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READER'S CHOICE 2023 DIAMOND WINNER

FREE Thursday, May 9, 2024 Volume 44, Issue 20



SKILL BUILDING – Students from Southfields Village Public School were building raised garden beds on May 4. They were being led by Toronto and Region Conservation Authority Staff, who were there as part of their “Girls Can Too” initiative which provides female-identifying youth with hands-on learning experiences in construction and ecology.

PHOTO BY ZACHARY ROMAN

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Province unhappy with mayor's zoning decision due to conflict with 413 corridor

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Province has taken issue with Caledon Mayor Annette Groves' recent decision to propose 12 zoning bylaw amendments that would bring 35,000 housing units to Caledon.

Groves' decision was made using Strong Mayor powers on March 26. At an April 30 Caledon Council meeting, after significant backlash from Caledon residents was received in the weeks leading up to the meeting, Groves announced she was putting the decision on hold.

An April 26 letter from Ontario's Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Paul Calandra, details issues the Provincial Government has

with Groves' decision.

“Ministry staff have reviewed the proposed zoning bylaw amendments and identified that six of the 12 proposed zoning bylaw amendments are within the Focused Analysis Area of the Highway 413 Transportation Corridor and the Narrowed Area of Interest of the Northwest GTA Transmission Identification Study,” reads Calandra's letter.

Calandra said the Province's Ministries of Transportation and Energy need to protect the Focused Analysis Area and Narrowed Area of Interest while assessments and studies take place.

He also said if Groves' decision were to go through, it would be contrary to policy direction

— specifically surrounding protecting planned infrastructure corridors — from the Province, Region of Peel, and Town of Caledon itself.

“I appreciate your efforts in seeking to find opportunities to provide for more housing in Caledon, however, in order to be consistent and in conformity with the infrastructure corridor protection policies of the Provincial Policy Statement and Growth Plan, Schedules A1, A2, A4, A5, A9 and A11 of the proposed zoning bylaw amendments should be modified to remove any permissions on lands within the Focused Analysis Area and Narrowed Area of Interest,” wrote Calandra.

Continued on Page A6

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Bolton Kin celebrate 60th anniversary

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

One of Caledon's service clubs recently celebrated a major milestone.

On May 4, the Bolton Kin marked their 60th anniversary with a lunch event at the Caledon Seniors Centre. In addition to many Bolton Kin, dignitaries such as Caledon Mayor Annette Groves, Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones, and Dufferin-Caledon MP Kyle Seebach were in attendance at the event.

Bolton Kin past president Joe Luschak is the club's longest-serving member, having been involved with the Kin for 51 years now. At the event, he gave a brief history of the Bolton Kin.

“In April of 1964, a group of young men decided to get involved in service work in their small community of roughly 3,500 residents,” said Luschak. This was the beginning of the Bolton Kin.

One of the first projects of the Bolton Kin was raising \$25,000 which went towards the building of the Albion Bolton Community Centre.

Continued on Page A17

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LEFT: Adrian Horwood, Bethell Hospice Foundation board co-chair; Margaret Paan, Bethell Hospice Executive Director; Sylvia Jones, Dufferin-Caledon MPP; Lynn Kiernan, Ward 1 Councillor; Christina Early, Regional Councillor; and Bonnie Klaassen, Bethell Hospice Foundation board co-chair mark the start of Hospice Palliative Care Week. **RIGHT:** Hikers leave the Lloyd Wilson Centennial Arena to begin this year's Hike for Bethell Hospice. **PHOTOS BY ZACHARY ROMAN**

Over 450 people attend annual Hike for Bethell Hospice

Community well on its way to meeting \$245,000 fundraising goal

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Caledon residents weren't daunted by a little rain and came out in droves for the annual Hike for Bethell Hospice last weekend.

On May 5, the annual hike was held in Inglewood, starting around 9 a.m. at the Lloyd Wilson Centennial Arena. Registration and opening ceremonies were held inside due to the weather, and the arena was buzzing with excitement as hikers got ready for their adventure and enjoyed coffee, fruit, and Timbits for breakfast.

This year's hike had a fundraising goal of \$245,000, and as of May 6 over \$222,000 had been raised by residents and businesses.

The total is expected to rise as donations are accepted until the end of May.

The Hike for Bethell Hospice continues to grow each year and this year's hike featured over 450 participants.

Bethell Hospice Foundation board co-chairs Adrian Horwood and Bonnie Klaassen said it was thanks to the tireless efforts of volunteers that the hike was able to be a success. They also thanked the many sponsors of the event as they gave welcome remarks on the day of the hike.

Local schools have been getting involved in the Hike for Bethell Hospice, and this year they raised \$20,000.

Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones attended the hike. She said as health minister,

she believes hospice care is an important part of Ontario's health system.

"When I see the engagement we have in this community for hospice... thank you for being huge supporters," said Jones.

At the hike, Ward 1 Councillor Lynn Kiernan delivered a proclamation from the Town of Caledon marking the week of May 5 to 11 as Hospice Palliative Care Week in Caledon.

Margaret Paan is the executive director of Bethell Hospice and was grateful for all who attended the hike.

"Whether you're a first-time hiker or returning team, you all have made a difference by being here today," said Paan.

Marion Lawrence is an Orangeville resident who came out to the hike to support

the work being done at Bethell Hospice and remember someone who made a difference in her life.

"I'm remembering my Tai Chi instructor from Orangeville... you can't forget people who did so much good to you personally," she said. "And you can't forget the people who took care of them."

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Toronto and Region Conservation Authority staff taught Caledon students how to safely use power tools at a May 4 event.

PHOTO BY ZACHARY ROMAN

Southfields Village Public School students learn how to build raised garden beds

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Caledon students got hands-on trades experience building raised garden beds last weekend.

On May 4, Southfields Village Public School students were led in a building workshop by Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) staff. The workshop was part of the TRCA's "Girls Can Too" program, which provides female-identifying youth with hands-on learning experiences in construction and ecology.

Stan Cameron, Caledon's Peel District School Board (PDSB) trustee, said the event was an amazing example of community engagement.

"There's no cost to families... there's an opportunity for children, girls in particular, to learn how to work with the trades — in this case woodworking," said Cameron.

The garden beds will be used for the South-

fields Village Public School's community vegetable garden, as part of the larger school vegetable garden project that's been ongoing at Caledon public schools.

"These vegetable gardens are turning out to be a gift that really keeps on giving," said Cameron.

Brett Harris is the principal of Southfields Village Public School. He said the raised garden beds are going to be put into the school's kindergarten yards and connected to a lot of kindergarten learning. The gardens will also be used for science and math learning for students in older grades.

He said the building workshop event was great for his students.

"It's great for the kids... the fact that it's a mother-daughter build event... is fantastic," said Harris. "It promotes the use of power tools among our young students who identify as female, so it's a fantastic learning opportunity for them."

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

Caledon Church of Canada. Every Sunday morning @ 10 am. Monday prayer meeting @ 7 pm. Resources: Prayer counselling, Baby/child dedication, Visit the sick, Wedding Services, Food bank and more!
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Location: 34 Nixon Rd., Bolton

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

Tuesday May 14
Free Bingo Night at Bolton United Church – 6 pm
Join us for Bingo, Prizes, Pizza and Fun!
To reserve a table call ahead or e-mail us at office@boltonunitedchurch.com or just drop in Everyone welcome!
8 Nancy Street, Bolton
Phone 905-857-2615
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Monday, May 6, 2024 - Annual General Meeting & Elections
The Caledon Seniors Centre at Rotary Place in Bolton
Free sandwich and dessert at 12:00 pm if attending the meeting.
AGM starts at 1:00 PM
Call the Centre to register at 905-951-6114 for catering purposes.

Also available over Zoom. Call the Centre for the link.

Saturday, May 11, 2024 - Fundraising Mother's Day Afternoon Tea
Treat your Mum for Mother's Day at the Caledon Seniors Centre at Rotary Place in Bolton!
Enjoy fancy sandwiches, scones, clotted cream and jam, desserts, tea/coffee,
Cost: \$30
Pick-up: 1:30 to 2:00 pm
Sit-in: 2:00 to 4:00 pm
Local delivery available for \$2
Call the Centre at 905-951-6114 to purchase your tickets.

Wed. May 22, 2024 - Special Lunch
Join us at the Caledon Seniors Centre at Rotary Place in Bolton!
Menu: Fish & Chips, Peas, Coleslaw, Cinnamon Bun Coffee Cake
Cost: \$11
Pick-up: 11:30 am
Dine-in served at 12:00 pm
Local delivery available for \$2
Register by Tuesday, May 21 at 12:00 pm
Call the Centre at 905-951-6114 to purchase your tickets.

Thursday, May 30, 2024 – Laughter & Lunch
Join us for this fun event "Survive & Thrive With Humour" at the Caledon Seniors Centre at Rotary Place in Bolton at 11:00 am! Presented by Tim Westhead.
Boost your morale with this humorous session that will have you smiling and feeling energized!
Lunch menu: Chicken Caesar Wraps, Pasta Salad and Bread Pudding with Custard.
Cost: \$15
Call the Centre at 905-951-6114 to purchase your tickets!

Friday, May 31, 2024 - Monthly Dinner
Meet us at the Caledon Seniors Centre at Rotary Place in Bolton for dinner!
Menu: Stuffed Chicken, Roast Potatoes, Kale Salad and Ice-Cream Sandwich Dessert
Cost: \$16
Pick-up: 5:15 pm
Dine-in served at 5:30 pm
Local delivery available for \$2
Register by Wednesday, May 29 at 3:30 pm
Call the Centre at 905-951-6114 to purchase your tickets.

The Kin Club of Bolton are holding another Toonie Treasure Sale Saturday May 25th from 10 am till 1 pm at the Albion Bolton Fairgrounds President building. RACKS and RACKS of fabulous new and gently used women, men, children apparel.. and yes, all for a toonie! All proceeds go to community needs.

FATAL COLLISION

Officers from the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are currently investigating a fatal collision on Humber Station Road.

"On May 7, just before 11 a.m., Caledon OPP and emergency crews responded to a collision involving a passenger vehicle that struck the rear of commercial motor vehicle on Humber Station Road, just north of King Street, in the Town of Caledon," said police. "The driver of the passenger vehicle, a 58-year-old of Mono, was airlifted to a Toronto-area trauma centre and was later pronounced as deceased."

"Humber Station Road between Castlederg Sideroad and King Street was closed for several hours while OPP Technical Collision Investigators and Reconstructionists assisted with the investigation," police added.

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.

DUFFERIN OPP LAUNCH COLLISION REPORTING CENTRE

The Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) has launched a Collision Reporting Centre (CRC) in Dufferin County.

Motorists involved in a property damage collision in Dufferin County are now able to report their collision at the Dufferin CRC which is located at the Dufferin Detachment at 506312 Highway 89 in the Town of Mono.

In many instances, there is no need for police to respond to property damage collisions in which no injuries are sustained. Drivers involved in a property damage collision can now conveniently report their collision within 48 hours of the occurrence.

The Highway Traffic Act requires that all collisions where people are injured or property damage is valued at more than \$2,000.00 to vehicles or property, or damage to any highway property to be reported to police forthwith. Re-

porting to the CRC will meet this requirement. In many instances, there is no need for police to attend the scene of collisions in which no significant damage or injuries are sustained.

"The CRC expansion is an excellent example of Dufferin OPP's commitment to road safety and enhancing its policing services to road users and communities. Property damage collisions consume a large amount of police resources and time as well as put all involved occupants at risk of being involved in a secondary collision," said police.

"Dufferin OPP attended 1282 collisions between May 1, 2023, and May 1, 2024. If officers do not need to attend and investigate minor collisions, this makes them available to tend to other policing services," police added. "The CRC will provide a more effective use of police resources and allow frontline officers to focus more time on proactive efforts to enhance public safety. The Dufferin OPP will continue to provide the same excellent service in responding to collisions that require an officer to attend."

