone-shaped net and move them to heat-devastated areas when they can create new colonies. Weirdly intrusive, but it seems to work.

And then there is the direct method: Marine Cloud Brightening (MCB). Stop the bleaching at source by putting a very fine mist of seawater into low-lying clouds so that they reflect incoming sunlight and cool the reefs beneath.

And if it all fails, don't feel bad. The corals will be back for the next iteration, even if we aren't.

GWYNNE DYER OUR WORLD TODAY



Small business is bleeding

Everyone knows you don't kick someone when they're down.

But that's what the federal government's recent budget did to many small business owners who are struggling to stay afloat or striving to take their new ventures to the next level of growth.

While the budget did include some small business relief measures, it also increased the capital gains inclusion rate.

The capital gains hike generated blowback from groups such as the Council of Canadian Innovators (CCI), who claimed the new taxes will stifle tech entrepreneurs trying to grow their businesses and cause "irreparable harm" to Canada's entrepreneur-based economy.

Other groups worried the tax increase was another nail in the coffin for Canada's small business sector. Dan Kelly, president of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB), said he was concerned that the budget measures had the "potential to demotivate Canadians from getting into business in the first place."

It's not just crushing taxes that are hurting small businesses. It's also job-killing regula-

tions. Earlier this month, the CFIB published a blog by Simon Gaudreault, Chief Economist and Vice-President of Research at the organization.

Gaudreault argued that we could dramatically increase Canada's productivity by reducing unnecessary red tape and regulation. According to Gaudreault, we could free up 205 million hours of time, or approximately \$11 billion of squandered money, which could have otherwise gone toward more productive tasks.

The CFIB's most recent "Canada's Red Tape Report," published in 2021, had a revealing finding: although red tape ties up many businesses, it chokes the life out of small business. According to the report, the 2020 cost of regulation per employee for small businesses with fewer than five employees was an incredible five times more than for businesses with over 100 employees.

Canada's small business owners tell me all the time how they're being stifled. An entrepreneur shared the following with me a few months ago: "The barriers to entry, compounded by the burden of taxation and the absence of incentives, have increasingly cast a shadow over the once-thriving

entrepreneurial spirit. Like many of my peers, I find myself at a crossroads where the perceived risks outweigh the potential rewards, a realization that saddens me deeply. It is disheartening to witness the erosion of confidence in the entrepreneurial journey, particularly when confronted with the stark reality that the risk-reward balance no longer tips in our favour."

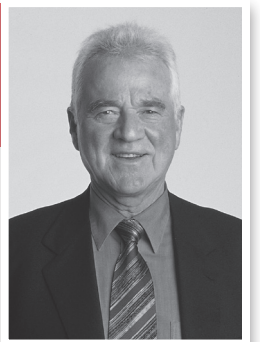
One small business owner and founder bemoaned the current state of affairs by saying that "entrepreneurs are swimming upstream in Canada today." And yet another said: "I will certainly not be endorsing any young person to start a business in this country until things change drastically."

These heart-felt sentiments are a devastating indictment of a system that is crushing the life out of Canada's once-proud entrepreneurial spirit.

Canada's small businesses are bleeding, and if we don't stop the haemorrhaging by reducing taxes and slashing red tape, a growing number of them are going to go under or simply close up shop.

The National Economic Charter of Rights

FRANK STRONACH PRINCIPLES OF AN ECONOMIC CHARTER OF RIGHTS



Responsibilities I've proposed would require government to remove excessive regulations that stifle economic growth and unshackle small businesses by eliminating business tax on any small business with fewer than 300 employees.

If we reduced regulations and lower taxes, small businesses could grow like wildfire. It's one of the key principles in the economic charter of rights I've proposed. And it's the badly needed shot in the arm that Canada's economy needs right now.

To learn more about how the charter could help revitalize Canada's small business sector, contact info@economiccharter.ca.

Author Bio

Frank Stronach is the founder of Magna International Inc., one of Canada's largest global companies, and the Stronach Foundation for Economic Rights (www.economiccharter.ca).

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Peel Art Gallery, Museum and Archives celebrating Museum Month with new exhibits

May is Museum Month

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

May is Museum Month and the Region of Peel's Museum has a number of exhibitions and events planned to mark the occasion.

The Peel Art Gallery, Museum and Archives (PAMA) recently launched a new exhibition: Kimutsik, which means "dog team". The exhibition is being hosted in partnership with the CONTACT Photography Festival and it's by Glenn Gear.

Gear's artwork portrays untethered dogs running freely and returning as spirits, set against a kaleidoscopic backdrop of beadwork crafted and photographed by the artist, according to a Region of Peel media release.



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It adds the artwork is based on a time in the mid-twentieth century when the Canadian government enforced laws that caused the demise of Inuit-owned dogs as a way to push Inuit into settlements.

