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Volume 42, Issue 2



RE-THINKING GALLERY SPACE – Since they opened their doors at Alton Mill, the Noodle Gallery and self-styled “Gallery Mistress” Monica Kerr-Coster have strived to create a welcoming and unpretentious space for all residents. As COVID-19 has made that “welcome” a little more challenging, the gallery has experienced renewed success in challenging times. For more, see Page 5.

PHOTO BY CARLIE MITCHELL

William Osler Health System ends Code Orange as it extends Peel Memorial closure

BY ROB PAUL

William Osler Health System called a Code Orange across its hospital network last week after an influx of COVID-19 patients caused staffing challenges.

The Code Orange was called on Monday, January 3 and declared over on January 5.

A Code Orange is used to respond safely and effectively to a disaster external to the hospital that is likely to increase the capacity and use of hospital resources and is used to manage three different scenarios: mass casualty incidents; chemical, biological, radio-nuclear, explosive, or environmental events due to natural, acci-

dental or intentional acts; and pandemics.

“Osler has enacted all contingency planning and has reached Stage 2 of a Code Orange, which is typically used when demand outpaces capacity to ensure internal and external resources are deployed efficiently,” said Dr. Naveed Mohammad, President and CEO, William Osler Health System. “This move will enable us to continue to provide high-quality care to our patients, and we are grateful to our staff, physicians and volunteers who have moved swiftly to enact our Code Orange policy and procedures. Osler continues to be a safe place to work and to receive care.”

Currently, 169 COVID-19 patients are being

cared for in William Osler hospitals with 25 in critical care and over 4,000 have been cured from Osler sites to-date. The lack of capacity led to the initial Code Orange.

“Triggered temporarily due to demand outpacing capacity across the organization, Code Orange mobilized Osler’s staff, physicians, volunteers and system partners to work together to respond to the escalating situation and ensure the continued delivery of quality care to our communities,” stated the hospital. «As soon as Osler was able to mitigate the urgency of the situation, we declared the code over however we continue to monitor circumstances.”

Continued on Page 6

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CCS turns attention to Coldest Night of the Year following successful Holiday gala

BY ROB PAUL

The annual Home for the Holidays Gala is one of the highest regarded and most important events in Caledon each year. In support of Caledon Community Services (CCS), the gala brings people together to help those in need.

For over 20 years, the gala has strived to engage the community while fundraising for programs and services that feed the hungry, ensure senior independence, help people find sustainable employment, assist businesses grow

healthy workforces, provide transportation, encourage and train youth, welcome newcomers, and lift the self-esteem of hundreds of children by providing tangible supports including organized recreational and camp opportunities.

It’s a one-of-a-kind event that means so much to the Caledon community and for the last two years the gala has been virtual due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite the pivot, the gala once again was a massive hit.

Continued on Page 2

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TOWN OF CALEDON

TOWN NEWS

See Page 7

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BUILT Ford PROUD

CCS brings Coldest Night of the Year back to Caledon next month

Continued from FRONT

“The Home for the Holidays Gala was very successful again this year. The amount raised just tipped over \$165,000—it was phenomenal,” said Donna Cragg, CCS Director of Communications and Marketing. “We’re really happy to see how much online engagement there was; a lot of people were engaging through social media and people were getting dressed up to enjoy the evening. It really was the highlight of the season for a lot of people. I know for myself it kind of kicked off the Christmas season with all the spirit.”

With it be the second time the gala was virtual, Cragg said they were able to learn from last year’s event and make it even sharper this year.

“We were virtual last year also, and the feedback was positive again this year,” she said. “This year, it was a tighter program and people actually appreciated that. Last year, it extended longer into the evening and this year people appreciated how succinct it was. We had three hosts instead of just two this year and they had a lot of fun with it and people really enjoyed it.”

With the gala now behind them, CCS is getting ready for a relatively new event that’s becoming paramount to their annual efforts of making a difference.

Coldest Night of the Year is a national family-friendly walk to raise money for vulnerable families and individuals.

Each year, tens of thousands of Canadians leave their homes to spend time walking for a cause in the cold of winter. The walk has raised over \$43,500,000 since it began in 2011 and it’s a new addition to Caledon.

“Right now, we’re jumping right into prepping for the Coldest Night of the Year—the national walk for the hurting, hungry, and homeless,” said Cragg. “We brought that to Caledon three years ago—2020 was the first year—and there’s 168 communities participating this year all across Canada on February 26. Unfortunately, we haven’t been able to do it as an in-person event since the first year.

“The in-person event really shows the camaraderie when everyone gathers to share hot chocolate and soup. This year it’s not to be again with the recent shutdown so we’ll be doing the walk virtually again. People can sign up as individuals or a team and they can peer-to-peer fundraise and they can set their own route of two, five, or last year my group



Fundraising is already underway for the Coldest Night of the Year, set to return to Caledon for the third year running next month.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

did 10 kilometres.”

With this being the third year CCS has run the Coldest Night of the Year walk, it’s beginning to build a following in the community and reaching both people who have participated in the walk outside of Caledon and new walkers.

“It’s a newer event for the community, although it has gained traction each year,” Cragg said. “What’s happening is people that live in Caledon but were interested in helping their neighbours through means like that actively had been participating in walks in other communities because we didn’t have one. Now they’re all slowly starting to ‘come home’ and participate in Caledon’s to have their efforts count here as well. It’s been really lovely to see.”

As the Coldest Night of the Year approaches, Cragg hopes that CCS not only hits its fundraising goal but also sees an increase in those participating.

“Our Coldest Night of the Year fundraising goal for this year is \$40,000 and last year was just shy of that,” she said. “Every year we want to increase our goal slightly and more than that what we’d like to see is increased participation. We had 124 walkers last year and we’d like 200 walkers this year.”

With the pandemic continuing to impact what people can do this time of year, Cragg

sees the walk as a great opportunity for those in the community to safely get together for social interactions for a good cause.

“It was really enjoyed last year by a lot of people, and I think because of the COVID lockdown it was an outlet for boosting spirits,” she said. “This year we hope that the current regulations hold, and people will be able to gather with their families and friends in groups of 10 to walk together. It helps the people in need, but the walk also helps the walkers and there’s always that aspect to doing good anyway. People do it because it’s a feel good—they get to do something worthwhile, and it feels good when you can walk with a group of friend’s outdoors who you haven’t been able to spend time with. It’s really a boost to the benefit during COVID. Last year that factored in, and this year I think it will factor in even more. Having to backtrack to Stage 2 has hit a lot of people really hard and now a lot of people know people who are ill with COVID, and it feels like you can’t escape it this time around so hopefully this can be a bit of an escape. I’m looking forward to it already, it makes me excited to know there’s something to look forward to down the road.”

For nearly two years CCS has been running events virtually due to COVID-19 and though it’s different, the most important thing Cragg says is ensuring the community

is informed to keep them engaged.

“It’s not more difficult, it’s just very different doing things virtually,” she said. “Different skill sets are required and there are different focuses and emphasizes on where your energy needs to be put when planning that. One of the biggest things is getting the information out because it’s easier when it’s person-to-person, but when it’s going to be 100 per cent virtual, it makes it even more enticing for people when they see it from various sources—locally in the press and we’re upping our social campaign this year and we’ll be looking at other methods of getting the word out also.”

Social media has become one of the key pillars for CCS in recent years because of its reach and the way it drives community engagement and shows just how important the fundraising they do is for the vulnerable.

“It’s really important to be involved in social media,” she said. “People respond to people and when we can share photos of either what we need or people participating, it really engages people. We’ll be doing our social tagging and making that very apparent when we roll that out in the coming weeks. We’ll have a hashtag that we’re hoping absolutely everyone who participates in anyway echoes so at the end you have a solid body of content to use to show and demonstrate the impact.”

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Ontario introduces COVID-19 relief grant as additional support after reverting back to Step Two

BY ROB PAUL

With the Government of Ontario recently moving the province back into Step Two of its Roadmap to Reopen due to the trends of increased COVID-190-related hospitalizations with spread of the Omicron variant, the Province has introduced a \$10,000 grant for eligible businesses that are subject to closure.

It provides additional electricity-rate relief for businesses, as well as workers and families spending more time at home.

“Our government understands that public health measures needed to blunt the spread of the Omicron variant are impacting the lives and livelihoods of small businesses, workers and families across Ontario,” said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance. “Since the first day of the pandemic, we have provided unprecedented levels of support to protect people, jobs and our economy. We will continue to deliver on that commitment.”

As part of the plan to support workers and businesses, the grant covers small businesses such as restaurants and bars; facilities for indoor sports and recreational fitness activities; performing arts and cinemas; museums, galleries, aquariums, zoos, science centres, landmarks, historic sites, botanical gardens and similar attractions; meeting or event spaces; and before- and after-school programs.

“Small businesses, job creators and the entrepreneurial spirit are the backbone of Ontario’s economy. Unfortunately, these businesses have been some of the most impacted by COVID-19, and many continue to struggle,” said Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. “With the new Ontario COVID-19 Small Business Relief Grant, our government will provide relief for thousands of small businesses that create jobs for hard working Ontarians.”

The Ontario government is also providing electricity-rate relief to support small businesses, as well as workers and families spending more time at home while the province is in Step Two. For 21 days starting on Tuesday, January 18, electricity prices will be set 24 hours a day at the current off-peak rate of 8.2 cents per kilowatt-hour, which is less than half the cost of the current on-peak rate.

“We know that spending more time at home means using more electricity during the day when prices are higher, that’s why we are moving to off-peak electricity rates 24 hours per day, seven days a week,” said Todd Smith, Minister of Energy. “The off-peak rate will provide immediate savings for families, small businesses and farms as all Ontarians work together to slow the spread of the Omicron variant.”

The Provincial government will also open online applications for the previously announced Ontario Business Costs Rebate Program on January 18.

This program will provide eligible businesses that are required to close or reduce capacity with rebate payments for up to 100 per cent of the property tax and energy costs they incur while subject to public health measures in response to the Omicron variant.

Eligible businesses required to close for indoor activities, such as restaurants and gyms, will receive a rebate payment equivalent to 100 per cent of their costs. Those required to reduce capacity to 50 per cent, such as smaller retail stores, will receive a rebate payment equivalent to 50 per cent of their costs.

“Small businesses are at the heart of every community across our province and make a tremendous contribution to Ontario’s economy,” said Nina Tangri, Associate Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction. “Our government knows how important it is to support small business owners during such a difficult time. That’s why throughout the pandemic, our government has supported small businesses

and continues to do so through the new Ontario COVID-19 Small Business Relief Grant.”

Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones has provided information on available support from the Provincial and Federal government for businesses during this time. On top of the Ontario Business Costs Rebate Program, Jones is reminding residents of Provincially Administered Tax Deferrals.

This program is to help improve cash flows, with the Province providing a six-month interest- and penalty-free period to make payments for most provincially administered taxes. This will support business in the immediate term while capacity restrictions are in place and provide the flexibility Ontario businesses will need for long-term planning.

The six-month period began January 1 and will run until July 1.

This measure will provide up to \$7.5 billion in relief to help approximately 80,000 Ontario businesses. It will allow businesses to have the option to delay their payments for provincially administered taxes (Employer Health Tax; Beer, Wine, and Spirits Taxes; Tobacco Tax; Insurance Premium Tax; Gas Tax; Retail Sales Tax or Insurance Contracts and Benefit Plans; Race Tracks Tax).

