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SANTA CLAUS WELCOMED BACK TO BOLTON

The crowds gathered at the side of Queen Street in Bolton Saturday to greet Santa Claus as he made his triumphant return. The annual Santa Claus Parade was hosted by the Bolton Kinsmen. Turn to pages A2 and A3 for more scenes of the parade.

Photo by Bill Rea

Tax hike might not be as high as thought

By Bill Rea

It looks like the impact on Caledon taxpayers from the 2017 budget is going to be a little less than previously anticipated.

Caledon councillors were told Tuesday that is the result of some minor adjustments to the budget, as well as clarification of some of the figures coming from Peel Region.

Councillors, meeting in committee Tuesday, approved a budget calling for a tax increase of 4.68 per cent in the Town's portion of the property

tax bill.

The Town, as a lower-tier municipality, is obligated to also collect the taxes for the Region, as well as the local school boards.

The Town kept only 42.5 of the money it collected in 2016 from residential taxpayers. The Region got 36.2 per cent and the school boards took the other 21.3 per cent.

Town councillors in the education component were given their first presentation on the budget last month,

and at that time, it was expected the Region would be increasing its tax impact in Caledon by about 2.02 per cent. But acting treasurer Heather Haire said

the impact, based on revised figures from the Region, is not going to be as great. The increase is now expected to be only 1.32 per cent. As sum-

ing there's no increase in the education component of the property tax bill (that won't be known for sure until

the spring), the current figures point to an overall tax increase for Caledon residents of 2.45 per cent, down from the 2.7 per cent that had been predicted last month.

That means the tax bill is going up by \$113.08 for a home assessed at \$522,000.

Council is scheduled to ratify the budget Dec. 20.

Tuesday saw a couple of changes made to the budget.

Councillor Rob Mezzapelli put forth a motion that pointed out a capital project involving fence replacement had been closed earlier in the year, leaving almost \$383,000 in reserves. He had some ideas on what to do with the money, including \$180,000 to be spent of tree replacement, \$64,000 to provide water and hydro service to Alton Village Square, \$15,000 for a junior playground at Alton Ball Park and \$100,000 to revise the scope of

See 'Alton' on page A5

Quote of the week

"They died because they were women."

Caledon Public Library CEO and Chief Librarian Colleen Lipp, speaking at Tuesday's vigil marking the anniversary of the Montreal Massacre

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Big crowd out to greet Santa Claus



It was a bright, sunny day Saturday; perfect weather to get out and greet Santa Claus as he made his return to Bolton in the annual Santa Claus Parade. There were scores of groups taking part in the parade, hosted by the Bolton Kinsmen, to make it a success. These members of Canadian Dance Unit made their usual upbeat contribution to the festivities.

Photos by Bill Rea



The Girl Guides of Bolton were well represented by this group riding on their float.



Adedoyin Adenowo of Bolton made sure his daughter Zion, 4, got a good view of Santa as he rode by.



Caledon's Town Crier Andrew Welch once again led the parade.

Community Events

A directory of what's happening in our community

This column is provided as a free public service to non-profit organizations to announce up-coming events. Please contact Bill Rea at the Caledon Citizen at (905) 857-6626 or 1-888-557-6626 if you wish to have an announcement published.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8
Come and join members of the Caledon Horticultural Society to learn and enhance gardening knowledge, starting at 7:30 p.m. at Cheltenham United Church, 14309 Creditview Rd. A popular and mystical topic of "Fairy Gardens" will be demystified by Donna Zarudny, a landscape architect and owner of Dufferin Gardens in Orangeville. She will also include succulents, since they can be an integral part of Fairy Gardens.

"Has your life been affected by someone else's drinking? Al-Anon Family Group is for you." The Bolton group meets Thursdays at 8:30 p.m. at Caven Presbyterian Church (110 King W, Bolton). Call 416-410-3809 or <http://al-anon.alateen.on.ca>

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9
Caledon Area Families for Inclusion (CAFFI) organizes a "social" the second Friday of every month (of the school year) at the Exchange (55 Healey Rd., Unit 10, Bolton) from 7 to 9 p.m. These events are open to developmentally disabled young adults, as well as their friends and families in order to provide an opportunity for socializing and fun in an inclusive environment.

Wellness, Interaction, Social and Exercise (WISE) is a health promotion and social program for seniors (55+) happening at the Palgrave United Church Friday mornings. Low impact exercise/falls prevention session starts at 9:30 a.m. with regular programming with refreshments starting at 10:15. Call 905-857-7651 for more information.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10
A welcome is extended to everyone who wants to stop eating compulsively and are tired of dieting. Come to Overeaters Anonymous Saturday mornings at 9 a.m. at Knox United Church, Caledon village. For more information, contact 416-705-7670.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11
Christmas Contata at Mayfield United Church, 12496 Dixie Rd., starting at 7 p.m.

Whole Village's monthly orientation will be held at 1 p.m. at 20728 Shaws Creek Rd. Meet some of the members of the group, tour the farm and eco-residence, and obtain answers to questions about the Whole Village initiative. For more information and other events, visit www.wholevillage.org

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13
Adjustments After Birth — This support group meets every Tuesday from 10 a.m.; to noon, and is for mothers needing additional support following the birth or adoption of a child. Registration is required. Group and child care are offered free of charge. To register, call the Caledon Parent-Child Centre at 905-857-0090 or email jvanandel@cpcc.org

Growing Together: The Caledon Parent-Child Centre is offering a program called Growing Together every Tuesday from 4:30 to 7 p.m. at Stationview Place in Bolton. A small group of families and their children will meet to share a meal, play and learn. Staff will also be available to provide information and support to parents. Activities will include topics like healthy foods, active living and wellness. This program is designed for families with children up to age six who have a total household income of less than \$45,000. Growing Together in Peel is funded by CAP-C. Contact Caledon Parent-Child Centre at 905-857-0090 to determine if you qualify

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14
TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) Chapter #ON1381 meets every Wednesday from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., at the Friendship Room of Knox United Church in Caledon village. This non-profit weight loss group meets to learn about nutrition and exercise. Call Barbara at (519) 927-5696.

Caledon East Seniors Club #588 meets every Wednesday at 1:15 p.m. at the Caledon Community Complex, Caledon East. Everyone welcome for an afternoon of friendly euchre and lunch. For more information, call (905) 584-9933.

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) ON 1344 Bolton is looking for new members who want to lose weight in a healthy way and keep it off! We're a non-profit group and meet in Bolton United Church at 8 Nancy Street. Hours: Weigh in 6:45-7:20PM, followed by a meeting at 7:30 PM. We look forward to meeting you! For more information call Marion at 905-857-5191 or Lorraine at 905-857-1568.

Every Wednesday, catch up with friends over coffee at Knox United Church in Caledon village at 10 a.m.

THURSDAY DECEMBER 15
Bolton Banter Toastmasters meet every first, third and fifth Thursday at the Albion-Bolton Community Centre at 7 p.m. Lose your fear of public speaking and build leadership skills. Everyone welcome. Email info@boltonbanter.org or visit www.boltonbanter.org

"Has your life been affected by someone else's drinking? Al-Anon Family Group is for you." The Bolton group meets Thursdays at 8:30 p.m. at Caven Presbyterian Church (110 King W, Bolton). Call 416-410-3809 or <http://al-anon.alateen.on.ca>

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16
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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17
A welcome is extended to everyone who wants to stop eating compulsively and are tired of dieting. Come to Overeaters Anonymous Saturday mornings at 9 a.m. at Knox United Church, Caledon village. For more information, contact 416-705-7670.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18
The choir of Caledon East United church will be presenting their Christmas concert at the church at 6046 Olde Church Rd. in Caledon East, starting at 2 p.m. The concert program will include a carol sing. Admission is free, although donations are appreciated. All funds raised will be donated to the Santa Fund, in support of Caledon Community Services. A reception will be held in Friendship Hall following the concert. For further information, contact the church office at 905-584-9974.

Sing favourite Christmas Carols and share some refreshments with neighbours in the Community Carol Sing at St. James Church in Caledon East. There will not be a church service; just lots of singing. It will start at 7:30 p.m. Come and bring the family. All are welcome.

Bolton Community Adventist Church and Bolton United Church invite the community to an evening of praise and fellowship, while welcoming the Christmas season with Joys of the Advent. It will be at the United church at 8 Nancy St. at 6 p.m. Call 905-783-7839 or 905-857-2615.

St. Andrew's Traditional Scottish Christmas Evening will start at 7 p.m. at St. Andrew's Stone Church, 17621 St. Andrew's Rd. There will be the sounds of the pipes, readings, story telling, carols, soloists, Scottish treats and hot cider.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20
Adjustments After Birth — This support group meets every Tuesday from 10 a.m.; to noon, and is for mothers needing additional support following the birth or adoption of a child. Registration is required. Group and child care are offered free of charge. To register, call the Caledon Parent-Child Centre at 905-857-0090 or email jvanandel@cpcc.org

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Let's Get Together: Sharing the Journey of Raising a Child with Special Needs. This group meets the first and third Tuesday of every month from 5:45 to 7:15 p.m. It's an inclusive program for families presented by the Caledon Parent-Child Centre and Brampton/Caledon Community Living. Come play and connect with other families to explore the various issues that surround parenting a child with special needs. Registration is required. To register, call 905-857-0090 or email aiksa@cpcc.org



These clowns from the Tecumseth Shrine Club added plenty of colour to the parade.

Riding association welcomes

Del Duca to Dufferin-Caledon

The Dufferin-Caledon Provincial Liberal Association is celebrating the holiday season at the Caledon Estates Banquet Hall Dec. 13.

It will start at 6 p.m. Transportation Minister Steven Del Duca, MPP for

Vaughan, will join the celebrations and speak to the gathering.

The event is open to the public and everyone is welcome. Anyone wishing to attend can contact Doug at dougk@rrtwo.ca or Joe at joem18@rogers.com

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There were many groups passing out candy and other goodies along the parade route, including these Bolton firefighters.



These musicians from Humberview Secondary School provided some festive music in the parade.



