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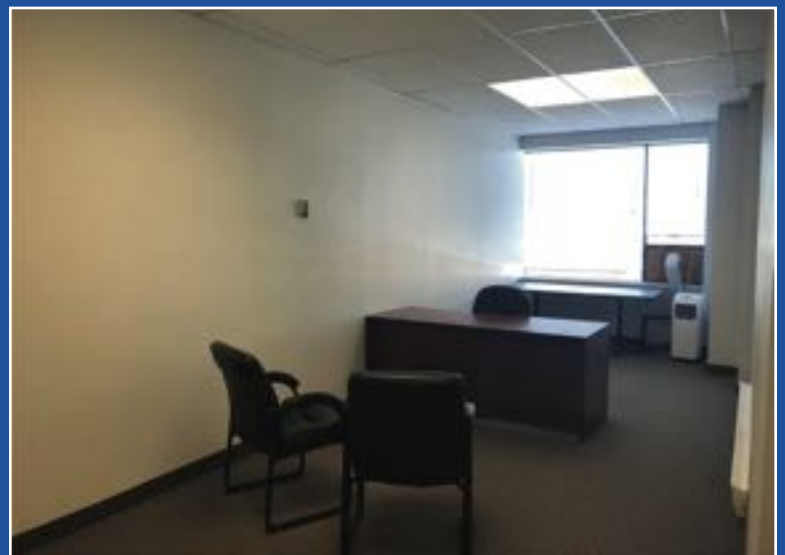
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RESIDENTS FLOCK TO OUTDOOR RINKS – Riley and Gavin White, Zach Banks, and Braedyn Phipps took advantage of the sunny winter week-end in Caledon by getting together at Alton Community Rink for some shinny. As Ontario's return to Stage 2 continues, Caledon's outdoor rinks are giving residents a chance to get together and have fun safely. To find the rink closest to you, visit www.caledon.ca/en/living-here/skating.aspx.

PHOTO BY ROB PAUL

Proposed GO line for Caledon moved forward by Province

BY ROB PAUL

The Town of Caledon and City of Vaughan have received a commitment from Caroline Muloney, Ontario’s Minister of Transportation that the proposed Caledon-Vaughan GO rail line is moving forward.

Metrolinx is now being directed to advance the business case for the project as the Region awaits the release of the Greater Golden Horseshoe Transportation Plan update.

Both municipalities have long been working towards getting this project kick-started and are now one step closer to GO train service.

Caledon and Vaughan, with support from the City of Brampton, have been actively pursuing this vital regional link for years as they prepare for significant expected growth over the next three decades.

“As a municipality projected to grow by 300,000 people and 125,000 jobs by 2051, advancing GO train service to Caledon now is smart, forward-looking planning,” said Mayor Allan Thompson. “It is a critical option for reducing traffic congestion on our roads, preserving Caledon’s quality of life, and protecting our environment and greenspaces. We thank the Province and Metrolinx for taking this important next step.”

A Caledon-Vaughan GO line would serve an area of approximately 1.3 million people, and the line would reach the region from Toronto to Caledon, Vaughan and Brampton.

“The City of Vaughan strongly supports the business case for expanding GO service in Vaughan and Caledon through a Caledon-Vaughan GO rail line,” said Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua of the City of Vaughan. “In Vaughan, this proposed transit option is located in the Vaughan Enterprise Zone, one of the largest employment areas in the GTA that encompasses more than 3,800 acres, or approximately 1,566 hectares of employment land.

Continued on Page 7

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\$50,000 reward offered for help in solving murder case

BY ROB PAUL

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have issued a statement offering a substantial reward for information on the murder of a Caledon resident.

Just over a year ago on January 18, 2021, Giovanni (John) Costa was murdered, and during a virtual news conference on the one-year anniversary, Deputy Commissioner Chuck Cox, Commander of the OPP Investigations and Organized Crime, and

Detective Inspector Kurtis Fredericks - Major Case Manager with the OPP Criminal investigation Branch (CIB), unveiled this initiative with a goal of providing peace to the Costa family.

“Community safety and well-being are everyone’s responsibility,” said Cox. “We rely on collaborative action and police mobilizing with citizens to bring information forward to ensure that our communities remain safe.”

Continued on Page 5

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TOWN OF CALEDON

TOWN NEWS See Page 7

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BUILT **Ford** PROUD

Every demographic has felt the struggles of the COVID-19 pandemic, but few have been put in as precarious a situation as that of seniors.

Seniors are at higher risk and often live away from their families and sometimes are unable to live their lives without support from others.

This has made it more important than ever for seniors in their communities to have a helping hand and to stay connected with others through remote options.

That's why the Caledon Seniors' Centre has been there for them the last 22 months.

The not-for-profit has become one of the most important charitable organizations in Caledon and has never wavered from its mission to provide the opportunity for older adults to come together to fulfill many of their social, educational, cultural and recreational needs.

Though they've had to pivot throughout the pandemic, the Caledon Seniors' Centre has continued to provide programming for seniors across the Town.

With the recent move by the Government of Ontario to move the Province back into Step Two, the Seniors' Centre shifted everything back to virtual and remote.

With the inability to have seniors inside the building due to restrictions, the Seniors' Centre has been providing healthy meals for pickup to ensure members are eating and getting out of the house.

“At the centre right now, we only have people who work there, and we can’t have more than five people at a time in the building,” said Cheryl Sampson of the Caledon Senior Centre. “What we’re offering is brownbag lunches on Mondays and Wednesdays. They can phone in and order a soup, sandwich, and a dessert and we give them the choice of egg salad, tuna, or salmon on white or brown and then usually we offer two soups. There’s a need for some people to get out or maybe that’s the only time they can get a fairly nutritious meal. We also do monthly dinners on the last Friday of the month. It’s all takeout and they drive by and we hand it to them and they don’t have to get out of their car. We also have special lunches for takeout too.



That stuff is for pickup at the Centre, but everything else is either virtual over Zoom or over the phone.”

The Caledon Seniors' Centre isn't only aiming to keep their community connected through online programming but they're also providing fitness options to stay in shape and purely a phone line for socializing.

“We have exercise classes on Zoom so there’s standing exercises and chair exercises and we also have high intensity exercises with an instructor—that has a minimal fee for a \$1 per Zoom drop in—and that’s twice a week,” Sampson said. “There’s also a group for the carpet bowlers and they’re a very social group, so what we’ve done is we’ve turned that program into a ‘party line’ where everyone phones in and they can chat with each other and keep connected with each other without leaving their homes. It’s a safe way for them to visit and they may not be bowling but at least they’re checking in with each other and still socializing.”

Not every senior has access to a computer so, keeping that in mind, the Senior Centre has programming through not only Zooms and apps but via the phone to make

sure every member is able to take advantage of what they're offering.

“There’s people who don’t have computers out there and we have quite a few who are just learning to use computers and aren’t sure how to,” she said. “In past lockdowns, we’ve done one-on-ones walking them through how to use Zoom so that they can participate. So, on the phone we have the carpet bowlers where they just socialize, trivia, word games, and family feud all on the phone. Bingo is also over the phone, and I had a group who most didn’t have computers. On Zoom we have singalongs so they can see the words, we have travelogue on Zoom, Punjabi bingo on Zoom. We do have a book club too that meets on Zoom once a month. So, it’s great for people who enjoy reading. We get the books from Caledon Public Library’s book-in-a-bag and some people come and pick up the book and others read it online.

“There’s also a ‘lunch and learn’ we’re doing this month and it’s the first time we’ve done it online—we used to do them in person. This will be a brownbag lunch they can come pick up and then the learn part is on Zoom. One popular program we have is called ‘Trickster’ where we play

cards. They have to have a computer or iPad and an internet connection to play. It's an app and you can create tables so that you're only playing with the people you know. I make groups every week and everybody can talk and there's an optional video aspect to it. We've even done the odd Trickster euchre tournament."

Having been in person in recent months, moving back to everything being online or over the phone wasn't too big an issue for the Caledon Seniors' Centre because they'd done it all before and so had their members.

“This time it wasn’t too bad because we had a schedule that we had used before, so we looked at it and changed things based on it,” she said. “Whereas at the very beginning it was all new. Within the week (of moving back to Step Two), we had a few programs running. Some of the well-known programs were already running anyway, and we’d just let everyone know everything is a go online or over the phone. Even when we were allowed to be in person and had people coming in, we still had a few over the phone. It was easier this time because we kept all our paperwork from the last time, so it was easy to switch back over.”

The importance of providing programming for seniors in Caledon in times like these can't be measured because for some of their members this is all they have when the pandemic flares up, and in-person options shut down.

“It’s very important because a lot of them live alone and they’re not talking with anybody,” said Sampson. “It keeps them active and keeps their brain going and gives them something to look forward to. My mum plays the Tricker cards, and she loves it; she lives in Etobicoke and she’s with our centre playing. We also have someone in Barrie who used to be a member that joins in and plays—for bingo we even have a person who joins over FaceTime from England. We can have people from outside of driving distance to login and participate. It’s also important to widen your audience (with a variety of programming), otherwise you’re just going to have the same 10 people doing everything. You want to be able to reach everybody and make sure you have something for everybody to keep them active.”

**Bolton Mills
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Loh speaks with Council about biggest questions during COVID-19 Omicron surge

BY ROB PAUL

At a general committee meeting on Tuesday, Dr. Lawrence Loh, Peel Medical Officer of Health, spoke with Town Council about COVID-19 and the current situation with the Omicron variant.

Loh provided information to questions Council have heard from residents of Caledon regarding the severity of the variant, vaccinations, and third dose booster availability.

Prior to Loh taking questions, Mayor Allan Thompson took the time to thank Loh and his team for their unwavering commitment to keeping the community safe.

“Thank you for your leadership in keeping Peel healthy to the best of your ability, as well as Caledon in particular,” said Thompson. “We’re really grateful for your leadership in holding a firm hand on the wheel.”

Councillor Lynn Kieran asked Loh to clear up to residents the importance of getting vaccinated, even if they’re already had COVID, due to the temporary immunity from infection not being a long-term solution.

“A lot of the people in hospitals or in ICU at this time are individuals who are largely unvaccinated as well as individuals who are older or have not seen a strong enough immune response based on two or three doses,” said Loh. “I would encourage people to get vaccinated even if they’ve had the infection. It’s very clear that while you do obtain a natural immunity following an infection, it is very brief and fleeting. The recommendation is that with people who have had an infection, even with Omicron or Delta, are eligible to get a booster as soon as they’re well again. Dr. Moore has said that 30 days (after infection) is a reasonable timeline to get the most robust immunity.

“When it comes to the immune question overall, one of the reasons this virus has had so many severe outcomes previously was because it was a ‘novel coronavirus’ and individuals who are unvaccinated and uninfected, this virus is still as new to their immune system today as it was in January 2020, which is why some of them are still at greater risk of experiencing these severe outcomes. The hope is if someone survives an infection, even if their active immunity wanes, they’ll still have that memory immunity from having had the infection previously which will limit any future severity if

they do come in contact again. But that’s not to say that people should rely on natural infection, the most certain way to make sure you actually have that memory immunity in place is to ensure that you get vaccinated with two doses at least and three if you’re older.”