Beginning May 25, the "Oh My Dog!" exhibit will be opening at PAMA. According to the release, this exhibit will showcase a variety of historical and contemporary artwork, from artists of diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds who have focused on the dog as a symbol. PAMA adds the exhibit will consider a variety of perspectives on dogs' relationships with humans.

From 7 to 9 p.m. on May 24, there will be an opening exhibition for "Oh My Dog!" at PAMA. There, guest curator Chris Finn will preview the exhibition, and there will be light refreshments served. The event is free, though those wanting to attend must reserve a spot by emailing pamaevents@peelregion.ca by May 20.

From 7:30 to 9 p.m. on May 2, the Festival of Literary Diversity (FOLD) and PAMA will host a paint night. At the event, PAMA staff will lead attendees in creating canvas art inspired by Indo-Tibetan artist Rohan James' poetry collection, "Pink Moon".

The event is for individuals ages 14 and up and costs \$25. More information is

available online at pama.peelregion.ca.

On May 4, PAMA is hosting an event that will put young local artists in the spotlight. From 1 to 4 p.m. Peel Perspectives: A Youth Art Showcase will take place at the PAMA.

The event is being run by PAMA's youth council, whose goal is to provide a platform for young artists in Peel to be inspired, express themselves, and develop leadership skills.

From 7 to 8:30 p.m. on May 9, the Brampton Folk Club will be hosting a music night at PAMA.

Led by Leah Holtom, Jamie Reilly and Sally Campbell, the night is called "Finding the Creative Spark" and will feature songs and stories about the creative process.

From 1 to 3 p.m. on May 12, PAMA will host a Mother's Day Tea with sweets, finger sandwiches and, of course, tea. The event will be paired with an art workshop and is for anyone aged 10 and up. This event costs \$50, or \$45 for PAMA members.

For more information about these and all PAMA events, those interested can visit pama.peelregion.ca.

PAMA is located at 9 Wellington St. East in Brampton.



Final Release

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Premier Ford announces construction of Highway 413 to begin in 2025

Continued from FRONT

“We’re getting shovels in the ground for new roads and highways... Highway 413 is going to be a game changer for the region,” said Ford, citing job creation and travel time reduction.

Tim Gray, the Executive Director of Environmental Defence, a non-profit that’s been leading advocacy efforts against Highway 413, said the announcement was just “bluster.”

“The Premier is hoping that bluster is going to help make people stay at home and not say anything about this, but I think he’ll be proven to be wrong...” said Gray.

Gray said Highway 413 will not save drivers any more than 30 seconds. He said allowing trucks to use the 407 would be a much better way to alleviate congestion on the 401.

“This highway is really not about transportation, it’s really about enabling sprawl,” said Gray. “It’s about building a highway to enable big boxes and warehouses and low-density sprawl on land owned by developers connected with the Provincial Government.”

The Premier said the Province is going to continue building highways and roads and said “we have more exciting announcements to come.”

The Province has started planning for the release of the first early works contracts for the highway, said Ford.

“It’s expected during construction, this project will support 3,500 jobs each year and add \$350 million to Ontario’s GDP,” said Ford. “We look forward to building the 413 and to building Ontario.”

In an emailed statement, Caledon Mayor Annette Groves said environmental impact

and road safety are key priorities for Caledon residents.

“With the Province moving forward with the 413, Caledon will bring a strong voice to protect the environment and consider impacts to species at risk to the joint environmental working group announced April 15,” said Groves. “We will also bring road safety and traffic flow, especially at planned interchanges in Caledon, to the planning and design tables, so the needs of residents and the business community are balanced.”

Phil Pothén, the land use and land development program manager for Environmental Defence, said Ford’s April 30 announcement was “wishful thinking.”

Pothén said Highway 413 will not be built so long as the federal government denies permits that would see federally-protected species at risk and their habitats

destroyed; and, acts quickly to designate Highway 413 for a full impact assessment under the updated Impact Assessment Act.

“It’s not difficult to see why Premier Ford chose (April 30) for his press conference. (April 30) proposed updates to the Impact Assessment Act, which were tabled by the federal government as part of its budget implementation law — very clearly restore the power of the federal Minister of Environment, and the federal Cabinet to ensure the impacts of Highway 413 are thoroughly examined — by once again designating 413 for Impact Assessment,” said Pothén.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

HAVE YOUR SAY

12862 and 12668 Dixie Road

Proposed Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment

A Public Meeting will be held to consider proposed Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment applications. Your input and insight will inform and shape plans that meet the needs of our community.

FILE NUMBER(S): POPA 2021-0004 and RZ 2021-0006
Related File Number: SPA 2021-0012

Meeting Date: May 28, 2024
Public Meeting Start Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: Council Chambers
6311 Old Church Road, Caledon East

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

The Town of Caledon offers a hybrid meeting model with multiple ways for members of the public to participate and engage with Council.