Collisions involving the following will continue to have an officer investigate the collision at the scene: Death or Injury; Transportation of dangerous goods; Involving large commercial motor vehicles; Fail to remain (unless no driver or vehicle information available for follow up); Collision where there is suspicion of criminal activity including impaired driving; Suspended or unlicensed drivers; Uninsured vehicles; Drivers refusing to share required information to other drivers; Vehicles blocking live lanes of traffic; Damage to private, public or government property; Government vehicles; or Collisions involving a pedestrian or cyclist.

The Collision Reporting Centre at Dufferin OPP Detachment - Mono Site hours of operation will be: Monday to Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday – Closed.

If you're not sure if the collision meets the criteria, call the OPP at 1-888-310-1122. The call taker will determine if it meets the CRC criteria and determine if an officer needs to be dispatched to the scene.

The OPP recognizes and appreciates the important role drivers and other road users play in helping keep our roads safe.

For information on the OPP's CRCs, including locations and how to use them, visit www.opp.ca/collisions.

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Jackie MacDonald, Katrina Judge, Andrea Merkley, Claudia Ferrara, and Sofia Capista are all instructors at Connetic Balance in Bolton.

PHOTO BY ZACHARY ROMAN

Connetic Balance yoga studio opens in Bolton

May 5 grand opening event attended by Caledon councillors

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

A new yoga studio has opened in Caledon. On May 5, Claudia Ferrara opened her new yoga studio, Connetic Balance, in Bolton. “We’re a yoga and wellness studio, but we offer a lot of specialty classes on top of that,” said Ferrara. “Our goal as a studio is to create a space that is non-judgmental and supportive of everybody, no matter where their journey is at or what they’re working towards.” Ferrara said as the owner of a yoga studio, her goal is to give people as many options as possible. Ferrara’s studio is located at 12612 Hwy. 50 (Unit 31) and she wanted it to be there as it’s an accessible location that’s easy to find.

At her studio’s grand opening, Ferrara said she felt relieved as there was so much work that went into its preparation. “A lot of friends and family and my students are coming through,” she said. “It’s been a lot to get here but it’s awesome, it’s surreal... I remember wanting this for so long... it’s the best feeling ever.” Ferrara said she welcomes anyone interested in yoga with open arms. She said a common misconception is that you need to be flexible already to do yoga. “That’s not the case, you come here to find that mental clarity, to find that balance, to find flexibility and mobility in your life,” she said. “Don’t worry about if you can or can’t, just step in and we will help you along the way.”

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Shaws Creek (between Beech Grove Sideroad and Bush St)	Sideroad 27 (between Winston Churchill Blvd and Mississauga Rd)	Intermittent road closure on Mississauga Rd between Forks and the Credit Rd and Cataract Rd
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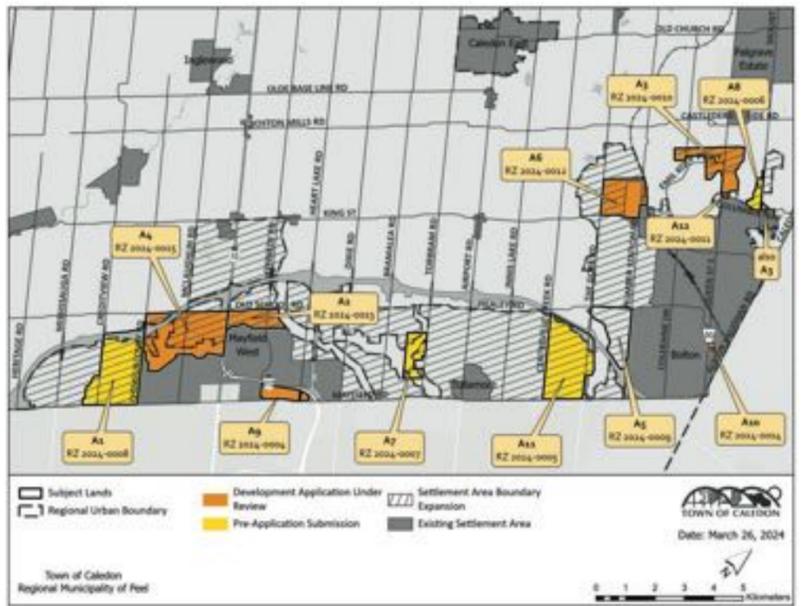


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The above map shows the lands that are the subject of a Mayoral Decision from Caledon Mayor Annette Groves. TOWN OF CALEDON

Public information sessions on 12 zoning bylaw amendments proposed by Groves coming soon

Continued from FRONT

In an email to the Citizen, Groves said Calandra's letter was received as part of the process for formal comment review "through the standard planning process".

"Planning decisions involve balancing a range of considerations from many parties. There are often arguments both for and against any planning proposal, as well as technical feedback, and professional planning staff use an integrated process to bring comments

together and address those inputs before, in this case, they bring the revised bylaws to Council," said Groves. "This process is well underway, and staff has already addressed a significant majority of the feedback..."

There will be three public information sessions held on the zoning bylaw amendments: one from 7 to 9 p.m. on May 15 at the Southfields Community Centre; one from 7 to 9 p.m. on May 23 at the Albion Bolton Community Centre; and one from 7 to 9 p.m. on June 10 at the Caledon East Community Centre.

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A recent planting event at Whitetail Refuge Nature Reserve improved habitat at Mono Centre Creek. CALEDON HILLS BRUCE TRAIL CLUB PHOTO

Caledon Area Families For Inclusion hosts housing workshop

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

A local group recently hosted a housing workshop at the Humber River Centre in Bolton to discuss inclusive housing and more.

Caledon Area Families For Inclusion (CAFFI) partnered with Caledon councillors Tony Rosa, Cosimo Napoli, and Mario Russo for a housing workshop on May 4.

Michael Brunetto is one of the coordinators of CAFFI, which supports families with loved ones with differing abilities, and he helped lead the workshop.

“We came together to discuss (how) we feel the developers and builders can partner with us, in terms of what the actual needs are in the community, primarily about housing for those who are most vulnerable, those who have complex care needs,” said Brunetto.

He said right now, there’s a lack of availability of housing for people with complex care needs in Caledon. By working with councillors, Brunetto said CAFFI can help Caledon be prepared to show developers what needs are for inclusive housing in Caledon.

“We want to make sure that this demographic doesn’t get lost in all of the planning,” said Brunetto. “It’s not only affordability, but availability of services.”

Brunetto said he was really happy with the turnout for the workshop.

Patricia Franks is another CAFFI coordinator who helped run the workshop.

“We invited community members as well as parents and people that work in the field to participate, so we have a good variety of perspectives around the tables,” said Franks. “Housing is a very big need in Caledon. We know that a lot of housing is going to be built in the next 10 years and that housing has to include people with developmental disabilities.”

Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club takes part in habitat restoration event

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Members of a Caledon club helped restore vital habitat last weekend.

On May 4, the Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club’s biodiversity team partnered with Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) staff and Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC) staff for a habitat restoration project at Whitetail Refuge Nature Reserve in Mono.

Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club president Sandra Green said a better weather day for the project couldn’t have been asked for. There were around 40 volunteers out to restore habitat, and together they planted 450 shrubs and bare root trees.

The trees and shrubs planted last Saturday will create a forested corridor along Mono Centre Creek. Green explained the creek is part of the Nottawasaga River watershed, which flows downstream from the Niagara Escarpment to discharge into Georgian Bay.

Mara McHaffie is a land stewardship coordinator and ecologist with the BTC. She said the BTC was thrilled to partner with the NVCA and Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club for the

May 4 event.

“By planting trees and shrubs along Mono Centre Creek, we are enhancing wildlife habitat and mitigating the effects of climate change on this coldwater stream,” said McHaffie. “Ecological stewardship projects such as this are critical to supporting our mission of preserving a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever.”

Shannon Stephens is a healthy waters program coordinator for the NVCA. She said spring is an exciting time of year when long-planned-for projects can finally begin.

“I always think of some of the NVCA’s community habitat restoration days as an odd matchmaking service between the properties that need some help, and the volunteers that can help them,” said Stephens. “Whether it’s planting trees, rehabilitating rivers, creating wetlands or seeding grasslands, without the help of about 2,000 amazing volunteers a year, great landowners and partners like the Bruce Trail Conservancy, and charitable funders, this type of watershed restoration couldn’t happen... together, we make the valley a wonderful place to live in, for more living things than just people.”



NEWS

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COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSIONS



Proposed Zoning By-law Amendments

Following the recent public meeting for the 12 proposed zoning by-law amendments, Mayor Groves announced the Town will hold three info sessions to further clarify the process, address inquiries from the public and detail the proposed amendments. Each session will feature the same information and presentation from staff. The public is invited to attend any of the sessions at their convenience.

While these sessions are exclusively in-person, the presentation and additional details will also be accessible on the Town website as they become available. For more information scan the QR code.



LOCATIONS AND DATES Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

- **Southfields Community Centre**
225 Dougall Ave
Wednesday, May 15 from 7-9 p.m.
- **Albion Bolton Community Centre**
150 Queen St S
Thursday, May 23 from 7-9 p.m.
- **Caledon East Community Complex**
6215 Old Church Rd
Monday, June 10 from 7-9 p.m.

CULTURE DAYS



The Town of Caledon is seeking artists and performers for the third annual Caledon Creative Arts Festival in Caledon East.

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For full details and to apply today visit caledon.ca/culturedays.

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 caledon.ca/transit or brampton.ca/transit

Take the survey or attend an open house and let us know what you’d like to see on our newest trail.

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BROCK WEIR
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Leaving homes to wither on the vine

Until very recently, I thought my days as a commuter were over.

For the last decade or so, I've lived fairly close to the office so the trip in to the newsroom was only a five-minute drive or 10-minute bus ride away.

That all changed at the end of January and the beginning of February upon moving, and my main base of occupational operation was significantly further away.

Now, I most often tend to get to work through public transit.

It's a fairly straight shot to the office now. In the mornings, it takes one bus route to get to Yonge Street before transferring to the rapid transit that shuttles thousands each day up and down one of our busiest corridors that are not part of the 400 series of highways.

The way back is a different route, through some rural-adjacent parts of King Township on the way back to the outskirts of Woodbridge.

Either way you slice it – or, more appropriately, travel it – I was not looking forward at the start to the length of time it would take to get from Point A to Point B and dreaded it each morning. I know, I know, this is something many of you face at least five days a week, but I was out of practice, last having a commute like this in my days as an Ottawa resident a decade-and-a-half ago, so indulge me for a minute.

The first few times felt a bit tedious. Bar from one isolated incident of on-board violence between what appeared to be a less-than-happily-coupled couple, nothing out of the ordinary ever happened, no day varied from the last, and this passenger went on autopilot – with significantly less consequence than when Keanu Reeves and Sandra Bullock had the same feeling in Speed.

But I digress.

Over the weeks and months, I've found a few ways to spice things up.

In the 90 minutes it takes me to get to the office in the morning and the 60 minutes it takes me to get back – I don't understand the math, either – I've polished off a few books that have long been languishing on my nightstand, used the time wisely to better coordinate the day ahead, and although I'm not yet friendly enough to be on a casual conversation basis with my fellow passengers, I've started to take notice of their patterns.

It's been interesting to note how they spend the time of their morning commute when there is very little else to do. In my observation, they maximize that time. On each trip, there's invariably someone who is relatively new to this country who uses the time to reconnect with friends and family back home through Facetime, WhatsApp, and various other platforms.

Sometimes these conversations are in English, more often they are not, and, if it's a particularly crowded commuter day, all these languages sometimes come together into a symphony of diversity which always strikes me as a hallmark of the Canadian experience.

I'm not ashamed to say that it warms my heart.

From what I'm able to pick up, these conversations are very upbeat with my seatmates often excitedly sharing tidbits from their day, which are greeted with equal enthusiasm with those whom they're talking to. I like to imagine that both parties are jazzed by the future and everything that could very well be in store for them in

this place they chose to call home.

Recently, however, I had the odd sensation of being the only person on the bus for the first leg of the day's journey. As loud as the bus itself was, the comparative silence was deafening. To add insult to injury, I picked that day to start a new book and it just wasn't grabbing me.