With the importance of receiving third dose boosters, Thompson inquired about the availability of boosters for residents because many are on wait lists into February.

“There’s capacity throughout the system and it’s a good opportunity for me to remind people to constantly check online,” said Loh. “We’re releasing new appointments every day and we’re opening a new mass clinic (open as of January 19 at Rockwood Mall) in south Mississauga because Mississauga didn’t have a mass clinic for quite some time. I know there’s availability there if people are willing to make the drive. Our team is also looking at school clinics and pop-up clinics, many of which are servicing the Caledon area. We’ve put out all sorts of appointments and we are starting to notice a decrease in demand, and I think there are a number of factors associated with this.

“First of all, mRNA is mRNA so if you’re getting Moderna or Pfizer, either is great as a booster. There is a supply constraint right now in the Province on adult Pfizer and we’re really encouraging people to get Moderna—I myself got two doses of Moderna and would do it again in a heartbeat. I really want to encourage people to take the booster available to them, especially in the midst of a surge. I also want to remind people that if they have been infected, still get the booster.”

With the current restrictions around rapid tests and people wanting to return to work in a safe manner, Thompson also asked Loh about the potential of their availability for the community. He noted that rapid tests will likely become available once Omicron is less of a threat.

“This is a good opportunity for me to highlight to folks that the isolation guidance has changed; you do not need to have a negative test in order to return to work,” Loh said. “If you’ve completed your five days of isolation and your symptoms are better or improving, then you can resume your normal activities at that time. That’s for you and for anyone in your household—again, it’s specific to the household.

“I’d also echo that advice for employers as

well. We’ve heard certain employers requiring negative tests to return to work, that’s not necessary anymore. We’re moving away from containment to mitigation. I encourage employers to revisit their policies. The rapid tests will probably arrive after Omicron surge has dissipated and it’s for this reason that I think rapid tests provide an opportunity for peace of mind. The advice that we’ve been giving is because Omicron is so widespread in the community, if you’ve got (any of the symptoms) assume you have Omicron, self-isolate, get better, and no test is needed because honestly it’s really widespread in our community at this time.”

Given that Councillor Tony Rosa works in a school, he said he’s heard from many parents and teachers about concerns surrounding the decision to no longer report COVID-19 cases in the schools and specifically in classrooms as students return to class.

“The Province has made it very clear we’ve shifted away from containment to mitigation, so the focus is not on preventing infection alone, but it’s about preventing severity,” said Loh. “What has changed in the school setting is that we have highly vaccinated staff population, highly vaccinated secondary school population, and growing vaccine coverage in our elementary school population. We also know based on the data that elementary school and secondary school students are lower risk for severe outcomes. With the additional measures put in place by the Ministry of Education, as we navigate this period of time, schools are probably one of the safer settings in the community.

“The reality is there are going to be cases that pop up here and there, potentially in and out of the school settings. I’d also add the infeasibility and limited utility of reporting positive cases in the school setting. Given the extent of transmission, the sheer number of people that would be testing positive is one issue and the second piece is now that we’re case managing and contact tracing at the highest risk settings it would be difficult to attribute it to the classroom. This shift in focus to severity is about people ensuring that their vaccine status is up to date, their masking, and following all the measures in place to reduce the risk of infection and more specifically to reduce the risk of severity during this time of widespread transmission.”

Vaccine coverage and third booster shots

have continued to rise in Peel where 3,056,847 doses have been administered. 1,388,183 individuals have one dose, 1,237,035 have both doses, and 431,178 have received their third dose booster.

The Region now has 78.3 per cent of all residents with two dose coverage and 84.1 per cent with single dose. 89.6 per cent of those 12 and older are double vaccinated and 92.8 per cent have initiated the vaccination process—82.6 per cent of all eligible residents (5+) have both doses and 88.8 per cent have one.

In Peel, there have been 9,595 new COVID-19 cases in the last week to bring the total to 159,917. The Region’s death count has now risen to 1,070 with 13 new deaths since last week.

Caledon has seen 378 new cases over the last week to bring the Town total to 6,986. There were no new deaths this week with the count staying at 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 <https://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/.



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CRIME STOPPERS AWARENESS MONTH

January is Crime Stoppers Awareness month.

“Crime Stoppers joins hands with our partners globally to celebrate the community collaboration between Police, Media and the Public. The Crime Stoppers program provides concerned citizens with an anonymous channel to report criminal activity by calling 1-800-222-8477. Remember, community safety is a shared responsibility.

“Locally, Peel Crime Stoppers processed 70 tips for Caledon OPP in 2021. Several of those tips resulted in an arrest. These tips included:

- Wanted Persons
- Breach of Recognizance/Probation Orders
- Drug Dealing/Illegal Drug Production
- Shootings
- Domestic Violence

- Animal Abuse
- Habitual Impaired Driving

Tips resulted in the recovery of \$90,500 of property, seizure of \$28,705 in currency and \$11,310 in drugs.

What is Crime Stoppers?

Crime Stoppers is a community program that allows the residents to provide anonymous information about criminal activity. Crime Stoppers is overseen by volunteers that are passionate about making a difference in their community.

Tips are received anonymously (no call display) by a “tipster” contacting Crime Stoppers. All tips are shared with police and other investigative agencies to be followed up on. If the tip information is accurate and leads to an arrest, the “tipster” may be eligible for a cash reward up to \$2,000.00

You can contact Crime Stoppers by:

- Calling 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS);

- By downloading the free P3 Mobile app

When to Call Crime Stoppers?

Crime Stoppers is best used for community members who do not wish to be identified, or to appear in court. “Tipsters” may have information about what they think may be a criminal offence, and Crime Stoppers offers them an alternate resource to contacting police.

“We encourage the community to contact police directly to report impaired drivers, crimes in progress or suspicious persons/vehicles/activity, as Crime Stoppers are not considered Emergency Response.”

Make a Difference in your Community:

Crime Stoppers is looking for self-motivated, committed leaders to represent Caledon on the Board of Directors and to make our community better. Why not get involved in this successful community program that encourages people to submit information to solve local crimes? For details, Board member and volunteer applications please visit the Peel Crime Stoppers website www.peelcrimestoppers.ca.

SNOWMOBILE SAFETY WEEK

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) has released data that points to a continued disregard for the warnings associated with recurring causes and factors in snowmobile fatalities.

“Over the past 10 years, driving too fast for the conditions has been the leading cause of OPP-investigated snowmobile deaths,” say Police. “Alcohol/drugs were a factor in almost half of the fatalities. Forty per cent of the deaths occurred on frozen waterways - a grim reminder that traveling on frozen lakes and rivers is consistently unsafe year after year.

With Snowmobile Safety Week kicking off this weekend, the OPP, the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) and other public safety partners of the OPP are reminding snowmobilers that making the riding season safe and enjoyable comes down to common sense and smart decisions.

“Making every snowmobile ride a safe one starts with avoiding unnecessary risks,” said OPP Commissioner Thomas Carrique. “Our fatality data sends a clear message that snowmobilers who speed and drive while impaired by alcohol or drugs, as well as those who dismiss our warnings that no ice is safe ice, are tipping the scales towards a tragic outcome to their ride. The OPP, in partnership with the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs, asks all snowmobilers to make getting home to your family the most important part of every ride.”


“Snowmobile Safety Week is a reminder that it takes awareness, preparation and precaution to snowmobile safely,” added Solicitor General Sylvia Jones. “Know the rules and follow them, carry an emergency kit, avoid waterways and be ready for the unexpected at all times, especially on trails with other users such as pedestrians or skiers. Responsible snowmobiling means staying alert so everyone can get outside and embrace winter in a safe way.”




“Snowmobiling can be a great way to get outdoors during the winter months, but it’s important to keep yourself and those around you safe while doing so,” continued Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation. “During Snowmobile Safety Week, we remind people to follow trail rules, adjust driving to weather conditions, and avoid riding on frozen waterways where ice thickness can be unpredictable. And never operate a snowmobile while impaired by drugs or alcohol.”


“We want riders to have a safe and enjoyable experience on the trails this winter but also remind riders to ride within their limits, operate with care and control, and to always check the Interactive Trail Guide for up-to-date trail availability information”, says Ryan Eickmeier, OFSC Chief Executive Officer.

For more information about the OFSC and snowmobiling in Ontario, visit: www.ofsc.on.ca/safety/.

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R.I.D.E. RESULTS

Officers from the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Caledon Detachment charged twice as many people during the past Festive RIDE Campaign compared to last year.

“The 2021-2022 Festive RIDE Campaign took place from November 18, 2021 to January 2, 2022,” say Police. “Members of the OPP Caledon Detachment laid a total 32 drinking and driving related charges during the campaign. Those charges include Impaired Operation, Driving with Over 80mgs of Alcohol, and Refuse to Provide Breath Sample.

“Officers conducted 125 RIDE Checkpoints during the 2021-2022 campaign period. Additionally, members of the OPP Caledon Detachment RIDE team laid 31 Cannabis Control Act charges, and 18 Liquor License Act charges at RIDE checkpoints.16 drivers registered a warn range reading at RIDE stops. A warn range reading results in a three-day minimum driver’s license suspension at the roadside.”

RIDE Checkpoints are not just done during the Festive RIDE Campaign. Officers conduct RIDE in Caledon all year long.

“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 judgements. There is no excuse for impaired driving.

“There is also no excuse for driving a vehicle with open cannabis or alcohol. While legal products, cannabis and alcohol must be sealed and not accessible to the driver.”

The Citizen CROSSWORD

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9. Reddish browns

11. Simple shoes

13. Produce alcohol illegally

15. Home to famed golf tournament

16. Tax collector

17. Famous people

19. Urban area

21. Units of syllable weight

22. Pituitary hormone (abbr.)

23. Dismounted

25. Actor Damon

26. Vietnamese offensive

27. Retail term

29. Netted

31. Partner to carrots

34. Caulked

36. Satisfy

38. R&B performer ___ Lo

39. Monetary units of Macao

41. Give advice, explain

43. Possesses

44. Turn back

46. Gentlemen

48. One who fertilizes

52. Italian monk title (prefix)

53. Parties

54. Type of horse

56. Cuts in half

57. Raises

58. Expresses contempt or disgust

59. Ancient Italian-Greek colony

CLUES DOWN

1. Illinois city

2. One of the original organs

disciples chosen by

Christ

3. Young form of a louse

4. Type of powder

5. Finger millet

6. Share a common boundary

7. Assumed as a fact

8. Provide clear evidence of

9. Invests in little enterprises

10. A way to be

11. Monies given in support

12. Fashion accessory

14. Steal

15. Becomes less intense

18. Geological times

20. Hooray!

24. Monetary unit

26. Male reproductive

28. Earnings

30. Close by

32. Small integers

34. Fixed in place

35. Used to treat Parkinson’s disease

37. Large, imposing building

38. A rooflike shelter

40. Stiff, hairlike structure

42. Print errors

43. To show disapproval

45. Body of traditions

47. Without

49. ___ Clapton, musician

50. Dangerous illegal drug

51. Infrequent

55. Sound unit

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

Mother receives conditional sentence following son’s drowning death

BY PAULA BROWN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Michelle Hanson, the 38-year-old mother who plead guilty to criminal negligence causing death in the 2018 drowning of her three-year-old Kaden Young, has received a two-year conditional sentence.