These members of the Caledon Bandits Lacrosse Club were waving at spectators as they passed by.



Elisabeth and Joseph Berrouard of Bolton were waving at Santa as he passed them Saturday.

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Black bear reported at Island Lake Conservation Area

Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) is advising area residents and visitors to Island Lake Conservation Area in Orangeville that a black bear has been reported on the big island by Bob's Bridges (part of the Vicki Barron Lakeside Trail) inside the conservation area.

CVC is coordinating with police and conservation officers, and have posted warnings at all entrances to the conservation area.

CVC advises that, until further notice, all visitors are to stay away from the lands and waters making up the eastern arm of the Island Lake Conservation Area (any area east of Hurontario Street North). People are also asked to notify conservation area staff if a bear is observed anywhere in or near the site by calling 519-941-6329.

Bears are complex, intelligent animals and no two encounters are alike. If you encounter a black bear, there is no single strategy that will work in each situation, but you can minimize your risk by following these guidelines provided by Parks Canada:

- Keep calm. Think ahead; your brain is

your best defense against a bear attack. Plan how to respond if you encounter a bear.

- Don't run. Bears can easily outrun you. By running you may trigger an attack. Make yourself less vulnerable. Pick up small children and stay in a group.
- Give the bear space. Back away slowly and talk in a soft voice. Do not approach the bear or make direct eye contact.
- Leave the area or make a wide detour. If you cannot leave, wait until the bear moves out of the way and ensure that it has an escape route.
- The bear may approach you or rear up on its hind legs. Bears are often curious. If one stands on its hind legs, it is most likely trying to catch your scent; this is not necessarily a sign of aggression. Back away slowly and talk in a soft voice.
- Do not drop objects, clothing or food to distract the bear. If the bear receives food, it will have been rewarded for its aggressive behaviour, thereby increasing the likelihood that it will repeat that behaviour again.
- Watch for aggressive behaviours. A bear may display aggression by swinging

its head from side to side; making vocalizations such as huffs, snorts, whoops, or moans; displaying teeth or claws; jaw popping; swatting at the ground; staring with eye contact; panting; or laying its ears back. These behaviours usually indicate that the bear is stressed, acting defen-

sively and asking for more space. Attacks rarely follow. This is the most common kind of black bear aggressive encounter.

The public is asked to report all bear sightings at or near the conservation area to conservation area staff at 519-941-6329.

Man charged after car flips

A 36-year-old Brampton man was charged Nov. 4 after a single -vehicle accident on Mayfield Road.

Caledon OPP reports officers were sent to the scene west of Centerville Creek Road, where they found a grey Honda Pilot on its roof.

An officer spoke to the driver and imme-

diately detected the smell of alcohol on his breath. The officer demanded the driver provide a sample of his breath in a screening device, but the man refused.

He was charged with refusing to provide a breath sample. His licence was suspended for 90 days on the spot, and his car was impounded for seven.



Firefighters in the holiday spirit
Inglewood Fire Fighters are holding their sixth annual Fill a Fire Truck Toy Drive. The fun included a pancake breakfast Sunday at the fire hall, complete with a visit from Santa Claus. Firefighters John Lockyer and Dan Gove were hard at work doing the cooking.
Photos by Bill Rea

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People attending Sunday's breakfast were asked to bring toys, that will be going to Caledon Community Services' Santa Fund. Firefighter Lisa Blundell helped Rosaline Walker, 4, of Brampton make her contribution.



Santa got the chance to meet some of his friends, like Marshall and Violet Goodison of Whitby.

Fire department running Christmas food-toy drive

Caledon Fire and Emergency Services is teaming up again this year in support of Caledon Community Services' Santa Fund program at the Exchange in Bolton.

This is the third year of the partnership and the aim is to ensure that all families and kids have a good Christmas and Holiday season.

There are three locations to drop off non-perishable food items and unwrapped gifts for children of all ages. Gifts for girls and boys between the ages of 10 and 15 years old are in high demand.

Drop off locations are at Caledon Fire Headquarters, 6211 Old Church Rd. in Caledon East, Monday and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Bolton Fire Station at 28 Ann St., daily from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., and the Caledon Fire Station at 3611 Charleston Sdrd. near Caledon village, Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The last day to drop off gifts will be Dec. 9. All donations after that day will be accepted at the Exchange location only at 55 Healey Rd., Unit 10, in Bolton.

For more information, contact Caledon Fire and Emergency Services at 905-584-2272, ext. 4303 or visit www.caledon.ca

Judge found no basis for allegations against Mayor

By Bill Rea

The ruling was decisive.

Mr. Justice Peter Daley of the Superior Court of Justice came down with his 15-page ruling last Wednesday that threw out conflict of interest allegations against Mayor Allan Thompson, and awarded costs.

The allegations had been brought by Kelly Darnley and later by Charles Bristoll.

It was also clear in the days that followed that Thompson was very relieved and happy with the decision.

He also pointed out it was not a trial, but a preliminary hearing to see if there was sufficient evidence to go to trial.

Daley noted Darnley's action was started in July 2015, and Bristoll's followed in February.

"I have concluded that, on examining the entire record, there is an absence of evidence with respect to critical aspects of the applicant's claims," the judge wrote in reference to Darnley. "In several instances, there are also evidentiary gaps, and as such no reasonable inferences in Darnley's favour can be drawn."

"It is clear upon review of the applicant Darnley's evidence that at the heart of the application is her concern over planning and development, particularly in Bolton when compared with Mayfield West," he added. "Further, there is no evidence whatsoever that the respondent had a pecuniary interest that was present and real at the time of any impugned vote. A potential or speculative pecuniary interest is not sufficient."

Daley added the application from Bristoll was "simply piggybacking on the Darnley application and its evidentiary record contains no cogent evidence whatsoever in support of the allegations made by that applicant."

The allegations centred around lands Thompson had interest in while land use planning decisions were being made at

the Town and Peel Region.

The ruling noted Thompson held no municipal office until November 2003.

Caledon's Official Plan calls for growth to be centred around Bolton, Caledon East and Mayfield West, and that was established before Thompson was on council.

The Town and Region started a detailed planning process for Mayfield West in 2003, and the Region established the first phase settlement area in Mayfield West in December 2005, when Thompson sat only on Caledon council.

The Province had also brought in the Places to Grow Act, which set out where population and employment growth could occur, and the ruling noted that about 80 per cent of Caledon's land area is restricted from development.

It also made mention of property owned by Thompson on Heritage Road which he has farmed with his family. But it was also noted these lands are not part of either phase of the Mayfield West development, Alloo lands or the GTA West Corridor study area. It's about five kilometres away from the second phase of Mayfield West.

The ruling stated the Thompsons received an unsolicited offer from a numbered company to buy the Heritage Road property, and while Thompson suspected a developer was behind the offer, he didn't know which one. The evidence indicated the family decided to sell, in view of factors like his father's age and the fact Thompson was running for mayor at the time.

Daley stated there was no evidence that Thompson knew Primont Homes was the buyer until Sept. 19, 2014, nor did the company request any resolution from the Town during that time. He also stated Thompson didn't vote on any resolutions involving the company.

Daley found no conflicts on any votes at council that Thompson took part in regarding Mayfield West.

"Any such vote took place many years after the decision was made in 1997 and 2003 to develop this area . . . lands within the Mayfield West boundary were five to seven kilometres from the Heritage Road property," the ruling stated.

The judge added there was no contradiction of Thompson's assertion that there will not be any development of those lands for at least 50 years, and that there are thousands of acres between the property and Mayfield West.

Not surprisingly, this affair has been an ordeal for Thompson and his family.

"I wouldn't wish this smear campaign on my worst enemy," he told the Citizen over the weekend.

Thompson also said he felt frustration because he couldn't respond publicly to the allegations, on the advice of his lawyers.

Thompson said selling the property was "the toughest thing I ever had to do in my life," pointing out it had been in his family for about 200 years. He added it was a family business decision. The agent who approached him was protecting the identity of who he was working for. He also said it was part of a long-term investment

for them.

Darnley expressed her disappointment with the ruling in a statement she issued Tuesday.

"The conflict of interest act permits a resident to come forward with concerns; which, with the public interest in mind, I did," she stated. "I encourage other residents to come forward and hold their elected officials accountable to the public they are entrusted to ethically represent."

She also said the case exposed dealing Thompson had with well-known developers.

"Unfortunately Justice Daley dismissed the case," she observed.

Darnley also noted that each side has been asked to submit their arguments for costs within 30 days.

"I, for one, do not believe members of the public should be penalized for exercising their democratic rights in Ontario," she stated.

"It was overwhelming to have received so many messages and calls from friends and complete strangers offering their support," she concluded. "Thank you."

Efforts to obtain comments from Bristoll were unsuccessful.

Alton remembered in budget

From page A1

a study of curbs and sidewalks on Creditview Road in Cheltenham. His motion called for including a feasibility study design to extend the sidewalks. The provisions in that amendment involving Cheltenham were adjusted before it was approved.

"This is money we have in reserve for this purpose," he remarked.

Councillor Barb Shaughnessy was pleased with the provisions for Alton, pointing out water and hydro are "desperately" needed in the square.

"How can you go wrong with kids needing play parks?" she asked.

Shaughnessy tried to get \$45,000 added to expenditures for a Caledon village study, looking at land use, traffic and servicing, but in the end, the matter was referred back to Town staff.

She apologized to her colleagues for bringing this forward so late in the process, but pointed out the situation with Highway 10 running through the village has been an issue for years, and the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) has indicated it wants something on paper before

it will act.

There were some arguments that this wasn't a lot of money to add to the budget (Haire said it would represent about another dollar to the average tax bill). But Councillor Nick deBoer wondered about the likelihood of anything useable coming from the study.

General Manager of Community Services Peggy Tollett told Mezzapelli there would be no money coming from MTO to fund such a study.

"We've got very little information," deBoer maintained, adding the matter required a staff report and some discussion.

"I don't think we're going to get anything out of it," Councillor Gord McClure added.

Councillor Johanna Downey could see value in principle with what Shaughnessy was trying to do, but she had problems with the way the matter was brought to the table.