“Ontario is also exploring options for providing further targeted and necessary supports for business and workers impacted by the province’s move into a modified Step Two of the Roadmap to Reopen, including grants,” said Jones. “The government will also continue to call on the federal government to come to the table to help us support Ontario businesses and Ontario workers by allowing eligible businesses to defer HST and to enhance supports available to workers affected by current public health measures.”

Jones also highlighted several federal COVID-19 relief programs such as the Tourism and Hospitality Recovery Program, Hardest-Hit Business Recovery Program, Local Lockdown Program, and Canada Worker Lockdown Benefit.

The Tourism and Hospitality Recovery Program is for eligible businesses in the tourism and hospitals industry, and it supports through wage and rent subsidies.

It starts at 40 per cent of the maximum subsidy for Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS) and Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) for businesses with a 40 per cent current-month revenue decline to a maximum rate of 75 per cent (for those with a current-month revenue decline of 75 per cent or higher)—subsidy rates will be reduced by half from March 13, 2022 to May 7, 2022.

The Hardest-Hit Business Recovery Program is for businesses that don’t qualify for the Tourism and Hospitality Recovery Program. It’s wage and rent subsidies that start at 10 per cent of the maximum subsidy for CERS and CEWS for businesses with a 50 per cent current-month revenue decline, up to a maximum rate of 50 per cent, for those with a current-month revenue decline of 75 per cent or higher—subsidy rates will be reduced by half from March 13, 2022 to May 7, 2022.

The Local Lockdown Program is for businesses facing temporary local lockdowns or capacity restrictions of at least 50 per cent (as of December 19, 2021), regardless of sector. It has the same subsidy rates as the Tourism and Hospitality Recovery Program except minimum support and current-month revenue decline threshold is 25 per cent, rather than 40 per cent.

The Canada Worker Lockdown Benefit gives temporary income support to employed and self-employed people who cannot work due to a COVID-19 lockdown. It will provide \$300 a week in income support to eligible workers who are directly impacted by a COVID-19-related public health lockdown or capacity-limiting restrictions (at least 50 per cent), up until May 7, 2022.

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ONLINE CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION INVESTIGATION

Members of the OPP’s Child Sexual Exploitation Unit, Digital Forensics Unit and Caledon OPP have arrested and charged a Vaughan resident following a child sexual exploitation investigation.

“On July 28, 2021, police executed a search warrant at a home in Caledon and seized several electronic devices.”

As a result of this investigation, William Torres, 42-years-old, was arrested and charged with the following Criminal Code charges:

- Possessing child pornography, as per section 163.1(4) - two counts
- Accessing child pornography, as per section 163.1(4.1)
- Make available child pornography, as per section 163.1(3)
- Fail to comply with probation order, as per section 733.1(1)
- Fail to comply with prohibition order, as per section 161(4)

The accused was released from custody following

a bail hearing and is scheduled to appear in court on February 3, 2022 at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville.

The charges have not been proven.

“The importance of protecting our children, cannot be understated. I encourage all members of the community to educate themselves on the dangers children can face online,” stated Detective Superintendent Tina Chalk of the Criminal Investigation Services, Ontario Provincial Police.

Anyone wanting to make a difference is encouraged to go to www.protectchildren.ca and download the “Child Sexual Abuse – It Is Your Business” brochure from the Canadian Center for Child Protection. This is an important first step that can save a child.

“Police are asking anyone who may have information regarding this investigation or if you have information regarding internet child exploitation, please contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122. If wish to remain anonymous you can contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or www.ontariocrimestoppers.ca. Reporting information may also be made on the internet through www.cybertip.ca.”

TWO ARRESTED AFTER FLEEING VEHICLE “NEARLY HIT OFFICERS”

On January 4, at approximately 12:57 p.m., officers from the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) were alerted of an individual not in compliance with conditions in relation to previous charges.

“The male party was reported being at a residence in the area of Centreville Creek Road and Old Church Road in the Town of Caledon,” say Police. “During the investigation, the suspect, along with another person, attempted to flee the scene in a vehicle. While fleeing, they intentionally made contact with two police cruisers and another vehicle at the scene. They also accelerated towards police, forcing officers to jump out of harm’s way.

“The vehicle fled the scene and was responsible for another collision on the roadway near the residence. It was located shortly thereafter and the lone occupant was placed under arrest. The second suspect was quickly located at a residence in Brampton and was placed under arrest as well.”

No injuries were sustained as a result of this incident.

As a result of the investigation, Harendra Singh, 24, of Mississauga was charged with:

- Assault a peace officer with a weapon (6 counts)
- Dangerous operation
- Flight from peace officer
- Failure to comply with release order (3 counts)

The accused was held for a bail hearing scheduled for January 5, 2022 at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville.

The charges have not been proven.

Additionally, Rubalpreet Kaur, 22, of Caledon was charged with:

- Obstruct peace officer

The accused is scheduled to attend the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on March 17, 2022 to answer to the charge.

The charge has not been proven.

The investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information regarding this incident are asked to contact Caledon OPP at (905) 584-2241 or toll-free at 1-888-310-1122.

You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at www.peelcrimestoppers.ca. When you contact Crime Stoppers, you stay anonymous, you never have to testify, and you could receive a cash reward of up to \$2,000 upon an arrest.

quantity of drugs, cash, and a fully loaded handgun.”

As a result of the investigation, Michael Swalm, 26, of Ajax, was charged with 17 Criminal Code offences related to impaired driving, drug trafficking, and the illegal possession of a firearm.

The accused was held for a Bail Hearing scheduled for January 6, 2022 at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville.

The charges have not been proven.

“If you plan on drinking or consuming drugs, plan to not drive. Instead, arrange for a designated driver, take a taxi or public transit, or come up with another plan that takes impaired driving out of the picture. If you suspect that someone is driving while impaired by alcohol or drugs, it is important to call 9-1-1 to report it.”

WEEKEND COLLISIONS

Officers from the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Caledon Detachment laid several criminal charges following two separate motor vehicle collisions in the Town of Caledon over the weekend.

“On Friday, January 7, 2022 at approximately 11:25 p.m, officers were called to Kennedy Road southbound near Bonnieglenn Farm Boulevard in the Southfield Village area of Caledon for a motor vehicle collision,” say Police. “The involved driver was arrested at the scene for impaired driving and was transported to the Caledon Detachment for further investigation.”

As a result of the investigation, Micheal Tolfo, 28, of Caledon has been charged with:

- Impaired Operation of a Motor Vehicle
- Operating a Vehicle with Over 80mgs of Alcohol in Blood
- Careless Driving
- Drive with Cannabis Readily Available.

The accused’s vehicle was impounded and license further suspended for 90 days.

The charges have not been proven.

“The Caledon OPP Detachment encourages drivers to plan ahead if they choose to consume alcohol or drugs. Use a designated driver, cab, rideshare, public transit or stay overnight. Any amount of alcohol or drugs can impact your ability to make sound judgments. There is no excuse for impaired driving.”

On Sunday, January 9, at approximately 12:57 a.m., officers were called to the intersection of Mayfield Road and Highway 410 for a multi-vehicle collision.

“When officers arrived, information was learned that one of the involved vehicles had left the scene,” say Police. “Officers were able to identify the driver and vehicle that left the scene.”

As a result of the investigation two persons were charged.

Gurvinder Grewal, 33, of Caledon has been charged with:


- Dangerous Operation of a Motor Vehicle
- Fail to Stop After Accident

Ashish Grewal, 36, of Caledon has been charged with:


- Obstruct Peace Officer

All accused persons are scheduled to appear in Orangeville Provincial Court in March 2022.


The charges have not been proven.





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DRUGS AND WEAPONS CHARGES

On December 29, at approximately 5:45 a.m., officers from the Caledon OPP responded to a three-vehicle collision on Mayfield Road and Humber Station Road in the Town of Caledon.

“All three vehicles sustained severe damage and the reported injuries were minor in nature,” say Police. “During the investigation, officers formed reasonable grounds to arrest one of the drivers for impaired driving. The accused was transported to the Caledon OPP Detachment to perform breath tests. Subsequently to the initial collision investigation and after obtaining a search warrant for the vehicle, police recovered a

The Citizen CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

1. Requests

5. Calendar month

8. Invests in little enterprises

12. Bird sound

14. S. American plant cultivated for tubers

15. Car

16. Bullfighter

18. Hill (Celtic)

19. Strong criticism

20. Detector

21. When you hope to get there

22. Having the skill to do something

23. Legendary MLB broadcaster

26. Vulcanite

30. C. Asian mountain range

31. In a way, healed

32. Midway between east and southeast

33. Small appendages of insects

CLUES DOWN

34. ___ Greene, “Bonanza” actor

39. A place to bathe

42. Postal worker accessory

44. Classical music

46. A way of wrecking

47. Terminator

49. You eat three a day

50. Pointed end of a pen

51. NATO official (abbr.)

56. Genus of clams

57. Boxing’s “G.O.A.T.”

58. A colorless, odorless gas used as fuel

59. Covered thinly with gold paint

60. Bachelor of Laws dye

61. Red fluorescent dye

62. Engineering

Solution in CLASSIFIEDS

group	27. Type of degree
63. Female sibling	28. Paddle
64. Adjacent	29. Peacock network
CLUES DOWN	35. Not young
1. What a thespian does	36. Baseball stat
2. Footwear	37. One’s grandmother
3. Adjust spacing between	38. Breakfast food
4. Witnesses	40. Bathroom features
5. Who shows excessive fondness	41. Disease-causing bacterium
6. Distinct form of a plant	42. NY ballplayer
7. National capital	43. Got up
8. Hunting expedition	44. Prophet
9. Related to medulla oblongata	45. Part of the mouth
10. European country	47. Unnatural
11. Cola	48. Acronym for brain science study
13. Excluded from use or mention	49. Three are famous
17. Speak	52. Languages
24. Bloodshot	spoken in Patagonia
25. Make better	53. Freedom from difficulty
26. Keyboard key	54. Widely used OS
	55. Many people pay it

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

Noodle Gallery at Alton Mill radiates welcoming atmosphere for art lovers of every degree

BY ROB PAUL

Noodle Gallery at the Alton Mill Arts Centre probably isn’t like the art galleries you picture in your mind.

Its aim is to be the place everyone feels comfortable, from people who know nothing about art to artists themselves.

Take founder Monica Kerr-Coster’s business card, for example. Her title on it is “Gallery Mistress” because of the zany way the Noodle Gallery kind of fell into her lap nearly a decade ago. The card also states, “noo-dle (nōō’d’l): (n) that mushy thing inside your skull (v) the cool stuff you do with it.”

Kerr-Coster’s vision of Noodle Gallery was never to be a gallery that catered to the upper-class or felt like an environment for elitists. The environment she wanted to portray was that of warmth and inclusivity.

Of course, she never even thought she’d be running an art gallery herself, so why would she want to make others feel like they don’t fit in at Noodle when she herself didn’t think she would when this grand adventure initially presented itself to her?

“Funny enough, this is why it says, ‘Gallery Mistress’ on my business card instead of curator; I sort of stumbled onto Noodle Gallery,” she said. “My husband (Robin) is an IP (intellectual property) lawyer, and he has his own private practice and when we moved up here, he was practicing out of our house for a number of years. Then circumstances at home with three young kids made it more difficult for him. He looked around and there wasn’t a lot of workspaces or office areas by us so he approached the Mill owners and asked if they ever rent the upstairs art studios to professionals.