Hanson appeared in an Orangeville courtroom via video conference on Tuesday, January 18, for her sentencing hearing.

The courtroom heard on Tuesday that Hanson will serve the first 18 months of her two-year conditional sentence under house arrest. She will only be allowed to leave her home for certain exceptions including medical emergencies or appointments, in-person counselling, and employment confirmed and approved by the conditional sentence supervisor.

Hanson will be permitted to leave her home each Monday between 12 p.m. and 4 p.m. for “necessities of life.”

For the last six months of the sentence, Hanson will be able to leave her home, but with a curfew between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.

During the two years, Hanson is prohibited from operating a vehicle, with a three-year driving probation to take effect following the completion of the conditional sentence.

Hanson will also be required to attend grief and substance abuse counselling over the two-year span, and during her one year of probation.

Justice Giselle Miller, in sentencing, said Hanson should be given credit for pleading guilty in her son’s death, thereby accepting her responsibility and expressing remorse.

“I understand that it took Ms. Hanson quite some time to come to accept her responsibility in her son’s death, but she has done so,” said Miller.

Shortly before 1 a.m. on February 21, 2018, Hanson’s vehicle was pulled into the Grand River during a period of heavy flooding which saw river water rise up onto the road. Hanson had taken her three-year-old son Kaden, who was having trouble sleeping, for a drive into Grand Valley where she planned to attend a convenience store. Within minutes of leaving her home, Hanson drove her vehicle around a road closed barrier on the 10th Line of Amaranth onto a flooded section of the road, resulting in the vehicle being swept into the river.

Hanson was able to escape the vehicle with Kaden, but lost grip of him as they were pushed down the river by the strong

\$50,000 reward offered for help in solving murder case

Continued from FRONT

On January 18, 2021 at approximately 12:20 p.m., two masked suspects forced their way into Giovanni Costa’s residence on Harvest Moon Drive in the Town of Bolton, say Police. “The suspects fired several rounds at Costa.

The 65-year-old victim was pronounced deceased at the scene. A second family member was also injured during the shooting but has since recovered.

Investigators have determined that the suspects arrived at, and fled from, the residence in an older, black, BMW 3-series sedan. The suspects are both described by witnesses as young black males, wearing medical-style masks and dark clothing.

Police believe this was a targeted event and are seeking the public’s help to identify the persons responsible.

“My investigative team is confident that people have information that could identify the culprits responsible for John Costa’s murder,” said Fredericks. “Every lead that comes in will be thoroughly investigated. We want to bring resolution to John’s family and ensure those who committed this crime can pose no further threat to anyone in the communities we serve.”

A \$50,000 reward for information is in place for information leading to arrest and conviction of Giovanni Costa’s murderer(s). Police urge anyone with information to call the OPP non-emergency line at 1-888-310-1122, their local police service or—to remain anonymous—call CrimeStoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or online at crimestoppers.ca/send-a-tip/.

current. She was pulled from the river by EMS.

An agreed statement of facts said paramedics attending to Hanson detected an odor of alcohol and blood samples obtained at the hospital showed a blood alcohol concentration of 60 milligrams of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood. Oxycodone was also detected, but was noted to be a concentration associated with “therapeutic range.”

In the weeks following, hundreds of volunteers from the community searched the banks of the Grand River for Kaden’s body. On April, 2021, two months to the day of the incident, Kaden’s body was recovered in Belwood Lake.

Hanson was charged in October of 2018, and ordered to stand trial on counts of impaired driving causing death and criminal negligence causing death following a preliminary inquiry in 2019.

Hanson plead guilty to criminal negligence causing death in November of 2021, and the charge of impaired driving causing death was dropped as part of the plea deal.

Crown attorney Danielle Garbaty submitted four victim impact statements from family members to the court on Tuesday. The only one read allowed into the court was that of Cameron Young – Kaden’s father.

Garbaty, on behalf of Kaden’s father, read how Young’s life had changed after receiving the call about the accident.

“I couldn’t just sit back and wait, so for the next 59 days with the help and support of my family, friends and hundreds of volunteers, we continued looking for my son. Those days were exhausting, emotional and physically draining,” wrote Young.

Young spoke of receiving the phone call on April 21, 2018, that a child’s body had been found near Belwood Bridge.

“Identifying my son, Kaden’s, tiny, lifeless body. That day is something no parent should ever have to do,” read Young’s statement.

He described having trouble sleeping afterwards, experiencing nightmares and flashbacks of his son’s body, specifically every time he is near a bridge or river. He was diagnosed with both anxiety and depression.

“I wake up every morning and remind myself, Kaden would want me to be happy, us to be happy. He would want me to enjoy life just like we used to before he was so tragically taken from me,” wrote Young.

Garbaty noted the three other victim impact statements came from an aunt and both paternal and maternal grandparents, which she said provided a glimpse into the grief the family has experienced.

Hal Mattson, Hanson’s defense lawyer, addressed the victim impacts statements and how they reflected how Hanson also feels.

“We can all imagine how the mother feels, if that’s how other people feel,” said Mattson.

Mattson told the court about Hanson’s rough and unstable upbringing, and how she was involved in relationships that introduced her to drugs. Mattson noted she is working on herself with the goal of staying sober and seeing her kids.

“She would just like people to know that’s she’s not a demon,” said Mattson. “She’s a product of some poor choices... and she made some poor choices, but she’s not a demon.”

It was revealed Hanson had moved to Newfoundland in December of 2020.

Mattson added that Hanson told him she hoped the people who helped search for her son have not “hardened their hearts” because of her actions.

In handing down the sentence, Justice Miller said while a message needs to be sent to deter others she considered Hanson’s guilty plea, which spared those impacted from having to testify, her seeking of counselling for grief and rehabilitation for substance abuse, and the fact she is a first time offender.

“No penalty imposed by this court will ever have the effect of punishing Michelle Hanson more than she has punished herself for her reckless actions, and no doubt will continue to punish herself for the rest of her life,” said Miller. “No penalty this court could impose will ever bring Kaden back or lessen the anguish felt by those close to him because of his death and it’s circumstances.”



Dundalk Virtual Community Engagement Meeting


At FLATO Developments we have a long history of serving the communities we are in and we want to hear from you!

We are committed to creating complete communities that allow everyone to live, work and play. Our vision is to provide diverse housing options, including purpose-built rentals and commercial spaces.

Please join us at our virtual Community Engagement Meeting in Dundalk.


When: Thursday January 27, 2022
Time: 6 p.m. via Zoom

Register: flatogroup.com/community-events/




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Public meeting on Torbram Road development raises questions from all sides

BY ROB PAUL

On January 17, a public meeting was held virtually regarding 12245 Torbram Road.

The topic of focus for the meeting was a proposed Official Plan Amendment, Zoning By-law Amendment, and Draft Plan of Subdivision applications.

An applicant (Rice Commercial Group on behalf of Tullamore Industrial GP Limited) applied for an Official Plan Amendment to expand the settlement boundary and re-designate the lands from Prime Agricultural Area and Environmental Policy Area to Prestige Industrial, General Industrial and Environmental Policy Area.

The proposed Draft Plan of Subdivision seeks to pave the way for a development of an industrial park consisting of four industrial blocks, a future development block, a stormwater management pond, environmental block, and internal streets. In total, the development is planned to include 12 industrial, warehouse and distribution buildings, with a total area of approximately 458,475 metres (4,934,983.83 feet).

Rice Group is a recognized developer of properties in the GTA and is committed to developing “high-quality retail and commercial developments with the philosophy of developing properties where people work.”

“We see great opportunities in bringing employment lands to the market and our objective is, in all cases, to continue to own these properties after they’re developed,” said Aarthi Thaya, Rice Group Development Manager and project lead. “As such we become proud members of the communities we invest in and take on an active role in its continued growth. Our site in Caledon is located north of Mayfield Road and between Torbram and Airport Road, it’s approximately 150 hectares in area. We’re proposing to develop this site as an advanced logistics and distribution industrial park. Through an Official Plan Amendment, Zoning By-law Amendment, and Draft Plan of Subdivision applications we’re looking to transform these lands from agricultural to prestige industrial while maintaining our Greenbelt lands. We’ve been working diligently with the Town of Caledon, Region of Peel, and the Conservation Authority to appropriately plan our proposed development to ensure we’re maximizing benefits to the community that we’re now members of, through job creation, sustainable practices, and positive ecological offsetting.”

The proposed development would include (along with 458,475 metres of industrial/warehouse/distribution space within 12 buildings) 1,081 loading spaces, 3,877 car space, 1,233 trailer parking spaces, two roads with a 26-metre right-of-way, and a 10-metre-wide stormwater runoff.

Currently under the Caledon Official Plan, the land is designated for agricultural land, but is being considered as a potential employment area—if developed—by the Region of Peel Council. The proposed zoning by-law amendment is seeking to rezone the lands with site specific provisions to a prestige employment zone with exceptions and environmental protection in order to maintain the lands for open space purposes.

“These lands are a significant land holding; these lands are contemplated as part of the Region’s process to be included in the future community area for employment planning purposes—a process that’s underway,” said Ryan Guetter, Senior VP at Weston Consulting. “This is what the Region of Peel is currently considering, and the lands are identified as part of a new community area and are proposed to be in a new employment area. The lands are contemplated for that purposed by the Region. At the Caledon Official Plan level, they’re presently in the prime agricultural area designation. It’s intended to be for advanced distribution and warehousing uses (if developed) and would be connected by a public road network. I’d simply note that we have a provision for protection of the Greenbelt area lands. We’ve proposed a planned subdivision to create separate blocks, accessed by a public road network (23 blocks in total with four industrial blocks, Greenbelt block, stormwater management block over exactly 149.37 hectares).”

The plan is projected to account for multiple monetary benefits for the Town, including \$113 million in development charges, Planning Application fees in the order of \$5.2 million, \$9.5 million to \$10 million in annual property tax revenue, \$795 million in total GDP value-added to the Canadian economy, and \$306 million in government revenues across Canada.

“It’s important to note there’s a number of significant financial benefits in the form of development charges, fees, construction value, etc.,” said Guetter. “There’s going to be a significant number of jobs and through the Regional process identifying jobs forecasted for the Region and the Town. We’re seeing the potential for 5,900 jobs both direct and in-direct. On the site itself, there could be over 5,000 jobs created here, which is exciting and would contribute well to the Town and Region in its fulfilment of employment growth.”

With the environmental aspect of the development, a key portion, the consulting team has met with the TRCA (Toronto and Region Conservation Authority) for meetings, site visits, and comments both virtually and in-person eight times since June 2, 2021.