Putting it away after a few stops had gone by, I hadn't before realized there were so many reminders of the other side of that optimism.

Appearing on the horizon every few blocks were homes that were boarded up, sagging, left to the elements, or otherwise abandoned.

Some, duty faithfully done to the generations of families that once called them home, were languishing on their foundations awaiting a bulldozer or wrecking ball, all in the name of new residential or commercial developments.

Others were condemned to death row in the name of progress, earmarked for demolition in order to make way for road-widening projects.

Further former homes were wedged between those still harbouring families from the cold, yet were nonetheless boarded up, mouldering and leaning for any number of reasons, holding their secrets close to their buttresses.

One house was a dwelling I had never noticed before, despite having probably passed it a few hundred times in my lifetime having lived in York Region for at least 35 non-consecutive years stood out. Characterized by (deliberately) sloping roofs, gothic windows, and other features of interest, it was not hard to imagine its halcyon days as the well-kept home of a well-to-do family that had since departed for greener pastures, leaving this one to the fate of development.

Mind you, I'm not opposed to development in and of itself, but this one gave me a particular pang.

All told, on the morning route which takes me through Vaughan and Richmond Hill on the way to Aurora there were no less than 13 homes that were either abandoned or sold and left to rot while planning applications made their way to the system. On the evening route, which takes me from Aurora through Richmond Hill, King Township, and finally Vaughan, there were 11 – with one dwelling that could have been Number 12, but it was hard to tell for the dumpsters in the driveway.

As our housing crisis continues unabated, I couldn't help but despair that more than two-dozen homes in this limited corridor were deliberately left to languish rather than being put to good and practical use, even if on a temporary basis.

Construction is an inevitability across Ontario, particularly as communities scramble with varying degrees of success to address mandated or endorsed housing targets, which means the number of existing homes left to wither on the vine will only grow – years before anything is approved or ready to take their place.

In the meantime, in order to alleviate these pressures, although the homes on my daily commute are likely too far gone for any practical use (and, I would imagine in many cases, deliberately so) what incentives could be put in place for property owners, builders, and other stakeholders to provide upkeep to these dwellings for those in need of housing options until it's actually time for the buildings to make way for something else?



Gambling is enshrined in our lives

by Mark Pavilons



It's been said that everything's a gamble in life. All the best gamblers quit when they're ahead. It's funny, this obsession of ours with gambling, playing the odds and the rush of winning.

Does gambling imitate life? New data has revealed that Canada has the highest number of gamblers, with 48.6% of the adult population projected to have gambled online by the end of 2024.

The UK ranks second, with 27.9%, and Australia is third, with 21.2%.

The U.S. is a distant 6th with 17%.

The research analyzed online gambling data for 61 countries. The second most gambling-obsessed country is the United Kingdom, with 27.9% of the population estimated to have gambled online by the end of 2024. The UK is projected to make revenue of \$13.78 billion in 2024 from online gambling.

Third in the ranking is Australia, with 21.1% of the population taking part in online gambling in 2024. \$10.14 billion is projected to be made in revenue in 2024.

Emiko Matsuda, Editor-in-Chief Statista, Japanese Online Casino Guide, noted "the surge in online gambling can be attributed to a variety of factors such as the pandemic, which meant many bettors transitioned from wagering on sports to online gambling, and the data suggests that this shift is permanent."

Gambling has been part of humankind's make-up for literally thousands of years. Dice go back to ancient China, to the 10th century BC. A pair of dice were found in an Egyptian tomb from 3,000 BC and they were common in ancient Greece and Rome.

Some experts date playing cards to China in 900 AD, but they became popular in Europe in the 1300s.

It took hundreds of years before the 52-card deck we know today became standard. Hats off to our American neighbours for introducing the Joker in the mid-1800s, when euchre was also introduced.

It can be argued that all card and dice games are a form of gambling – it's the thrill of winning, whether it's luck or skill.

In fact, that's the basis of almost every "game," whether it's cornhole, golf, hockey, tennis, baseball, football, archery and the gamut of competitions at the Olympics. The Games, that originated in ancient Greece more than 3,000 years ago, award the top finishers with gold, silver and bronze.

Okay, competitions based on skill and athletic prowess are one thing. Tempting fate is another. Almost every reality TV show has an element

of gambling. Courtroom dramas are glorified bluffing games. Trivia shows reward knowledge.

We are lured by the "luck of the draw" or the "roll of the dice." We like to defy the odds, and "bet the farm."

I agree that it's not always about winning, but the chance, the anticipation, the fun.

We teach our kids at young age to play typical card games like Go Fish and Crazy 8s, but it's not long before they graduate into more exciting games of skill.

I enjoy euchre and my parents were fanatical bridge players. My dad and I also spent countless nights playing chess.

We often hosted poker nights when we lived in rural Caledon, which were quite lively affairs. The quarters quickly turned into dollars, but the biggest pots back then were \$20.

The races at nearby Woodbine have drawn enthusiasts for literally decades. I took my dad there one day for Father's Day and a combination of skill, luck and a "boxed triactor," netted him a very tidy sum. One of the best days ever.

Horse races are a great way to spend the day with friends and family. I'd recommend hitting the restaurant, sharing some laughs and trying your luck with the ponies.

The horses are smart enough not to bet on humans, but most of us watch a race right down to the wire.

I remember my first trip to Vegas when I was in college. I also remember my dad saying it was a waste of time and money. He changed his tune when he and my mom visited Atlantic City for the first time.

Of course, the odds favour the casinos, but they are a must-visit in one's lifetime. They're exciting places, complete with glitz and glamour, along with loss and heartbreak.

And what of lotteries? We've had government sanctioned lotteries for nearly half a century. They're a cash cow and the OLG has generated an estimated \$59 billion since 1975, averaging \$2.4 billion per year.

I remember, when I turned of age, playing Wintario in this province. The hosts – Fred Davis and Faye Dance – travelled the countryside, holding these popular televised draws. I think the biggest jackpot back then was \$100,000 and that was considered a king's ransom.

Lotteries are, as Roger Jones put it, a tax on those who can't do math.

I am a regular lottery player and while I realize I have a greater chance of getting hit by lightning than winning a jackpot, I still make a weekly donation. My take on is that someone wins, so why not me? In the case of "guaranteed prizes," I have as good a chance as anyone.

South of the border, there was a recent Power Ball jackpot of over \$1-billion. That's just crazy. And yes, the U.S. taxes lottery winnings, unlike our country.

Striking it rich seems to be a priority for people and gambling will remain part of our society as long as money is a "thing."

Maybe one day, money will disappear from the human equation. We will all live together in harmony and we will have solved hunger, poverty, sickness and disease. I really hope that one day Earth will become Eden again.

But until that time comes, we illogical humans will continue to "feel lucky, play our cards right, up the ante" until "all bets are off."

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When in Rome

When in Rome, do as the Romans do. That's an old saying with some common sense. It means when visiting another place, abide by the laws and customs of the land. You shouldn't have to be told this. You should have already figured this out before you arrived. There are some cities and towns in Europe that are now putting out information, and in some cases, putting up signs that say "tourists not welcome."

These towns, which may be historically important or have a certain charm or nice beaches, and are a destination for tourists, are also home to the people who actually live there. Many tourist towns rely on the influx of visitors to fuel the local economy. These towns, however, are fed up with tourists who flout local convention. This includes bad behaviour by drunks who act in an inappropriate way, cause trouble, throw garbage around, and just the disrupt the town. For some reason, some people think that just because they are on vacation, it's acceptable to get in a bar fight and make noise at all hours of the night.

Some travellers have found themselves in trouble in Asian countries after drawing graffiti on local historic buildings, or behaving in a disrespectful manner in a holy shrine. It's just common sense that carving your initials into the side of a historic building, or posing for selfies while inappropriately dressed in a place considered sacred or holy by locals, won't win you any friends. In some cases, this behaviour has resulted in criminal charges. It's bad enough that tourists can't control themselves while on vacation, but it's worse when foreigners arrive on Canadian soil and cause trouble – violent trouble. Police in Edmonton have arrested three alleged "hitmen" in relation to a murder in British Columbia. More arrests are expected. All three are Indian nationals and non-residents, and have been here for three to five years. Some arrived on student visas, but never set foot in a school. None have permanent residency. Yet, here there are, shooting up the streets – in our country. It is believed the shooting, and a few others,

have ties to the Indian government. The victim was a local prominent Sikh separatist, and apparently not liked by the Indian government. Why was he on Canadian soil and promoting a foreign agenda here? If you want to start political turmoil, do it on your own turf. This incident is tied in to other criminal behaviour both in the West and Ontario. It doesn't take a genius, and these three men that were arrested obviously don't fit into that category, to know that you don't go to another country and cause trouble. The truth is, no one here would care if Indian nationals are shooting each other – in India. However, when you land on Canadian soil, you're expected to obey the laws – and that includes not killing people and shooting up the streets. These criminals have a tendency to murder other criminals, however that doesn't mean an innocent person walking down the street won't be a victim of a stray bullet once these idiots start pulling the trigger. There are other concerns about criminal ac-

tivity both out West and in Ontario, where Asian business people are being intimidated and threatened with violence in an effort to extort money. The orders are given from a group in India, and carried out by thugs who live here. How would you like to be home one evening, hear gun fire and have bullets flying through your home, because this group of criminals are trying to convince your neighbour to pay up? The government needs to do a better job of vetting people who arrive on our shores. The three people arrested did not go to school, as claimed during their arrival, and apparently did not have any kind of legitimate job to support themselves. Why were they even here other than to take part in criminal activity? Canada is an open, welcoming, and tolerant society. However, there needs to be a clear message sent – when you come to our house, you play by our rules.



BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW

The second time as farce

"History repeats itself – the first time as tragedy, the second time as farce," said Karl Marx. He was talking about European history, of course, and here it comes again, a century later, doing a tribute act to the 1920s. In Germany, we have had a replay of Hitler's failed coup attempt of 1923. The first of three trials opened in Stuttgart this week, targeting nine alleged ringleaders of the "military wing" of the far-right "Reichsbürger" group who were arrested two years ago on charges of high treason, attempted murder, and membership of a terrorist organization. Further mass trials will follow in Frankfurt this month for the "political wing" and in Munich in June for what the prosecutors chose to call the 'esoteric wing'. There's a clue there, if you are paying attention. These would-be emulators of Adolf Hitler are not actually ex-stormtroopers hardened by years in the trenches. They are nasty but marginal fantasists. Another clue lies in the name of their leader, a 72-year-old self-styled aristocrat calling himself Heinrich XIII, Prince Reuss. They really did want to take over Germany and remake it as a neo-fascist state, they really did hate the Jews, and at least

some of them were willing to kill, but they were never a serious threat. In Italy, where the other great inter-war dictator, Benito Mussolini, seized power and created the world's first fascist state in 1922, there is already a neo-fascist in power. Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni formed her first government in 2022, but she uses no violence, she's loyal to the NATO alliance, and she seems almost harmless. Maybe she's just biding her time, but there's no sign that she is planning to invade Ethiopia or even Greece. There are no gangs of fascist thugs beating people to death, and no political prisoners. Life in Italy is pretty normal, in fact. So it is in Spain, although you wouldn't think so if you listened to the People's Party (PP), the increasingly hard-right, ultra-nationalist opposition to Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez's Socialist Workers' Party. The PP calls him a "psychopath", a "traitor", and a "terrorist sympathiser" who deserves to be "strung up by his feet," but it obeys the law. Claims that the Spanish prime minister's wife is really a man and that her family runs the drug trade in Morocco were so hurtful that Sánchez took five days off to ponder whether he real-

ly wants to stay in politics. However, it's really just the online rules of engagement leaking into the real world. There's no new Franco plotting an armed fascist rebellion. And in Poland the ultra-nationalist, militantly religious Law and Justice Party was voted out of power last year despite claiming that the opposition leader, Donald Tusk, is planning to give half the of Poland to Russia and bring "German order" to what's left. (You know, exactly like the Nazis did). The point is that the Law and Justice Party didn't win, and neither did the PP in Spain. Meloni only won by pretending very hard not to be a fascist, and the Reichsbürger in Germany were just a comic opera group (albeit with loaded guns). Marine Le Pen in France may come closer to winning the presidency on her fourth try in 2027 than ever before, but her Rassemblement National party has achieved that by ditching almost all of its extreme-right policies except for its trademark hostility to immigration. Britain's Conservative Party has shifted steadily to the right during its fourteen years in power, but whatever influence that might have had in the al-

leged rightward migration of other European parties was nullified by its lunatic obsession with "Brexit" and its stunning incompetence and indiscipline. It will be all but annihilated in the election due this year. The Labour Party which will take its place is pretending to have no intention of shifting the United Kingdom even a millimetre to the left, because it is superstitiously terrified of scaring the voters back into the arms of the Conservatives, but that is not a realistic possibility. After it wins, it will set about rescuing the welfare state. The results of the forthcoming elections to the European Union's parliament may provide some apparent evidence for a rightward drift in European politics, but that's because people use their EU votes as a safe way to express their dissatisfaction with the economy. However, national elections really matter. Americans may elect Donald Trump this November and Canadians may elect Pierre Poilievre next year, but Europe is not leading a charge to the right.