"There's a process which we follow," she observed.

Mayor Allan Thompson agreed the matter was late in coming, but stressed the issue has been around for years.

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Enzo Villa,
Photographer

GRAND ENTRANCE

Pommes

Royal Ambassador

Santa Claus welcomed to Caledon village



There was a large and warm reception waiting to greet Santa Claus Saturday evening after the Santa Claus Parade in Caledon village. St. Nick rode through the streets to the tree lighting outside Knox United Church.

Photos by Bill Rea

Holiday happenings at Caledon Public Library

Winter is a time of celebration not hibernation.

This holiday season, Caledon Public Library has some great activities planned for the whole family.

The Library offers programs for giving, sharing and spending time with family from cookie exchanges, story times, movies, scientific demos, interactive Minecraft, 3-D snowman creation, Christmas crafting, decoration design and so much more. Pick up a Holiday Happenings brochure at any branch for details on these and other family fun activities.

For those outdoor adventurers, checkout a Toronto Region Conservation Authority/Credit Valley Conservation park membership pass, offering free admission to 12 parks in and around Caledon. To make sure people do not miss all that nature has to offer, the library has binoculars for loan. Visit any one of the Library's seven branches. They are free with a library card.

Are museums more your style? All branches have passes for Peel Art Gallery Museum and Archives (PAMA) where family fun activities are offered throughout the winter break.

The Library is honoured to partner with Caledon Community Services with their Keep Caledon Warm This Winter program. Drop in to any branch and donate hats, mittens, scarves and socks to decorate the Christmas trees until Dec. 12.

FREE at CALEDON PUBLIC LIBRARY

CPL is pleased to offer our patrons a wide range of highly interactive, instructor led courses that can be taken entirely online.

- Accounting & Finance
- Writing & Publishing
- Personal Development

- Law & Legal
- Technology
- and many more

COURSES

CALEDON PUBLIC LIBRARY for all reasons



Musicians from Mayfield Secondary School provided some of the music of the season along the parade route.



Former Caledon Fair ambassador Lindsay Bebbington joined current Ambassador Diana Limebeer in the parade.



Robert F. Hall Catholic Secondary School was well represented by this group in the parade.

Home James

ARRIVE SAFELY

FRIDAY	NOV.25TH	DEC.2ND	DEC.9TH	DEC.16TH	DEC.23RD	DEC.30TH
SATURDAY	NOV.26TH	DEC.3RD	DEC.10TH	DEC.17TH		DEC.31ST

Again this weekend, Friday and Saturday night, for a free, safe ride home in your own vehicle, contact HomeJames-Caledon

By downloading and using the HomeJames App on any smart phone.
By email - homejames-caledon.ca/requestaride
By telephone – 905-951-9000

Thank you to our sponsors:



Village Child Care Centre, located inside the Church, had some fun crafts for youngsters to work on. Aliza Perlman of Toronto watched as her son Joshua, 3, worked on his creation.



FESTIVITIES IN ALTON

The community gathered in Alton Village Square Saturday evening for a ceremonial Christmas tree lighting. Those on hand included Santa Clause, who met many of his friends, including two-year-old Olivia Hall.

Photo by Bill Rea

Art auction supports humanitarian mission

The 2017 Mission Team of students from St. Michael Catholic Secondary School in Bolton will travel to the Dominican Republic in late January for a week to serve the people in the bateys in La Higuera. Under the care and leadership of Sister Maude Rhenuad and the Congregacion Hijos de Maria, the team will distribute basic necessities such as food, clothes and medicine.

Support from the community has been integral to the success of these mission trips. Funds raised go directly to serving the people in La Higuera.

An original acrylic on canvas, by famed Canadian artist Helen Lucas, known for her large, floral works, is up for auction, to assist this mission. "Wild Flower" is a 4'x4' work, signed by Lucas. Similar pieces in this series have been valued by Shelley Lambe Fine Art Consultants at between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

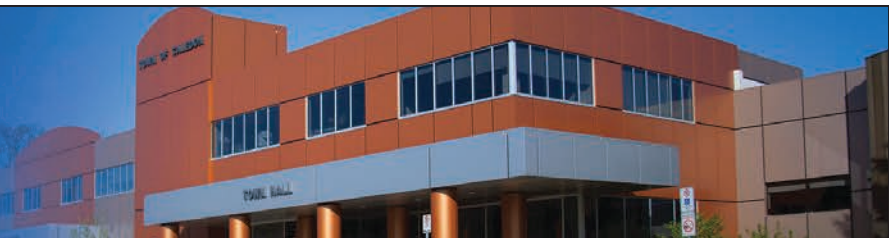


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News

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Winter Aquatics registration begins Tuesday, December 13

Register online at caledon.ca/recreation or by calling 905.584.2272 x.7327



New speed limit reductions

To create a safer environment for residents and road users, Town of Caledon Council has accepted consultant-recommended speed limit reductions on select Town roads, effective November 29, 2016.

Please be aware of the posted speed limit for the road on which you are traveling. Unless posted otherwise, the speed limit on all Caledon roadways is now 50 km/h. The Caledon OPP will continue to enforce speed limits within the Town of Caledon.

If you have any questions regarding the newly posted speed limit reductions, please contact the Town's Transportation division at Town Hall at 905.584.2272 x.4093 or visit the Town's website at

caledon.ca/speedlimits



Heating equipment safety



Caledon Fire & Emergency Services is urging home owners to take a few moments to read through the following fire prevention list.

Remember, the number one cause of death related to fires is smoke inhalation.

- Install wood burning stoves following manufacturer's instruction or have a professional do the installation.
- Contact a professional to clean the chimney of creosote and check for cracked or broken mortar.
- All fuel-burning equipment should be vented to the outside to avoid carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.
- Keep the door closed completely on wood stoves.
- Keep all combustible materials at least one metre away from any heat source.
- If you have small children, be sure to use a barrier to prevent toddlers from touching wood stoves or glass-front gas fireplaces.
- Have a covered metal container ready to use to dispose cooled ashes. (The ash container should be kept at least 10 feet from the home and any nearby buildings.)
- Install smoke alarms on every storey of your home and outside all sleeping areas. It's the law! Smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years or as per the manufacturer's instructions.
- Install carbon monoxide alarms outside all sleeping areas. Carbon monoxide alarms should be replaced as per the manufacturer's instructions.

For inquiries, call 905.584.2272 x.4303 or visit us online at www.caledon.ca/fire



Public bid opportunities

Request for Proposal # 2016-93
Employment Land Needs Study
Closing Date: December 12, 2016

Request for Tender # 2016-95
Three (3) Single Axle Freightliner Trucks
Closing Date: December 16, 2016

Expression of Interest # 2016-94
Lease or alternative use of the Mayfield West Community Centre – Commercial Space
Closing Date: December 16, 2016

Expression of Interest # 2016-98
Lease or alternative use of the Mayfield West Community Centre – Non Profit Space
Closing Date: December 16, 2016

Request for Proposal # 2016-99
Housing Study
Closing Date: December 21, 2016

Request for Proposal # 2016-100
Archaeological Management Plan
Closing Date: December 21, 2016

The Town of Caledon is moving to e-bidding starting January 1, 2017.

Visit our new website caledon.bidsandtenders.ca

Visit www.biddingo.com/caledon for details and a listing of current public bid opportunities.

Special Olympics Ontario



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2016
2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Caledon Centre for Recreation & Wellness

Come join us to learn more about our NEW Active Start and FUNdamentals programs, offered in partnership with Special Olympics Ontario. These programs are designed to develop basic motor and movement skills, to introduce physical literacy in children and youth with a disability, and to set the foundation for becoming active for life!

CALEDON OPEN HOUSE

Come on out to meet our staff, play some games and get involved in the fun!



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Arts & Entertainment



Slow down and take-in arts and culture this winter break at PAMA

As the holidays approach, the Peel Art Gallery, Museum and Archives (PAMA) will make sure that the winter break is filled with art, history and culture.

All aboard the new PAMA Express. This hand-made train celebrates the new exhibition Kids on the Move. Then check out the new display dedicated to a road that links all three of Peel's communities (Caledon, Brampton and Mississauga). Read stories and interesting facts in the exhibition, Hurontario Street: Linking Peel, located in the Tunnel Gallery. Celebrate the unique cultures in the community and the common theme of light that shines through them during hands-on activities.

PAMA has announced that pay-what-you-can admission will continue until Jan. 29.

In 2017, PAMA plans to spend the year celebrating Canada, Peel County and the Courthouse and Jail as they turn 150 years old. Explore outstanding exhibitions, hands-on family activities, workshops and talks. PAMA is guaranteed to spark interest and creativity.

New Exhibitions Kids on the Move

PAMA's family-friendly Manning Square provides a fun space to explore some of the many ways people move.

Enjoy hands-on activities; or take an imaginary ride on the new PAMA Express Train. Discover new ways to explore Peel Region on foot, bicycle, public transit, using assistive devices and more.

Hurontario Street: Linking Peel Dec. 16, 2016 - Mar. 5, 2017

Explore interesting facts and stories along this 49-foot display detailing the

growth of Peel through the history, development and cultural significance of Hurontario Street, which links communities from Lake Ontario to Caledon and beyond.

Fun Activities for Everyone Peel Aboriginal Drumming Circle

Enjoy a special December session of shared traditions and songs Dec. 15, just before winter solstice.

Other activities will be taking part Saturdays and Sundays from 1 to 4:30 p.m. in December.

Make a unique creation or card that tells a story about you. It will be in the holiday workshop, with music to keep everyone in the holiday spirit. This activity is self-guided.

Winter break family-fun activities will be taking place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays and 1 to 4:30 p.m. weekends.

Celebrate the unique cultures in the community and the common theme of light that shines through them during hands-on activities. These activities are all instructor led.