“Our team initiated site visits back in the spring of 2021 and completed a full sweep of ecological inventories, including wetlands, fisheries, vegetation, tree inventory, breeding birds,

reptiles,” said Shelley Lohnes, Ecologist with GEI Consultants. “Through those studies we did identify early on in the site visit stage that some of the larger ponds were actually created by earth berms to provide ponding for farm cattle and irrigation and they were at risk of failure. Our first call was to TRCA to initiate that conversation because of the large size of the berms and their risk of failure, and they provided a substantial barrier for fish movement up stream. Our consultation began at that phase, and we provided updates to them at every juncture and they’ve been on-site several times.”

During the public meeting, resident and climate change, water, and environmental advocate Kathleen Wilson spoke and shared a presentation.

“With this application I was expecting an MZO (Minister’s Zoning Order) to go through, I don’t know how we’re having a public meeting with an MZO and no staff reports, but this is environmentally sensitive and prime farmland which doesn’t leave itself for thousands of tractors, trucks, and warehouses to live upon,” she said. “I have a concern that we’re pushing for an Official Plan Review before the actual Regional review is done. Even in the planning report it says, ‘the lands are designated as prime agricultural land and environmental policy area which does not permit industrial use.’ And the Minister and the Council of a municipality are supposed to protect ecological systems, including natural areas, features and functions. This year, our groceries have gone up 20 per cent and we’ve got a lot of farmland and environmentally sensitive land in Caledon up for development and I’m really concerned about it.”

Wilson says significant habitat of endangered species will be wiped out for the warehouses and 609 tree will be replanted with 918 saplings.

“Mature trees take a lot of carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere, and they do protect a lot of bats and birds who live in them and we’re just wiping them all out in this corner of Caledon to put in more warehousing,” she said. “There’s no sense of any climate change emergency with the accepting of this actual application. I really do see this as the death of our food supply by a thousand cuts, or warehouses. I’ve been tracking the number of applications converting prime agricultural and environmentally sensitive lands by Wards. As of June, we have almost 2,635 acres of prime agricultural and environmentally sensitive land being converted to allow sprawl. I’m not seeing a net ecological benefit along the Mayfield Road area for all these warehouses.”

Caledon environmental activist Jenni Le Forestier also spoke at the meeting about a lack of transparency from Council on decisions regarding land in the Town being developed on.

“Tonight’s meeting has been framed as if it’s a public meeting so that there’s the appearance of complying with the Planning Act so that legal requirements to meet with the public are met, however, the reality is that this meeting is not respecting the Planning Act,” she said.

“The proponent has included a request for a zoning order on the same agenda and the by-laws for rezoning are already drafted and included. Perhaps, that has become standard practice, but it certainly doesn’t inspire confidence that a decision on this application hasn’t been decided already by Council and Staff. Members of the public were and still are outraged that Council supported an MZO for a warehouse which [is] between Greenbelt fingerlings outside of the settlement boundary and ahead of MCR. That yet another MZO is being requested for this industrial application, this time at the public meeting, demonstrates that applicants feel confident in fast tracking applications and bypassing the public all together.”

Both Councillors Annette Groves and Ian Sinclair raised concerns about the process and hastiness in which the application is being moved forward regarding the development on Torbram Road.

On the same agenda as the public meeting during the planning and development committee meeting, the correspondence had a request for an MZO on behalf of Tullamore Industrial GP Limited for the Torbram Road development to Minister Steve Clark—the Minister takes into account Council’s support or lack thereof when making the decision.

“I’ve never seen an MZO request at a public meeting, and I’m just not sure why it’s before us at a public information meeting,” said Groves. “It’s a little concerning. I’ve never seen this where they’re so blatant in bringing these MZO’s forward. We’re at a public information meeting, this is not the appropriate time. At least let it go through somewhat of a process before presenting or having an MZO request—whether it’s to us or the Minister—on the agenda.”

Given the fact that staff hadn’t been given the chance to voice comments in a report regarding the potential development, Councillor Johanna Downey presented a motion—which was passed—to have the request referred to staff to provide additional information and report back before Council makes a decision on whether to support the MZO or not.

With Town Staff now charged with reporting back, they’ll be looking at two elements: the application with the comments from the public meeting in mind and they’ll also be commenting on how the request for the rezoning order fits or doesn’t fit. There’s no clear timeline on when staff will finalize the report.

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Caledon Community Golf Tournament eyes return in 2022



The Caledon Community Golf Tournament was last held in 2019.

BY ROB PAUL

Every year for over a decade and a half, Caledon Town Council has put together a golf tournament to help a community drive groups and organizations.

The Caledon Council Community Golf Tournament fundraises for scholarship and grants.

The goal is to help a local not-for-profit organization complete a specific and measurable community capital project. The primary grant recipient receives the majority of the net funds raised from the tournament.

Though the tournament has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic over the last two years, the Town remains hopeful that it will be

able to return in some capacity in 2022.

The golf tournament first came together years ago when Council thought it would be a fun and engaging way to help raise money for important organizations in the community.

“The first Caledon Council Charity Golf tournament was held in 2004 and all of Council got behind it as a way to help fund community initiatives,” said Mayor Allan Thompson, who was a Councillor on the Council that implemented the tournament.

The grant fundraiser has become an important yearly event to Council because of the way it positively impacts organizations that are supporting the residents of Caledon.

“It’s a great opportunity for community

groups, charities and other community members to receive funding for important community initiatives that may not have access to other types of grants or funding,” said Thompson.

Given the circumstances with the pandemic, there’s no guarantee the tournament will return later this year, but Thompson is encouraging everyone who is eligible to apply so that they don’t miss out on a potential grant if the event can go on in a safe capacity.

“It was really hard, and I know there were those who applied in 2020 who were disappointed, and I hope they apply this year,” he said. “I am optimistic that we will be able to have some type of tournament safely by September.”

Some of the biggest highlights for Thompson

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

over the 16 tournaments he’s been a part of have been the organization’s that have become staples of the Caledon community receiving grants for invaluable projects

“At the very first tournament we funded a new bus for Caledon Community Services and since then we have supported many other groups such as Bethel Hospice, Alton Legion and Caledon Meals on Wheels,” said Thompson.

The event is something Thompson and Council always look forward to because not only do they get to have some fun with the community, but they know, ultimately, it’s for the betterment of key organizations in Caledon.

“It makes a great day on the golf course that much better knowing we are making a difference in the community,” said Thompson.

Once an application is submitted by an organization eligible for the grant, Town staff reviews it before it goes to Council to debate the merits and if the project is achievable.

“Staff review using the set-out criteria and a report is brought forward for discussion and approval at Council,” said Thompson

To be eligible for the primary grant, you must be a non-profit organization that is located in Caledon or provides services for Caledon residents and requires funding for a community capital project.

An application for the grant must include the organization’s mandate, including your purpose, mission, goals and objectives; purpose of the grant and/or scope of the project, including how it will benefit the community; timeline for the project, including expected start and completion dates; a summary budget of the project, including income, expenses and net income/loss; list of other sources of funding for the project, including any funding received from the Town; list of board of directors, if applicable; and how you will recognize the Town’s grant contribution (i.e. promotional materials, banners, etc.).

Organizations not eligible for the grant include for-profits, foundations, groups and organizations of a religious nature, groups and organizations linked to a political party; and hospitals.

The primary grant application window closes on Sunday, February 6 at 11:59 p.m. The secondary grant application has yet to open. To apply for the primary grant, visit forms.caledon.ca/do.aspx?interviewID=E000001_CaledonCouncilCommunityGolfTournament&lang=en&AppName=E000001_CaledonCouncilCommunityGolfTournament.

Proposed GO line for Caledon moved forward by Province

Continued from FRONT

“The Vaughan Enterprise Zone is projected to accommodate 60,000 jobs over the next 20 years, making it a strategic location to expand the regional transportation network for the future. I am encouraged by the Province’s and Metrolinx’s commitment to working with our municipalities to continue exploring the economic and social benefits of the Caledon-Vaughan GO line.”

The need for commuter rail service between Caledon, Vaughan, and Toronto’s Union Station has been identified and established through many studies, including the Metrolinx Regional Transportation Plan (RTP-2008), MoveOntario 2020 and GO 2020 Strategic Plan as a desired service in the near-to-medium (15 years) timeline.

“This is great news for our region, which is seeing tremendous growth,” City of Brampton Mayor Patrick Brown said.

“Improved transit service is important for long-term growth and for healthy and livable communities. I was pleased to support the efforts of Mayor Thompson and Mayor Bevilacqua.”

In 2010, Metrolinx investigated and completed the Bolton (Caledon) Commuter Rail Service Feasibility Study, which reconfirmed the need for commuter GO rail service based on the growth in population and employment and high potential demand for rail ridership.

News

Subscribe: caledon.ca/enews

CCCGT Primary Grant – NOW OPEN

Is your local not-for-profit organization scheduled to complete a specific and measurable community capital project in 2022?

The CCCGT Primary Grant may help.

Submit your application by February 6, 2022: caledon.ca/golf.

Stay Active Caledon!

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.

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.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

1 Victoria Street, Alton

Proposed Zoning By-law Amendment

FILE NUMBER(S): RZ 2021-0002

A Public Meeting will be held to consider the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment application. 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 14, 2022
START TIME: 7 P.M.

APPLICANT:
Gary Grant on behalf of Stan Yokum

LOCATION:
1 Victoria Street, Alton
Part of Block A, Plan CAL5 (Alton)
North side of King Street, between Agnes Street and Victoria Street Ward 1

PROPOSED CHANGES:
The applicant has applied for a Zoning By-law Amendment to facilitate the development of three lots each with a detached dwelling and site specific permissions. The Zoning By-law Amendment proposed to re-zone the lands from Rural Residential (RR) to a site-specific Rural Residential – Exception XX (RR-XX).

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
For more information about this matter, including information about appeal rights, a copy of the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment application, 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.

To listen to the Meeting (but not participate), you may call 1-833-311-4101, Meeting Access Code: 2634 660 7440#.

Members of the public are welcome to participate via phone or VWebEx Meeting upon request. For more information on how to participate, please visit caledon.ca/notices 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.

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.

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

Notice Date: January 20, 2022

Brock’s Banter

Word of the Day:
Achie...