GWYNNE DYER
OUR WORLD TODAY

Trade apprenticeships: pathways to prosperity and happiness

A new survey last week showed young Canadians were among the least happy group of people in the country based on age and also one of the most discontented in the developed world. It's not hard to understand why young Canadians aren't jumping for joy these days. For one, many of them have abandoned the hope of one day owning their own home. According to a Statistics Canada report published in March, overheated housing prices are "casting a shadow over the home-ownership dream for many households – and, in particular, for young families." But the fading dream of home ownership is not the only reason young Canadians are gloomy nowadays: they're also having difficulty finding good-paying jobs. Many of them are college or university graduates who thought a degree was the ticket to a lucrative career. Pursuing a trade apprenticeship, however, may have been the better option for some of these students. A number of trades pay higher-than-average salaries – especially for young people just starting out in their career.

Consider the other advantages to learning a skilled trade. The average debt incurred by students who pursue a college or university degree has been steadily climbing for the past two decades, according to a Statistics Canada report published in March. But because tuition costs for trade school are significantly lower than college or university, students typically shoulder little or no student debt after graduating and find a job much more quickly, according to Finishing Trades Institute of Ontario. So given all of the financial benefits – not to mention the fact that trade apprenticeship students can often "earn while you learn" – it's not surprising that enrollment in skilled trades programs is booming, according to Statistics Canada. A skilled trade was my road to success in life: it gave me the chance to open my own business and I was able to build that business into a successful multinational, Magna International Inc., with operations throughout the world and more than \$40 billion in annual sales.

When I was chairman of Magna, a lot of bankers, lawyers and automotive executives came through the doors of our head office in fancy suits, briefcases in hand. But the visitors who came in wearing blue overalls – Magna's factory managers and assistant managers – often made far more in annual income than the "suits" who showed up for business meetings or worked in the head office. Beyond providing good-paying and fulfilling careers for many young Canadians, we need technically skilled trades people in order for the economy to function. Trades people build our homes and roads and cars, grow and cook our food, and keep the lights and water running inside our schools, factories and offices. It's why I believe we should require students in their final two years of high school to be exposed to one or more technical trades at businesses outside the schools. Under my proposal, students would gain hands-on training in four different trades over two years in a wide range of skilled trades such as bricklaying, hairstyling, carpentry, and the

culinary arts. Skilled trades training for young Canadians is one of the key principles in the economic charter of rights I've been championing for the past year. It will give Canada the skilled workforce it needs to grow our economy – and it will give young Canadians the means to earn a good income and enjoy a higher standard of living. To learn more about how an economic charter could help revitalize our economy, contact info@economiccharter.ca.



FRANK STRONACH
PRINCIPLES OF AN ECONOMIC CHARTER OF RIGHTS

Author Bio

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

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The Caledon Citizen's Student-Athlete of the Week

Hall Honour Roll Student Mark Grguric leads Wolfpack to ROPSSAA Hockey Championship

BY JIM STEWART

Grade 11 Honour Roll student Mark Grguric has had a productive athletic career in Wolfpack colours both on the ice and on the fairways. In addition to gracing the greens for the Varsity Golf team, Grguric has excelled as a steady defenseman for Robert F Hall and was instrumental in winning their Peel Region hockey championship in 2022-23.

The two-sport athlete has impressed the Hall hockey coaching staff. Coach Erwin nominated Grguric for The Caledon Citizen's Student-Athlete of the Week and noted that "Mark is an exceptional and mature young man who is focused, kind, and selfless. He leads by example on and off the ice. His puck and position

awareness is second to none and he is an absolute joy to watch play." Coach Erwin complimented his top defenseman's work in the classroom, his positive presence, and his significant contributions on the hockey rink: "Mark is an academic student that takes his schooling seriously, he's always in uniform and is always smiling. Mark is just an all-around good person-- focused and always ready for practice or the big game. Mark is an integral part of Hall Hockey. He is our number one defenseman and leaves nothing on the ice. He was a key component in winning the 2022-2023 ROPSSAA hockey championship against Humberview."

Mark Grguric took a time-out from his Second Semester studies and quite possibly the

driving range to respond to our interview questions:

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

Mark Grguric: "The qualities that I demonstrated during the sports season this year were leadership and discipline. Being a leader was very important in order to succeed as a team. Also, staying disciplined allows me to stay composed and stay focused during the games."

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

Mark Grguric: "During the 2022-2023 season, the school hockey team won the ROPSSAA championships. I remember playing strong defense in the finals in order to climb back from a deficit and win the game. A memorable moment was rushing onto the ice after the overtime win in the finals."

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

Mark Grguric: "I play hockey for the Caledon Hawks AA. It is my second year here and I've enjoyed it a lot and have made some great memories."

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

Mark Grguric: "I would describe myself as a quiet and hard-working student at Robert F Hall. Right now, I play for the Caledon Hawks and play golf on the side. I've been on the Honour Roll since grade 9 and hope to get it this year as well."

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

Mark Grguric: "After high school, I hope to go to university for a business degree and also continue to play hockey while I'm there. I would like to keep playing the sport for as long as I can."

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

Mark Grguric: "My role model is Joe Pavel-ski of the Dallas Stars; he is my role model because I have been watching him play hockey since I was very young and he used to be on my favorite team. He inspired me to play hockey and I was inspired by his game."

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

Mark Grguric: "I feel very honoured and proud to be nominated as The Caledon Citizen's Student-Athlete of the Week. I'd like to thank Mr. Erwin and all other teachers for helping me in my high school journey."

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The Banting Marauders were unstoppable at a recent rugby tournament held in Caledon.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Banting Marauders dominate opponents to capture the first annual Caledon Cavaliers High School Girls Rugby Tournament at Humberview SS

BY JIM STEWART

The Banting Marauders defeated Nottawasaga Pines Timberwolves 22-5 to capture the First Annual Caledon Cavaliers High School Girls Rugby Tournament in drizzly conditions at Humberview Secondary School on Friday afternoon. The hometown Humberview Huskies secured the Consolation Championship with a tidy 19-7 victory over the Heart Lake Hurricanes.

To secure their berth in the Championship Final, the Marauders steamrolled their opponents with opening round wins of 39-0 over Humberview and 42-0 shutout of Heart Lake. The Timberwolves earned their spot into the Championship in a similar fashion by shutting out Heart Lake and Humberview.

Cavaliers' Rugby President Michele Iacovelli was pleased with his organization's inaugural High School Tournament: "The entire event was a great success and we all believe that it has great potential for becoming an annual Tournament that attracts many more Schools and encourages athletes to participate. Lara Morrison was instrumental in putting this together and for that we are extremely grateful."

Morrison — the Tournament Convener and the co-captain of the Cavaliers RFC Junior Girls squad — noted that "the event was beneficial to grow the game of rugby in Caledon

and for more girls to learn about club rugby's pathways to university and college. We were so happy that everybody came, over eighty players participated, and that so many people and companies supported our first tournament. A big thank you to Konno for promoting the event and for setting up their apparel station and to Gilbert for providing the gift of game balls for the tournament. We hope that more girls will think about playing club rugby after this tournament and it was a nice opportunity for [Cavaliers Junior Girls] Coach Karen Chrobak to meet players this afternoon."

Morrison also thanked "referees Jordan Higdon (Cavaliers Junior Director) and Luca Iacovelli (Coach and Referee Coordinator) for their on-field work, as well as Humberview Huskies Head Coach Mark McLenaghan for co-hosting the event." Coach McLenaghan is also the Cavaliers Community Development Director and Junior Girls Coach.

The inaugural tournament's game-by-game results:

Game 1: Banting (Alliston) 39-Humberview (Bolton) 0; Game 2: Nottawasaga Pines (Angus) 38-Heart Lake (Brampton) 0; Game 3: Banting 42-Heart Lake 0; Game 4: Nottawasaga Pines 42-Humberview 0; Game 5—Consolation Final: Humberview 19-Heart Lake 7; Game 6—Championship Final: Banting 22-Nottawasaga Pines 5.

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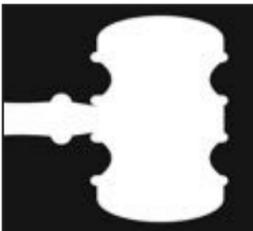
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OBITUARIES

BRENDA JANE FERGUSON



Suddenly at her home, Bolton, on Saturday, May 4, 2024, Brenda Ferguson, at the age of 68 years. Loving daughter of the late Byng and Uberta Dean. Dear sister of William Dean (deceased), Daniel and his wife Alice Dean, and Paul Dean (deceased). Cherished aunt of Samantha Dean. Fondly remembered by her boyfriend for many years, Bruce Chalmers and his family. The family will receive their friends at the Egan Funeral Home, 203 Queen St. S. (Hwy. 50), Bolton (905-857-2213) on Thursday evening, May 9 from 5 - 7 o'clock and on Friday morning, May 10 from 10 o'clock until time of funeral service in the chapel at 11 o'clock. Interment Providence Cemetery, Caledon East. Reception to follow back at the funeral home. Condolences for the family may be offered at www.EganFuneralHome.com

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OBITUARIES

GARY "SATCH" ALEXANDER SMITH

JULY 14, 1948 - MARCH 27, 2024



Died peacefully with family by his side at Victoria General Hospital in Halifax, Nova Scotia on March 27, 2024. Predeceased by his parents George Smith and Joan (Hall); survived by his three children Julie Janisse (Greg), Greg Smith (Laura Beth) and Megan Bruce (Jarel) and his grandchildren Emily, Lauren, Isla, Reece, Grayson, Nora and Priya Rose. Also survived by his siblings Richard, Barb and Brian.

Gary was born July 14, 1948, in Toronto ON, the youngest of four. He was a consummate story teller and regaled many with his adventures of growing up in the city. Formative summers spent in Algonquin with his family inspired a life-long love of the outdoors, fishing and camping and forged a deep connection with Lake Opeongo.

He married Susan (Canning) in 1971 and settled in Orangeville where they raised their three children together. He was a dedicated and loving father and extremely hard worker who took great pride in providing for his family; working his way from a steel mill foreman to a well-respected salesman for FUCHS in the automotive industry. His life took a turn when he became the victim of a drunk driver in 2003, forever living with the devastating consequences. He moved to Halifax in 2019 and spent the last few years of his life under the loving care of Greg and Laura Beth and their family.

Gary will be remembered for his great love of travelling, golf, music, cottage time at Nine Mile and Turtle Lake and hosting endless pool parties and dinners for family and friends. He was truly at his happiest when he had his backyard and bbq full and an audience for his grand stories. He had a deep love for his friends and family (especially his grandchildren), his beloved dogs and his favourite sports team, the Toronto Maple Leafs. His kindness, sense of humor, generosity and ability to put others at ease will be missed by so many.