- Attend In-Person Members of the public may attend a meeting in-person and provide verbal comments regarding the proposed application(s) or sit in the gallery to watch the meeting. Although registration is not mandatory, members of the public are encouraged to complete the Participation request Form, available at www.caledon.ca/speak-at-council
- Submit Written Comment Members of the public may submit written comment regarding the proposed application(s) by completing the participation Request Form, available at www.caledon.ca/speak-at-council
- Virtually Members of the public are welcome to participate via telephone or video conference through WebEx upon request. For more information on how to participate, please complete the Participation Request Form, available at www.caledon.ca/speak-at-council In addition, members of the public can watch meetings through the live stream available on the Town’s website.

You can also ask questions or provide comments by:

- Submitting written correspondence to agenda@caledon.ca and planning@caledon.ca for consideration during the Public Meeting. Please note that written comments will form part of the public record.
- Contacting Planning staff or the Lead Planner during office hours by phone or email.
- Booking an appointment to visit Town Hall to speak with Planning staff. Visit www.caledon.ca/development for more information.

APPLICANT:
Armstrong Planning and Project Management on behalf of Tribal Partners Canada Inc.

LOCATION:
12862 and 12668 Dixie Road, Part Lots 21 and 22, Concession 3 EHS (Chinguacousy)
West side of Dixie Road, south of Old School Road
Ward 2

PROPOSED CHANGES:

The applicant has applied for an Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment to facilitate the development of an e-commerce development consisting of warehousing, distribution centres and industrial uses in three industrial buildings totaling approximately 369,045.12 m² (3,972,368.61 ft²). The Official Plan Amendment proposes to include the lands within the settlement boundary and redesignate the lands from Prime Agricultural Area to General Industrial Area. The Zoning By-law Amendment proposes to rezone the lands from Agricultural (A1) and Environmental Policy Area 2 Zone (EPA2) to Serviced Industrial – Exception XXX (MS-XXX) with site specific permissions and Environmental Policy Area 1 Zone (EPA 1).

**The illustration is a conceptual plan for information purposes and it is subject to change. The application is currently under review by the Town of Caledon.*

LEAD PLANNER:
Aleah Clarke On Behalf of Development, Planning & Development Department, Town of Caledon
905-584-2272 x.7338
aclarke@mhbcplan.com

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
For more information about this matter, including information about appeal rights, a copy of the proposed Official Plan Amendment and/or Zoning By-law Amendment, additional information and material, please visit caledon.ca/notices or contact the Lead Planner at Town Hall from Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

ACCESSIBILITY:
If you require an accessibility accommodation to attend or participate in this Public Meeting, or to access any materials related to this item in an alternate format please contact Council and Committee Services by phone at 905-584-2272 x.2366 or via email at accessibility@caledon.ca. Requests should be submitted at least 10 days before the Public Meeting.
Multi-Tenant Landowners: Please post this notice in a visible location to all residents of the land.
Notice Date: May 2, 2024

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Headwaters announces Patient Experience Framework

BY PAULA BROWN

Headwaters Health Care Centre (HHCC) has released its four-year guide to ensuring quality patient experience at the hospital.

The local hospital announced its new Patient Experience Framework in a press release on Monday, April 29.

“Everyone at Headwaters has a role to play in creating exceptional patient experiences. We are dedicated to building a strong patient-centric approach throughout Headwaters, from every area of care to each patient experience,” said Annette Jones, Vice President of Patient Experience and Chief Nursing Executive. “As we look ahead to a new year and expand our Patient and Family Advisory Partnership, I am confident that our patients, families and caregivers will see even more of their voice represented in how Headwaters cares for them.”

Developed by and for patients of Headwaters Health Care Centre, the Patient Experience Framework will act as a guide for how patient experience is defined, measured and delivered. The four-year master plan was built on the hospital’s foundations, which include governance and leadership support, 24/7 high-quality care, engaged teams, patient and community collaboration and partnership, and patient-focused quality improvement.

“Developing exceptional patient care is the tide that lifts all boats. When patients, families and caregivers voice their concerns, they play an active role in shaping their healthcare journey. We take your feedback very seriously to ensure continuous quality improvement that patients can expect at Headwaters,” said Juliann McArthur, Manager of the Patient Experience office.

Headwaters has identified six growth opportunities to enhance patient experience at the hospital. These opportunities will focus on:

- Patient and family voice: expanding the Patient and Family Advisory Partnership, which will allow for their voice to be a part of major initiatives. Also conducting surveys to measure and track patient and family interactions and care to help improve the patient journey;

- Quality and clinical excellence: refine protocols for staff to better communicate with patients and families, supporting their decision-making participation;
- Equitable care: identify how patients and families can be supported with accessible ethnoculturally relevant and appropriate resources;
- Policy improvement and measurement: use patient experience data to drive action and improvement in care delivery;
- Staff engagement and development: provide opportunities for staff to attend service excellence training, mentorship and other educational programs to strengthen the patient’s experiences
- Innovation: create patient-friendly access to technology and information through new tools and programs.