BY BROCK WEIR

What’s that old joke about one of Canadians’ favourite past-times being forming an orderly line? Perhaps it’s not the best idea to look too deep into the quip, as it is that rare combo of being both age-old and threadbare. But there is always a kernel of truth in there somewhere. Given the age we’re living in where we’re all sick and tired of standing in line, whether to get our all-important vaccines, to land a place inside a grocery store that has already reached its capacity, or to do what we can to support local commerce, maybe this isn’t the most opportune moment to bring up the subject of queueing, yet here we are. Before the arrival of COVID, the general idea was we didn’t really care what the line-up was for, but when you saw people waiting for their turn at bat for whatever it is, there’s the recognition of a common cause, and, for whatever reason, we don’t want to get left out. Ah, maybe that’s the origin of “FOMO” (Feeling of Missing Out). No matter our age, we all experience something like that, probably at intervals we would prefer not to admit. I, for one, remember heading into Sears one day with my mom when I was in Grade 7 or so, intent on finding a Beanie Baby. You might ask why, and it’s a fair question. I still don’t have the answers. The craze was sweeping my school and despite my near complete lack of interest in collecting them, trading them, or whatever else people did with them (I really didn’t care to find out) I was damned if I was going to miss out on having one. In retrospect, I am sure this innate desire to go with the flow was recognized by my mother, who steered me towards some more economical alternative “tribute” brands to Ty, but the bulldog and cow I left the store with seemed to do the trick – at least for a while. I withstood – and avoided – the Tamagotchi turmoil, the Furby frenzy, the Tickle Me Elmo ecstasy, and the P.O.G. pandemonium, but there I was, clamoring for a piece of fabric with beads stuck up its backside out of sheer principle. We all have those little inconsequential things we latch on to. A few years ago, the Pokemon Go craze had many people rolling their eyes, claiming it a huge waste of time for participants out in the community running around for the hunt while, in the same breath, criticizing the same group of people for lazing around and doing nothing. And, after a lull of a few years, Pokemon Go experienced a minor resurgence when COVID-19 limited our options. Now, the green and grey grids that have become synonymous with Wordle are becoming inescapable on social media. For the uninitiated, Wordle is a web-based game, typically one puzzle per day, that gives player six chances to guess a word. With each guess, you’re told which letters you’ve guessed correctly in the right place, when you’ve picked a letter in the wrong place that is within the word, and letters that

are complete misses. It’s thought to be enough information to get you through by six guesses and, once you’ve cracked it, you can post your results to social media for bragging rights. That’s it. Self-satisfaction, brain exercise, and social media bragging rights. While I’ll admit the game is a good way to get the noggin running in the morning I haven’t yet felt compelled to post my results to any social media channel and had a hard time understanding why people were so eager to do the same. That is until I read an article that placed the game in a wider perspective. “That Wordle takes minutes is a point of pleasure,” wrote Molly Roberts in an editorial for The Washington Post on January 13. “Yet you emerge all the same feeling you have done something, when the menu of things to do has truncated thanks to restaurant closures, or cancelled flights, or a mismatch in risk tolerance among friends and family, “That is really what makes Wordle perfect for a weary populace: We’re playing together, but we’re also playing alone...Togetherness in solitude is what we’ve been after throughout this crisis – what we’re looking for in our video calls or group chats, our remote cookbook clubs and our viral debates over the latest miniseries or movie we watched, not because it looked good, but because everyone else was watching. Wordle allows us to win a bit of that togetherness every day. Which hopefully brings our lonely hearts a bit of peace.” It is indeed the feeling that we’ve accomplished something in a time where that feeling of accomplishment can feel elusive, even when we’re unconsciously probably doing more now than ever before – and, yes, although it seems ingrained in us to say otherwise, self-care is among the things we all have to do right now. It is indeed that feeling of accomplishing something together. But I also think part of the appeal is with just one puzzle per day, there’s something concrete to anticipate and look forward to each day. In this time when, after the light at the end of the tunnel got so close, most everything seems like just a little bit more of a struggle than it once was, particularly in our bleak winter months, it is more important than ever before to have something to eagerly anticipate. Getting all of this behind us – and we know without further explanation what “all of this” is – is obviously the most important and overwhelming thing we’re collectively anticipating and looking forward to; but really taking stock and making a full evaluation of all the things, however small or minute they might seem, is in invaluable exercise. They’re the things that propel us forward, that make us look forward to the next day, week, or month in front of us, and that give us that important feeling of accomplishment. Whatever those sources of motivation might be, let’s celebrate that and keep the momentum going. If we’re all energized and galvanized in ways that are fulfilling, we will have the wherewithal to get through to the other side in this long struggle we’re all in.



Keep what's inside your head
to yourself!

by Mark Pavilons



“Everything we do is for the purpose of altering consciousness. We form friendships so that we can feel certain emotions, like love, and avoid others, like loneliness. We eat specific foods to enjoy their fleeting presence on our tongues. We read for the pleasure of thinking another person’s thoughts.” – Sam Harris

Sam presents an interesting observation about the most complex thing on earth: the human mind. My apologies to all those studying any of the cognitive sciences or “ologies.” But I believe what sits inside each of our dusty skulls should be left alone. Do you really want to know what’s going on inside someone else’s head? Would you like to read your spouse’s mind? Do you really want to know what your kids think of you? Nope. It’s been said that some things are better left unsaid. Okay, we can’t always control our thoughts but we have time in the nano-second between thought and speech. In other words, we should mind our tongues. I’ve bitten mine so many times over the past year, it’s likely lost many of its taste buds. I came across a great quote recently that says silence is not a sign of acceptance, but rather a feeling of speechlessness in response to utter stupidity. Ain’t it the truth? The last year has taught us all a great deal about our fellow men and women. Seemingly normal, rational people have become opinionated, uber passionate and vocal about this or that. In response to trauma, we’ve become over the top in our opinions and much more critical of others. All the more reasons to keep such things to ourselves. Technology will soon provide us with the means to “connect” mentally and optically with gaming systems, computer software and heaven forbid, other people’s thoughts. I dread the day this happens. While some of us are fascinated by psychology and sociology, I wonder just how useful this stuff is. Those in the know use this data to try to figure out how people act and react. While this may come in handy in marketing campaigns and spy novels, I don’t see how it’s useful in everyday living. Maybe it’s me. As someone who leans toward a good joke or laugh, I’m always tempted to say something odd, silly or eyebrow-raising. Most of the time, I’m looking for a reaction, and I find doing the unexpected is a gas. I often toss out some

Our Readers Write

Ford’s Conservatives ignore climate change again: reader

Did you notice in your November package, seeing a small message “Choose a plan that meets your needs?” After the Province replaced everyone’s electricity meter with one that records usage by the hour, now Ford’s Conservatives have given each household the choice. You can have a flat rate, instead of having tiered or time-of-use pricing. With time of use, each household is encouraged to use electricity in off-peak times. The current Off-peak charge is 8.2 cents/kWh, mid-peak is 11.3 cents/kWh, and the On-peak is 17.0 cents/kWh. With the residential flat rate, the charge is less than the mid-peak rate, at 9.8 cents/kWh up to 1000 kWh/month and just a bit more than the mid-peak rate 11.5 cents/kWh for over 1000 kWh/month. The whole point of the time-of-use pricing was to limit the amount of electricity needed during on-peak times, so less plants needed to be built. This would help in the fight against climate change. With this “choice,” the Ford Conservatives have shown once again, that they do not believe in climate change and are not interested in saving the environment. Ford’s Conservatives fought tooth-and-nail

against the Gasoline Tax which was designed to make us less car dependent or at least to get more efficient cars. They changed the Provincial Environmental Assessment Act so that there was less “red tape” for developers, and less protection for the environment for us. They limited the Conservation Authorities jurisdiction so that they would not be able to save wetlands which help protect us from floods, etc. They have issued many Minister’s Zoning Orders and forced the Conservation Authorities to approve them. The Greenbelt Council’s Chair David Crombie and six other members resigned over the abandonment of the environment’s protections. Do we need to protect our agricultural lands so that we can be more self-sufficient with our food supply? Apparently not, since the Ford Conservatives want to pave over farms to create a new “parking lot” congested with cars, called Hwy. 413. Lake Simcoe advocates have been trying to save that lake but now with the Bradford Bypass about to be constructed, Lake Simcoe will have the additional problem of contending with runoff from road salt.

NANCY HOPKINSON
NOBLETON

Caledon Citizen

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Blame it on the truckers

There are times when I am amazed at how little we pay for some items in this country.

My local grocery store had limes on for .89 cents the other day.

That may seem like a reasonable price for a single small piece of fruit. However, when you consider what it took to get that tangy green piece of citrus fruit on the store shelves, .89 cents is a real deal.

Someone had to grow that lime on a farm or plantation – and it wasn't local. Most likely those limes came from Mexico or South America.

Someone had to tend the orchard, prune the trees, and keep the plants healthy.

Workers went out to the orchard to pick those limes, and they had to be paid. From there, they box them up and deliver them by truck to a local depot of some sort.

Then they start the long journey through North America – thousands of miles by truck, until they arrive at the Ontario Food Terminal in Toronto.

Someone in Ontario drove a truck there and picked up those limes, then drove back to whatever city or town they are destined for.

Someone had to receive those limes and unload

the truck. Another person took those limes from the back room and placed them on the shelf for customers.

All those people had to get paid, and those trucks don't run on water and fresh air. There are massive transportation costs involved, and yet you can still get the lime for .89 cents.

The only reason you can buy a lime at that price to sprinkle some juice on your fish dinner or finish off your after-dinner Mojito, is because there is a carefully planned and well executed transportation system that allows that fruit to make it all the way across the continent to your local grocery store.

You have most likely noticed the rising cost of food in your grocery store. Some products, are starting to get to a point where many people just pass them by.

I shudder at the cost of inviting a group of friends over for a summertime barbecue.

The trucking industry is already facing a crisis due to a shortage of drivers. Many older drivers have retired and many others have given up the job during the COVID pandemic.

Now the federal government has put more restric-

tions on cross-border trucking requiring all truckers to have proof of vaccination or go into quarantine when they return – thus pulling another trucker off the road for two weeks.

I don't know why anyone wouldn't get vaccinated. I've had my shots. But not everyone thinks the same along those lines.

Getting vaccinated is for your protection, not the other guy.

Going after truckers doesn't seem to make a lot of sense. The borders are still open if you happen to fly. I've got friends who just posted a lovely photo of themselves on a beach in Cuba, so people are still getting around.

I have other friends who hosted relatives from overseas. They didn't quarantine, I saw them out and about the day after arriving from Europe.

If the schools are open and it is deemed safe to put 30 unvaccinated kids in a classroom together, why is a single person who happens to be driving a truck considered a risk?

Putting more pressure on an industry that is already struggling will only lead to more problems, and not just at the grocery stores.

Pretty much all goods arrive by truck.

Everything from electronics to car parts are delivered through the use of that complicated transportation system.

Creating a shortage of supply will only mean an increase in prices and even more inflation. That along rising cost of fuel means that the cost of goods will go through the roof as demand exceeds supply.

For the most part, I think the government is doing what they can and what they should to combat the pandemic. They are following the advice of the medical world.

But if they get into a micro-management situation like they are with the trucking industry, the consequences will far outweigh the benefits of quarantining one single trucker who just made his way back from Arizona with a trailer full of goods.

If this continues that .89 cent lime is going to be costing you \$8 in the future.

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



The Simple Joys

I'm tempted to use the word "we" but the truth is, I've been doing a lot of complaining lately. It's hard not to. There's politics; the pandemic, rising food prices, the pandemic, the chronically underfunded health care system and the underpaid nurses who work there, and the pandemic and.....hmmn, maybe I should start over?