Special thank you to the staff at Queen Elizabeth and Victoria General Hospitals for their care in Gary's final months. Arrangements are in care of Atlantic Funeral Home-Sackville and honoring Gary's wishes, cremation has taken place. Donations in memory of Gary may be made to MADD Canada (www.madd.ca) or Alzheimer Society of Canada (www.alzheimer.ca).

OBITUARIES

HENKE, GERALDINE (GERRI) MARGARET (NEE: BICKNELL)

OCTOBER 17, 1939 - APRIL 29, 2024



Passed on her terms on Monday, April 29, 2024 at Southlake Regional Health Centre, Newmarket at the age of 84. She will be starting a McDonalds Table 5 in heaven. Gerri will also be greatly missed by her many friends.

Celebration of Life will be held at the Dods & McNair Funeral Home, Chapel & Reception Centre, 21 First St., Orangeville on Tuesday, May 7, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers donations made to the Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated.

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

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WENDY MARIE HAMILTON (NEE SWITZER)

Peacefully at Matthews House Hospice on Wednesday, January 27th, 2021 at the age of 59. Beloved wife of 34 years to Sean Hamilton. Dear mother of Garrett, Brendan (Amanda). Cherished grandmother of Sienna. Remembered by her brothers Joe (Sue) and Mark (Angeles). Loving daughter of mother Betty and her father George Switzer (deceased). Remembered by her mother & father-in-laws Ron & Karen Hamilton and brother-in-law Mike (Rita) and sister-in-law Kelly. Wendy will also be greatly missed by her 8 nephews and 1 niece other relatives and many friends.

A celebration of Wendy's life will be held on Saturday May 25th, 2024 from 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm at the Caledon East Complex - (Please enter through the west entrance)

Wendy's interest was nursing at an early age and made it her profession. Her special past times included Ballroom dancing and soft ball. Her greatest pleasure was watching her boys in their activities. Wendy's family wish to extend a special thank you to the support staff that helped me keep her at home and to the staff at Matthew's House in Alliston that brought her comfort in her final days. Cremation has taken place and a celebration of life will be held where hugs will be encouraged. In lieu of flowers donations to your own local hospice would be appreciated by the family.

A tree will be planted in memory of Wendy in the Dods & McNair Memorial Forest at the Island Lake Conservation Area, Orangeville. The next annual dedication service will be held on Sunday, September 12, 2021 at 2:30 p.m. Condolences may be offered to the family at www.dodsandmcnair.com

WENDY JAQUELINE GREEN (NEE CHRISTIAN)

Peacefully at Dufferin Oaks Long Term Care, Shelburne, Ontario, on Friday May 3rd, 2024 in her 73rd year.



Cherished mother of Andrea (Jeff), Raegan (Dave), and Aaron Green. Devoted grandmother of 8 and great-grandmother of 3. Left behind are her 3 sisters, Carolyn Wright, Teresa Bourne and Lois Moore. Predeceased by Elaine Orvis.

The family received friends at the Jack and Thompson Funeral home on Thursday May 9th, 2024 at 1:00 pm. The funeral service was held in the funeral home chapel at 2:00 pm. If desired, donations to Bethel House Hospice or the Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated as expressions of sympathy. Online condolences and donations may be placed at www.jackandthompsonfuneralhome.com

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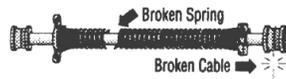
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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT – Yvonne Iten-Scott led Bridget Ryan and Maddie Petrie in a rug hooking workshop on May 5. Day By Design owner Sarah Sansom enjoyed meeting all the people who came through the Alton Mill Arts Centre’s spring open house. Allison Tait is the owner of Toltec Spirit Tattoo and loves working out of her studio in the Alton Mill Arts Centre.

PHOTOS BY ZACHARY ROMAN

Alton Mill Arts Centre hosts spring open house

Attendees enjoyed the many artist workshops held at centre last weekend

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Caledon residents celebrated local art and the coming of spring at the Alton Mill Arts Centre’s spring open house last weekend.

On May 4 and 5, residents were welcomed into the centre to enjoy artist workshops, meet artists, enjoy the centre’s galleries and more.

Allison Tait is the owner of Toltec Spirit Tattoo, a studio inside the Alton Mill Arts Centre. She said she really enjoyed meeting all kinds of new people as they came through for the open house.

Tait has always loved art and animals. Having been an artist from a young age, she went to school for fine art. However, fears of financial insecurity led her to change paths and go into veterinary school.

Tait had a long and successful career in wildlife medicine and enjoyed it immensely. Still, her passion for art never left her.

“I wanted to be more creative again,” said Tait. “I sold my clinic, got training as a tattoo artist... and opened up Toltec Spirit Tattoo, which started in Guelph and about a year and a half ago moved here.”

The Alton Mill Arts Centre has always been a place Tait loved, and she often brought her kids there for the Fire and Ice Festival in the

winter. When the opportunity for her to move her tattoo studio there came up, she jumped at the chance.

Tait’s love for wildlife plays a big role in her tattoos (and paintings — she’s also a painter). She said the vast majority of work she does involves plants and animals. Switching to being a tattoo artist was easy for Tait, as she’s used to a clean, surgical environment due to her work as a vet.

Sarah Sansom is a wedding planner that owns her own business, Day by Design, which is also located in the arts centre.

“There is just something about the atmosphere of the Alton Mill that is just incredible. It has its own unique vibe that you just can’t get absolutely anywhere else,” said Sansom, who moved her business to the centre in November. “I’m excited to do a lot more weddings here.”

Sansom has been in business for over a decade and helps couples plan weddings anywhere, but said being at the Alton Mill is a great opportunity.

Sansom enjoyed the open house, and set up some example tables so people could see what a wedding dinner might look like at the Alton Mill. She said there was great feedback and she enjoyed meeting all the guests who came through the centre.

“It was fantastic,” she said.

Dignitaries share words of thanks at anniversary celebration

Continued from FRONT

Their next major project was the purchase of a new ambulance for the Town of Caledon.

In 1973, the Bolton Kin began organizing and running the Santa Claus Parade, which has grown to become one of the largest small-town parades in all of Ontario.

“The 2023 parade had as many bands as last year’s annual Toronto Santa Claus Parade,” said Luschak.

He went on to share the Bolton Kin helped purchase a new zamboni for the rink at the Albion Bolton Community Centre.

The Bolton Kin have also long been supporters of Cystic Fibrosis research, and have raised over \$300,000 towards eradicating the disease.

The Bolton Kin have helped with parks, trails, playgrounds and sports fields. They’ve also organized an annual Terry Fox Run, which has raised over \$350,000 for the Terry Fox Foundation.

In 2008, women joined the Bolton Kin and Luschak said this was instrumental in bringing in new ideas and expanding the club.

“Their insight and dedication to the values of service have helped to make us one of the strongest clubs in all of Ontario,” said Luschak.

Luschak shared the story of the Bolton Kin’s toonie clothing sales, which have become a massive success thanks to their simple and unique pricing model.

“Our sales have skyrocketed and today we will have hundreds of people waiting in line for the doors to open for one of our sales,” he said, noting all of the money raised goes

towards the many different community initiatives the Bolton Kin support. In 2019, the toonie sale project was recognized as the best service project by Kin Canada.

Luschak said on behalf of the club, he wanted to thank the Town of Caledon, Caledon businesses, and Caledon residents who have supported the Bolton Kin over the years.

Jones said so many worthwhile projects in Caledon would not have happened were it not for the Bolton Kin.

“For 60 years the Bolton Kin have been bringing selfless service to our community... Kin projects, fundraisers and events continue to enhance our Caledon community,” said Jones. “Please accept my best wishes on your anniversary.”

Groves said she’s attended many of the Kin’s toonie sales and that they’re an amazing way for Caledon residents to get affordable clothing. She also commended many of the Kin’s initiatives.

“The kids look so forward to having the Santa Claus parade every year and every year it just keeps growing, getting bigger and bigger all the time,” said Groves. “Thank you for all that you’ve done, and thank you for all that you continue to do.”

Seeback said communities would be so much worse off without all of the hard work of volunteers.

“This room is filled with people who have made our community so much better,” said Seeback. “I want to deeply thank you... for everything you’ve done for our community. You’ve all honestly and truly made a huge difference.”



Bolton Kin president Kathy McFarlane accepts a certificate from Dufferin-Caledon MP Kyle Seebach on the occasion of the Bolton Kin’s 60th anniversary.

PHOTO BY ZACHARY ROMAN

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HOME *Spring* & GARDEN



Sanctuary, self-care and sustainability top outdoor living trends

(NC) Over the past several years, our backyards have become much more than spaces for weekend barbecues. They're where we go to decompress from our increasingly hectic lives and gather with family and friends to celebrate life's special moments.

WITH SELF-CARE an increasing priority, it's no surprise that creating a sense of sanctuary tops the list of trends influencing exterior design this year. According to the outdoor living experts at Trex, these four top trends are shaping the way we live, unwind and entertain in the great outdoors.

Restorative retreats

Connecting with nature is critical for humans and a backyard area can play a major role in promoting mental and physical well-being. Creating a restorative outdoor retreat can be as simple as turning a cosy corner into a reading nook by adding plush cushions and pillows. Or, with a little more budget, products like fencing, privacy screens and lattice can enhance a sense of sanctuary. And don't forget the space beneath the deck, especially if it's elevated. Adding an under-deck drainage system keeps the space below the deck dry, allowing homeowners to enjoy bonus outdoor

space with the same function and finishes as a room inside the home.

Natural and neutral

Homeowners are embracing the elegance of a minimalist palette, opting for cleaner lines and materials inspired by nature that create a harmonious outdoor ambiance. Demand for light, neutral deck boards is up. Homeowners are increasingly choosing low-maintenance, natural-looking composite decking, such as Trex's Signature line, to provide the perfect backdrop for a neutral outdoor palette.

Sustainable selections

People are more conscious than ever of their environmental footprint and want to create outdoor spaces that last without leaving a damaging impact. Native plants, pollinator gardens and xeriscaping (using

plants that require minimal watering) are all gaining popularity. Likewise, eco-friendly materials are on the rise. Made from mostly recycled and reclaimed materials, composite decking offers an ideal choice for today's increasingly eco-conscious homeowners.

Destination spaces

We all want to live like we're vacationing at a five-star resort, even if our backyard is the size of a postage stamp. Inspired by travel and the luxurious lifestyles featured on TV and in magazines, today's homeowners have become increasingly fluent in creating destination-style outdoor spaces furnished with resort-inspired décor, such as cabana chairs in nautical stripes and daybeds with room enough for two (or more). Bring the look home with a stylish pergola, a fire table and lots of tropical plants to create the look and feel of a glamorous getaway.

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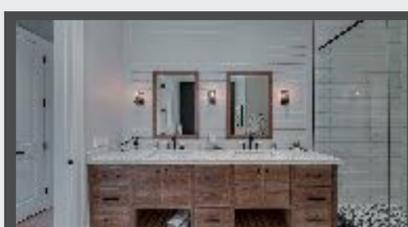
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James March and sons Jonathan and Justin are the owners of the new metal supply business Dotcom Metals.

New family business Dotcom Metals aims to be Caledon's go-to metal supplier

Caledon has a new metal supplier.

ON JANUARY 1, James March and sons Justin and Jonathan officially opened their new business, Dotcom Metals, in Bolton.

March explained the business is a micro-distributor of metal that stocks a wide variety of metals in a wide variety of shapes — and they can all be cut to size based on the customer's needs.

March said business has been going well so far, and, as word has spread that Dotcom Metals' services are available in Caledon, more and more people are reaching out.

Dotcom Metals recently joined the Caledon Chamber of Commerce, and March said it has been a great way to network and get the word out about the business.

"Helping small businesses get their name out there is awesome," said March. "We're also now sponsors for the Bolton Truck and Tractor Pull... hopefully we will continue to grow our community involvement."

March has been working in the manufacturing industry for nearly 25 years and has a close friend who

was in the metal supply business who helped him and his sons get started.