- Dec. 27: Happy Hanukkah! Join in the fun and create your own clay oil lamp.
- Dec. 28: Create a pop-up card for Kwanzaa and experiment with watercolour techniques.
- Dec. 29: Learn how to make your own stargazer during the New Moon celebration.
- Dec. 30: Hide your secret wish for the New Year in your handcrafted winter scene box.
- Jan. 3: Stay warm this holiday season with art that sparks the flame and warms the heart.
- Jan. 4: Search for clues about Canada's

holiday and light traditions, try the word search and create a unique art piece using supplies from PAMA's Art Buffet.

- Jan. 5: Discover your animal zodiac and make a paper lantern for the Chinese New Year.
- Jan. 6: Make a spectacular constellation art creation to share good wishes for the New Year.

Continuing PAMA Favourites Knit@PAMA: Thursday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m.

In December, the knit@PAMA group is inviting visitors to come donate or knit with the group to create kids' and youth packages to be donated to local Peel shelters for families in need. Donations will be accepted to the knitting group weekly Thursday evening between 6 and 8 p.m.

Beginners are welcome and PAMA supplies the yarn, needled and patterns.

Family Art and Yoga Dec. 10 and 17

Come play and explore the many themes of art and yoga this month from swaying trees to the beat of your heart.

PAMA will be closed Dec. 25 and 26, as well as Jan. 1. It will close early (3 p.m.) Dec. 24 and 31.

PAMA is a place to explore and learn about Peel Region's culture and heritage, as well as use conversation, questions and stories to help make new and fascinating connections to the surrounding community.

Operated by the Region of Peel, PAMA is at 9 Wellington St. E. in Brampton. Visit pama.peelregion.ca to learn more.



Andrew Welch will present a dramatic reading of Dickens' A Christmas Carol Dec. 18 at Alton Mill.

An Afternoon of Dickens coming to Alton Mill

Actor and Town Crier Andrew Welch presents a dramatic reading of Dickens' A Christmas Carol Dec. 18.

It will be at Alton Mill, starting at 1:30 p.m. His celebrated performance of this timeless classic is 90 minutes of suspense, Christmas magic, extraordinary characters and captivating energy.

Welch has an extensive performance resume, spanning 30 years of TV, radio, film and stage appearances. He specializes in readings and voice work, and has performed this Christmas favorite for audiences across Ontario, as well as special

appearances in the U.S. The characters come alive and the story is wonderfully captivating for young and old listeners.

He says his approach to the piece is true to the roots of the original — in fact, Dickens himself toured readings of his work for many years after it was first published.

"It is first and foremost a ghost story," Welch said, "and the Victorians were masters at that genre. Remember, these were the times of Edgar Allen Poe and Bram Stoker. It is important to capture that edge to contrast it with the wonder that is the magic of Christmas itself."

Welch is best known as the Official Town Crier for both Caledon and Erin, and also locally for his hugely successful Earth Day Payback project — a dramatic reading from Margaret Atwood's book Payback, which he created in 2009. He has performed this adaptation of the Christmas Carol for Earth Day in different venues around Ontario with such acclaimed actors as James B. Douglas, Janet Laine-Green and David Nairn, along with CBC personalities Paul Kennedy and Dave Seglins.

Get tickets now. They are available in advance online and at Gallery Gemma (in the Alton Mill) or at the door the afternoon of the performance. They are \$15 for adults and seniors, or \$11 in advance, and \$10 for youth (\$7 in advance).

Church choir presenting Christmas concert

The choir of Caledon East United Church will be presenting their Christmas concert Dec. 18.

It will be at the church at 6046 Olde Church Rd. in Caledon East, starting at 2 p.m. The concert program will include a carol sing.

Admission is free, although donations are appreciated. All funds raised will be donated to the Santa Fund, in support of Caledon Community Services.

A reception will be held in Friendship Hall following the concert.

For further information, contact the church office at 905-584-9974.

194 McEwan Dr. East, Bolton
905-857-2646

Showtimes for Friday December 9, 2016 to Thursday December 15, 2016

DOCTOR STRANGE (Not Rated) CLOSED CAPTIONED, DVS~Æ FRI,TUE 4:15, 7:05, 10:10; SAT-SUN 1:20, 4:15, 7:05, 10:10; MON,WED 7:05, 10:10

TROLLS (G) (CARTOON/ANIMATION ACTION,SOME SCARY SCENES) CLOSED CAPTIONED, DVS~Æ FRI,TUE 3:55, 6:45; SAT 12:45, 3:55, 6:45; SUN 12:45, 4:00, 6:45; MON,WED 6:45

FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM (PG) (TOBACCO USE,NOT REC. FOR YOUNG CHILDREN,SOME SCARY SCENES) CLOSED CAPTIONED, DVS~Æ FRI,TUE 3:50, 6:50, 9:50; SAT-SUN 12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:50; MON,WED-THURS 6:50, 9:50

ARRIVAL (PG) (MATURE THEME,SOME SCARY SCENES,LANGUAGE MAY OFFEND) CLOSED CAPTIONED, DVS~Æ FRI,TUE 4:20, 7:20, 10:15; SAT-SUN 1:15, 4:20, 7:20, 10:15; MON,WED 7:20, 10:15

MOANA (PG) (CARTOON/ANIMATION ACTION,SOME SCARY SCENES) CLOSED CAPTIONED, DVS~Æ FRI,TUE 4:00, 6:55, 9:45; SAT-SUN 1:00, 4:00, 6:55, 9:45; MON,WED 6:55, 9:45; THURS 6:45, 9:45

BAD SANTA 2 (18A) (COARSE LANGUAGE,SEXUAL CONTENT,CRUDE CONTENT) CLOSED CAPTIONED FRI-WED 9:55

ALLIED (14A) (SUBSTANCE ABUSE,COARSE LANGUAGE,GRAPHIC VIOLENCE) CLOSED CAPTIONED, DVS~Æ FRI,TUE 4:05, 7:00, 10:00; SAT-SUN 1:05, 4:05, 7:00, 10:00; MON,WED 7:00, 10:00; THURS 7:10, 10:05

OFFICE CHRISTMAS PARTY (14A) (COARSE LANGUAGE,SEXUAL CONTENT,SUBSTANCE ABUSE) CLOSED CAPTIONED, DVS~Æ FRI,TUE 4:10, 7:15, 10:05; SAT-SUN 1:10, 4:10, 7:15, 10:05; MON,WED 7:15, 10:05; THURS 7:05, 10:10

ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY (Not Rated) CLOSED CAPTIONED, DVS~Æ THURS 6:55, 7:15, 10:00, 10:30

ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY 3D (Not Rated) CLOSED CAPTIONED, DVS~Æ THURS 7:00, 10:15

LANDMARKCINEMAS.COM

THE CITIZEN CROSSWORD

Puzzle No. 16C210
Solution on page: A12

CLUES ACROSS

1. Large primate

4. Annualized percentage rate

7. Frictional horsepower

8. Alternate name

10. Incursion

12. Metrical feet

13. Musician Ingram

14. Swiss river

16. Text speak for annoying

17. Squelch

19. Will Ferrell played one

20. Close violently

21. Arrogant

25. Goddess of the dawn

26. Today (Spanish)

27. Ethiopian town

29. Speed

30. Kids take it to school

31. Bowling ball's adversary

32. 1988 NFL MVP

39. Volcanic crater

41. Curved shape

42. Discover by investigation

43. Up in the air (abbr.)

44. A son who shares his dad's name

45. Assist in wrongdoing

46. Actress Lathan

48. Nonsense (slang)

49. Sharp and forthright

50. Midway between northeast and east

51. NAACP cofounder

52. Soviet Socialist Republic

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

CLUES DOWN

1. Again

2. Erectile organs

3. Concluding speech

4. Pie ___ mode

5. With pustules

6. Muslim calendar month

8. Need it to live

9. Thailand

11. Container to serve food

14. Boxing great

15. Woolen blankets

18. Expresses surprise

19. Emergency medical services

20. Inflamed swelling of the eyelid

22. Reporter

23. Arrived extinct

24. Ad ___

27. Academic bill of rights

28. A pair

29. Pumpkin and apple are examples

31. China

32. Made illegal

33. Be mistaken

34. Stephen King's "Pennywise"

35. Semite

36. Martens with short tails

37. Large bodies of water

38. Lower in position

39. Dough used in Latin American cuisine

40. Calculating tools

44. Boxers do this

47. Macaw

IAN AMOS

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Editorial

Electoral reform: a dead issue?

We wonder how many Canadians will take the time to peruse the federal Liberals’ latest tactic as the party attempts to carry out Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s promise that last year’s federal election will be the last of its kind.

His promise was first made during the election campaign, when a clear issue was the fact that the Conservatives had won a majority government in 2011 with less than 40 per cent of the popular vote.

At that time, Trudeau obviously didn’t know that his Liberals would accomplish the same feat, winning a similar majority with just 39 per cent of the popular vote.

However, the government did appoint an all-party committee with a mandate to study the various options, and last week it did suggest that a referendum be held on some form of proportional representation.

In our opinion, such a referendum would almost certainly produce a preference for the status quo once it became clear that with proportional representation at least some of the seats in the Commons would be occupied by MPs who had no local constituency.

Dissatisfaction with the committee’s recommendation probably lay behind the government’s latest tactic — a lengthy online interactive survey on electoral reform.

Through a new online portal called MyDemocracy.ca, Canadians are being asked no fewer than 31 questions, none of which seeks opinions as to whether there should be a referendum on electoral reform. The deadline for responses is Dec. 30.

The Liberals describe the website MyDemocracy.ca as an “innovative way to join the conversation on electoral reform,” and contends taking part in the survey will take “only a few minutes.” Yet The Canadian Press found a paper printoff of the section was more than 30 pages long.

The survey, by Toronto-based Vox Pop Labs, asks respondents to rate their level of agreement to 20 “propositions” labelled “values.” The five-point scale ranges from “strongly disagree” to “strongly agree.”

One proposition states: “A ballot should be easy to understand, even if it means voters have fewer options to express their preferences,” while another says: “Voters should be able to express multiple preferences on the ballot, even if this means that it takes longer to count the ballots and announce the election result.”

A separate backgrounder, “Democracy in Canada,” outlines some of the ways Canadians might cast their votes — pick one candidate, rank them or choose multiple candidates without ranking them.