“Drawing from my family’s firsthand experience at Headwaters, I have the privilege of serving as a Patient and Family Advisor. This partnership between patient and hospital empowers me to collaborate with Headwaters’ management team, utilizing our collective insights to identify and execute on areas of growth and improvement. Patient and Family Advisors like me play a critical role to drive positive change for the best possible care,” said Shane Moores, Co-Chair of the Patient and Family Advisory Partnership.

To learn more about sharing your patient experience at Headwaters or to become a part of the Patient and Family Advisory, visit www.headwatershealth.ca.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Feds, Ontario subsidize Honda for creation of new EV production facilities

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

Honda will invest \$15 billion in Canada to create an electric-vehicle supply chain, including four manufacturing plants.

The project will be subsidized by the federal and provincial governments to the tune of \$5 billion.

The announcement was made at the Alliston Honda plant by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Ontario Premier Doug Ford on Thursday, April 25. The press conference also included Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland, Ontario Finance Minister Peter Bethlenfalvy, and Vic Fedeli, Ontario Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation, and Trade.

New Tecumseth Mayor Richard Norcross, attended on behalf of the Town.

“This is a very big day for the region, the province, and the country,” Prime Minister Trudeau said during the announcement. “Today, Honda is making Canadian automotive history. With this announcement, we will be investing to create Canada’s first comprehensive electric vehicle supply chain from start to finish. A whole eco-system will be built with four new manufacturing plants in Ontario including an EV assembly plant, a stand-alone battery manufacturing plant, and two plants for battery components. These investments will create well over 1,000 well-paying manufacturing jobs as well as many construction jobs, and of course jobs all across Ontario and the country for auto parts suppliers.”

Honda has set a goal of having electric vehicles represent 100 per cent of vehicle sales by 2040.

“This deal is another example of our two governments working together to rebuild our economy, to create better jobs with bigger paycheques, and we’re getting it done,” Premier Ford said.

It is expected that Honda will take advantage

of provincial and federal tax credits that could be as much as \$2.5 billion from each level of government.

“For 38 years, Honda has been an outstanding community partner,” Mayor Norcross said. “Honda is the corporate citizen that a community dreams about. Their corporate generosity and charitable actions have enhanced, and will enhance, and has always enhanced the well-being of our town. With Honda and their dedicated associates, so many of our community initiatives, which include expansion and new equipment to Stevenson Memorial Hospital and Matthews House Hospice would never have been possible.”

Mayor Norcross extolled the virtues of having a major manufacturing facility in the town.

“With today’s announcement, we are excited that Honda continues to invest in our community’s future while continuing to showcase New Tecumseth as global leader in manufacturing,” Mayor Norcross said.

Colin Oake, president of the Alliston and District Chamber of Commerce, said this announcement is fantastic news for Alliston and surrounding communities.

“We know the jobs have are going to be safe for the future and we are going to be adding 1,000 new jobs,” Oake said. “So many people are either directly employed with Honda, or just the knock-on effect from such a manufacture creates jobs. We estimate that every Honda job creates about seven possible knock-on jobs. It has a huge effect on people’s futures of having quality employment. Everyone is really excited. The potential growth in sales from new people in the community and new jobs in the community is terrific and we’re really excited to see it happen.”

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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 AI-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: boltonanon@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.

Caledon Housing Workshop
Focus: Families with loved ones with Disabilities
Sponsored by Ward 5 & 6 Local Concillors
Saturday May 4th
9:30 am – 2 pm
Humber River Center
28 Ann Street, Bolton
Please RSVP to CAFFI.network@gmail.com by April 19th, 2024

FREE Community Breakfast
Sat. May 4th 8:30 - 10:30 am
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Tuesday May 14
Free Bingo Night at Bolton United Church – 6 pm
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MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH

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How to ensure a relaxing day for Mom this Mother's Day

The unconditional love and undying patience moms exhibit as they raise their children is worthy of more than just a single day of appreciation in May.

Moms do a lot for their families, and though that's something to celebrate every day, Mother's Day merits upping the ante in regard to showing Mom how much she's loved and appreciated.

This year, families can work together to ensure this Mother's Day is a day for Mom to relax and bask in all the extra attention she deserves.

Book some time in the great outdoors

If the weather allows, visit a nearby park as a family and go for a walk. Nature has its own way of helping people relax, so some time outdoors in the spring air can keep the peaceful vibe going into the afternoon. If the family includes young children, choose a park with a playground so Mom can relax and watch the kids play from a nearby bench.

Book a dinner reservation

It might require some advance booking, as Mother's Day reservations can be hard to come by, but a night at Mom's favourite restaurant can be the perfect conclusion to a relaxing day. If Mom's more of a homebody, whip up a homemade meal and let Mom relax with a glass of wine as you prepare a feast.