"I knew metal was an opportunity... we saw there was a need in Bolton, an area that's growing," said March.

March said the core differentiator for Dotcom Metals is they will cut your metals to size and there's no minimum order size.

"Whether you need six inches, six feet or 20 feet, we'll get it to you," said March. "We're trying to be the stock of metal for the local area to consume... we'd love to build partnerships with other businesses and the do-it-yourselfers at home."

March said by partnering with other local businesses, Dotcom Metals can tailor its stock to their specific needs. "Those partnerships are important," said March.

March said anyone curious about the business is always welcome to come by, meet him and his sons, and see what Dotcom Metals is all about.

Dotcom Metals is located at 8841 George Bolton Parkway, and is in Unit 2 in Building C. It's open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays.

Written by: ZACHARY ROMAN

Swimming pool LANDSCAPING IDEAS

BACKYARD POOLS provide a way to cool off and enjoy a taste of luxury without having to travel.

After installing pools, many homeowners realize that touching up the landscaping around the pool can provide the finishing touch to their backyard retreats. Not all landscaping is the same, and homeowners should choose plants that look beautiful, are tolerant to pool splash-out and won't outgrow the area. The home and garden resource The Spruce notes that a plant that is attractive at two feet tall can grow rapidly and drop leaves or other debris into the pool.

When selecting options for pool landscaping, there are some considerations to keep in mind:

- Choose plants that will provide privacy.
- Know which kind of climate a plant needs prior to purchasing it. Tropical plants may be fitting poolside, but will they endure when

the season is over?

- Design according to the theme of the home, as plants should complement the existing style. Modern foliage may not blend well with a home styled after a traditional English cottage.
- Decide whether you can accept spreading or trailing plants that can cascade over retaining walls and other infrastructure.
- Look at trees that won't drop too many leaves, flowers or fruit into the water.
- Think about having layers of plants to soften the landscape, which can make a small pool seem bigger and more luxurious, indicates the landscaping company.
- Don't overlook the possibility of a lawn abutting pavers or concrete surrounding a pool, as it can soften the edges and keep spaces open and inviting.



- Incorporate herbs or fragrant plants, which can transform a pool day into a spa experience. Consider low-maintenance lavender as an option.
- Pool landscaping must marry a variety of different features and plant requirements.

As a result, a professional consultation may be the route to take. Landscape architects will have the know-how to select plant varieties that will be tolerant, and beautiful and fulfill homeowners' wishes.

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(NC) Whether your garage is a workshop, storage area or simply a place for your car or truck, having the right systems in place can keep it organized all year long. Here are some tips to make your garage work best for your needs.

hazardous items like paint and chemicals. Many even come with adjustable shelves inside so you can customize them for differently-sized items.

Give everything a place

Store items that you won't be regularly using in clear totes or bins that fit on your shelving system, and make sure to label them so you can easily identify the contents. Waterproof containers help to give peace of mind that your items are safe and sound in the event of flooding or if the roof springs a leak. Avoid storing things in cardboard boxes since they can be vulnerable to pests or mould.

Use your walls as storage space

One of the best ways to store tools in a work area is on a pegboard. You can customize the spacing of the hangers to fit your tools and organize them any way you want. You can even install hooks around the garage to hang bigger items like bikes, to keep them off the ground and, out of the way, allowing a clean and accessible area to set up a workspace or store a vehicle.

Create a workstation

Another valuable addition to your garage space is a tool cabinet or toolbox. These cabinets often come with multiple drawers in different sizes that allow you to store your tools and other items for immediate access during your projects. Some of these cabinets come with a wood top, making them convenient rolling workbenches that also carry all of your tools.

Start with a clean slate

It's always easier to start organizing your garage when it's clean. Set aside a full day or weekend to give your garage a good cleaning, including sorting your items into "keep," "throw away" and "donate" piles. Once you've identified the items you'd like to keep, sort them into categories based on usage. For example, group all your holiday décor together in one space, and your tools in another. This will declutter your garage and make some room to start adding storage and organization elements.

Buy the right storage

Open shelves are an inexpensive way to store things that you often use, such as circular saws, garden tools and watering cans. You can find these easily at your local hardware store like The Home Depot. A storage cabinet with doors that lock is perfect for storing

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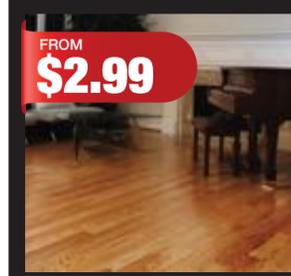
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Synergy has several divisions, which allows for specific installers for each, making them experts in that division, be it window and door installations, roofing, eavestroughs or siding.

Synergy Exteriors' Roofing Division, for instance, is made up of GAF master elite certified contractors. That means they've been trained to install particularly high-end roofing

products. It also means Synergy Exteriors and its crew went through a higher screening process and training to be able to meet GAF standards, which the industry touts as the highest in North America.

GAF is touted as the leading roofing and waterproofing materials manufacturer in North America.

And less than two per cent of contractors have earned the manufacturer's master elite designation.

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Stop by the business at 42 Green St., Orangeville or call (519) 939-6007 to inquire about your project. You can also visit their website synergyexteriors.ca to learn more.

Written by: JAMES MATTHEWS



LINCOLN POOLS

provides exceptional service to community while giving back

Lincoln Pools was founded by Bolton-raised Chris Hasmatali.

AS AN ELECTRICAL ENGINEER and active member of the Caledon Community, Chris was inspired to provide excellent service and give back to the local community through hard work, dedication, and unparalleled problem-solving and efficiency methods.

Lincoln Pools strives to give back to the community in many ways. One of their biggest efforts is demonstrated through their annual charity golf tournament, during which funds are raised to support the Hospital for Sick Children.

Lincoln Pools specializes in full, turn-key pool installations, landscape design, service, maintenance and repairs. They also provide free water testing for all of their customers, to supply advice for those who enjoy maintaining their own pools.

With over 15 years of experience in pool construction and maintenance, Lincoln Pools is proud to announce the addition of Hot Tubs and Swim Spa sales and service as well. Our retail location stocks all chemicals for both pool and hot tubs.



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OWNER'S SUITE RENOVATION IDEAS FOR LUXURY SPACES

An owner's suite is a sanctuary for homeowners. It's a place where adults can retreat, relax and unwind after a busy day. It's expected that a bed and some other furniture will take up residence in a standard bedroom, but certain elements can help homeowners create stunning spaces.

Upgraded closet

Those who will be overhauling the walls and layout of the bedroom can configure the space to make room for a serious closet overhaul. A spacious, walk-in closet that has built-in shelves, drawers and rods can improve the functionality of the bedroom. Draw dividers and other components also can optimize space.

Fireplace

Fireplaces add a unique ambiance to bedrooms and make for cozy spaces in which to cuddle up. While a traditional, roaring wood fire is one option, there is much less mess and fuss with a

gas fireplace. Some gas fireplaces may not even have to be vented, and they can be turned on with the flip of a switch.

Private patio or balcony

Owners who want to go the extra mile in owner's suite renovations can incorporate outdoor spaces into the plans. Many homes are now being built with owner's suites on the first floor, facilitating the possibility of aging in place at home. With this layout, the bedroom can be opened up to the outdoors by way of a sliding door or French doors. Decking or a patio can be outside of the room, or even a covered space similar to a Florida room. Those with second-floor suites may want to consider a small deck or balcony where bistro seating can be placed.

Luxury bath

Owners can turn the en suite bathroom into something out of a spa. A steam shower; heated

floors; a separate area for the toilet, closed off from the rest of the bathroom; and dual vanities and sinks can make this a place that screams luxury and comfort. Do not forget dimmer switches for lighting and even the inclusion

of some new aromatherapy technology to increase the potential for relaxation.

Many different features can improve the functionality and luxury of an owner's suite.



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Spring HOME & GARDEN



HOW TO CREATE AN OUTDOOR LIVING RETREAT

AL FRESCO ENTERTAINING has taken off in recent years. It's much more common today to find homeowners who want to extend living spaces to the outdoors in meaningful ways that go beyond a few lawn chairs and a stand-alone grill. Dream backyard living rooms mirror similar spaces indoors and contain features like cozy corners, lush furniture and televisions or movie projectors. Plus, they often abut additional outdoor luxuries like fully functional kitchens.

fireplace. Add some ottomans or side tables for stowing mulled cider or hot chocolate. A mantel above the fireplace can hold pots of greenery or candles that add to the ambiance.

Consider a custom banquette

Unused corners on a patio or rooftop retreat can utilize a custom-made banquette that provides the functionality of a sofa sectional outdoors. Have a contractor design it to the exact specifications of the area, and add a rug to ground the space.

Vary the flooring

Depending on the entertaining space, a balance of soft grass, pavers or other hardscape will be necessary. Certain areas will need to be hard enough for chairs and other furniture, particularly for those who are including an outdoor dining table in the design.

Create some privacy

Some homeowners are lucky enough to have natural barriers that offer privacy in their entertaining spaces. When there isn't enough, tall shrubs, inexpensive bamboo fencing or trellis can provide a blind that makes an outdoor living area more cozy and private. Consider placing tall, potted plants on rolling casters to improve privacy as the need arises.

Homeowners have various options when designing outdoor living spaces. Above all else, spaces should be created with the goal of encouraging people to get together. Here are some ideas.

Poolside retreat

Homeowners with pools and other water features likely want this area to be the star of the entertaining space. Furniture will be more of the lounging variety, with comfortable chaises and spots to catch the sun. If a swim-up bar isn't possible, a rolling bar cart can be stocked with essentials for cocktails or mocktails for the kids. Furniture near the pool will be exposed to a lot of sun, so look for durable, sun-resistant fabrics.

Fireplace roof

Gathering around an outdoor fireplace or fire pit is a treat when the weather cools down. Mirror the look of the same setup indoors by arranging outdoor sofas so they flank the

Outdoor living spaces are all the rage, and they can add value and functionality to most any home.



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Lobban Appliances is a family-owned business that opened in November 2021. Teneisha Campbell, the owner, decided to open the location in Orangeville due to its central location and the need for such a business in the community.

At Lobban Appliances, we take pride in our reliability and affordability, which is a promise we always keep. We aim to provide the best customer experience and offer dependable household appliances. Our high customer return rate and 4.9-star reviews testify to our dedication to delivering top-quality appliances at reasonable prices. We also provide repair, installation, and haul-away services, and we source appliance parts, ensuring that we're there for you every step.

When you're in the market for household appliances at unbeatable prices, we invite you to make Lobban Appliances your first choice located at 400 Townline #11 or give us a call at 226-558-2513. We can't wait to welcome you and help you find the perfect appliance for your needs. See you soon!

THE IDEA FOR LOBBAN APPLIANCES was born out of Teneisha's own experience. When her washing machine broke down, she needed a replacement immediately. She checked out the big-box stores, but the prices exceeded her budget. She searched online for an open-box appliance store nearby, but none were available. She would have to travel over an hour to find one, and the delivery costs would have been excessive. The repair person she called told her that the machine was too old and the repair parts would be costly. However, a friend helped her fix the washing machine, and they managed to repair it for under \$100. It was a satisfying feeling of accomplishment! Although the washing machine never broke down again, Teneisha eventually replaced it with a brand-new one from Lobban Appliances at an affordable price (with a sheepish smile).

Lobban Appliances offers a wide range of appliances that cater to any budget. Whether you're looking for top-end, gently used, or scratched and dented appliances, we've got you covered. If you don't mind not having all the latest bells and whistles, then our gently used appliances might be a more sustainable option for you. If you're on a tight budget but still want a top brand that offers modern technologies, our selection of scratched and dented appliances might be more affordable. Suppose you have an unlimited budget and want appliances with the latest technology while supporting local businesses. In that case, our wide selection of new, open-box appliances is the right choice for you.