“They told him it’s really important to them it remains are art centre, but they told him to come over and look at the space. He mentioned that I do artwork and that I could use a studio to display work in the front and he could have his office in the back. They loved the idea and when he told me I was like, ‘What are you talking about?’ because I’d never done professional art and I was intimidated. I’d call my work ‘higher fine craft’ rather than ‘art.’ But we knew people who were artists, so we discussed having a gallery space in the front and Coster Law would be in the back. That’s how we started in the upstairs of the Alton Mill.”

So, how did a spontaneous decision to showcase art develop into the Noodle Gallery patrons of the Alton Mill see today? Well, Kerr-Coster’s love of art and showing artists work eventually led to a new opportunity.

“We started showing some cool furnishings with a steam punk style and doing art exhibitions. At that time, it was just fine art and I’d have it open on the weekends with another artist that could display. Then every holiday season I’d do a Christmas market-type thing with unique handcrafted items for November and December. That was from 2014 to 2017 and then in 2017 the large gallery on the ground floor closed up and the Mill owners approached us because they liked what we had done upstairs and wanted us to expand it and move downstairs.

“We formed a partnership with the Mill owners and let me run all of Noodle Gallery downstairs which meant Robin lost his office space but things changed at home, so he was able to move back there. I’d also have to say that as bizarre as having an IP law office and art gallery together sounds, because of the nature of Robin’s work, his clients are very creative people and anytime he’d have clients come to the Mill they really appreciated the gallery and the creative things all around the building.”

The thing Kerr-Coster has always strived for at the Noodle Gallery is to ensure a relaxed vibe so that everyone who comes in feels like they can be themselves as they poke around the gallery.

“When we first opened up and I did up the business card, I just didn’t feel right putting ‘gallery curator’ because I’ve never gone to school for art curation or art history. To me, that’s not what Noodle is about. When Robin came home and started

talking about an art centre, I got very intimidated. I recognized that regular people get intimidated about going into are galleries. They feel like it’s this big pretentious space where you have to be super quiet. I didn’t want Noodle to feel like that, and from the get-go I wanted it to feel like a welcoming and comfortable country store—like there’s chalkboard signs, there’s a couple couches, and there’s music.

“When people come in, I always talk to them and be my friendliest because I want them to feel good when they walk in and not intimidated. I’m basically striving to have a place for regular people. I’m not catering to the serious art collectors, I’m catering to people who just want a piece of original art for a reasonable price.”

Obviously with COVID-19 being a factor in everything the last two years, the Noodle Gallery has had to make changes, but Kerr-Coster says it actually motivated her to finally put time into the e-commerce side of the business.

“Unlike a lot of other places like restaurants that are being affected in such a negative way, we’ve had the opposite experience overall,” she said. “Obviously, when there are lockdowns it’s not great with nobody going out and able to go into any retail and it was hurtful for business. However, it also forced me to pivot and get my butt in gear with online stuff because that had been something I’d been meaning to do anyway. I’d always wanted to get an online shopping website up and it forced me to and to pay more attention to it. That was a positive and it also showed me how much I enjoy being in the Mill and interacting with people. Online shopping is great and getting sales within it always feels good, but it’s just not the same. In terms of where we stand over the last two years of COVID, we’ve actually done really well.

“We have sold more larger pieces of work than we ever have, and I think it’s because with people not being able to travel and go out to dinner as often and see live entertainment, there are some lucky people who have seen their disposal income increase. When you look at what you spend disposal income on, it’s usually vacation and when that’s taken away, a lot of people started spending money on renovations and along with that they’ve looked at their empty walls and decided to finally go for it with buying bigger pieces of art. From that standpoint it’s been fruitful for Noodle and I’m sure many other artists and galleries have experienced that. From the smaller artisan market product side, it’s also been busy and that’s come from the big push and increased awareness around supporting and shopping local.”

As for what the future holds for Noodle, like the atmosphere in the gallery, Kerr-Costner takes a relaxed approach at how she looks at it and plans to do this for as long as her passion burns bright.

“I think because of life experiences I’m really bad at thinking about the future, that’s with anything,” she said. “People plan for the future but I’m horrible at it. I think it stems from losing an older brother at a young age and recognizing you can plan all you want, and it can change in the matter of a minute. That’s not to be morbid, I just recognize I don’t know what the future holds and knowing sometimes what you plan for doesn’t happen. So, I just continue along tickety-boo and just really enjoy it and don’t think too much ahead about where things are going. I don’t have any plans to ever expand or open up a bigger gallery because to me the great enjoyment of Noodle is being in the Alton Mill.

“The Alton Mill Art Centre building itself is so special and that’s why I enjoy being there and having a place of business in there. The most I look ahead with Noodle is basically with what artist I’m going to feature and what artisan products I’ll bring in. The one thing I think ahead with is, for instance, that I’ve never done a featured show with ceramics and pottery. Now I’m looking at this spring having a ceramic show from potters across Canada. I never really think, ‘Where is Noodle going?’ and honestly I don’t see it going further than me containing to do what I do until I’m not doing it anymore.”

Lecce announces additional protections with students set for January 17 return to school

BY ROB PAUL

With the recent confirmation that students will be returning to in-person learning on January 17, Ontario Education Minister Stephen Lecce on Wednesday announced measures being put in place for a safer return.

Lecce said that there will be strong protections in place supported by Ontario’s Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Kieran Moore, and that the Children’s Health Coalition (representing Sick Kids and all paediatric hospitals) have endorsed the return.

The return plan is focused on deploying millions of rapid tests to schools and childcare centres, enhancing ventilation, providing high-quality PPE, and increasing access to vaccines for children and staff, according to Lecce.

He also announced that rapid antigen tests will be provided for schools and childcare, children in childcare settings, and students in public elementary schools. Staff and students are expected to receive two tests each as the initial supply with 3.9 million rapid tests being shipped to schools in time for January 17—the tests are for use when symptomatic.

“We believe so strongly that children need to be in school; it’s crucial to the mental and physical health of a child and to their academic success,” said Lecce. “We have been cautious throughout this pandemic, and we’ve pivoted when required to ensure we protect our schools, our communities, and our collective progress as we work together to get kids back to school and our lives back on track.”

To help with booster coverage for education and childcare staff workers as they return, Lecce and Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones announced accelerated access with additional vaccine clinics in the GTA and Hamilton (GTHA).

“Our government has enhanced ventilation in every school, deployed high-quality PPE, and are accelerating access to the COVID-19 vaccine booster for all education and childcare staff,” said Lecce. “As we work to get children back to class, we are taking swift action to establish additional clinics—open seven days a week—that will provide further protection for Ontario’s school communi-

ties.”

The 10 additional clinics, located in Toronto—Yonge Street—Midtown, Eaton Centre, Richmond Hill, Mississauga, Vaughan, Pickering, Hamilton, Oakville and Brampton will serve education and childcare staff in the GTHA during dedicated time slots.

“The province continues to deliver booster doses as quickly and conveniently as possible, and we are expanding our efforts to additional vaccine clinics in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton area,” said Jones. “A third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine offers additional protection against the Omicron variant, and we continue to urge everyone to get their booster dose as soon as possible.”

Efforts to increase vaccine coverage and third booster shots have continued in Peel where 2,978,958 doses have been administered. 1,380,755 individuals have one dose, 1,233,036 have both doses, and 365,167 have received their third dose booster.

The Region now has 77.9 per cent of all residents with two dose coverage and 83.5 per cent with single dose. 89.3 per cent of those 12 and older are double vaccinated and 92.5 per cent have initiated the vaccination process—82.2 per cent of all eligible residents (5+) have both doses and 88.1 per cent have one.

In Peel, there have been 8,771 new COVID-19 cases in the last week to bring the total to 150,322. The Region’s death count has now risen to 1,057 with 14 new deaths since last week.

Caledon has seen 361 new cases over the last week to bring the Town total to 6,608. There was one new death with the count now up to 23.

To book a vaccine in the Region of Peel, visit www.peelregion.ca/coronavirus/vaccine/book-appointment/. To schedule a third dose booster, visit covid19.ontariohealth.ca/.

To download or print a copy of your proof of vaccination, visit covid-19.ontario.ca/covid-19-vaccine-booking-support#proof-of-vaccination.

To learn more about the official QR code system Ontario has implemented and to access yours, visit covid-19.ontario.ca/get-proof/.

Public Notice



NOTICE OF STUDY COMMENCEMENT

Schedule C Class Environmental Assessment

West Caledon storage facility and transmission main

Background:

The Region of Peel completed a Water and Wastewater Master Servicing Plan Update which identified the need to construct new zone 7 water storage and transmission infrastructure for West Caledon. This Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA) will support this recommendation by developing, evaluating, and selecting a preferred storage facility and transmission main route to service projected growth within the study area to 2051 and beyond.



Process:

The study will follow the Schedule C Municipal Class EA process, which includes:

- Satisfying Phases 1-4 of the Class EA Process
- Holding public and agency stakeholder meetings
- Providing a solution that best meets the needs of existing and future servicing areas
- Investigating alternative long-term servicing strategies, routes, and design concepts
- Confirming the preferred plan including routes, sites, design, and schedule

Your input is important:

The study will take approximately two years to complete. Two Public Information Centres (PICs) will be held to present the findings of the EA study and provide opportunities to give feedback to the project team. The first meeting is planned for spring 2022 to present the alternative sites and routes considered. Once the study is complete, results will be published in an Environmental Study Report and will be made available for public review and comment.

Contact the team:

To be added to the mailing list or to receive further information about the study, please contact:

Sogol Bandehali, MSc. P.Eng.
Project Manager, Region of Peel
905-791-7800 ext. 4550
sogol.bandehali@peelregion.ca

For more information on this study please visit the Region’s website at peelregion.ca/public-works/environmental-assessments/#current and look for the study link under the Caledon heading.

The Region of Peel is committed to ensure that all Regional services, programs, and facilities are inclusive and accessible. Please contact the Project Manager if you need any accommodations to provide comments and/or feedback for this study.

This notice was first issued on January 13, 2022.

With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record of the study. The study is being conducted according to the requirements of the Municipal Class Environment Assessment, which is a planning process approved under Ontario’s Environmental Assessment Act.

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Peel Memorial closure extended as Code Orange ends at Osler

Continued from FRONT

The Omicron variant being as contagious as it is has put many hospitals in tough staffing situations with nowhere to turn.

“Like many hospitals, we are dealing with staff shortages as a result of COVID-19. With the Omicron variant spreading rapidly throughout the communities, it hasn’t spared our healthcare heroes either. And this is a fast and ever-changing situation,” said Dr. Mohammad. «So, we are implementing a number of [measures] to ensure that we use our staff and physicians as efficiently as possible to support the greatest needs for our patients. Now, this includes some patient transfers when appropriate, and encouraging the presence of essential care partners.

These are family members who can come in and be with patients.”

Though William Osler Health System declared the Code Orange over, the urgent care centre at Peel Memorial Centre for Integrated Health and Wellness has had its closure extended until at least February 1.