Mother's Day is the perfect time to plan a day of relaxation for mothers who do so much for their families throughout the year. Some simple planning can ensure Mom gets the R&R she deserves.

Serve breakfast in bed

Mom might be on breakfast detail on hectic weekday mornings, but Mother's Day marks the perfect time for spouses and kids to take over those responsibilities. This year, keep the cereal in the pantry and go the extra mile by preparing a homemade breakfast and serving it to Mom in bed. Present the meal with a small bouquet of flowers and some reading material and then let Mom eat in peace and quiet if she so prefers.

Turn the en suite into a spa

Nothing complements a relaxing breakfast in bed better than a subsequent dip in Mom's own private spa. Transform the en suite or another bathroom into Mom's personal soaking space. Clean the bathtub, light some candles around the tub and bathroom, turn on some relaxing music, dim the lights, and then invite Mom in to soak in a freshly drawn hot bubble bath.

Keep Mom out of the kitchen

Keep the relaxing vibe going by making sure Mom doesn't have to lift a finger in the kitchen. Make sure all the dishes are washed before Mom comes downstairs for the day and let her know you've already ordered lunch from a local restaurant. Even if Mom loves to cook, a day off from kitchen detail can make Mother's Day that much more relaxing.



Happy Mother's Day!

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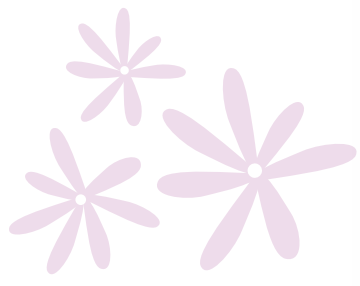
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Crafts lead the way for *Mother's Day* GIFTS



Mother's Day is a special time for children to show their appreciation for their mothers, grandmothers and the other special women in their lives.

Older children typically are capable of designing their own Mother's Day crafts or even shopping for gifts for Mom, while younger children will likely need some help from an adult.

Youngsters may not be able to take charge of Mother's Day festivities alone, but they certainly have the energy and enthusiasm to chip in. Handmade craft gifts are a thoughtful way for young kids to show their love for Mom. Here are a few ideas that can occupy even the youngest of hands.

HANDPRINT BUTTERFLY PHOTO CARD

All that is necessary for this craft is a printed photograph of the child's face, paper, scissors, glue, and finger paints. The child should dip their hands into the paint and make four handprints on paper in some preferred colours. When dry, cut around the perimeter of the handprints. These will serve as the "wings" of the butterfly. Glue the picture of the child's face in the middle of a piece of paper or card stock. Draw a butterfly body underneath it (or print out a stock image to use). Draw antennae sticking out of the child's head and attach the handprints around the head and butterfly body to make the wings.

HEARTFELT MASTERPIECE

Children can draw and colour all over a large sheet of construction paper or another durable paper. An adult can then use another sheet of paper to make a frame mat of sorts, cutting out a heart shape from the middle. Both pieces of paper are then trimmed to the dimensions of a photo frame. The artwork is placed first and then the heart matting on top so that the artwork will show through the heart shape. Frame everything together for a lasting memento.

FUZZY FLOWERS

Kids can make Mom a bouquet of flowers that will never wilt. Print a photo of the child's face and attach it to a piece of circular card stock that is roughly six inches in diameter. Have the child paint a popsicle stick green, and then attach that to the back of the round card stock. The child then glues small fuzzy pom poms to the cardstock surrounding the picture to make a flower. If desired, attach a magnet to the back of the flower so it can be secured to the refrigerator.

Crafts are a great gift option for young children looking to give something special to their Mom on Mother's Day.



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PASTA: Rigatoni With Spring Peas, Speck & Scallion Sauce

MAIN COURSE: Artichoke & Asiago Stuffed Chicken, Lemon Dill Salmon Asparagus & Heirloom Baby Potatoes, Romaine And Radicchio Salad

DESSERT: Raspberry Sorbet, Wine On Tables, Mimosa Bar At Reception

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Add pancake punch to Mother's Day brunch

(NC) Are you thinking about whipping up something special to serve on Mother's Day? Why not combine two of her favourite treats to create carrot cake pancakes? The recipe was created for the Almond Board of California by Emily Richards, author of *Get in the Kitchen and Cook*. Mixed with nutritious almonds, a dash of cinnamon and finished with a delicious cream cheese fruit sauce, the originality is sure to add a special touch and melt mom's heart all in one bite.