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Spring HOME & GARDEN

ROOF PRO PLUS Your guide to the basics of roofing

THE ROOFING PROFESSIONALS here at Roof Pro + never get tired of talking about the products, methods, and principles of this industry. While the consuming public may not think of roofing as an entertaining topic to discuss over wine on a Saturday evening, these residential roofing enthusiasts would love to speak about the subject any day of the week.

The veteran contractors of Roof Pro + would probably want to discuss roofing topics that may be a little advanced and esoteric for the average citizen. Instead of exploring “recent innovation in composite shingling,” we will run through some basic information that can provide homeowners with a more solid basis for understanding this vital aspect of their own properties.

the attention to detail utilized by the installer, the ventilation system, and the severity of the climate all play major roles in determining the lifespan of your roof.

We still operate with the same excellence of workmanship, attention to detail, and superior quality of service on which the company was founded.



1 What causes the most damage to my roof?

There are a ton of factors that enter into the subject of roof disrepair. Common reasons for damage include drastic shifts in temperature, changes in humidity, rain, intense sunlight, wind, snow, and hail. There is no universal primary cause for roof damage, and disrepair often occurs due to a combination of many different factors. It should be noted that major weather disasters can wreak havoc on roofing material and probably cause the most severe destruction in the shortest period of time.

2 How long does a new roof last?

Much like the first question, this does not have an easy, straightforward answer. The type and quality of the materials used to construct the roof, the experience of the roofing company hired to complete installation,

3 Will houses in the same neighborhood be affected by major weather events to the same degree as my own?

This is a common question because homeowners will wonder why a neighbour has had a roof collapse while their home remains intact. Even if both homeowners had the same type, quality, and strength of roofing material, climatic events can affect separate locations in vastly different ways, and this can be true even if two homes are adjacent to each other. However, after such a scenario, it would be advisable to contact a local roofing professional. Assessing the possibility of structural damage is important after such an event because the impact may not be recognizable without a trained eye.

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Family-owned paint and decor business:

Focus on Decorating – Benjamin Moore offers premium products to customers

Orangeville's Focus on Decorating – Benjamin Moore has been serving the community for 26 years as a premiere paint and décor store.

Situated at 88 First St, Unit 4A, the business prides itself on customer satisfaction and providing a friendly atmosphere to everyone who walks through its doors.

"We try our best to maintain a family-oriented attitude here with regards to not only my staff but also to the customers as well. So, I think that's the main difference that kind of distinguishes us from some other stores," said Ken Eppenberger, owner of Focus on Decorating.

The business has been family-run since Mr. Eppenberger's mother established it in the late 90s. More recently, eight or nine years ago, the ownership was passed down to Mr. Eppenberger.

Focus on Decorating is community-minded and supports various service groups throughout Orangeville, year-round, such as the Rotary Club.

"We're happy to be helping those types of groups out, and particularly now, it's more important than before because a lot of service groups, their funding

is kind of drying up as a result [of the pandemic]," said Mr. Eppenberger.

Focus on Decorating carries a variety of product lines, whether it's paint, wallpaper, blinds, or shades. It's also an authorized Benjamin Moore and Hunter Douglas dealer, which are top-of-the-line paint and interior decorating brands.

For expert advice and guidance that will get you on the right path for your project, stop by the Focus on Decorating store. The staff is happy to discuss your interior decorating goals and find the right products for you.

"If we get younger couples in that haven't painted before, we're here to provide them with some advice on how to best achieve the effect that they want with regards to the products that we offer here, so we're here to help in whatever way we can," said Mr. Eppenberger.

Focus on Decorating is open 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Friday. On Saturdays, the store's open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sundays, it's 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Call 519-942-8171 to place an order through curbside pickup or find out more about the business visit focusondecorating.ca to see everything that Focus on Decorating has to offer.



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POPULAR TRENDS IN *home exteriors*

CERTAIN HOMES have an undeniable wow factor. That instant appeal tends to be noticeable the moment visitors pull up to the curb, and it might be a byproduct of homeowners' willingness to embrace the latest exterior design trends.

The following are some recent trends in home exteriors that have helped homeowners set their properties apart.

Wood

Natural wood has undeniable appeal, and it hasn't only found newfound devotion among home interior decorators. Natural wood garage doors create a sense of warmth and can set a home apart from others with steel doors, which tend to be the most popular garage door material. In addition to the garage door, natural wood entry doors and wood decks are popular ways to impart this classical, warm look to a home's exterior.

Painted brick

Like natural wood, brick is a traditional material that's both sturdy and classical. But homeowners can add character to brick with a coat of paint, which has become a popular trend in recent years. Light tones tend to be the most popular when painting bricks.

Hardscaping

Hardscaping isn't a new trend, but it has been trending in recent years. Hardscaping is an umbrella term that includes everything from outdoor living rooms to incorporating natural stone into a landscape. Outdoor living rooms are one hardscaping trend that has become increasingly popular of late. These spaces serve as an extension of indoor living spaces.

Outdoor lighting

It makes sense that individuals looking to spend more time enjoying their properties outdoors would want more lighting outside. Ambient outdoor lighting can be utilized throughout a property. Such lighting can light up walkways and driveways and be used to light up landscaping features like trees and gardens.



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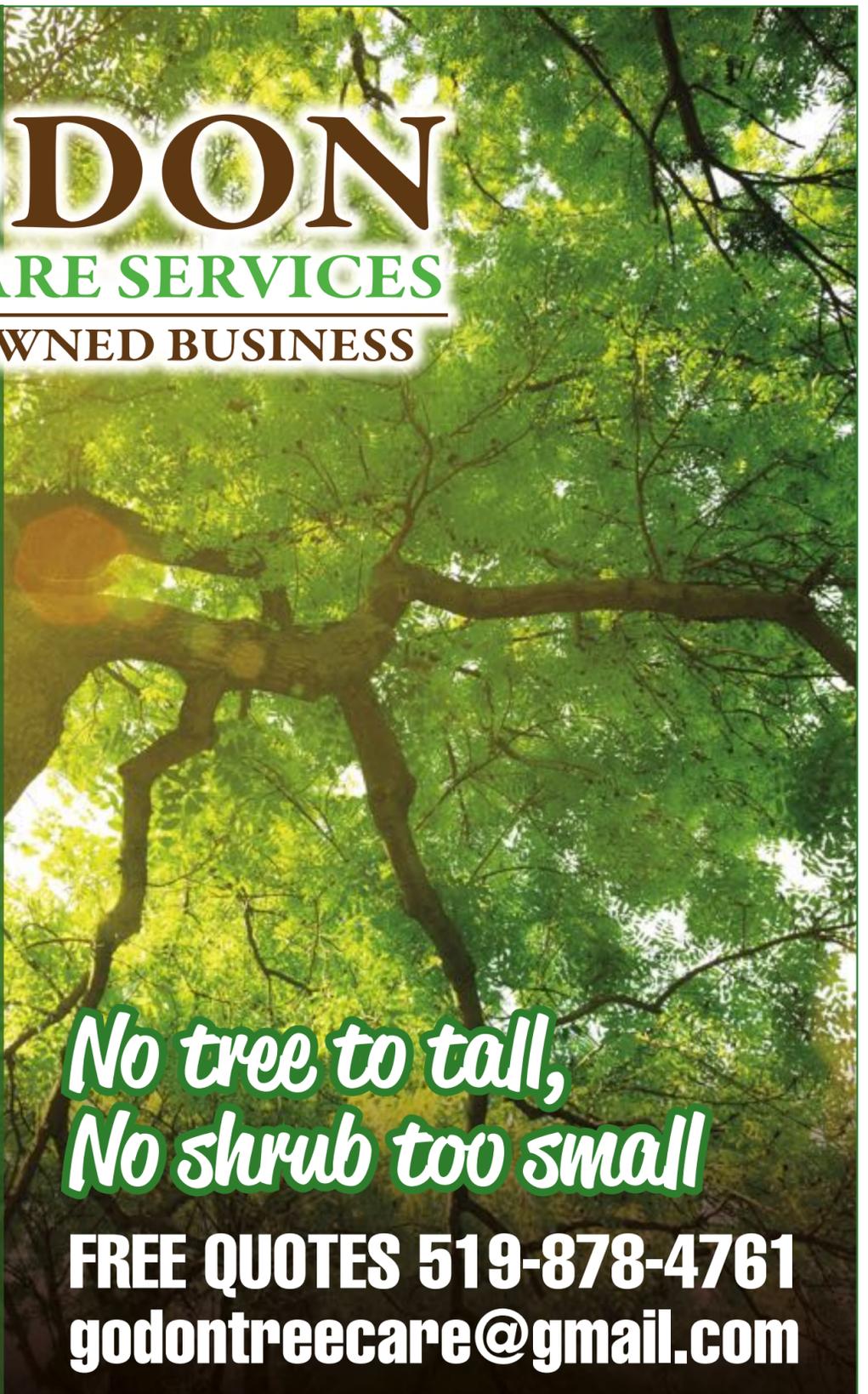
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They also carry an array of wood accessories such

as tool sets, bellows, wood gloves, steamers and log holders. In addition, there are barbecue accessories such as smokers, chips, pizza stones, rotisserie baskets and digital temperature probes.

With the spring season approaching, you can turn your backyard into a place you will enjoy with family as well as a space for entertaining guests.

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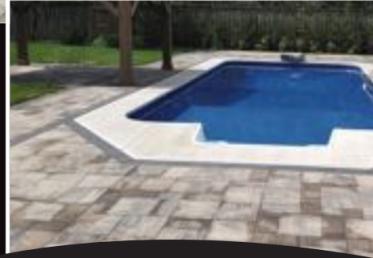
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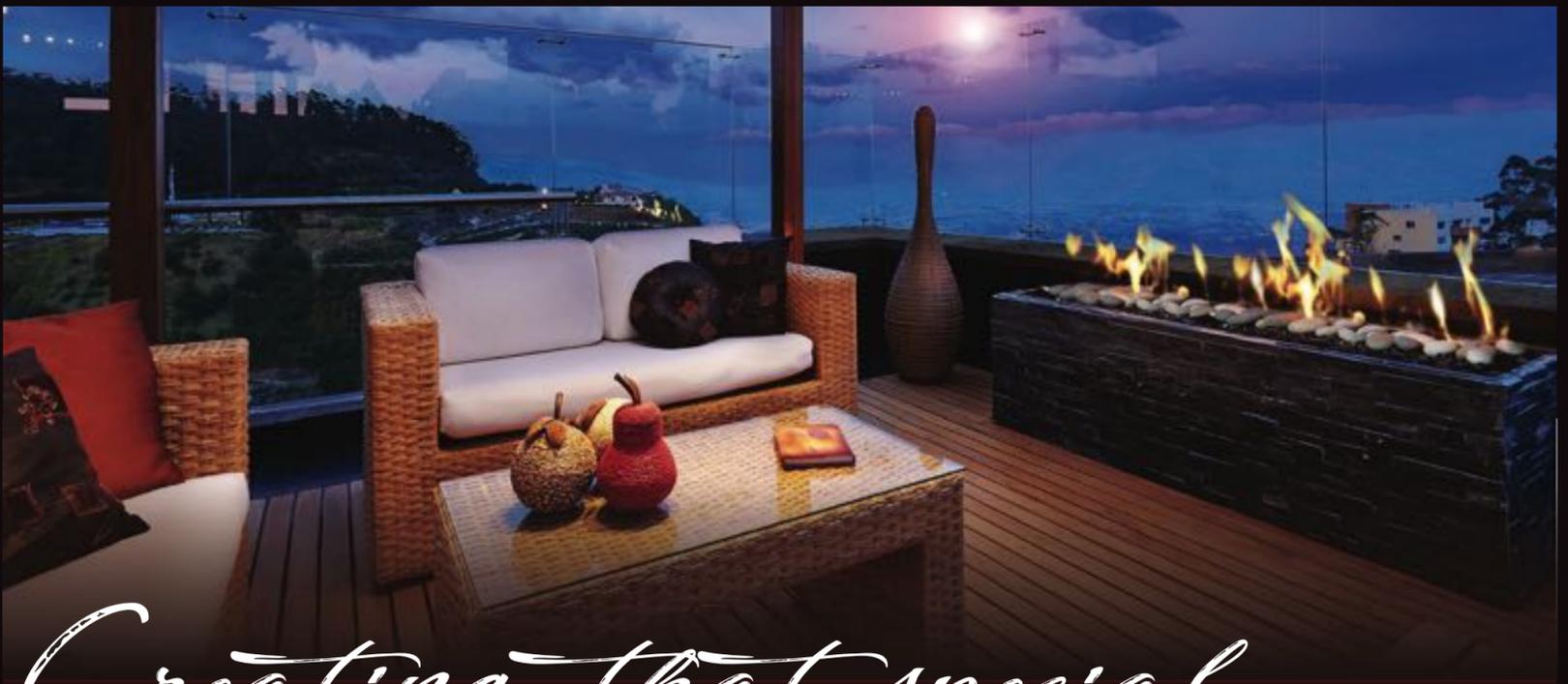
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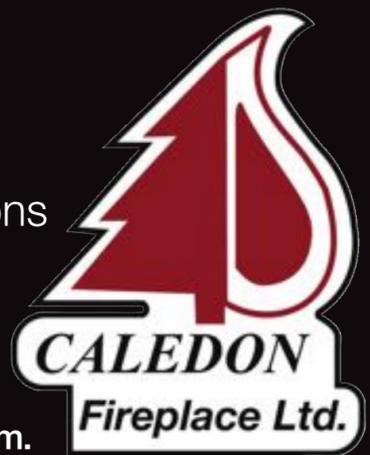
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Sean Cairns is a third-generation roofer and keeps the same standards of quality founded by his grandfather who started the roofing company.