“Due to increasing volumes in our Emergency Departments, further compounded by our extreme capacity and staffing pressures, Osler has made the very difficult decision to temporarily close its Urgent Care Centre at Peel Memorial until at least February 1, 2022,” William Osler Health System stated. “This closure will help to direct the highly skilled staff and physicians to where demand is the greatest.”

The extended closure of Peel Memorial Centre for Integrated Health and Wellness by William Osler Health System caused Brampton East MPP Gurratan Singh, Brampton Centre MPP Sara Singh, and Brampton North MPP Kevin Yarde to release a statement calling on Premier Doug Ford to take action.

“The temporary closure of Peel Memorial’s Urgent Care Centre is a scary development for patients and their families, and for people across Brampton,” they stated. “No one should have to worry that a loved one might not get the care they need should an emergency arise—whether that’s COVID, a heart attack or a broken bone. Our hearts today are with patients, as well as the millions

of people who are anxiously hoping no one in their family has an emergency now.

“Doug Ford didn’t staff up hospitals and retain, recruit, and return health care workers fleeing the field. For months, the Ontario NDP has called on the government to undertake an urgent blitz to recruit, retain, and return health care workers to the sector, but, instead, Ford made it worse with a low-wage law, Bill 124 that drove health care workers away. We’ll keep fighting for the people of Brampton, urging Ford to scrap Bill 124 to return thousands of health care workers to the sector; give health care workers dance pay; and ask the federal government, including the Canadian Armed Forces, for emergency staffing support in hospitals.”

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A professional headshot of Verona Teskey, a woman with short, styled blonde hair, wearing a dark blazer over a white collared shirt. She is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background is a soft, out-of-focus indoor setting.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

13656 Emil Kolb Parkway

Proposed Official Plan Amendment, Zoning By-law Amendment,
Draft Plan of Condominium (Standard) and Site Plan

FILE NUMBER(S): POPA 2021-0011, RZ 2021-0015, SPA 2021-0077, 21CDM-21004C

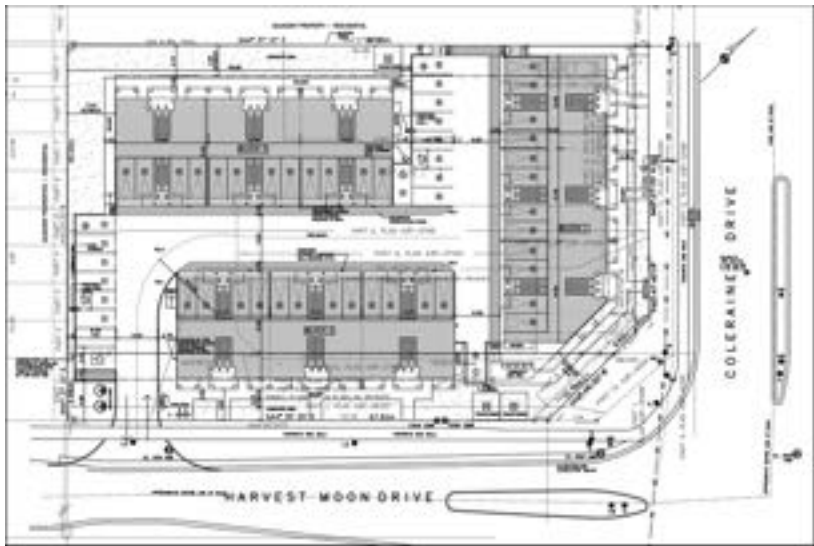
This is to inform you that the Town of Caledon has received Official Plan Amendment, Zoning By-law Amendment, and Draft Plan of Subdivision Applications. Your input and insight will inform and shape plans that meet the needs of our community.

APPLICANT: Humphries Planning Group Inc of behalf of Harvestone Centre Inc
LOCATION: 13656 Emil Kolb Parkway
Part of Lot 9, Concession 5 (ALB), and Part 2 of Plan 43R-10166
North side of Harvest Moon Drive, and west side of Emil Kolb Parkway
Ward 4

PROPOSED CHANGES:

The Applicant has applied for an Official Plan Amendment, Zoning By-law Amendment, Site Plan Approval and Draft Plan of Condominium applications for a proposed a 45-unit stacked back-to-back townhouse development. The project consists of three (3) three-storey townhouse blocks each with 15 units, consisting of 44 two (2) bedroom units and one (1) bedroom unit in total. There are 54 parking spaces including one (1) accessible space. Each townhouse unit is provided with one (1) parking space (36 spaces in single car garages and 9 in a surface lot) and there is nine (9) visitors spaces. Access to the townhouses blocks is provided by an internal condominium road that has one access onto Harvest Moon Drive.

The Official Plan Amendment would change the designation of the property from Local Commercial to High Density Residential. The Zoning By-law Amendment would re-zone the property from Agricultural (A1) to Multiple Residential Exception XXX (RT-XXX). The Site Plan and Condominium applications are required to facilitate the development and ownership requirements of the proposal.



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

LEAD PLANNER:

Sean Kenney, Senior Planner
Development and Design,
Town of Caledon
905-584-2272 x.4199
sean.kenney@caledon.ca

Notice Date: January 13, 2022

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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

ACCESSIBILITY:

If you require an accessibility accommodation to access any materials related to this item in an alternate format please contact Legislative Services by phone at 905-584-2272 x.2366 or via email at legislative.services@caledon.ca
Multi-Tenant Landowners: Please post this notice in a visible location to all residents of the land.



6311 Old Church Road
Caledon, ON L7C 1J6
www.caledon.ca
T. 905.584.2272 | 1.888.225.3366 | F. 905.584.4325

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

15728 Airport Road

Proposed Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendment

FILE NUMBER(S): POPA 2021-0006 & RZ 2021-0012

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

Due to continuing efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19 and to protect individuals, Town Hall will not be open to the public to attend Public Meetings until further notice. These meetings will be held electronically.

MEETING DATE: FEBRUARY 8, 2022 START TIME: 7 P.M.

To listen to the Meeting (but not participate), you may call 1-833-311-4101, Meeting Access Code: 2633 291 8935#.

Members of the public are welcome to participate via phone or WebEx Meeting upon request. For more information on how to participate, please visit www.caledon.ca/development or contact the Planning Department. Please note that there are deadlines by which the request to participate need to be made.

You can also ask questions or provide comments by:

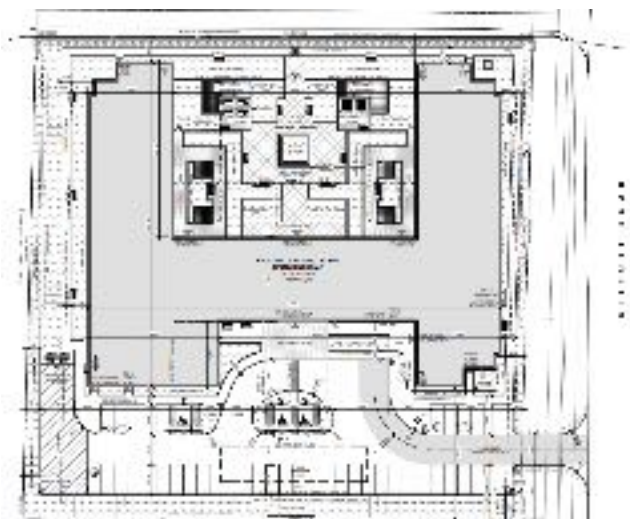
- Submitting written correspondence to agenda@caledon.ca and planning@caledon.ca for consideration during the Public Meeting. Please note that written comments will form part of the public record.
- Contacting Planning staff or the Lead Planner during office hours by phone or email.
- Booking an appointment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

APPLICANT: Wellings Planning Consultants Inc.
on behalf of Wyndham Holdings Inc.

LOCATION: 15728 Airport Road
East Part of Lot 2, Concession 6 (EHS)
West Side of Airport Road,
north of Cranston Drive, south of Hilltop Drive
Ward 3

PROPOSED CHANGES:

The applicant has applied for an Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment to facilitate the development of a three storey Seniors Retirement Facility with a total of 127 units consisting of a mix of unit types and levels of care. The Official Plan Amendment proposed to re-designate the lands from Low Density Residential to Institutional. The Zoning By-law Amendment proposed to re-zone the lands from Rural Residential (RR) to a site-specific Institutional Exception XX (I-XX) zone.



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

LEAD PLANNER:

Valerie Schmidt, MCIP, RPP, GSP Group
on behalf of
Development and Design
519.569.8883
vschmidt@gspgroup.ca

Multi-Tenant Landowners: Please post this notice in a visible location to all residents of the land.

Notice Date: January 13, 2022

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

For more information about this matter, including information about appeal rights, a copy of the proposed Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendment applications, additional information and material, please visit caledon.ca/notices or contact the Lead Planner at 519-569-8883 from Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

ACCESSIBILITY:

If you require an accessibility accommodation to attend or participate in this Public Meeting, or to access any materials related to this item in an alternate format please contact Legislative Services by phone at 905-584-2272 x.2366 or via email at legislative.services@caledon.ca. Requests should be submitted at least 10 days before the Public Meeting.



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News

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VIRTUAL AND OUTDOOR RECREATION PROGRAMS

Town of Caledon indoor recreation amenities are temporarily closed and programs and services suspended until further notice.

In the meantime, you can participate in virtual art, science, dance and fitness programs.

Plus, we have outdoor activities, including skating and skating lessons.

Learn more about virtual and outdoor programs: caledon.ca/RecPrograms.

OUTDOOR RINKS STARTING TO OPEN

Some outdoor community rinks are open. Dedicated volunteers are working hard to get more outdoor rinks up and running. Stay tuned.

If the rink in your neighbourhood is closed, please stay off the ice as it's not safe to skate on, and you will damage it.

The Town does not permit skating on stormwater management ponds. If you do choose to skate on a public pond, it's at your own risk.

Check online to see if a rink near you is open: caledon.ca/skating.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Passing of Interim Control By-law

FILE NUMBER(S): RZ 2021-0018

This is to inform you that on December 14, 2021 Town of Caledon Council passed an Interim Control By-law (By-law 2021-092) in Bolton and Mayfield West.

PURPOSE AND EFFECT:

The Interim Control By-law restricts the use of land within the specified areas in Bolton and Mayfield West for a period of one year (to December 14, 2022), to undertake a land use study to:

- Examine the mix of land uses within the Major Transit Station Area (MTSA);
- Examine the existing and long range planned transit service for the study areas, and;
- Consider the connections between the future Mayfield West Transit Hub and the Caledon GO Station between each other and the broader Regional transit system.

The Interim Control By-law generally restricts development with the exception of the following:

- Those uses which lawfully existed as of December 14, 2021 can continue to be used for such purpose
- A Draft Plan of Subdivision may be registered where it was draft approved as of December 14, 2021
- A building permit may be issued and the building or structure constructed, where a Building Permit application was submitted and determined to be complete as of December 14, 2021
- A Consent application may be approved or registered where the proposed Consent does not establish a new lot.

Council has the authority to extend the period during which the by-law will be in effect to a total period not exceeding two years.

BOLTON:

In the vicinity of King Street, Humber Station Road and Emil Kolb Parkway

MAYFIELD WEST:

In the vicinity of Highway 410, Hurontario Street (Highway 10) and Valleywood Boulevard

LEAD PLANNER:

Stephanie McVittie
Manager, Development and Design
Planning Department,
Town of Caledon
905-584-2272 x.4253
Stephanie.mcvittie@caledon.ca

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

For more information about this matter, please visit caledon.ca/notices or contact the Lead Planner at Town Hall from Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

ACCESSIBILITY:

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Brock’s Banter

Exercising
“Reasonable Patience”

BY BROCK WEIR

The dawn of a New Year is always seen as a double-edged sword of renewal and change.