Carrot Cake Almond Pancakes

Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 20 minutes
Makes: 16 pancakes

INGREDIENTS:

PANCAKES:

- 1 1/2 cups (375 ml) whole wheat flour
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) ground almonds
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) granulated sugar
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) baking powder
- 1 tsp (5 ml) ground cinnamon
- Pinch fresh ground nutmeg
- 1 2/3 cups (400 ml) vanilla almond milk
- 1 egg
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) canola oil
- 1 cup (250 ml) grated carrots
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) golden raisins

CREAM CHEESE YOGURT DRIZZLE:

- 1/4 cup (60 ml) 0% Greek yogurt
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) light cream cheese, softened
- 4 tbsp (60 ml) vanilla almond milk
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) diced fresh strawberries
- 2 cups (500 ml) quartered fresh strawberries

PANCAKES:

1. In a large bowl, whisk together whole wheat flour, almonds, sugar, baking powder, cinnamon and nutmeg; set aside.
2. In another bowl, whisk together almond milk, egg and canola oil. Pour over flour mixture and stir until smooth. Stir in carrots and raisins.
3. Heat a non-stick griddle or a large non-stick skillet over medium heat. Ladle 1/4 cup (60 mL) of the batter onto griddle. Cook for about 2 minutes or until bubbles appear on top. Using spatula, flip pancake and cook another 1 minute or until golden. Repeat with remaining batter. (Alternatively, use 1/8 cup (30 mL) measure to make smaller pancakes.)

CREAM CHEESE YOGURT DRIZZLE:

1. Meanwhile, in a bowl, using an electric hand mixer, beat together yogurt, cream cheese and almond milk until smooth and runny. Stir in strawberries.
2. Spoon drizzle over pancakes and top with berries.

This recipe has been evaluated by the Heart and Stroke Foundation registered dietitians and is part of a healthy diet based on recommendations in Canada's Food Guide.

More recipes can be found online at almonds.com.

www.newscanada.com



Rainbow Fruit Salad with Yogurt topping

Prep time: 25 minutes

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 package Strawberries
- 1 pint Blueberries
- 1 pint Blackberries
- 2 Mandarin Oranges & 1 tsp (5 ml) Orange Zest
- 1/2 of a Pineapple
- 1/4 of a Honeydew Melon
- 12-16 Seedless Grapes
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) Orange juice

NOTE: You can use any mixed fruit of your choice.

YUMMY YOGURT TOPPING:

- 2 cups (500 ml) Greek Vanilla Yogurt
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) Good Local Honey
- 1 tsp (5 ml) Vanilla Extract
- 1 tsp (5 ml) Cinnamon
- 3 pinches of Cardamom

1. Wash and prepare fruit by cutting into bit sized pieces and place into a serving bowl.
2. In a small bowl mix 2 tbsp of orange juice with 1 tsp of orange zest.
3. Pour orange juice mixture over fruit and gentle toss.
4. Serve family-style.

YUMMY YOGURT TOPPING:

1. In a bowl, stir together yogurt, honey, vanilla, cinnamon and cardamom.
2. Serve in a bowl on the side with spoon.

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Caledon Cavaliers RFC Spring Preview

Growth on the rugby pitch in 2023 and full speed ahead in 2024 with Cavaliers Cup



NICOLAS IACOVELLI
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BY JIM STEWART

Michele Iacovelli, President of the Caledon Cavaliers Rugby Football Club, has overseen much growth and many improvements to his fledgling local sports organization over the last year and sees 2024 as year to expect more of the same.

“We’ve managed to get more young people into key volunteer and communication positions to grow our program.”

Iacovelli announced in our interview that the first-ever Cavaliers Cup will be played on Friday, May, at Humberview Secondary School.

“Our Junior Girls Co-Captain, Lara Morrison, has done a great job organizing our first high school tournament and managing our organization’s social media. Our leadership is growing from within the organization. Lara and her Co-Captain Lexi Thompson are playing a key role in our five-year plan. They’ve recruited like crazy and they’ve done great work on and off the pitch. Seeing our Junior player leaders thrive in positions of responsibility has been a big plus for the organization.”

The Bolton resident, who hails from Worcestershire, UK, also spoke proudly of his son Nicolas whose recent on-pitch accomplishments include being selected for a GTA All-Star Team that played in the Tropical 7’s tournament in Tampa Bay, Florida on March 29 and 30th.

“It was a very good experience for Nic. He’s been heavily-involved with rugby for the last eight years. Nic worked out with the Barbarians over the winter in the Sports Dome in Aurora and managed to secure a spot with the U16 Toronto Reds travel team. He had a fantastic time playing in great facilities against strong club teams. The Americans are pouring lots of money into rugby and I was impressed with the quality of their teams in Florida. The sheer size of the tournament was impressive and the US is building rugby academies for year-round outdoor training. He and Eli Giannopoulos of the Aurora Barbarians were the youngest players on the team. Nic was really happy to be there.”