But a check of the website Monday confirmed that none of the 31 questions dealt with the possibility of a modified “first past the post” election — provision of a run-off election in any riding where the candidate who topped the polls received fewer than half the votes.

In all probability, this absence is a product of the parties’ preferences. The Conservatives clearly like the existing system, whereas the Liberals would like preferential ballots and the NDP and Green parties would prefer proportional representation.

The real problem with the runoff alternative is that while ensuring that all MPs were preferred by a majority of their constituents, it wouldn’t necessarily benefit any party.

Assuming that the runoffs took place 30 days after the general election, voters would all know the results and might well behave in much the same way as they do in byelections, tending to vote against the party in power.

Our suggestion would be that the concept be tested in the 2019 election, with runoffs only in ridings where the winner had under 40 per cent of the total votes. If the system won general approval, the long-term objective would be to have all those elected obtain the support of at least half the voters.

Rotary Club of Palgrave’s Weekly Rotary Minute

By Mike Gauthier

When do you become a Rotarian?
Many people and in fact many members of Rotary Clubs around the world feel that a person becomes a Rotarian on the day they join their local Rotary Club, get their Rotary pin, name badge and a couple of plaques outlining Rotary’s ethical standards of “The Four Way Test” and “The Objects of Rotary.”

This is not when one becomes a Rotarian. This is when one becomes a member of a Rotary Club.

You only become a Rotarian when you truly connect with the good that you and your Rotary Club is doing in the world.

When you make the delivery of emergency frozen meals to seniors being served by Meals on Wheels, or when you help in restoring a playground at a women’s shelter or when you are presenting dictionaries to Grade 3 students — that is when you have the chance to be a Rotarian.

A lot of members of Rotary say that when they first participated in an international project such as a Polio Plus Immunization Day in a far off country or helped deliver school supplies in Central America that is when they became a Rotarian.

I am sure that is the case, but don’t forget that you don’t have to go on an expensive trip or invest piles of money to become a Rotarian. You can and do become a Rotarian by being engaged and helping out others by doing good in your local community as well as around the world.

Please visit www.rotaryclubofpalgrave.com for more information on our club (or call Ian Kittle at 905-583-0580 for more information on becoming a member) and all the wonderful ways you could get involved.

It happened today

His father Foster set the standard when it comes to play-by-play of professional hockey, and even well into the 1960s and ’70s, it was Foster’s voice calling the Toronto Maple Leaf games on the radio.

But kids in those days wanted to see the games on TV, so it was Foster’s son they listened to while watching Hockey Night in Canada Saturday nights.

Bill Hewitt was born this day, Dec. 8, 1928.

WEBPOLL

www.caledoncitizen.com

Results from last week’s poll:

The Province has introduced legislation that would require the public at large to elect Peel Region’s next Chair, replacing the current process of having Regional councillors elect the Chair. Do you want to vote for the Chair?



The results of this poll are in no way considered to be valid or infallible.

THIS WEEK’S QUESTION

Do you plan to make any charitable donations during the holiday season?

- a) Yes
b) No

So go to the website and cast a vote!



How great was Fidel?

Over the last couple days, I have encountered a couple of people who have been to Cuba.

Some of them have been there multiple times.

It makes me feel a little inadequate to realize I’ve only been there once, and that was more than 40 years ago.

Like so many others, I have been thinking of Cuba a lot in light of the death of Fidel Castro.

He ran the country for many years, and there are vast differences of opinion as to how good a job he did, and many of them have been dredged up over the last several days. I have my own opinions, some of them based on the seasoned observations of a 17-year-old kid who was making his first (and so far only) visit to a communist country. Suffice to say I was glad at the time I didn’t live there. And based on my memories of the place, my mind has not changed much.

I was there not long after Canadians started visiting the island, and long before Americans would have gone.

My memories, however, are not so much about geopolitics as they are about a young man experiencing for one of his first times a different culture. I had been to Montreal on a school trip a couple of months before. I lived for a couple of days with a family who would switch from English to French and back again easily; often in mid-sentence. But I was still in the country in which I had been born and raised.

Cuba was something else. It was a culmination of something my parents had promised my brother and I — namely that there would be one major trip abroad (actually, another sprang up later, but that’s the topic of another column).

The trip had been planned for some time, with developments in the planning stages being unveiled at certain intervals. For example, I came home from school one day and my mother greeted me with an announcement that she had learned two crucial facts about Cuba.

“I’ve got good news and bad news for you,” she said.

The bad news was we would all require inoculations before we could get into the country. What the hell! I was a big boy by then. I could handle a needle.

The good news is there was no drinking age in Cuba. That was a major consideration for a kid who had not yet reached the legal drinking age, which in those days was 18. Of course I had taken a few illicit snorts, as had most of the contemporaries I had hung around with, but I had never got into serious drinking. I think most people remember their first hangover. I sure remember mine. It came in Cuba.

On yeah. My mother was mistaken. As things turned out, we didn’t need needles.

It was a memorable trip for other reasons too.

We flew out Boxing Day 1975, and the morning came with a major blizzard. Indeed, the airport limo we had ordered never showed, so we drove ourselves to the airport, dropping a spare set of car keys with my uncle who lived on the way so he could drive the car to our home later (no one in my family ever acknowledged it, but I was the one who came up with that idea). The good news was there were a lot of passengers in the same mess as us, so the flight was delayed a couple of hours.

The point is we flew out of a blizzard and landed in sunshine.

Once we were off the plane, it was obvious this was a different culture.

There were posters bearing Fidel’s face everywhere one looked, and many of them also bore a message (in Spanish of course)

of the “The Revolution is endless” variety.

We were herded onto tour buses, which were just about the snazziest buses I have ever been on, before or since. They even had bars. I had my first legal beer riding on a bus into Havana.

There was a tour guide on the bus, pointing out various sights of interest, with much positive reference made to Fidel (they always referred to him by his first name), and many negative references to that “bad man,” namely Fulgencio Batista, the man Fidel overthrew.

There were also a lot of references to how bad the United States was (remember this was 1975, when Gerald Ford was president and Americans were still licking the international wounds they had endured from Vietnam). There was one very interesting exception. We passed a park, and in the middle of it was a memorial pedestal bearing a bust of Abraham Lincoln.

While riding in these snazzy buses, we of course could observe the other vehicles on the road. It looked like a scene right out of the 1950s, although the taxis were clearly a lot more contemporary (’70s vintage Chevs). And I felt a certain amount of guilt viewing from the bus I was on the buses that the local population was expected to use. Paul Bernardo gets better transportation when he has to appear in court.

There was obvious adoration for Fidel. We were guided through many interesting places during the week we were there, and one of the people of the tour asked a guide where Fidel lived.

“He lives in the hearts of the people,” he replied with a broad smile.

There were a couple of reactions to that, and I thought my brother’s was the best — “Home is where you hang your hat,” he casually said.

Being tourists, we were being told stuff the government wanted us to know, and nothing more. And we were Canadian tourists, meaning we were treated nice, but there were other tourists who were treated better.

We were there for New Year’s Eve, and there were parties held throughout the National Hotel, which was the swanky place in Havana in its day. The Canadians were stuck in one of the side rooms, which was nice enough. The people visiting from the Soviet Union got the plumb placements.

You knew where you stood when you were in Cuba, and you knew Fidel was the man in charge. And you also knew who was on his good side.

But there is an argument that didn’t have to be.

Former American president Harry S. Truman believed it was lack of action on the part of his successor Dwight Eisenhower that allowed the Soviets to buddy up with Fidel.

In the early ’60s, Truman sat for a series of interviews with writer Merle Miller, and they were the basis of the book Plain Speaking, which was published a couple of years after Truman’s death.

In the book, Miller recounted how Truman explained how he would have handled Fidel.

He would have invited Fidel to the White House, confident that he would have come.

Once there, Truman said he would have complimented Fidel on the success of the revolution, and would have offered him any help he might need.

“Now Fidel, I’ve told you what we’ll do for you,” Miller quoted him as saying. “There’s something you can do for me. Would you get a shave and a haircut and take a bath?”

We’ll never know if Truman would have actually done that. How different might the world have been?



Bill Rea

Liberal government’s unilateral decision to purchase 18 Super Hornets

The current Liberal Government announced Nov. 22 it will be buying 18 Super Hornet jet fighters, without knowing how much they will cost, explaining it as an “interim measure” to supplement Canada’s CF-18s.

This announcement raises serious concerns about the current government’s intentions, judgment and transparency to Canadians.

The recent announcement to purchase 18 Super Hornet jet fighters represents yet another poor decision made by this government and the Prime Minister, who aren’t looking out for the best interests of Canada’s men and women of the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF). It is clear to Canadians this is simply a political decision made by an especially naïve Prime Minister who is delaying any decision on a new fighter jet for five years. What’s more concerning is that the current government spent little to no time consulting experts or members of the RCAF to determine if this purchase is in the best interests of Canada. The current government

OTTAWA JOURNAL

David Tilson
MP Dufferin-Caledon



instead chose to place life-long gag orders on more than 200 employees working on the Future Fighter Capabilities Project. Furthermore, experts agree that operating an interim aircraft is expensive and unnecessary.

It is most unfortunate the current Liberal government is misleading Canadians about a “capability gap,” as Canada’s current fleet of CF-18s is fully operational. Their claim has no basis and is fabricated when what they really have is a “credibility gap.” The decision to purchase the Super Hornet jet fighters demonstrates

the current government’s defence policy review is nothing more than window dressing designed to prop up conclusions that have already been made in the Prime Minister’s Office.

Canadians are also rightfully concerned about the current Liberal government’s announcement to purchase 18 Super Hornet jet fighters when it has no idea how much it will cost Canadian tax payers. This is the exact opposite of the openness and transparency this government claimed it would deliver to Canadians. The outstanding men and women of the

RCAF always deserve the best equipment to help them stand on guard for Canada. The current government is also failing to stand up for the thousands of aerospace workers across the country whose jobs could be at risk by this sole sourced deal. The best value for Canadian tax payers can only be accomplished through an open and transparent competition.