We want to go into our next trip around the sun with a renewed sense of purpose and a renewed sense of self, all the while keeping in mind that change is another constant that can’t be avoided.

But change, of course, means different things to different people.

Change doesn’t have to be grandiose gestures of varying levels of substance and emptiness. It doesn’t have to be a 180 degree turn on something in a bid to rapidly change your entire life-style. It can be as simple as setting a resolution, tackling one area in your life that might need a little bit of a tweak, or merely revisiting your list of life-goals and prioritizing them for the subsequent 365 days.

When a New Year approaches, I always like to ring in the dawn of a new one by doing something, well, new. Sometimes it has been as splashy as watching the ball drop – or whatever the local equivalent might be – in a place, exotic or not, I have never been before. It can be watching the clock tick towards midnight with a new group of friends or in a new venue. It can be crossing that threshold of space and time doing something you haven’t done before, like watching a new movie, cracking into a new book, or tackling a new game.

For the second year running, I was at a loss at what my new experience was going to be when we made the transition between years.

In the last few minutes between 2019 and 2020, the big excitement was, thanks to the global pandemic, trying take-out from a local restaurant that hadn’t previously been sampled and watching a new movie.

This New Year’s was shaping up to be a repeat of the same. Don’t get me wrong, it’s as lovely a way as any to ring in the new year, but, nevertheless, any excitement was dampened by how limited the options were for a second year running.

But, in a not all-together pleasant way, the guesswork was taken out of the evening almost at the eleventh hour.

Thanks to the Omicron variant, some last-minute reshuffling had to take place to ensure New Year’s festivities, such as they were allowed to be, were covered for the communities we serve. Therefore, unexpectedly, I was tasked with covering a local event where local families had the chance to get together under the stars for some socially-distant fellowship and entertainment before having the chance to get cozy at home for the dawn of 2022.

It did the heart good to see so many community members come together for a common purpose, having fun and maintaining social distance all the while.

Although I was there for work, it was a nice mental break from the day-to-day slog against the virus – but it was made slightly bittersweet that, thanks to ever-rising case numbers, this would likely be the last opportunity for such a get-together until public health stats took a dramatic turn for the better.

I nevertheless got my chance to spend the evening doing something new – and that might have to be the win I take away from the whole experience because it seems my New Year’s resolution was over almost before it even began.

In the lead-up to the holidays, I wrote in this

space that my New Year’s resolution would be to cultivate patience. Always in short supply with me, the last 22 months have worn down my own personal reserves and, as the reality of Omicron took hold, I knew they would be stripped to the limit – a changeable reality that would never do in our collective efforts to get through to the other side.

Patience simply wasn’t there when the Provincial Government announced that Ontario students wouldn’t be returning to school for a further two days into January apparently because those extra 48-hours would be enough to solve all the issues of ensuring students are safe in schools. And the community, in turn, could stay as safe as possible once the end-of-the-day bell rings.

Patience was also absent when the Province bowed to what seemed inevitable to everyone else and announced a further delay to the opening of schools to January 17 – two weeks and two days, as of this writing. That surely would do the trick...

Patience was gone when all of a sudden testing, which has been one of the primary indicators of any glimmers of hope on the horizon, was deemed a luxury rather than a necessity and we were all told to assume we had COVID if we had the slightest sniffle.

Patience went into the red when the Provincial government attributed staff shortages in hospitals and, indeed, staff shortages across the board, to “absenteeism” rather than individuals being sick and addressing it accordingly – or individuals exposed to the virus doing the right thing and isolating accordingly – as we have been told to do since March of 2020.

Patience continued to plummet when the Federal Conservative leader suggested people unwilling to get vaccinated against COVID-19 should be “accommodated” through rapid testing and other means. This, it was argued, would be a way to ensure supply chains kept pace.

Don’t get me wrong – I do think reasonable accommodations should be made for people who are unable to get the vaccine for any variety of reasons, but I couldn’t help but feel this request for “reasonable accommodations” was an untimely slap in the face to our frontline workers who have been fighting this thing day in and day out for nearly two years, are burnt out, yet continue to show up for work in conditions that are less than ideal by every stretch of the imagination.

A recent letter-writer to The Globe And Mail asked whether the cost of such “reasonable accommodations” for unvaccinated residents would be borne by vaccinated citizens. Of course, that question is “yes” and the subject for another column, but how about a call to our unvaccinated residents to make “reasonable accommodations” for the people on the frontlines while showing a vote of confidence in our beleaguered health care system and the tireless people who work day and night, against odds that seem to become increasingly dire each week of this latest wave, to both keep us healthy and the system we so depend on afloat for the future?

Unfortunately, it’s a debate that is not going to be over any time soon, so, in the meantime, if you have any ideas on how to replenish stores of patience, I think I – and every single reader of this column – would appreciate it.

These “reasonable accommodations” will make it a longer slog for all of us.



Why does it always come
down to money?



by Mark Pavilons

It’s funny how many important actions always come down to money.

It’s been said that money can’t buy happiness, or that it can’t build meaning into life.

But when it comes to major policies, mandates, protocols – major change – yes indeed money matters.

Martin Luther King Jr. noted that any country that spends more money on its military than social programs will be doomed spiritually.

Some argue that it’s money, not ideas and principles, that reign in American politics.

Arthur Laffer observed that there’s no “public tooth fairy” and that you can’t bail someone out without putting someone else into trouble.

Federal government spending in Canada reached historic highs in 2021, to a whopping \$445 billion. Queen’s Park dished out roughly \$187 billion last year.

Fun fact: It would take a person like you and I 31 years, 251 days, 7 hours, 46 minutes, and 40 seconds just to count to 1 billion.

Sure, the pandemic has thrown all government spending, here and abroad, out of whack. We’ve poured billions upon billions into health care and fighting COVID. The result? Well, we are all familiar with current events. Third, fourth, even fifth shots are likely in the future.

It’s like our economic engine is stuck in the mud, spinning its wheels, flinging cash everywhere, just to stay put. Forget about major non-pandemic issues like infrastructure and business stability. We can’t even address those things properly until the books are balanced.

So, my friends, it all comes down to money, or a lack thereof.

We all know about the dangers of climate change. We’ve held global conferences, set emission targets and examined all kinds of green strategies.

The problem? Money. We have to spend money to achieve any small iota of positive change or progress.

Not to mention climate change, conflict between nations, poverty, disease, famine all rage on, regardless of our preoccupation with things. Our human condition is growing worse by the day.

The economy of Turkey is a prime example. Right now, people are lining up outside bread kiosks. The prices of medicine, milk and toilet paper are soaring. Some gas stations have closed after running out. Angry outbursts have erupted on the streets.

In December, annual inflation reached a staggering rate of 36 per cent, up from 21 per cent the previous month.

Experts are calling on gas prices here in Ontario to reach upwards of \$1.60 per litre this spring.

We’ve all noticed increases at the grocery stores. and it seems the cost of living is outpacing even modest salary increases, if you’re lucky enough to get one.

It’s estimated that the monthly costs for a family of four in Canada hover around \$5,382.

The cost of living in Canada is more expensive than in 74% of countries in the world.

Despite our strong economy in this province and in the GTA, we’re still feeling all of the same pressures. Price increases haven’t gone unnoticed. As our buying power shrinks, we may be rethinking our own personal situations.

There are times I forget about reality, and it has nothing to do with my reckless youth. I often don’t see myself as a somewhat mature, 50-something male whose life has reached its mid-way point. Retirement may be less than a decade away, or maybe not.

Given the current turmoil, I can’t even fathom what the next year will bring, let alone what my twilight years have in store. So, I try not to think about it, preferring the ostrich approach and trying to meditate to soothing ocean sounds.

My wife keeps encouraging me to get life insurance, but at my age, it becomes a little expensive. I don’t want my passing to be burdensome. I told her to simply tie me to a home-made raft and send me adrift in the Humber, Viking-style, minus the flaming arrows. Okay, one or two would be nice.

Money has always been part of our western culture and society. But there are places around the world where the barter system is alive and well. Some have returned to this age-old system out of necessity during the pandemic, where supply or trade dried up.

Even today in our crazy lives, the best places are those without money.

When I think of the best places and most relaxing times, my thoughts turn to summers at the Delawana Inn on Georgian Bay, or lakefront cottages borrowed from friends.

There, at high noon, money had no use, no meaning, no place among the windswept pines and pristine beaches. I could be penniless sitting on an ancient rock on the shoreline and not have a care in the world.

I think of times when Kim and I scraped together enough to get away for a week in the Dominican or Cartagena in the 1990s. I will never forget finding sand dollars with my toes in the waters of Sosua.

For those adventurous types, I imagine money and modern entrapments have little place on a scenic mountain top in Alberta or BC.

I am an avid fan of travel shows and documentaries of places around the world. The world is a pretty big place, with plenty to explore.

I heard that we travel, not to escape life, but to embrace it. There’s a series on Netflix called Moving Art, and it’s merely videos of people, places and animals around the world. No dialogue, just soothing music and visually stunning images.

We may not be able to travel to French Polynesia, Angkor Wat or Koh Sumui, but our minds can, through these episodes.

Our travel plans may be currently on hold, but hopefully the summer will bring some relief.

There are also incentives for vacationing within Ontario this summer. The beauty of nature is all around us. You don’t have to visit Thailand to enjoy gorgeous lakes, mountains, oceans or picturesque sunsets.

Look into the eyes of your loved ones and explore the world together! Feel the world – it was created just for us!

Our Readers Write

Quality of life depends on
strategic voting: reader

I wholeheartedly agree with reader Dan O’Reilly (January 6) about the necessity of strategic voting this summer. Our quality of life depends on it.

The Conservatives have subjected the people of Ontario to long-term misery for the benefit of a small elite who profits handsomely from it, to name just two: Hwy 407, sold to private interests; the dispensing of billions of dollars over 30 years to private LTC facilities.

The total disregard for our environment and quality of life by building highways through sen-

sitive areas and the dispensing of MZO’s like fertilizer is yet another and very serious matter.

For the benefit of the population of Ontario and Canada as a whole, it would behoove the NDP to refrain from fielding candidates in certain, for them un-winnable, constituencies. Future generations, too young now to vote, will be grateful.

Since becoming eligible to cast a ballot 60 years ago, I have never voted Liberal.

I will this time.

WULF GRAUNITZ
PALGRAVE

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CONTACT BROCK@LPCMEDIA.CA

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Beginnings and Blessings



2022 hasn't started out as we all hoped. And, I don't know if it's just me, but the cold winter wind seems to howl a little louder right now, almost as a way of encouraging us to stay in a little longer. And while you are staying in, why not call in a takeout or pick up order at one of our incredible local restaurants? They need our continued support!

Peel's Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Lawrence Loh, will be attending, virtually, our Council Committee meeting on January 18 at 2:30 p.m. to provide an update on the pandemic. There will be some good information so tune in to our livestream at www.caledon.ca/agenda.

Did anyone really think this was over?

I can't help but wonder with all the "breaking" news this week, whether or not officially "giving up" has become an actual strategic initiative?