The Toronto Reds Tropical 7’s squad that Iacovelli and Giannopoulos competed for was comprised of five players from the Peterborough Pagans, two players from Brock RFC, two players from Toronto City, and one player each from the Toronto Nomads, Aurora Barbarians, Barrie Rugby Club, and Caledon Cavaliers. Iacovelli noted that “The Reds have put out their call for roster spots for the Trop-

ical 7’s as the organization rebuilds the U16 team for travel in 2025. This is a great opportunity for Nic and Eli to be core players after their experiences with the team in 2024.”

Seeing players in his organization thriving in these competitive settings is satisfying for the President of the Caledon Cavaliers and Iacovelli discussed other accomplishments during the 2023 season.

“Apart from being named the Minor Rugby Program of the Year by Rugby Ontario, our biggest achievement last year was to get together a Girls Program with Lara taking the lead. She was able to bring a whole number of girls from Brampton and from Hall. We qualified for an \$8K ‘Girls in Sport’ grant to get the program started. Developing the girls’ program goes back to the organization’s roots when it started over twenty years ago as a Girls Rugby Club. A number of our female players are putting back into the program already by assuming leadership roles in the organization and getting their referee certification so we can grow the sport in Caledon.”

Iacovelli also pointed to so many of the players in the organization getting certified in “Emergency First Aid and Athletic Taping which is a good resume item to help our student-athletes get summer jobs in recreation.”

In addition to the initiatives undertaken by so many individual Cavalier players, Iacovelli also spoke fondly of upcoming improvements to Palgrave Park that will be the home of the Cavaliers RFC.

“The Town of Caledon is retrofitting the facilities at Palgrave to create storage spaces for both baseball and rugby teams. We’re looking forward to changing the field’s football uprights to rugby goalposts and for the additional fields to be built. The Town has been so helpful in helping us secure municipal grants to improve Palgrave. We’ll be running our Minis Festival at Palgrave again this season so that will showcase the improvements to the pitches and help us grow rugby in Caledon.”

The most significant addition to the Cavaliers for the 2024 season is Dr. Karen Chrobak who is taking the reins of the club’s Junior Girls’ U16 and U18 program.

In her introductory video to the community, “Coach Karen” discusses her 27 years of playing experience and notes proudly that she “plays every Saturday for the Guardian Angels Rugby Club and

the Canadian Classics team.”

Chrobak—a Level 2 Coach and Level 1 referee—also notes in her video that she played for Team Ontario for ten years and her range of playing experience stretches from high school to national levels of competition.

In addition to serving as a Chief Medical Officer for Rugby Ontario, Dr. Karen brings a wealth of experience to the Cavaliers as their Junior Head Coach. She preaches the importance of “the sisterhood of rugby” and she loves serving as a “mentor to young women in rugby and facilitate them not only in their game of play, but in life.” She is focused on “growing grassroots rugby” in Caledon

and her cross-country network will be deployed all season with visits by guest coaches to Cavalier practices as well as former and current players from across the country arriving in Caledon to work on “special skills” with the U16’s and U18’s.

With a top-notch Head Coach leading the burgeoning Girls Program, a growing number of players achieving within and outside the organization, the prospect of an improved facility in Palgrave, and accolades pouring in from Rugby Ontario, Michele Iacovelli and his young leaders are steering the Caledon Cavaliers toward achieving the immediate and long-term goals of their five-year plan.

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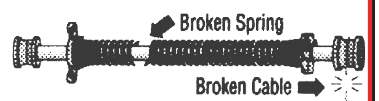
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St. Anne's School, Aurora, Shining Hill reach deal on new turf field



CONTRIBUTED IMAGE

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

A new artificial turf field will increase sports and recreation opportunities in Aurora. Last week, a deal was reached between the Town of Aurora, St. Anne's School (SAS), and Shining Hill Group to construct a state-of-the-art \$7 million turf field and park for the Aurora community.

The facilities will be located near St. Anne's, which is located on the north side of St. John's Sideroad, just west of Yonge Street, and will be part of Shining Hill's Gates of St. Anne's community, currently being constructed at the intersection's northwest corner.

"In partnership with St. Anne's School and Shining Hill Group, the Town of Aurora is proud to support the development of this state-of-the-art neighbourhood park inclusive of an artificial turf, splash pad, playground,

and pickleball courts," said Mayor Tom Mrakas in a statement. "Partnership plays an important role in fostering a strong sense of community and has proven successful in Aurora. The addition of the turf field and park will not only benefit the students of St. Anne's but will enhance the overall quality of life for all residents. We look forward to seeing the positive impact this project will have on our Town for years to come."

The new turf field and park will include the field itself, which will be branded appropriately for St. Anne's and the Town, 500-seat stadium-style bleachers, lighting for evening games, facilities suitable for flag football, rugby, field hockey and soccer, pickleball courts, multi-use courts for basketball and like sports, a splash pad, parking, and wash-room facilities.

St. Anne's Head of School Sabrina D'Angelo says the new field and facilities will help the school "move into next-level program-

ming, which is really exciting."