The Conservative Official Opposition will hold the current Liberal government accountable for its unilateral decision-making on the purchase of Super Hornet jet fighters. The government isn’t putting the best interests of the women and men of the RCAF first or considering the advice of experts. This unilateral decision isn’t reflective of a progressive defence policy either. It’s entirely designed to meet a poorly developed and completely unattainable campaign promise made by the Prime Minister. The recent actions by this current Liberal government are anything but open and transparent. Canadians deserve better from the leadership of their country.

Auditor General’s report highlights gross mismanagement by government

Ontario’s Auditor General released her annual report Nov. 30 on 13 value-for-money audits, as well as a follow-up of value-for-money audits from the Auditor’s 2012 annual report.

This year’s report highlighted a number of concerns about government spending across many ministries, including health care, transportation and the environment.

The Auditor General raised a number of concerns with the government’s management of the province’s health care system. The report found that patients are being forced to wait hours for emergency surgeries. Additionally, patients that are admitted have to wait an excessive period in the emergency room before being transferred to the appropriate care unit. The report also noted that more than 4,000 patients are using hospital beds even though they no longer need them, while waiting to receive home care services or until a long-term care bed opens up.

Another major concern the Auditor General found is with the government’s lack of oversight regarding the construction of infrastructure. Some rogue contractors have paved



FROM QUEEN’S PARK
Sylvia Jones
MPP Dufferin-Caledon

Ontario roads with substandard asphalt. Instead of weeding out the poor performers, the government is giving the same contractors second and third chances. Not only are some roads being poorly built, but parts of bridges are being installed upside down! The government has continued to reward bad behavior, unfortunately on the taxpayer’s dime.

The Auditor General also found that after 13 years and three reports, the Ministry of Children and Youth Services is still not ensuring mental health services are being delivered appropriately. The Auditor General

raised concerns with the fact that similar issues identified in this year’s report were also raised in 2003 and 2008. However, the government has still not addressed issues re-

garding the lack of oversight of the delivery of services. Since 2008/09, there has been a 50 per cent rise in hospitalization of children and youth with mental health issues. During Question Period Dec. 1, I called on the Minister to act on the recommendations made by the Auditor General and the Select Committee on Mental Health and Addictions.

Whether it is our province’s health care system, infrastructure or plan to combat climate change, the Auditor General’s report clearly shows that life is more expensive under this Liberal government. That is why my colleagues and I will continue to hold the government accountable to ensure Ontario’s hard earned money is being used in the best possible manner.

Peel’s yard waste collection ends

Peel Region’s yard waste collection is ending in the coming weeks.

Bi-weekly yard waste collection in urban Caledon ends during the weeks of Dec. 5 and 12, on residents’ regularly scheduled recycling day. The last rural Caledon collection is Dec. 9.

Residents are encouraged to visit peel-region.ca/waste to check the “when does it go” collection calendar for their last yard waste collection day.

Residents should place all bundles of brush, kraft paper bags or containers of yard waste at the curb on their collection day. They are asked to follow these instructions:

- Small bundles of yard waste and brush

must not exceed 1.2 metres (four feet) and 76 centimetres (30 inches) in diameter and weigh no more than 20 kilograms (44 pounds).

- Individual branches and tree limbs must not exceed 1.2 metres (four feet) and 7.5 centimetres (three inches) in diameter and weigh no more than 20 kilograms (44 pounds).

Yard waste should be placed in labelled, open, rigid and reusable containers, bushel baskets, or paper yard waste bags. It will not be collected if it is set out in plastic bags, recycling boxes, or cardboard boxes, or is in a container that weighs more than 20 kilograms (44 pounds).

Trust for media taking a plunge



NATIONAL AFFAIRS
Claire Hoy

Back in the prehistoric 1960s, your scribe was covering Toronto City Hall for the Toronto Telegram (which died in 1971) and recalls electors showing up at the municipal polls clutching their copy of the newspaper — or other newspapers — basing their votes directly on the “slate” of editorial suggestions published during the pre-election period.

Such was the trust in the fairness and accuracy of newspapers at the time, that many readers felt no compunction in accepting the judgment of their favorite newspaper and casting their votes accordingly.

Fast forward to 2016 and we discover — alas — that the public’s trust in the news media has collapsed to a record low six per cent (in a recent U.S. Gallup poll) who have “a great deal of confidence” in the media, a calamitous collapse from the mid-1970s, when 72 per cent expressed considerable confidence in the media.

About half the respondents said they had “some confidence” in the media, while 41 percent have “hardly any confidence.”

So what has happened?

My theory is that the downward trend began with Watergate which, ironically, was the high point of media trust. Certainly the fine work of the Washington Post and others ended up in the resignation of U.S. President Richard Nixon and the vast majority of people felt the media had done the job it is supposed to do.

The problem is that after Watergate, newspapers — and other media — began to look at every story as a potential scandal and, rather than maintaining a strict line between editorial comment and “straight” news reportage, every journalist became a self-appointed crusader.

The truth won out. Or, at least, the journalist’s version of “the truth.”

One might have hoped, given the embarrassing coverage of the recent U.S. election — where most media dismissed Donald Trump as a clown and maligned his supporters as racists, etc. — that the media would have learned something, i.e. to reinstate the old tried and true method of actually engaging with people to find out how they feel — as opposed to telling them how they should feel — and taking their views seriously.

Much was made of Hillary Clinton’s elitist dismissal of Trump supporters as “deplorables” — all 62 million of them apparently — but the bulk of the media pretty much treated these people as if they were all deplorables — and

continues to do so — which is a major reason Trump won.

You would think that such a dramatic miscalculation would cause some introspection — not only among the liberal elites in other fields, but among the overwhelmingly “liberal” media hordes as well.

Yet, since the election there has been precious little evidence — none, actually — that the media has learned anything, which is why, I fear, trust in the institution will continue to evaporate.

Examples of this bias abound, but let me offer a recent one from the front page of the Saturday Star concerning the visit of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to the Star’s editorial board.

Trudeau, the reporters tell us, “rejected Trump-style politics” and “cautioned that the rising tide of populism with (Trump’s) victory in the U.S., the Brexit vote in the United Kingdom and nationalist movements in Western Europe, are not necessarily a foreign phenomenon.”

This has become the common post-election media theme, i.e. the absolute “horror” of populism, a theme widely reported in most “news” stories as well as repeated in editorials and opinion columns, essentially devoid of balance or even a nod to the possibility that contrary viewpoints are not automatically maligned as racist, misogynist, etc.

The fact that millions of voters in Britain, the U.S. and elsewhere actually supported this populism wave is still viewed as proof that the plebes are idiots. Or worse. If only they understood, they’d agree with the elites. But, alas, how can the haughty elites explain to people what they should be thinking?

And so we have long-time Liberal apparatchik Penny Collette, in her Star column, ridiculing Trump’s dismissal of NAFTA as simply “another of Trump’s tirades.”

Really? Never mind that the traditional Democratic strongholds in Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin all voted for Trump — and assured his victory over Clinton — precisely because they have seen their jobs disappear under these free trade agreements. What do they know, eh?

Trump was all over the map on many issues — as was Clinton — but he has been crystal clear in his belief that these mega trade deals are bad for U.S. business.

Yet on this issue — and many others — the media, rather than hanging its collective head in shame, continues to lecture people on their “truth” and dismiss those who disagree as Neanderthals. Or worse.

At this rate, trust for the media will soon be disappearing altogether. And all those thumb-suckers in charge will still not acknowledge their role in this mess. They just don’t get it.

Board to host session regarding children with differing abilities

The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board’s Special Education and Learning Services Department will host a Kindergarten entry planning and information session Jan. 11.

This meeting is for families of children with differing abilities, such as vision, hearing, speech, autism, physical/medical and/or developmental delays in the cognitive and/or motor areas, who are entering kindergarten in September 2017. The meeting will be at the Catholic Education Centre at 40 Matheson Blvd. West, in Mississauga from 7 to

8:30 p.m. For more information about this session, call 905-890-0708, ext. 24011.

Kindergarten registration for the 2017-18 school year will be held at all Dufferin-Peel Catholic elementary schools from Jan. 24 to 27 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Jan 24 from 7 to 9 p.m. (a snow date has been designated for Jan. 25 from 7 to 9 p.m.)

For more information, families should contact their local Catholic school, visit the board website at www.dpcdsb.org, or call the board at 905-890-1221.



ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION TO SANTA FUND

It that time of year again when people dig in to help out those in the community less fortunate, and Caledon Community Services (CCS) is pitching in again with the annual Santa Fund. And the effort received a big boost last week when Jim Rowland of Rowland Investments and Insurance Inc. and his wife Bente dropped off a whole carload of donated food at the Exchange in Bolton. Kim D’Eri, manager of community animation with CCS, was happy to help them unload. Rowland said as part of his company’s five-star status, Manulife Securities will be matching the contribution.

Photo by Bill Rea

Family Day at the Exchange

Caledon Community Services is inviting the public out for a family day this Saturday (Dec. 10) at the Exchange in Bolton.

The event will run from 1 to 4 p.m., and will be complete with activities like baking

holiday cookies, checking out the kitchen at the facility and finding out about ways to contribute time to the community.

The Exchange is at 55 Healey Rd., Unit 10 in Bolton.

Victims of Montreal Massacre remembered at vigil



While Bolton vocalist Carly Cianflocca performed a song, participants in Tuesday's vigil held placards bearing the names of the victims of the Montreal Massacre.

By Bill Rea

Tuesday marked 27 years since 14 women were shot and killed at École Polytechnique in Montreal, and they were remembered at vigils all over the country.

Locally, people gathered at the Albion-Bolton branch of Caledon Public Library.

Library CEO and Chief Librarian Colleen Lipp observed this was the sixth year the Library had partnered with Family Transition Place (FTP) to hold the vigil.

"They died because they were women," she remarked.

Lipp recalled the tragedy struck her a personal level, as she was in university at the time, and she was originally from Montreal.

Stacey Tarrant of FTP recalled the victims of the massacre were young, intelligent and ambitious.