My goal was to try not to complain today. I was hoping for a more cheerful column, with a focus on the simple joys. What prompted this retreat from all the bad news of late? As I sat down to write this column, I gazed out at a winter wonderland and couldn't help but smile as a soft, pristine, blanket of white covered every grubby, dead and dirty winter surface. I'm no fan of snow but I was instantly tempted to run outside, lay down on the front lawn and make a snow angel. Sometimes it's the simple joys you must cling to in the most trying of times.

Those of us who have to "spin the wheel" on those surveys asking for our year of birth will recall fondly when a snow event like the one we saw this past Monday resulted in a "snow day." Back in our day, a snow day actually involved SNOW! It meant sleeping in if you were lucky and then – having the entire day OFF school.

It meant front doors opening around 9 a.m. and the streets filling up with kids bundled up in more clothes than Ralph's little brother from A Christmas

Story. Toboggans were dug out from basements or storage rooms and, one year, I recall there was so much ice we were able to skate (with actual skates on) up and down the sidewalk. You know what we DIDN'T have to do? Online learning.

I can't keep it all straight these days. Whether it's called synchronous, asynchronous, virtual learning or e-learning – what I do know is that on the days it snowed there was NO learning to be had, except perhaps learning the hard way that when your wool mittens got wet they stunk and your hands got cold. Frankly, that kind of learning was ok once in awhile and I don't think it did any of us any harm. The truth is we don't even have to go that far back in time to recall the pure joy of snow days. My own kids have already, or are just about to, squeak past the teen years and enter their twenties, but living where we do, there were often extra "snow days" because of the bussing situation.

While there was some limited access to teachers posting homework assignments online, for the most part, as in my own youth, my kids embraced the snow days as a chance to slow down, regroup, get outside and toboggan on the local hill and then drink hot chocolate and enjoy some downtime. I fondly recall the joy as the school tweets and breakfast TV shows announced school and bus cancellations, even if it impacted my workday and made

scheduling a challenge. Who wants to work on a snow day anyway? I couldn't help but get caught up in their excitement for a day off school.

You know what children have these days? More "learning opportunities." On what would have been a snow day in the past, they now have a chance to sit online, in front of a computer, doing schoolwork while the snow falls outside. We have many outdoor community rinks to skate on (thanks Town of Caledon and community supporters) but no kids to skate on them because teachers are being asked to pivot on a moment's notice and go online to teach instead of the kids taking a day off.

We talk about the importance of children's mental health and, in fact, this was one of the driving forces behind sending kids back to school in the middle of yet another rapidly escalating COVID variant. Our health care system is overwhelmed, again, and yet when provided with a prime opportunity to get children outside doing something fun, creative and physical (like building snow people, sledding and skating) we yank their snow-filled smiles and expectations back down to earth and attempt to harness that energy into focussed attention on a Google classroom site.

What – exactly – was wrong with the simple joy of a snow day? I would think getting outside, playing and actually being able to connect with friends

(I think the outdoors is still safe to gather) would help to promote good mental health and wellbeing. In fact it does.

If you Google mental health for children one of the first things that pops up is the importance of getting active. You'll also find advice on being aware of how much screen time they're experiencing and ways to reduce it along with the suggestion that physical activity is an important tool to promote good sleep hygiene; healthy eating, manage stress and in boosting confidence. Play IS important to mental health and goodness knows our children need all the support they can get after living all this time in "unprecedented times." The haphazard plan for a return to school is one I was not comfortable with, nor is it a "one size fits all" solution to fix children's mental health. In fact, I would argue doing so while kids are still at significant risk for contracting COVID is even less helpful to their overall state of wellbeing. So, the very least we could do on a day where traffic ground to a halt and better than 40-50 cm (or more) of snow fell overnight and into the morning – is give the kids a chance to get outside and enjoy it!

Continued on Page 17

SHERALYN ROMAN
TALK CALEDON



WE DON'T BREW OUR BEER FOR THE AWARDS.



BUT HE DOES!

Our brewmaster, Andrew Kohnen, threw away a successful career in logistics to pursue his dream of reconnecting with the brewing roots of his family. This carried him to the UK's prestigious Brewlab in Sunderland, England, where he procured the alchemy that would drive his signature brewing style.

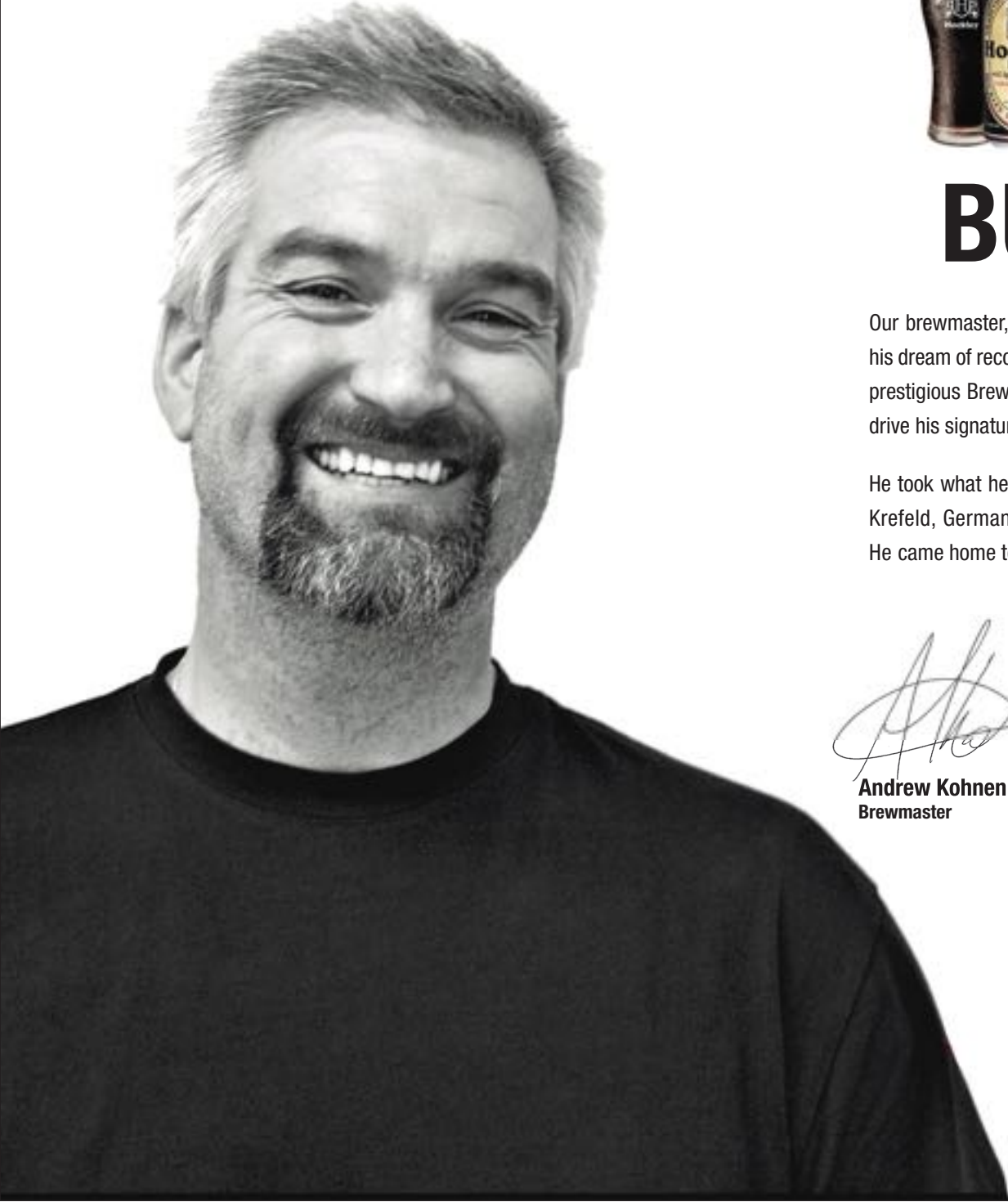
He took what he could from there and ventured to Scotland, Cornwall, and ultimately to Krefeld, Germany, working in the same brewery that had belonged to his ancestors. He came home to Canada for Hockley.

You could call it dumb, but we call it destiny.



Andrew Kohnen
Brewmaster

Hockley
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Safety has always been at the forefront of Councillor Kiernan’s mind

BY ROB PAUL

When Lynn Kiernan decided to run for Caledon Town Council in 2018, she didn’t expect to spend half of her first term working remotely.

The Ward 1 Area Councillor, who calls Inglewood home, loves meeting and conversing with her constituents.

Her love for the people in her community has made the past two years representing them a lot different, but her passion and drive has never wavered.

“Everyone working remotely adds an extra layer of complexity,” she said. “I’m a people person, so I like to get out and meet with my residents, so it’s been a bit of a challenge but I’m remaining optimistic.”

Being a Councillor for Ward 1 isn’t just a job for Kiernan, it’s her life, she says, and the reason she gets out of bed in the morning. That enthusiasm to represent her community has been built over years of living and being in it: She’s lived in Caledon since 1963 and raised her family here.

That passion and involvement has always been with Kiernan and it’s what led her to run for Council in the first place and what still feeds her appetite for making a difference in Caledon to this day.

“It was the same reason then [when I ran for Council] that is within me today is what drives me,” she said. “I’ve lived here in the Ward really since I was three and it’s my passion and my deep commitment to this area. I still feel that today, for me, there is no place like Ward 1. I call it the jewel in the crown of Caledon, probably to the chagrin of my colleagues, but I don’t mean to be disrespectful, I just do have a passion for where we live and our communities in the villages and hamlets. My heart and soul is here. I feel deeply connected both personally and physically to this place, we just came home from travelling and for me, I feel grounded when I’m here.”

Although COVID-19 could overshadow her first few years on council, Kiernan doesn’t allow it to, and she’s ensured her focus is always on improving the community and finding solutions to problems for residents, specifically when it comes to safety.

“What an interesting first term,” she said. “Reflecting back, I’m very grateful to be able to serve my community and these last three years have allowed me to find an even deeper connection to my community and my residents and I think I learned something every single day. We, like every Ward in Caledon, face our own challenges and these past couple years have really strengthened my resolve to find solutions

for my community. One of my key commitments has been for safety in my community. It has been a real keystone of what I’ve tried to achieve these last 20 months with the help of my Council colleagues because remember I’m only one of nine. You can’t do this in a vacuum, it all comes down to the community coming to their Councillors and portraying problems and issues, then the Councillor’s job is to advocate to find a solution and follow that through with their colleagues because their support is a necessity. As a result of that, there’s been significant progress and improvements made to safety in the community. We’ve got community safety zones set up in our hamlets for the first time ever, Town Council and my colleagues supported that. I’m also very entrenched in advocating to the provinces for increasing safety on Highway 10, that’s been a big issue for me.”

Being rooted so firmly in the Caledon community has allowed Kiernan to build relationships with residents and to see the whole picture on every topic when representing them, and she’s adamant that it should never be about what she wants and always about what they want to see done.