Sean spent a few years trying other jobs but was

drawn back to roofing as it was something he knew well.

"I've been on the roof since I was a kid," Sean explained. "I've been around it my entire life. My dad suggested I see other things so I did some other kinds of work. I came back to the roofing industry in 2004."

Roofing is a commitment Sean takes seriously and devotes his energy to not only satisfying his many clients but also creating a work atmosphere for his employees that encourages them to do their best.

He provides training and resources to employees to expand their skill development so they can provide the highest quality workmanship and be provided opportunities for professional growth and advancement.

Although based in Palgrave, Cairns Roofing Services covers a wide region across Ontario. Many customers who have used their services will request they go to other areas and do the same quality work on other properties they own.

"I go out to all these different areas because we are referred out there," Sean said. "I would say 80 per cent of our work is all referral work. We go out of town to service other properties for clients that we have already completed work for."



The fact that they have so many referrals is a testament to the quality work Cairns does.

Sean puts out an extra effort no longer seen by many roofing companies. While some roofers do estimates over the telephone and never even meet their customers, Sean makes an effort to meet his clients and do a visual observation of the home to see if any additional work will be needed to complete the job properly. When it's time for a new roof, there are often other things that should be repaired at the same time like flashing or other components that have been damaged over time by the elements.

Sean provides an accurate estimate of what needs to be done so you don't have any surprises.

"I still like to get to the job site and meet our cus-

tomers," Sean explained. "If there is damage to the eaves trough or anything else, you can't see that from a satellite image. I like to build relationships with our customers."

Cairns Roofing Services provides quality work to both residential and commercial properties. Whether you have a standard asphalt shingled home roof or a flat roof installation on a commercial business, they have the expertise to get the job done right.

You can find out more about Cairns Roofing Services by visiting the website at: www.cairnsroofing.com, or call 905-880-4771 to learn more and get an estimate for your quality roof replacement.

Written by: BRIAN LOCKHART

5 QUICK WARM-WEATHER FIXES FOR YOUR HOME

(NC) AS THE WEATHER gets warmer, small updates can help get your home in great shape for you to enjoy the outdoors all season. Here's a checklist of easy weekend projects to help get you get from do to done.

Fix damaged screens A torn or damaged window screen is unsightly, unsafe and allows insects and other pests into your home. This beginner-level project requires a roll of replacement screen, screen spline (the rubber that holds the screen into the frame), spline roller, a screwdriver and a utility knife. You can find tutorials on how to do it properly online.



Repair and seal your driveway

Potholes in your asphalt driveway can cause unnecessary damage to your vehicle's tires and suspension, and they're a tripping hazard. Sealing an asphalt driveway can help it last longer and increase the curb appeal of your home. It's best to start this project on a day that's above 10 degrees Celsius with no rain in the forecast. Check your local hardware store, like Home Depot, for advice on the best materials to use for your driveway.

Adjust your ceiling fan

A ceiling fan doesn't change the temperature of your room because it doesn't cool or heat air like a traditional air conditioner or heater. It can, however, create a cooling or warming effect by moving air around your room. In the

summer, it should spin counterclockwise to create a cooling breeze. In winter, spinning the blades clockwise helps circulate the warm air throughout a room without creating a breeze. By helping you stay cooler or warmer, your ceiling fan can augment your existing HVAC system, allowing it to work less and, in turn, lower your energy bills.

Clean your windows

Clean windows help your home look sharp, both inside and out, and, most importantly, give you a crystal-clear view of the outdoors. For this project, you'll need glass cleaner, a pail, some cleaning cloths or sponges and a squeegee. Diluting a small amount of ammonia with some rubbing alcohol or vinegar in water makes an effective grease-cleaning solution, and warm water and cornstarch or dish soap also create a great general window cleaner.

Give your outdoor tools a tune-up

To tune up your lawn mower, start by changing the oil, air filter and spark plug. Next, clean the top and undercarriage, removing dirt and grass clippings. Be sure to detach the spark-plug wire before working around the cutting blade. Sharpen the mower blade and replace it if it has large nicks or gouges. It's a good idea to keep an extra blade on hand so you always cut with a sharp edge. A sharp-edged blade, along with a well cared-for engine, will keep your mower humming with ease. Lastly, fill the fuel tank. Note, a cold mower can be hard to start in early spring. Warm it up by placing it in the sun for an hour or two before turning it on.

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3 Ideas to inspire your next DIY project

Inspiration is all around us, whether you're watching a home improvement show or scrolling through social media, refresh and remodel projects are on the rise. Homeowners are projected to spend roughly \$485 billion¹ on remodelling projects in 2023. That's more than they have ever spent in the past.

Small projects, such as refreshing a kitchen pantry or laundry room, remain popular while homeowners continue to tackle larger projects, such as full kitchen and bathroom remodels. And, with the recent increase in storm activity across the country, homeowners are finding themselves in situations that has brought on the need for projects that were maybe lower on the priority list for homeowners. Areas of the home that were possibly damaged by storms.

Whether you want to do a quick refresh of an interior space or go for a total remodel for a larger indoor or outdoor space, sometimes the tasks can seem overwhelming, especially if you don't own the tools or equipment you'll need to complete the project. Sunbelt Rentals makes it easy to rent a variety of tools — from small power tools to large earthmoving equipment and many items in between.

When Sunbelt Rentals partner Casey Finn of DIY Playbook was faced with a flooded basement, she looked at it as an opportunity to convert the basement into the space she'd been wanting to create for a long time. She turned to Sunbelt Rentals to help her with the project and rented a table saw to cut and install a shiplap wall, a paint sprayer to paint the entire space, and a tile wet saw to cut the penny tile for the remodelled basement bathroom. Since Casey lives in the suburbs of Chicago in a 1921 fixer-upper bungalow, renting these tools made sense for her.

A flooded basement can be a large undertaking, and Sunbelt Rentals has many tools and equipment to help make the job a little less stressful for homeowners. From dehumidifiers to help dry out your space that was damaged by water to a submersible pump to help displace any standing water in the area, Sunbelt Rentals has you covered with equipment rentals to ease the burden of a flooded basement.

On the lighter side, a laundry room makeover could be a weekend DIY project. A fresh coat of paint or wallpaper has become a popular choice for the space. In fact, wallpaper seems to have continued its momentum in 2023 and become a staple in design choices for spaces such as bathrooms, bedrooms, laundry rooms, and even hallways.

Sunbelt Rentals can even help with some of the smaller tools needed for a wallpaper project: a wide metal putty knife for trimming strips at the ceiling and baseboards and a step ladder to reach those higher places on the walls.

Check out how our partners at Scarlet Oak Homes remodelled their laundry room. They did something a little different and tiled the walls with tools and equipment rented from Sunbelt Rentals.

Another inspiring project to consider is a garage facelift. The garage is a space many people often ignore or put at the bottom of their list. After all, it's usually just a storage catchall for everything from vehicles and bicycles to tools and seasonal items.

However, making a few updates to the space can make it more functional and visually appealing. By adding storage cabinets for tools or a folding workbench, you can minimize clutter. Adding ceiling hooks gets bicycles off the ground and puts unused ceiling



space to good use. You can also add overhead storage shelves to house all of those seasonal items that often end up in bins and garbage bags in a corner of the garage.

The garage floor is another project that many don't think about. Repairing the garage floor and either polishing it or painting it is another way to spruce up the space. You can see how our partners at Bless' House updated their garage floor with the rental of a concrete grinder to remove old stains from the concrete floor, making it look new again!

No matter the size of your project or where you get your inspiration from, Sunbelt Rentals has locations all over the United States and Canada to satisfy your DIY project needs. Next time you're thinking of a project, turn it into a reality with the help of Sunbelt Rentals.

¹ Abbe Will, "Slight Gains in 2023 Outlook for Residential Remodeling," Joint Center for Housing Studies, January 19, 2023.



POLLINATORS ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF GARDENS

A **THRIVING BACKYARD** garden requires homeowners to take steps to ensure the garden has the best environment in which to grow and thrive. The right tools and components, including trowels, rakes, soil, amendments, and fertilizer, can help gardeners create beautiful spaces. It's also important that pollinators are made to feel welcome in the garden.

Pollinators are make-or-break components of large-scale agriculture and are just as important in private home gardens. The Pollinator Partnership, an organization that works to protect pollinators and their habitats across North America, says pollinators include bees, butterflies, beetles, birds, and bats. These animals travel from plant to plant carrying pollen on their bodies. The following are some ways to maintain healthy pollinator habitats.

- Consider the soil and types of plants that will thrive in it before choosing what to plant. Fix drainage issues and plant with sunlight in mind.
- Vary the colours and shapes of plants to attract a greater array of pollinators. Plant flowers close to vegetable gardens to attract pollinators.
- Group plants together when planting to attract pollinators more effectively.
- Select plants that flower at different times of the year so that nectar and pollen sources are available year-round.
- Whenever possible, choose native plants.
- Avoid the use of pesticides.
- Provide a water source for pollinators, such as a shallow dish with stones half-submerged for perching.

Pollinators are important for gardens, whether those gardens are commercial operations or small backyard plots. Allow pollinators to share spaces and be mindful of behaviours that can threaten their survival.



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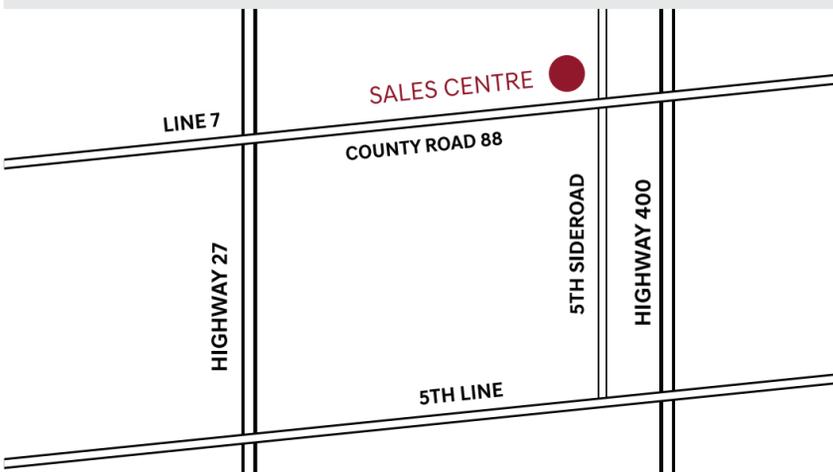
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