It seems to me that the Chief Medical Officer for the Province has given up on us and/or given up on arguing with the Premier over an effective COVID prevention strategy; that the Minister of Education has given up on schools and teachers, that our Premier has given up on nurses, hospitals and children and that "learning to live" with COVID is the only clear and discernible messaging coming from anyone. My interpretation of all this is that we've given up altogether and might as well be waving a white flag from the top of Queen's Park.

How else to describe the latest round of actions and announcements (and I use both of those terms loosely) from our Provincial government? Delaying the start of school was a decision based largely on public outcry, and a good one, but I'm wondering why the rush to return is now on given that our numbers are still so astronomical?

Certainly all the talk we've heard so far is not nearly enough to improve the situation in schools – just ask any parent, teacher or administrator. Let's recap: we will no longer be advising cohorts of a positive COVID test in the classroom; we are no longer requiring the isolation of siblings, we are no longer testing or will only provide access to testing if symptoms develop while at school (hard to prove) and the promised numbers of HEPA filters still doesn't adequately address the needs of the actual number of classrooms.

Teachers will finally be provided with non-fit

tested N95s (something both they, and nurses, should have had from the very beginning) and that's about the only positive thing I can say about the back to school "plan." With Omicron so widespread and moving quickly, the other proposed strategy for dealing with anticipated teacher absence is to permit retired teachers to work more days than previously allowed. Because putting older adults (already determined to be at higher risk for contracting serious illness) and young unvaccinated or only partially vaccinated children together in a classroom is a good idea.

Finally, again, as any parent or teacher can tell you, when teacher absences aren't covered by supply staff (because there are none) what happens to your children? They are dispersed into other, already crowded classrooms, to be managed for the day. In other words, the "giving up" strategy looks like this: we're sending the kids back to school without second vaccinations, to face teacher shortages, not testing anyone for COVID and potentially cramming students into classrooms they would not normally be a part of. I think I like the odds of rolling the dice in Vegas better.

If this doesn't scream "giving up" because we have no idea what else to do, I don't know what does.

In other non-news, hospitals are being overwhelmed yet again by a surge of patients that has quite simply become unmanageable. We're being told we will no longer have access to reporting on the actual numbers of COVID-positive people. Nurses, already reeling from more than two years

of unrelenting pandemic care are being asked regularly to work 16-hour shifts when hospitals are short-staffed. Hospitals right now, by the way, are ALWAYS short staffed. Several universities that provide nursing programs have sent emails to their students asking and/or directing them to be ready to go to work in the hospitals to help relieve an already overburdened system.

This has been deemed a credible strategy even though in some cases, the only clinical exposure these students have had is one day a week, under direct supervision, providing basic care. Apparently, this is also a more credible strategy than fast-tracking already fully qualified nurses who received their designations from other countries, have completed the required Canadian certifications and are now simply waiting for a piece of paper from the government to clear them for work. (Although – at time of writing, this policy has just now been changed! Well – there's some good news at least. Welcome to all nurses who will now officially be recognized as nurses! Related – prepare for a PSW shortage.)

There's a part of me that doesn't really blame the government for all of this. Perhaps that's because I feel a bit like giving up myself. I don't know whom to believe anymore and trying to separate fact from fiction is akin to finding the proverbial needle in a haystack.

Is Omicron really milder when at least two children died from it last week and our ICU's and PICU's are at their highest levels since this whole pandemic started?

Does our provincial top doctor really believe that testing is a "luxury?" Does Doug Ford real-

ly believe getting into his truck and helping drive people to hospital is all a paramedic does? A shiny new jacket doesn't make him a paramedic and paramedics don't need his help but if WE need an ambulance, what are the chances of actually getting one?

Does Mr. Ford honestly believe people want to see pictures of him posing in front of one bed proudly declaring that adding beds to hospitals is the answer? Talk about a staged photo op! By the way, beds without nurses are meaningless. What about nursing homes? I presume we've given up on the idea of an "iron ring" around nursing homes? I guess we can no longer afford it after giving all that money to for-profit homes last year. I feel like we've given up on our seniors. Maybe because they are old we don't care?

Finally, I'll leave you with this thought and spare you the trouble of going down the same rabbit hole I did recently: Perhaps so many of us, including even some media folk, have given up on holding the government's strategy (or lack thereof) to account because of this; there are a group of folks out there who truly believe that drinking their own urine is a cure for COVID. As if ivermectin, horse de-wormer and drinking bleach weren't bad enough, there are those amongst us who actually believe consuming our own bodily fluids are better than any vaccine.

With that kind of attitude out there – can we really blame the government for a strategy that involves just giving up?

ALLAN THOMPSON MAYOR'S VIEW



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Martin Nash will helm York United FC in the upcoming season.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

York United sign three international talents

BY ROBERT BELARDI

In less than a month, York United have announced their new manager and three new players, beginning the next chapter for the York Region-based club.

Prior to the Christmas holidays, the club unveiled Martin Nash as the team's next manager.

The Regina SK native, signed a two-year deal with a 12-month option.

Revered across the Canadian Premier League for his work as an assistant manager with Cavalry FC, York United's Managing Consultant Angus McNab said Nash was the candidate who showed great enthusiasm for the club's roster and had the most effective vision on how to use the players moving forward.

A former player with many clubs, Nash spent his final six years of pro football with the Vancouver Whitecaps in Major League Soccer. He also appeared for the Canadian Men's National Team 38 times.

The club with Nash at the helm has already begun 2022 with a bang. The club signed Danish international Daniel Obbekjaer, Brazilian Eduardo Jesus and Czech international Martin Graiciar to the roster.

The 19-year-old central defender Obbekjaer, has had a prosperous beginning to his young career. At the age of 16, he made his senior debut with Danish giant FC Copenhagen and later on that season, appeared for Odense, becoming the youngest player in club history to take the pitch.

He went on to make appearances for his country and went off on loan in 2021 with Serie B side S.P.A.L.

The other 19-year-old signing, Jesus, is a fullback who is reportedly known for his pace.

Jesus spent majority of his youth career with Vitória which has seen the likes of David Luiz, Hulk, Dida and Bebeto all go on to have successful careers.

Jesus has also made appearances for Brazil under the U-16 and U-17 levels.

Similarly to the other two players, Czech Republic striker Graiciar has also made appearances for his national side at the U-16 level.

He received a call-up at the age of 14 and scored against Germany.

Originally beginning his club path with Spartak Prague, Graiciar made a name for himself with FC Viktoria Plzen. He was a part of their first-ever league victory in 2011 and represented the club in the UEFA Champions league and Europa League.

He was sought after in 2015 by former Arsenal manager Arsène Wenger but the move never came to fruition.

In 2017, Graiciar was signed by ACF Fiorentina in the Italian Serie A. Since that move, he has spent seasons on loan with Liberec, Sparta Prague and most recently, FK Mladá Boleslav, before making the move to York United.

All players have signed on to two-year deals and all have options on top of their contracts to remain with York United further.

OJHL plans to complete full season despite pause in games

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Ontario Junior Hockey League has announced plans to complete a full season, including playoffs, despite the temporary pause in hockey action around the province.

"The OJHL is committed to completing a full OJHL regular season and playoff schedule for the 2021-2022 season and we have put together various operation scenarios to allow us to do so," said Mary Savoy, League Commissioner. "With the current mandated pause, the OJHL has multiple scenarios developed which will allow us to get our full seasons and playoffs in this season."

All minor and junior hockey in the province came to a suddenly halt on January 5, with the announcement from the provincial government regarding the time-limited modified Phase 2 Reopening of the Province. That included the closing of all indoor recreational and sports facilities.

The mandate does have some exceptions for "elite" athletes.

The OJHL is hoping to have Junior A level hockey included in that classification so they can remain on the ice.

"The League will continue to monitor the direction from the provincial government and will announce any adjustments to the OJHL schedule if or when they may be required," Mr. Savoy said. "Although the provincial government has not yet declared Junior A hockey within Ontario as elite level of sport, the OJHL is lobbying our various governing bodies in an effort to have this level of the sport included within this classification."

The OJHL normally has a 54-game season. During the stop in action, each team will be missing seven or eight games.

Plans could include extending the regular season time to include the additional games or slotted them in during the schedule to complete the season.