“The most important thing is connecting with residents,” she said. “I’m a little idealistic but it’s exactly how this works. I can remember saying to someone that it’s not my opinion, it’s the community’s opinion that I’m supposed to be advocating for, and that may be conflicting. You may have 50 per cent of the community saying go right and 50 per cent saying go left and there’s where that situation comes in where you have to steer the best that you can. It’s all about the community’s needs and making small progresses. If there’s a success, for example with the community safety zones, to find that success in life or as a Councillor you can’t look at it as a long race; it’s a lot of tiny, short races that come one after the other—it’s like hitting singles.”

With plenty accomplished in her first three years, Kiernan is humble about taking credit for what she’s done for improving safety in Ward 1, but despite this, she knows she has the traits needed to continue to fight for her community.

“This isn’t a job about ego, it’s about service, but if pressed I’d say I’m most pleased that I was able to get the community safety zones setup,” she said. “Now that doesn’t fix everything, but it’s a great start. I’m tenacious about my commitment on finding safety for Highway 10. I’m advocating through to the province; I’m delegating at ROMA coming up again to seek that commitment from the province to make some changes to this dangerous highway. It’s something that I’ll



Councillor Lynn Kiernan

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE TOWN OF CALEDON

never give up on and I really do mean that because I am a really tenacious person. I’m proud of my tenacity because I’ll never stop pushing for that until we achieve some safety measures.”

Going forward, safety continues to be at the forefront of Kiernan’s mind and she’s hoping to make a big difference over the next few months.

“Highway 10 is a very important issue and people’s lives are being risked and lost on this highway,” she said. “I think the lines of communication between me and my colleagues and the province are still very open. It’s a work in progress, it’s complex, and it takes time, but I’m very committed to this.”

Despite just under one full term on Council, Kiernan has identified the most important part of representing a large community and it’s that you must always fight for them no matter what answers you’re getting in Council meetings.

“You have to stick to it because you’re going to be told no,” she said. “Often the very first answer I get is ‘no we can’t do that, Councillor.’ It’s up to me to say, ‘Right, well, I believe if we can’t do that, we can do some of that and find a compromise.’ There are workarounds and I don’t

accept that first no. That’s very important for a Councillor and I think it’s really important for a Councillor to listen to their residents, even the people who are in disagreement because everyone is entitled to their opinion, and you have to listen with respect.

“I think it’s important to keep your ego in check because I’m serving the community, and this is a job of service. If you can find that solution when a resident brings you an issue, that means you’ve served your resident. It doesn’t mean you’ve put a feather in your cap, it means you’ve done the right thing by that person, and you move onto the next problem. And everyone makes mistakes, but when you do you pick up your phone, apologize, move on, and do the right thing. That really is what I try to achieve. It’s about helping the people, businesses, and organizations. That’s the most rewarding thing. I had a resident tell me recently that I have a very open-door policy and it was almost like they were surprised, and I thought about how strange that is. It’s about answering your phone for them, it’s customer service.”

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Paul Egan was a staple in the Caledon community and will be missed by many

BY ROB PAUL

Egan Funeral Home has been a linchpin in Caledon for well over a century. When William R. Egan purchased the business in 1913, it became more than just a funeral home in Bolton; it became a key part of the community. That community-oriented passion was nurtured by grandson Paul Egan who spent over five decades running the family business. Egan passed away on January 2 at the age of 80. The beloved member of the Bolton community not only spent years running Egan

Funeral Home, but he also spent time as treasurer of the True Blue Lodge and Bolton United Church and was secretary and treasurer of Laurel Hill Cemetery. He became known in Caledon for his generosity and commitment to the Town and was remembered by Mayor Allan Thompson as one of the best Bolton had to offer. “In every community there are those who shine extra bright, who put service above self and who will be remembered and revered for how they lived and treated others,” said Thompson. “In Caledon, Paul Egan was one of those extraordinary people. Paul was a loving family man, a car-

ing, compassionate business leader and a community champion. To quote his obituary Paul ‘treated everyone who passed through the Funeral Home doors like they were his family.’ His life and legacy will be honoured and celebrated by his family at a service. As a community, we are grateful for his life and his contributions. In his memory, a donation to Bethell Hospice will be made by Town Council.” Egan took over running the funeral home in 1972 and continued to expand it as Bolton grew and the rest of Caledon grew. In 1984, Egan Funeral Home became a member of the Selected Independent Fu-

neral Homes—an international group representing over 1600 independently owned and operated funeral homes—one of the highest distinctions. Leaving behind wife Lynne, Egan also had three daughters—Heather, Elaine, and Kimberley. Both Elaine and Kimberley joined their father in the family business. “Paul Egan devoted his life to serving his community by following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather,” Egan’s family wrote in the obituary. “He was committed to bringing comfort to those suffering a loss, whether they occurred day or night, weekends or holidays. He took great pride in our family business and inspired everyone to put service above self; whether he was vacuuming the carpets, helping to park cars or arranging flowers so they would be just right, he would do anything to help those who were suffering in their darkest days. He was a pillar and cornerstone of knowledge. “First and foremost, Paul Egan was our Dad. He was the one to hold our hands when we were children, and his hand was always warm. He was the one who threw us up in the air whether he was on land or in a pool and always caught us after the rush of tickles in our bellies. He was the one who held us until we could breathe again after crying so hard over any traumatic event in our lives. Dad was always so proud of his three girls. Dad mentored us, guided us and loved us in his very quiet, special way. He was a true gentle man, through and through.” A dedicated member of Bolton United Church, the congregation will miss Egan and the way he cared for every member. “It has been a pleasure to have known and work with Paul both in Orangeville and Bolton,” said Bolton United Church Reverend Eleanor Scarlett. “Paul was a devoted and longtime member of Bolton United Church where he served in various capacities.” Egan made an impact all over the Caledon area and became someone Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones really admired. “A true gentleman in every sense of the word,” said Jones. “Paul was a rock in the Caledon community and will be missed by those of us who were honoured to know him.”



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

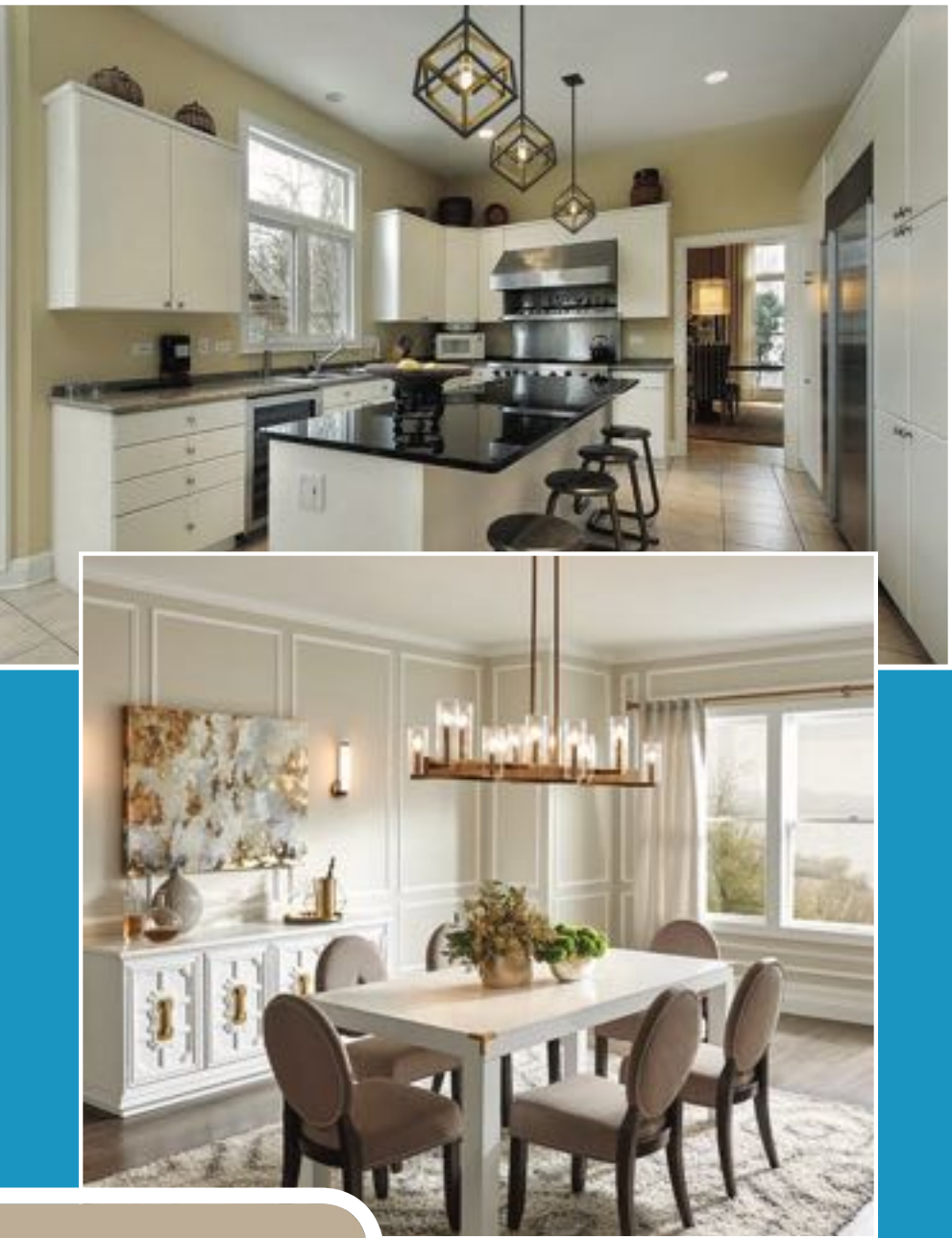
Old Bolton Fire Station renovation into a community hub will be completed this year

BY ROB PAUL

With the opening of the new Bolton Fire Station on Highway 50, the Town is seizing the opportunity to turn the Old Bolton Fire Station into something Caledon has lacked for years: a community hub. Sometime early this year, construction will begin on the renovation of the Old Bolton Fire Station with the completion date set for December 2022—it will also be renamed later this year. “The extensive renovation to the 10,000 square feet fire and paramedic building, will result in the creation of a unique community space in the heart of Bolton,” the Town stated, “one that fosters entrepreneurship, provides a launchpad for small businesses, creates space

for markets and vendors, and breathes new life into the core of our community.” The project will make the building accessible to the public, explore how to make the building environmentally friendly, create a neighbourhood resource centre, accommodate and foster a year-round farmers’ market; use part of the building as a pilot project for business startups, shared workspace and makerspace, provide as a central location for events, programs and services, and provide public washrooms. “The Revitalization of the Old Bolton Fire station is an on-going project, currently undergoing schematic design,” said a Town representative. “Following this phase, the final design will be submitted for necessary permits. After that, demolition of the interior components will take place and construction for the renovated

amenities will begin. The tentative timeline is to have construction completed by the end of 2022.” The Town has engaged Ball Construction and BBA Engineering consultants to assist with the design and construction of the project. “Currently, there is a survey about all the possible ways the facility could be used for events and programs. The survey will close on January 30, 2022,” said the representative. “Once the survey is closed, we will also focus attention on an Expression of Interest for potential partners and services. Consultation also continues with the Downtown Bolton Task Force.” To contribute to the discussion about how the new community hub could be used, visit haveyoursaycaledon.ca/old-bolton-fire-station?tool=survey_tool.