"They wanted to change the world," she

said, adding they did, but in a way they wouldn't have chosen.

The problem is still there, as Tarrant pointed out a woman in Canada is killed every six days by an intimate partner. She also said FTP offers refuge for women trying to get out of abusive situations, adding they would serve more of them if they had room.

Tarrant observed that values of a society allowed events like this to happen, in which one man thought his life carried for more than those of those women.

"A culture can't change from the top down," she observed, adding it must start with the individual and teaching people to value human dignity, equality and respect.

"We must respect life; all life," she declared. "Each life has a value, just because it is."

Steve Bunyan of MENtors, a group of men who have been working with FTP to help combat violence against women and girls, wondered why violence still goes on. He argued men commit such acts weren't born hating women.

"Clearly it's learned," he observed.

Bunyan observed that society has boys thinking if they are sensitive, they're not real men, meaning they are supposed to be tough, dominant and aggressive. He added that's reflected in sports, in the lyrics of popular songs, video games, etc. In order to change that, he pointed to the need to change youth and the society in which they grow up.

"It's going to take a lot of work and it's going to take 365 days a year," he said.

Local resident Emily Rowsell brought a young woman's perspective to the problems they face in society.

"We have to keep talking about it," she said. "We have to break the stigma."

Peel District School Board Trustee Stan Cameron commented on the need to work with men and get them to stand up against violence against women.

"We remember so that no family has to loose a loved one in such a tragic way," he said.

Mayor Allan Thompson reflected on his thoughts when he first heard of the tragedy.

"It's horrible this is actually happening in Canada," he remembered thinking.

"We'll always remember tham, and I think it's important that we do," he added.

Maureen Davis, from the Domestic Assault Review Team (DART), said the group includes 19 agencies that work together to serve victims of violence.

"Collectively, we can have a stronger voice," she said, adding they can give a voice to women who have been silenced or not been heard. "Clearly, we have our work cut out for us."

"These women died for nothing," library staff member and FTP volunteer Kelley Potter commented, "for no reason whatsoever, other than they were women."

She said it's important to make sure they lives stand for something.




Stacey Tarrant of Family Transition place observed a woman is killed in Canada every six days by an intimate partner.

A horizontal banner for Nature's Emporium. The top has a green-to-yellow gradient bar. The logo 'Nature's EMPORIUM' is in a serif font, with 'Nature's' in green and 'EMPORIUM' in yellow. To the right, the tagline 'Your Neighbourhood Health Food Market' is in a green sans-serif font. Below this, a green bar contains the text 'Let Us Join You On The Road to Good Health!' in white. At the bottom, a white bar contains contact information for Newmarket and Vaughan, a 'Our Stores' icon, and a call to action to view weekly sales and recipes with the website URL. A circular seal on the right celebrates 23 years and mentions 'Proudly Local & Family Run!'. A small 'Always Organic Fresh Produce' seal is in the top right corner.

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AWD Limited model shown.
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Golden Hawks give up third period lead to Cougars

By Jake Courtepatte

The Caledon Golden Hawks took two games to extra time over the weekend but came out the victor in none.

In a busy weekend of junior C action, both the Orillia Terriers and Schomberg Cougars scored in overtime to hand the Hawks their first and second overtime losses of the Provincial Junior Hockey League season.

Facing the Terriers at the West Orillia Sports Complex Saturday, the Hawks jumped out to a 3-0 lead midway through the second period, thanks to goals from Kevin Pleasance, Nicholas McNutt and Luca Capin. However, the two teams headed to the dressing room at intermission in a tie, after three quick goals got past goaltender Andrew Ireland.

Mitchell Devins-Cann traded a power-play goal with Orillia's Jake Shaw in the third, sending the game to extra time tied at four, where Dallin Blunt won it for Orillia just past a minute in.

It was a similar story when the Hawks returned to Caledon East Sunday night.

Facing the sixth-place Schomberg Cougars, who have enjoyed a hot streak of late, it was the home team that got on the board first with a backhander that snuck under the blocker of Schomberg goaltender Nicholas Nabuurs just four minutes in.

Schomberg had a chance to tie the game shortly after while on the penalty kill, with Austin Hamilton going in on a clear-cut breakaway, sending the puck just over the net. Caledon then promptly doubled their lead on a beautiful solo effort from Andrew Woods to carry it in himself from Caledon's own blue line.

The score remained 2-0 through the second period, with goaltenders on both ends making saves in the double-digit range. Caledon's Jason Cumbo preserved the shutout with a number of circus saves in the period, eventually stopping 11 Schomberg shots.

The Cougars finally broke through on the power play four minutes into the third, a high pressure situation that ended with Carter LeRoux banging in a rebound from the side of the net. They tied the game just 32 seconds later, with Kiefer McIntosh finishing a nice feed from captain JP Crescenzi.

It took less than two minutes more for Schomberg to take their first lead of the game, with Caledon's Shane Rumboldt on the ice after blocking a shot. Essentially down a man, the Hawks gave up another goal to LeRoux.

The Hawks did tie it back up, however, midway through the third when Pleasance tipped a puck past Nabuurs to send the game to overtime.

Some intense three-on-three action led to a number of chances at both ends, but it was Connor May who ended it for Schomberg with a deke to his backhand to put it over the outstretched Cumbo.

The two points earned by the Hawks through the weekend brings the team's total to 10 on the year, with a record of 4-21-2. They remain far back of the seventh place Midland Flyers in the PJHL's Carruthers division.

Three games are on the docket this week as the Hawks visit the Cougars (10-15-1) tonight (Thursday), the Pen-tang Kings (10-13-2) Friday, and host the league-leading Alliston Hornets (22-2-1)

Sunday.

Puck drop is set for 6:30p.m. at Caledon East.

For stats, schedules and more information, visit www.jrcgoldenhawks.pointstreaksites.com



Caledon's Kevin Pleasance looks to make a pass through Schomberg's Liam Spurgeon in the Cougars' 4-3 win over the Golden Hawks at Caledon East Sunday.

Photo by Jake Courtepatte

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



C.J. Maury
Mayfield Secondary School

The 15-year-old played setter on the school's junior volleyball team, which had a rather rough season, but managed to win their last five games. He also played shortstop on the varsity baseball team last year. As well, he played on the school's basketball team last year. Away from school, he plays rep baseball in the Toronto Mets organization. The Grade 10 student lives in Brampton.



Sarah Trilesky
Robert F. Hall Catholic Secondary School

This Grade 12 student plays defence on the varsity hockey team, and they got off to a good start, winning the first league game 8-1 against St. Marcellinus. She played offence on the flag football team in the fall, and they made it to the quarter-finals, and she's planning to play field lacrosse in the spring. Away from school, she plays rep hockey for Brampton Canadettes. The 17-year-old lives in the Cheltenham area.



Daniel D'Amico
St. Michael Catholic Secondary School

The 15-year-old plays left wing for the varsity hockey team, which has started the season with a 4-0 record. He's contributed three goals and two assists to the cause. He's planning to play outdoor lacrosse in the spring. In the community, he plays AAA hockey in the Toronto Marlboros organization. The Grade 10 student lives in Bolton.



Voula Migkos
Humberview Secondary School

This Grade 12 student plays middle on the senior volleyball team, and they won the Humberview Spikedown last Thursday, as part of a season that seems to be off to a good start. In the community, she plays rep volleyball for the Peel Selects, and she used to play soccer for the Woodbridge Strikers. The 17-year-old lives in Bolton.

Oilers fall to third place in senior standings

The Jiffy Lube Oilers have gone from leading the Caledon Senior Hockey League to third place after losing four of their last five games.

Meanwhile Nov. 28 saw the under-manned Fines Ford Lincoln squad almost became the little engine that could. But they ran out of gas in the last four minutes of the game to surrender a 6-4 win to Bolton Chiropractic Centre.

In other play, Heart Lake Insurance and Yale Industrial Trucks fought to a 5-5 draw while Rutherford Global Logistics blasted the Oilers 8-3.

Bolton Chiropractic 6, Fines Ford 4

Fines Ford, struggling all season and in the CSHL basement, appeared headed for disaster.

Six players called in with various excuses for not playing, from a hernia to a highly suspect claim of injury while bending over to pick up a pencil. The Motor Men took to the ice with just eight skaters and goaltender Vanni DiMarco, but caught

the first-place Chiropractors by surprise with two goals on their first shift. Alas, a 4-2 third-period lead evaporated and Chiropractor team rep Nick Taccogna scored twice in the last four minutes to bag the win.

Jim Kutchera also scored twice for the Bonebenders, with Dom D'Orazio getting a goal and an assist. Team sponsor Mike (Dr. Bend) had the other goal. Nick Pistilli had two assists with singles going to Bill Moyer, Ted Callighen and Gary Moss.

Tony Curcio was once again the leader for Fines Ford with one goal and two assists. Jim Rogers had one goal and an assist. Jamie Hardman and David Shoalts scored the other goals. Howard Wight had an assist.

Heart Lake 5, Yale 5

Mike McNamara led Heart Lake with three goals while Luch Pinarello popped a goal and added an assist.

See 'Bolton' on page B2

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Applications will be received by the Town of Mono Recreation Department until Friday December 16th, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. Position will commence Monday January 2nd, 2017. Applications can be forwarded to Kimberley Perryman, Director of Recreation, 347209 Mono Centre Road, Mono, On L9W 6S3 or emailed to kim.perryman@townofmono.com.

We thank all applicants; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Personal information is collected under the authority of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001 and will be used to determine eligibility for employment.