"It is a unique situation in that we have partnered with the Town and Shining Hill group. We have been conversing about it since Shining Hill Group purchased all of this property."

As St. Anne's is partnered with the nearby St. Andrew's College, which lies on 126 acres, there has been "no shortage of field facilities" for SAS students, but this new deal was a missing piece that will enable St. Anne's to serve the needs of its growing population and develop a "comprehensive athletics program" that will parallel SAC's offering.

"It's important that we invest in our student-athletes," says D'Angelo. "Because of the unique connection and partnership we have with the Town of Aurora and Shining Hill Group, we started to devise a plan around the various opportunities that could be afforded to the school, that would complement and strengthen the relationship. For us, it was important to be able to leverage some of the Town land for the school, and we are also very big believers in having strong

connections with the community, so it was a win-win-win – a win for St. Anne's, a win for the Town of Aurora and the local community, and a win for Shining Hill Group," says D'Angelo.

"One of the really great features, particularly with the two-acre turf field, is that it is outfitted for field hockey, flag football, soccer, and rugby, but we are also really excited about it being lit, which we don't have at St. Andrew's. Currently at SAC, games can't be played post-dusk, but now we have an opportunity to leverage the facility and host different events. St. Andrew's is very eager to see this introduction as well as it adds a dimensionality to their offerings."

Under the shared user agreement, St. Anne's will have the opportunity to use the turf field for academic and co-curricular purposes throughout the academic calendar.

Construction of the field is underway, and it is hoped to be operational and open to the public by the start of the 2024-2025 school year this fall.

Junior C hockey moves into semi-final Schmalz Cup series

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

Four teams remain in the Provincial Junior Hockey League as the provincial Schmalz Cup playoff series goes through the best-of-seven semi-final round.

The Alliston Hornets lost their conference championship series to the Hanover Barons in a series that went five games.

The Barons earned the right move on to the next round.

Remaining teams include the Hanover Barons, North Conference champions and the Clarington Eagles from the East Conference.

That semi-final series got underway on Friday, April 26.

Hanover won the first game with a 3-0 shut-out.

In Game 2, of the series, the Eagles evened it up with a 3-2 win to tie the series 1-1.

If the series goes the full seven games, the final match will be on May 6.

In the other semi-final series, the New Hamburg Firebirds, representing the South Conference, are up against the Lakeshore Canadiens of the West Conference.

That series got underway on April 23, with Lakeshore winning the first game 3-2.

Lakeshore won Game 2, 7-3 on Friday, April 26.

New Hamburg was back in the series after a 3-1 in Game 3 on April 28.

If that series goes the full seven games, it will wrap up on Sunday, May 5.

The two semi-final winning teams will meet for the Schmalz Cup championship series.

The championship series is back to a best-of-seven format this after two years of tournament style play.

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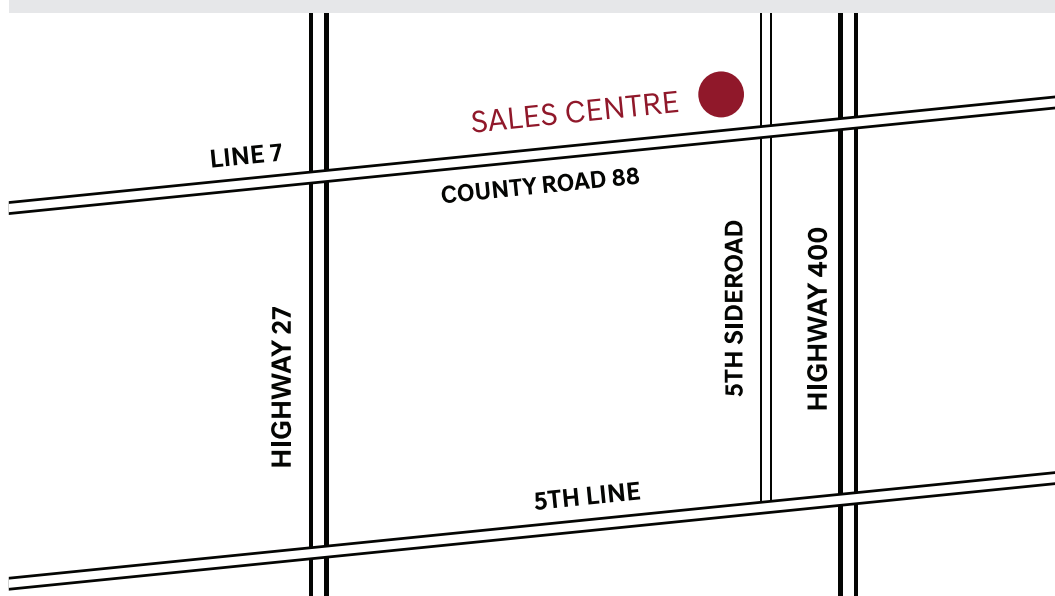
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