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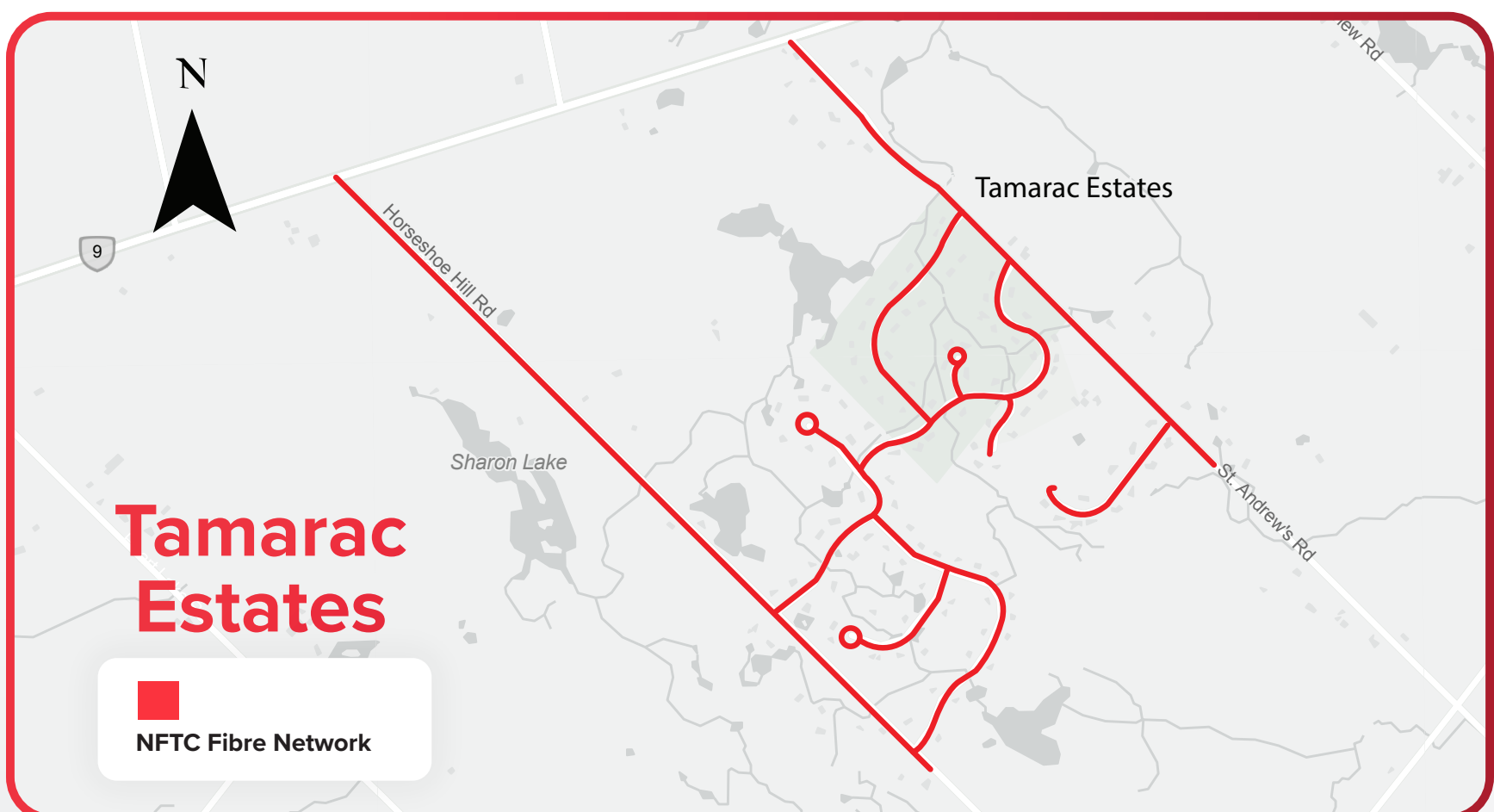
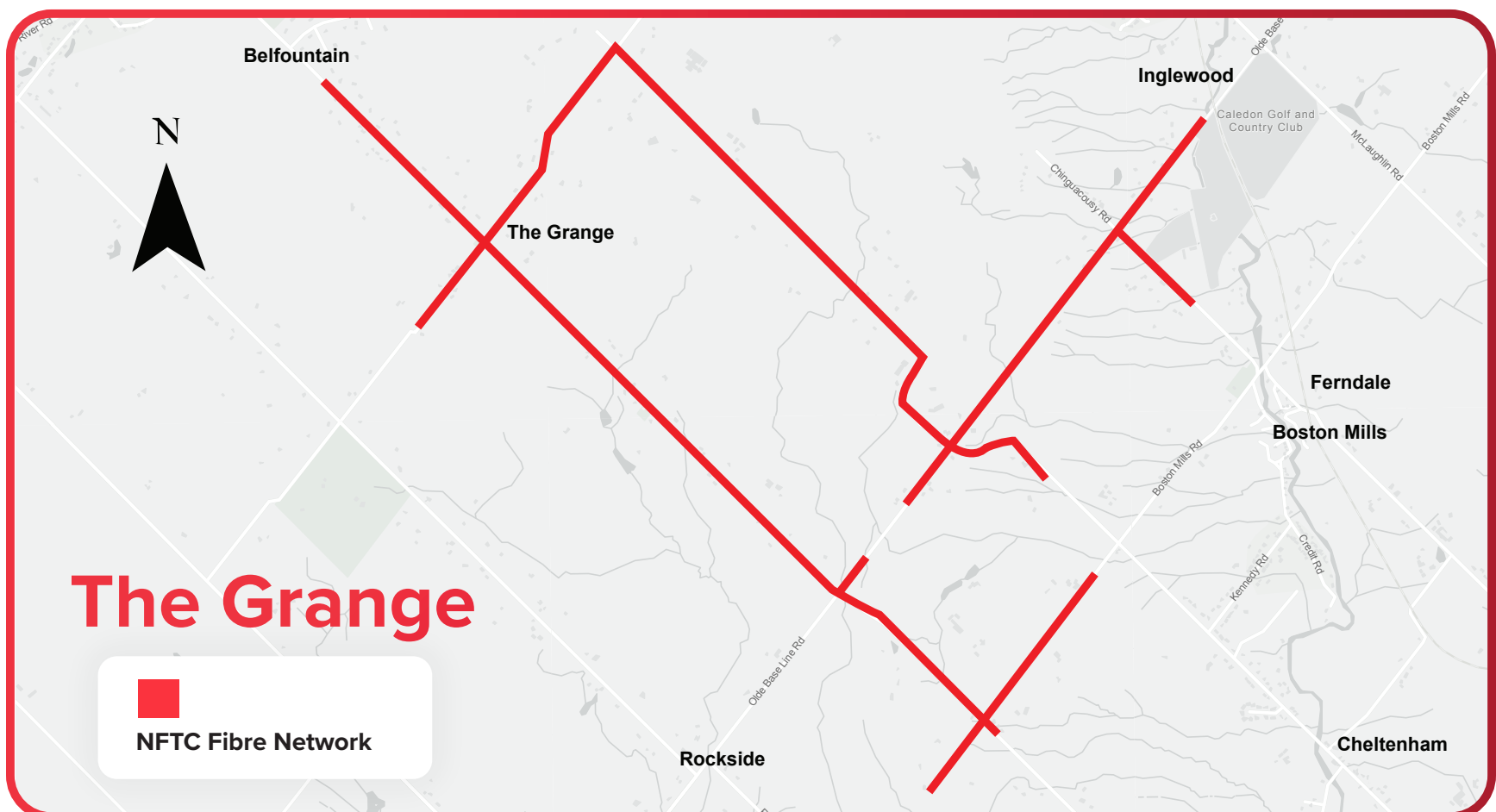
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ROSEMARY MOLESWORTH (NEE ULCH) 1950 – 2022



We are sad to announce the passing of Rosemary Molesworth (nee Ulch) 1950 – 2022 of cancer. She was predeceased by her parents Alex Ulch and Margaret (nee Loughheed) Ulch.

Rosemary grew up in Simcoe, Ontario and attended Queen's University where she earned a BA and a BEd. A shared balcony in the Science 44 Co-op in Kingston introduced her to Hugh Molesworth and led to marriage in 1975. She taught high school art for a year in Orillia but returned to Kingston to supply teach, join the Kingston Potters' Guild and find her vocation. A Diploma in Ceramics from the Sheridan School of Crafts and Design was followed by a two year position at the Harbourfront Studios as well as valuable experience working for potter Bob Kavanagh.



Hugh and Rosemary moved to Shelburne in 1983 and she opened a studio but another move to the country allowed for much better facilities and space to practice and refine her art and move through a variety of styles and forms, often inspired by her travels. Recognition and appreciation grew steadily and countless art shows, several awards and inclusion in galleries such as The Guild Shop, The Gardiner Museum and the McMichael Gallery attest to her abilities.

Rosemary was instrumental in the organization and success of 'Quintessential', an annual showcase of the work of 5 women artists from the Dufferin area and produced a yearly "Sale at Home" that was eagerly anticipated by many for the art and its party atmosphere. She served on committees that focused on showcasing the work of local artists and was a long term member of a writing group that produced "Voices" which highlighted work by each writer.

An enthusiastic reader, Rosemary was a strong supporter of the local Library and worked there for several years as a part time employee.

Hugh and Rose loved living in the house they built near Shelburne, enjoyed watching the fallow farmland they bought become a forest through planting and care and experienced the joys of sharing it with the wildlife that found a home there. They traveled extensively, enjoying especially the round the world trip of 6 months they took in 1995 as well as trips to Europe and across Canada. The friends they made around the world and the many that they embraced at home will miss her enthusiasm, hospitality and warmth.

The family would like to express their gratitude to the staff and volunteers of Matthews House for their extraordinary care and compassion.

In lieu of flowers, donations to Matthews House Hospice or the Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated.

Online condolences may be made at www.imfunerals.com

In Memoriam Funeral Services Inc. has been given the honour to serve the Molesworth Family.

BRUNDLE, Frederick

Fred passed away peacefully at the Headwaters Healthcare Centre on Thursday, December 30, 2021 at the age of 78 years.

Beloved Husband of Joyce and Father of Lisa (Glen), Frank (Sue), and Kathy (Gary). Proud Grandfather of Alex Denning (Keeyan), Larissa Denning, Brent Denning, Taylor Brundle (Ryan), Camille Brundle, Briar Brundle, Samantha Ferguson and Ben Ferguson.

Dear brother of Lorna Becker (Lloyd), Roland Brundle (Bev), Doreen Norman (the late Jerry), the late Karl Brundle, the late Lue Holman, Sheila Voisin, Lois Fewster (John), Bonnie Wettlaufer, Danny Brundle (Billie), the late Russell Brundle (the late Sue), Verne Brundle, Gayle Darechuk and Brenda Loughheed (Steve). Fred will be fondly remembered by his nieces, nephews and many dear friends.

Fred and Joyce were married in 1965. They had a baby and started their Fred's Tire business all within their first year of marriage and never slowed down after that. Fred had many fun times with friends but he enjoyed the time he got to share with his family the most. They had many great times at the cottage as well as their vacation home in Florida. Fred was passionate about his airplanes and flying and was happy to share stories with friends and customers; and even the odd stranger! Fred also enjoyed spending time boating and golfing. He will be fondly remembered and missed by all who knew him.

A Celebration of Fred's life will be held at a later date.

Memorial donations in memory of Fred may be made to the Parkinson Foundation.

A tree will be planted in memory of Fred in the Dods & McNair Memorial Forest at the Island Lake Conservation Area, Orangeville. Condolences may be offered to the family at www.dodsandmcnair.com



FORSHAW, Ronald Allan

February 22, 1941 – December 29, 2021

Following the third battle with Cancer, Ronald Allan Forshaw of Orangeville, most recently Parry Sound passed away on Wednesday December 29th, 2021, at the age of 80 years at The West Parry Sound Health Centre.

He will be lovingly remembered by his wife Elizabeth of 56 years, Daughters Ronda (Desmond), Tracey (Daniel), grandchildren Reegan, Troy, Sadee and Emelia, sister Brenda (George) Paulin as well as numerous relatives and friends. He will be dearly missed by his beloved Jack Russell "Rafy".

Ron Forshaw "Fisherman by Golly" was known for his humour, infectious laugh, silly quirks and his many caring questions while sitting at the family dinner table!

His best memories would be in his early years with the family fishing, boating and camping on our secret island following 30 + years at the cottage "Fort Forshaw" on Manitoulin Island.

The family wishes to send a special thank you to the Palliative Care Nurses and Doctors at The West Parry Sound Health Centre for their above and beyond care and compassion!

At Ron's request, no service will be held. Cremation arrangements entrusted to Torrance Funeral Home (89 Bowes Street, Parry Sound) As an expression of sympathy, donations to The West Parry Sound Health Centre Foundation will be appreciated by the family. To leave an online condolence please visit www.torrancefuneralhome.com



BEATTIE, Ralph

October 22, 1933 – January 5, 2022

Peacefully at Headwaters Health Care Centre on Wednesday, January 5, 2022 at the age of 88. Beloved husband of 67 years to Donna Beattie. Dear father of Susan Sanderson (Phil 2018) and Janet Hewgill (Darryl). Cherished grandfather of Chris (2012) (Brogann), Ryan (2011), Dustin and Elisha (Alex). Great Grampa of Stevenson and Clementine (new great-grandchild on the way, due in January). Ralph will also be greatly missed by other relatives and many friends. Private Family Funeral Service was held at on Monday, January 10, 2022.

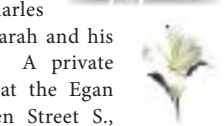
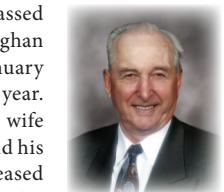
Memorial donations to the Heart & Stroke Foundation would be appreciated by the family. A tree will be planted in memory of Ralph in the Dods & McNair Memorial Forest at the Island Lake Conservation Area, Orangeville. Condolences may be offered to the family at www.dodsandmcnair.com



GEORGE FARR WARDLAW

George Farr Wardlaw passed away at Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital on Wednesday, January 5, 2022, in his 96th year.