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NIX, Garnet Lansdell (Garnie)
Oct 18, 1920 -- Dec 2, 2016
Peacefully at Headwaters Health Care Centre, Orangeville after a brief illness, in his 97th year. Loving husband of 73 years to Mary (Molly) residing at Chartwell Montgomery Village, Orangeville. Garnet leaves his daughter Nancy Burnside (Bob), son Fred (Franca De Angelis) and son Peter (Margaret Woodfall). Grandchildren John Burnside (Kirsti Domay), Jennifer Miedema (Joe), Sarah Mailhot (Marc), Matthew Burnside (Keri), Sarah Mailhot (Marc), Matthew Burnside (Keri), Graeme Nix (Michelle), Yuri Woodfall (Joanna), Roan Nix and Tola Sar (Chris Pickrell). Great-grandchildren Grace, Jack, Eva Burnside; William, Mary, Emily, Thomas Miedema; Samuel, Vivienne, Nathan, Ruthie Mailhot; Andrew, Jessica, David Allison Burnside; Sheridan, Maria, and Jacqueline Nix; and Sister-in-law Lenora Nix. Predeceased by his father Wilbert Nix, mother Violet Nix (Lansdell), brothers Wiford (Irma) and Glenn Nix.
Garnet (Garnie) had his early years at the family farm in Toronto Gore Twp, now Brampton. A graduate of OAC 1942 in Chemistry, Garnet served as service and infantry lieutenant in WW II, and worked for Canada Packers from mail clerk at age 16 to Group Vice President and Assistant President at CP. He was a vice president of Ontario Marketing Boards. He had an impressive path within the food industry with management roles at York Farms and the CP aquaculture division in B.C. and Ontario. Garnet was an outstanding example of the integrity, faithful service and reliability of his generation.
Garnet was a founding family member of Forest Grove United Church, Willowdale where he served as treasurer for many years. His home location moved numerous times with work but his heart remained at Molly's family cottage on Bella Lake in Muskoka. An avid bridge and card player his photographic memory made him a formidable opponent. Surprised that he was not going to outlive his father who died at 98, Garnet demonstrated his insight and curiosity to his last day. God does not need a quartermaster, but if he did, He now has a really good one.
Our heartfelt thanks to the staff members at Headwaters Health Care Centre for their warm, caring and professional manner which made Garnie's last days as pleasant as possible. Also to the staff at Chartwell Montgomery Village who have been understanding, gracious and friendly during Garnie's stay there.
A Memorial Service will be held at *Dods & McNair Funeral Home, Chapel & Reception Centre*, 21 First Street, Orangeville on Monday, December 12, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. with visitation 2 hours prior to service time.
In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to Headwaters Health Care Foundation would be appreciated by the family.
A tree will be planted in memory of Garnet in the Dods & McNair Memorial Forest at the Island Lake Conservation Area, Orangeville. A dedication service will be held on Sunday, September 10, 2017 at 2:30 p.m.
Condolences may be offered to the family at www.dodsandmcnair.com

HUTCHINSON, Lewis Mercer
Veteran of World War II
Peacefully at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, Toronto, on Thursday, December 1, 2016, Lewis Mercer Hutchinson, in his 95th year, beloved husband of the late Helen Irene Hutchinson (nee Hotton). Loving father of Robert and Kenneth. Dear brother of George and his wife Molly Hutchinson, and predeceased by Alex and Marian. The family received their friends at the Egan Funeral Home, 203 Queen Street St. (Hwy. 50), Bolton (905-857-2213) Wednesday, December 7 from one o'clock until time of funeral service in the chapel at 2 o'clock. Followed by cremation. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Sunnybrook Foundation, Veterans Wing, 2075 Bayview Avenue, KGW-01, Toronto M4N 3M5. Condolences for the family may be offered at www.EganFuneralHome.com

WILLIAMS, Peter
It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Peter Williams on Friday, December 2, 2016 in his 73rd year. He will be sadly missed by his wife Susan. Dear father of Andrew (Cindy) and Simon (Denise). Proud grandfather of Keegan, Jessica, Chelsea, Colin and Conor. Brother of Philip (Sue). Brother in law of Christine (John) and Michael (Debbie). Uncle and Great uncle to many nieces and nephews. Peter started his career as a Master Butcher in England, U.K. After moving to Canada in 1977 he was successful in sales and also operated his own maintenance business in the Orangeville area. There will be no funeral or service as per Peters wishes. A celebration of his life will be held at a later date. Donations to Air Ambulance Orange in his memory would be appreciated by the family.
You are invited to sign Peter's online book of condolences at www.mccallumpalla.ca

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LARGE, Jean Elizabeth
(Dec. 11, 1989)
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I am not there, I do not sleep,
I am a thousand winds that blow
I am the diamond glints on snow
I am the sunlight on ripened grain

IN MEMORIAM

I am the gentle autumn's rain
When you awaken in
The mornings hush,
I am the swift uplifting rush,
Of quiet birds in circled flight
I am the soft stars that
Shine at night
Do not stand at my grave and cry;
I am not there, I did not die.
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Jim, Brenda & Family,
Bob, Joan & Family,
Kathy & Family and Linda



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Environmental group has suggestions to improve Greenbelt

Environmental Defence has released a checklist of 13 critical actions for how the Ontario government can improve the draft Greenbelt and Growth Plans.

“Ontario’s proposed amendments to the Greenbelt and Growth Plans are a good start, but don’t go far enough to protect and grow the Greenbelt or put an end to rampant sprawl,” said Environmental Defence’s Greenbelt and Smart Growth Senior Program Manager Erin Shapero. “These 13 actions would fix the Plans to ensure a stronger Greenbelt that protects farmland and ecosystems, and encourage compact urban growth that is better for our economy and climate.”

- The 13 items on the list are:
- Grow the greenbelt to protect vulnerable water supplies in the Greater Golden horseshoe;
 - Protect sensitive headwaters south of the Greenbelt, including Humber River, Caruthers Creek, Rouge River and Don River;
 - Freeze municipal urban boundaries;
 - Extend Greenbelt protection to the natural heritage system across the Greater Golden Horseshoe and protect it in law;
 - Cancel proposed changes that weaken protection for species at risk;
 - Restrict linear infrastructure like highways and major transmission lines from fragmenting the greenbelt’s agricultural and natural systems;
 - No expansion or construction of new 400 series highways in the greenbelt;
 - Extend Greenbelt protection to the agricultural system of the Greater Golden Horseshoe and protect it in law;
 - Require all municipalities to meet intensification and density targets for urban growth centres to 2041 without granting exceptions;
 - Increase targets for mandatory intensification around transit hubs and corridors. link transit investment policy to the achievement of mandatory intensification in these areas;
 - Require specific municipal climate change

action, including metrics and timelines;

- Require transparent, yearly municipal reporting on climate change action milestones; and
- Establish a provincial body in legislation to oversee the implementation of the updated Greenbelt and growth Plans, including a clear process for monitoring and enforcement, public engagement and transparent

Two ballet youngsters, two Nutcrackers

By Constance Scrafield

Two young Orangeville dancers, Marissa Manzerolle and David Fair, are going to dance in the Nutcracker with professional ballet companies this month, but in opposite directions and with somewhat different stories.

Marissa began dancing with Orangeville’s Citrus Dance studio when she was four years old, although her father assured us, “she’s always been dancing around the house.”

“We met a friend at the church who recommended Citrus and she’s been there ever since,” he added.

Now 12 and already at Orangeville District Secondary School, as she “skipped Grade 8,” Marissa “loves dance so much that she is at the Citrus studio every day, including some Sundays.”

“I love it,” she said, referring to high school. “I’m part of the dance team at ODSS. I’m taking a lot of arts programs and maths and French. I like those extra classes.”

She also plays flute, trombone, saxophone and piano.

At some point, she auditioned to take classes as well with Canada’s Ballet Jorgen Company, a professional troupe performing at the River Run Theatre in Guelph and taking their ballets on tour across the country.

David’s parents took him to see the Nut-

reporting.

“The development industry is putting enormous pressure on the Province to weaken the Growth Plan and remove farmland, forests and rivers from the Greenbelt’s protection,” Shapero commented. “We urge the Province not to bow to this pressure and keep their promise to protect the Greenbelt forever. These proposed actions will protect

cracker at the Sony Centre, Toronto, when he was three years old.

His mother said that after the show he declared: “I’m going to be on that stage one day.”

“He came dancing out of the womb,” his mother smiled. “He was always performing and dancing. We finally took him to the Academy of Performing Arts on Broadway, where the wonderful teacher, Susie, taught him. The program was fantastic. Miss Susie, she welcomed him with open arms. He was in an all girls class and when they did Pirates of the Caribbean, she put him in the lead role as the Pirate.”

However, Fair did not want her son to be the only boy; she wanted him to expand his talents; so, she took him to audition at the school associated with the National Ballet, Canada’s Ballet School. He got in to the Associated Program.

Last year, he was cast as a student to dance in the Nutcracker as one of the Mice. Amazed, his parents recalled his affirmation that he would dance on that stage.

Now six, young David plays the guitar and is working on writing songs. And he is back to Toronto’s Nutcracker with the National Ballet again this year.

Asked about watching the Nutcracker for the first time and knowing he wanted to do that too, he replied, “I looked at the dancing and it looked really fun to do with the cos-

vulnerable water supplies, support local agriculture and enable vibrant, mixed-use, public transit-supported communities that Ontarians want.”

Accompanying the checklist was a report card that evaluates the Province’s proposed amendments to the Greenbelt and Growth Plans. The report card gives them an overall grade of B.

tumes.”

As for how he feels when he is going on stage, “I’m excited and I know what I’m doing too.”

Marissa only sees her future self involved in dance, ballet mainly, she thinks, although she does the full scope at Citrus with jazz, hip hop and others. Her ambitions are to have a job with Citrus and to become more involved with “Ballet Jorgen,” travelling with them when they take their ballets on tour. Last year, she performed in Nutcracker and Sleeping Beauty in the spring of this year.

Says her father, “We are definitely proud of her.”


From the wild and woolly David, we learned his plans: “I’m going to be doing ballet and something else — when I grow up — singing.”

Apparently, he wants a Michael Jackson costume for Christmas: the glasses, the hair, the works.

Surely Santa will see to it. We’ll have to ask him after a performance of Miracle on 34th Street at Theatre Orangeville.

Ballet Jorgen’s Nutcracker is on at the River Run Theatre in Guelph Dec. 23 and 24.

The National Ballet’s Nutcracker opens Dec. 10. Check the website for all the dates, but David is dancing in addition on the 16th, 18th and 21st.



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