Survived by his beloved wife Fern Shaw, his son David and his sister Ruth Piercy. Predeceased by two of his children, Charles and Diane and his sister Sarah and his brother Robert Wardlaw. A private funeral service was held at the Egan Funeral Home, 203 Queen Street S., Bolton, on Tuesday, January 11 at 2 o'clock. The family invites those who wish to view the service through live streaming. Please visit the funeral home's website with the link www.EganFuneralHome.com. Private interment Laurel Hill Cemetery, Bolton. Condolences for the family may be offered at www.EganFuneralHome.com



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FOR INFORMATION regarding **HEART and STROKE**, call Dori Ebel (519) 941-1865 or 1-800-360-1557.

IFYOU or a **FAMILY MEMBER** are struggling with gambling, Gamblers Anonymous is there to HELP. Call: 1(855) 222-5542 or visit www.gatoronto.ca.

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ASHBEE, Nancy Lorraine (nee O'Connor)

It is with great sadness we announce the the unexpected passing of Nancy Ashbee, age 67, November, 2021. Loving Mother of Jennifer and Jeremiah (Tracy) of Sutton. Daughter of the late Margaret & Harry O'Connor. Predeceased by brothers Dan & Gord O'Connor.

Loving sister to Bonnie Hilliard of Coburg and Michael (Alanna) O'Connor of Dryden. Nancy will be missed by her nieces and nephews. Nancy grew up in Erin and worked at Northern Telecom in her early years of employment. After moving to Northern Ontario, she was the assistant manager at the LCBO in Atikokan and then LCBO manager in Marathon. She retired there after 30 years of service. Nancy was known for promoting AVON to family & friends in the community.

In retirement, she worked with her local Royal Canadian Legion Branch and volunteered at the Salvation Army store. Anyone who knew Nancy, knew of her great love for animals. She spent years volunteering with the Humane Society.

'In memory donations' sent to your local Humane Society would be appreciated by the family.



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Unity of the community is what drives Councillor Rosa to champion local business

BY ROB PAUL

Since being elected as a Bolton's area Councillor in 2018, Tony Rosa has been on a crusade to help reinvigorate local business. He has a passion for showcasing everything Bolton has to offer.

Rosa has lived in Bolton for over 20 years while raising his family here and working as the head of guidance and student services at St. Michael's Catholic Secondary School.

Initially his strong sense of the community and the needs of those in it motivated Rosa to run for Council to try and make a tangible difference in Bolton.

"Living and working in the community and being a guidance counsellor, I got to know a lot of students and families which allowed me to understand a lot of the local issues," he said. "I felt that I could make a positive contribution to the larger Town community in addition to the school community. I've been here since 1998 and I have a very good idea of the community. Even prior to that as a student working my way through school I worked at Cedar Glen—now the YMCA—so I even knew the Town quite well prior to moving here. I'd spend my summers working here in summer programs and have always been very familiar with Caledon. Having raised a family and two children while living here with my extended family also living here and serving the school community while working here, we have a lot of connection to the community. I've always wanted to help move it forward."

Rosa's connections throughout the community have made him a strong advocate for change and have helped him recognize what needs to be improved and focused on to help Bolton reach its potential.

"You need to have connections so that you have a better understanding of what the community is looking for and what the community needs for what you plan on championing," he said. "You need to have a plan in order to identify what the requirements are and what the needs are, and it has

to be an achievable and attainable plan so that you can actually champion some of those critical issues."

In his first term on Council, one of Rosa's top accomplishments was to help the Caledon Chamber of Commerce become a key player in the community and to strengthen its ties to the Town in order to help business thrive. This, in turn, led him to developing the Love Local Campaign as a champion of small local businesses in Bolton.

"First, reestablishing a relationship between the Town and the Caledon Chamber of Commerce," he said. "I brought forward a motion that reestablished the relationship and we got the Chamber of Commerce back operating with a new board and direction. I think during the pandemic, and especially for post-pandemic recovery, we need to have a strong Chamber and a good working relationship with it in order to support the businesses in our community."

"I think for too many years there wasn't a strong relationship between the Town and Chamber and now we see a very active Chamber reinstated. That's one of my biggest accomplishments in addition to creating the Love Local Caledon campaign and supporting local businesses that have been affected. I'd always had concerns about businesses in Bolton and protecting their longevity and now with us facing a major crisis with the global pandemic, I felt it was very important to profile businesses to help people understand what's available in their own backyards. One of the biggest pieces of feedback that I got was that a lot of people didn't even know that these businesses existed and that really spoke volumes to me about the importance of promoting local businesses. We wanted to try and have people understand what's available to them, especially when we were in lockdown and could only access our local community."

Going forward, Rosa doesn't plan to stop with the Love Local Campaign. Instead, he's hoping to expand it by working with the Chamber



COUNCILLOR TONY ROSA
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

to show outside businesses why they should come to Bolton.

"It's extremely important because we're putting a lot of effort into the revitalization of the core; we're trying to get a lot of empty units filled," he said. "Profiling businesses and finding ways to attract people to our community will give people reason to stay in our community. I think people are looking for opportunities to stay close to home these days, so we have to continue to profile businesses. It's not just for the pandemic; in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce, we hope to continue to do this as part of a long-term strategy because this was something I worried about even before the pandemic."

"During the pandemic we've seen it's a proven initiative that's working so we need to continue on that path and find more unique out-of-the-box ways of ensuring people know what's available to them in the community. The focus right now, if we're going to revitalize, is that we've got to give people a reason to come here and more importantly, find ways to support them so that they stay here. We've had more business openings in the downtown core of Bolton during the pandemic than we've had in the last 10 years. Clearly, we're moving in the right direction when it comes to attracting businesses. One

of the things I've learned during this term on council is that we need more employment opportunities in Caledon, and we need to attract businesses to the community so that people have opportunities to go to work in their communities. That's going to be a strategy we take on with the Chamber as well."

The overall goal for Rosa with the campaign, especially with the economic impact of the pandemic, is to help economic recovery by keeping people working and shopping in the community in order to motivate residents to spend in Caledon rather than in an outside community.

"When people stay in their community and engage in their community, they're going to shop here and eat here. That's going to help me take on my next challenge which is to build unity across this huge municipality. This is a massive municipality in terms of landmass and that's why the Unity and Community Bandwagon Tour we did was about showcasing everything Caledon has to help unify the municipality rather than divide it into many small hamlets and villages. We want to bring people together and show them everything that's available across Caledon."

Along with the continued profiling of businesses, Rosa has pivoted the Love Local Caledon campaign to put

more emphasis on organizations in the community that offer different types of programming to residents.

In 2022, he'd also like to make transit more accessible to help unite the community.

"We did a great job profiling businesses but now we want to profile more local community organizations to expand community engagement," he said. "People haven't been able to participate in a lot of the activities and extracurriculars available to them (due to the pandemic), whether it be sports or arts or culture. So, now we're profiling local organizations and their programs because I think it's very important to reengage people in the community to get them out and having them feel more comfortable with social interaction. We just profiled the new rugby team in Caledon and did a video and it got a great response, so I think that's a key strategy in 2022: providing residents with information on what's available to them when it comes to recreation and leisure in their community. I'd also like to re-examine the Bolton bus line and to take a look at how effective it has been," he said. "My goal is to move that line north of King Road because right now it only services up to Queen Street and King. I'm hoping to move it into the North Hill so that there will be stops at the Caledon Centre, at the Rotary, and at the high schools. There's a huge ridership we're missing out on by not moving the line north of King Road so I'm really pushing for it."

One of the most important pieces of being a Councillor in Rosa's eyes is working with the rest of Council to support different initiatives that matter to their areas to help get the most important issues taken care of in his.

"You have to find ways of working with the rest of Council in order to have a fair share on your priorities," he said. "For example, getting unanimous support from Council to support the expansion of the Caledon Seniors Centre in Bolton was a massive goal. We're talking about seniors who have been our

taxpayers the longest and they really needed better facilities and expanded programming. You need to get that support from the rest of council so you have to identify how you can support one another to champion needs in the community. I'm very pleased Council supported that because it was a major goal for me. Another major goal was road improvements and more importantly road safety, and that has to be shared as well across the municipality. My top priority was to make sure Columbia Way was safer because we have buses on that road, and it has that curve so one of the first goals upon my election was to bring that road up to safety standards—we had full Council support on getting that repaired."

Nothing is more important to Rosa than ensuring he is listening to those in the community, and he points to a prime example as to why it's so important to search for feedback from residents.

"I'm constantly getting feedback and suggestions," he said. "One of the most important things was the Old Fire Hall. We had a lot of discussions about it, and I heard a lot of feedback that people didn't want it to be sold and wanted it to remain in the hands of the public. Turning that into a future innovative community hub with a variety of different arts, culture, and technological activities, was a huge win for the community. People didn't want it sold for another condo to go up and now it creates an anchor for downtown Bolton and gives people a reason to go down there and access those spaces. Cooperative workspaces, innovation centres, maker spaces, creative spaces, all of that will provide programming for people to go down to the core and have options that they currently don't have. We're checking off a box there. Fulfilling that need is a major part of the revitalization and it provides people who are desperate for an alternative workspace now that they're working from home. This will be a great place for people to gather and use the facility."

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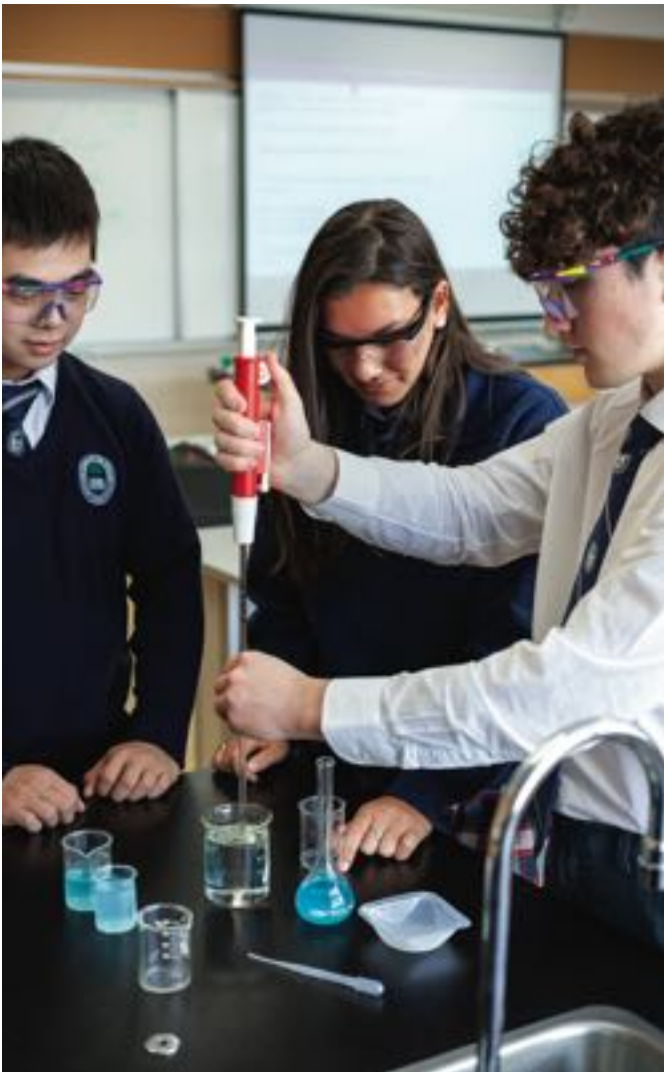
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