SPORTS

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Canadian Premier League U-Sports Draft set for Thursday

BY ROBERT BELARDI

York United will have the No. 5 overall pick Thursday night as the Canadian Premier League U-Sports Draft is set to begin at 8:00 p.m. EST.

Fans across the country can tune in to the live broadcast on January 20 hosted by Kristian Jack, @cplsoccer on OneSoccer, YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and on the official CanPL.ca website.

The CPL-U-Sports Draft consists of

two rounds and one selection per team per round. Atletico Ottawa will do the honours to start things off, followed by FC Edmonton, HFX Wanderers, Valour FC, York United, Cavalry FC, Forge FC and finally Pacific FC.

Since Pacific FC won the CPL title, the club will choose last and since Atletico Ottawa finished last, the club will select first.

In total, 165 U-Sports athletes will be eligible to be drafted. The list of players



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is determined between U-Sports and CPL coaches, along with scouting departments from numerous clubs.

Players who wish to enter the U-Sports draft will have between one to five years of eligibility to be drafted and sign a professional contract as a U-Sports athlete.

Despite there not being a 2020 U-Sports season, scouts and clubs have exercised

the best use of their judgment to promote these young men into the draft process. Fortunately for many, if they are not selected this year, some will have the opportunity for next season.

In years to come, we will see the draft grow as the CPL has granted expansion clubs to Vancouver and Saskatoon. Those clubs are set to begin in 2023.

Snowmobile clubs prepare for safe season

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Most snowmobile clubs in southern Ontario are yet to hit the trails this year, but they are encouraging their members to take part in the sport in a safe manner.

There hasn't been enough snow fall yet this year to get the trails groomed and ready so snowmobilers are still waiting for good dumping of the white stuff so they can get out and have some fun.

The Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs is encouraging its members to "make smart choices, ride with care and control."

International Snowmobile Safety Week is observed from January 15 to 23, and highlights the importance of safe practices on the trails.

"Safe trail riding is always a top priority for the OFSC," said Ryan Eickmeier, OFSC CEO. "But it's even more important for every snowmobiler to take our common-sense message to heart this winter as we welcome so many new riders to our trails."

The OFSC operates around 30,000 km of trails in the province. It is one of the world's largest recreational trail systems totalling almost twice as many kilometres as Ontario's provincial highway network.

Trails are groomed and kept clear. They are statistically the safest place to ride a snowmobile. However, snowmo-

biling does come with an inherent risk, so riders must always be prepared for the unexpected by making smart choices and operating their sleds with care and control.

Snowmobilers should always remain on a marked trail. Wandering off any trail surface into unbroken snow, unfamiliar terrain or farmer's fields can not only be risky for the rider, it may also compromise the safety of landowners or their property.

The OFSC Driver Training course is the snowmobile safety course authorized by the Ministry of Transportation Ontario. It teaches new snowmobilers the skills and habits necessary to be safe and courteous trail riders.

Trail riders should always choose the right safety gear. This includes a property fitted, fastened and approved snowmobile helmet and brightly coloured weather proof outerwear with reflective materials that are purpose-made for snowmobiling.

There is a full check list of responsibilities for snowmobilers on the trails.

These include riding within your abilities and comfort level, always ride with a companion, riding in single file, and checking weather conditions before you ride.

Once enough snow is on the trailers, local riders will be out and having fun.

Following safety protocols will ensure you have a good riding season.

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Robert's Rant: Super Wild-Card Weekend biggest shocks and surprises

BY ROBERT BELARDI
OPINION

It was a wild super wild-card weekend in the NFL.

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers trumped the visiting Philadelphia Eagles 31-15. The Kansas City Chiefs, steamrolled the Pittsburgh Steelers 42-21 in Big Ben Roethlisberger's final game in the NFL.

Of course, these two picks might have been the most obvious choices to select to win. But there were a few matchups that left every NFL fan stunned. Let's take a look at the biggest shocks and surprises over wild-card weekend.

Shock Dallas Cowboys offence held to 17 points

The Dallas Cowboys entered wild-card weekend as favourites to defeat the visiting San Francisco 49ers. In this renewed playoff rivalry, it was the 49ers who looked like the better team to begin with.

The Cowboys failed to establish the run. Ezekiel Elliott, who reportedly was playing with a partially torn PCL, was held to 31 rushing yards on 12 attempts. In the air, tight-end Dalton Shultz led the Cowboys with seven catches for 89 yards. Hard to believe that when you have Amari Cooper and Ceedee Lamb.

Now Cooper at least had 64 yards on the day and a touchdown. Lamb, on the other hand, was held to just one catch. This was the No. 1 ranked offence in the NFL this past year. The Cowboys averaged 407.0 yards of offence per game.

Any time the Cowboys saw some sort of momentum swing in their way, the yellow flag hit the turf. The Cowboys were penalized 14 times losing 89 yards.

It was a tough day at AT&T Stadium.

*Shock
The Buffalo Bills ruined
the New England Patriots*

It was a historic night at Orchard Park.

The Bills became the first NFL team in history to throw a perfect game. In a 47-17 drubbing of the Patriots, the Bills never punted, never turned the ball over and never kicked a field goal.

It was arguably the biggest shock of the weekend as every NFL pundit had predicted this game to be close. Josh Allen surely had other plans as the Bills quarterback threw for 308 yards and five touchdowns. He also ran the ball six times for 66 yards as well.

Bills tight-end Dawson Knox caught two touchdown passes. Bills running back Devin Singletary also rushed the ball in the end zone twice.

The Bills No. 1 ranked defence in all of the NFL, forced rookie quarterback Mac Jones to throw two picks. After this butt-kicking, this even left reporters asking Patriots head coach Bill Belichick if he'll return next year. That answer, of course, was yes.

In the Patriots' largest playoff loss in the Belichick era, this was most definitely a revenge game. The Bills suffered enough when Tom Brady was in the division and since Brady left to Tampa Bay, it's been all Buffalo in the AFC East.

*Surprise
Bengals defence held their own*

When you begin speaking about the Cincinnati Bengals, the conversation is immediately about their offence. Quarterback Joe Burrow is a generational talent. He has his former LSU teammate Ja'Marr Chase, and another exceptional player in Tee Higgins, as his receivers. Running back Joe Mixon posted career-high numbers and ranked fourth amongst all NFL running backs with 16 total touchdowns.

But it was the Bengals' defence that played a huge role in the 26-19 victory. This was the 18 ranked defence, allowing 350 yards per game to their opponents. The Bengals also ranked 17 in total takeaways, as they had 21 in the regular season.

Despite allowing 385 yards of total offense, the Bengals defence forced a fumble and intercepted Raiders quarterback Derek Carr. These two turnovers were the ultimate difference in the game. The Raiders defence couldn't come up with anything similar against Burrow and company.

This one was expected to be a shootout. Bengals defence had a part to play in that storyline.

*Surprise
Arizona Cardinals
1 total yards in 2nd Quarter*

It was a total surprise to look at the overall yards in the second quarter between the Cardinals and the Los Angeles Rams Monday night.

At one point, the Cardinals had minus-four total yards early in the second quarter. Then that number moved past minus 10. Then

right past the Cardinals eyes, quarterback
Kyler Murray threw an unwarranted pick-
six instead of taking the sack for a safety. It
was 21-0 Rams and the Cardinals had just
minus one yards of total offence. Imagine
that.

It wasn't a very pleasant wild-card game

for Arizona. Already without star wide receiver DeAndre Hopkins, the offence could not garner any momentum. The offence was 0-6 on third down and Murray had two interceptions to his name.

In all fairness, the Rams came out of the gates with a purpose. Cam Akers was run-

ning the ball with conviction. Odell Beckham, Jr., had seemingly gone back in time and even completed a 40-yard pass to Akers in the third quarter. At that point in the game, Beckham had 40 pass yards and Murray only had 28.

The Rams rolled over the Cardinals 34-11.

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– Dr. Sylvia King

OBITUARIES

LUBJA, Kuno

On Wednesday, January 5, 2022, peacefully at home.
Kuno Lubja at the age of 93, dearly beloved husband for 57 years to Norma Lubja (nee Mackey). Beloved father of Christine Waddell, Martin Lubja and Murray Lubja. Loving grandfather of Kayla and Alicia. Predeceased by his mother Hilda Wilhemina Lubja and his sister Hilja Puusme. Fondly remembered by his family and friends.
A Funeral Service took place at the NEWEDIUK FUNERAL HOME, KIPLING CHAPEL on Friday, January 14, 2022 with interment at Park Lawn Cemetery. As expressions of sympathy donations to the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario would be appreciated by the family. Online condolences at newediukfuneralhome.com



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Vince's presents cheque to Southlake Foundation, announces 2022 Community Product Initiative recipient

BY NEIL MOORE

Representatives from Vince's and from the Southlake Foundation assembled for a brief, socially-distanced presentation at the Sharon store on Thursday.

There, proceeds from the 2021 Community Product Initiative were released after a successful year-long campaign, and the independent grocer was pleased to announce that \$25,812.61 was raised to support the Mental Health Program at Southlake Regional Health Centre.

Southlake Foundation's Better Begins Today campaign is a \$7.5 million campaign to support the surging demand for treatment that will be addressed with a newly built Emergent Mental Health Assessment Unit and a new 12-bed Adult Inpatient Unit, along with other site improvements.

Southlake's mental health spaces are smaller than today's standards, overcrowded and lacking basic necessities to promote healing and recovery. The exceptional mental health care at Southlake requires an urgent investment to create specialized assessment facilities, greater inpatient capacity and enhanced privacy.

The good news is that \$6.5 million has been raised to date (86% of the target), with support from individuals and businesses – like Vince's – helping make such lofty goals a reality.

"Thanks to Vince's Market 2021 Community Product Initiative, Southlake Foundation is closer than ever to achieving the \$7.5 million goal of our Mental Health campaign," said Jennifer Ritter, President and CEO, Southlake Foundation. "We are deeply grateful to Vince's Market, its committed employees and generous customers for recognizing the

importance of elevating mental health care for Southlake's communities."

"We are thrilled with the amount raised in 2021, and with the success of this program as we enter our fifth year – thanks to our customers, staff and vendors," said Giancarlo Trimarchi, partner at Vince's. "The Community Product Initiative has so far raised approximately \$83K over the past four years, and we expect continued, strong support in 2022."

Vince's is also pleased to announce the 2022 recipient of the Community Product Initiative: Canadian Mental Health Association, York Region and South Simcoe. Vince's takes very seriously the mental health challenges that affect so many Canadians – in particular young Canadians, who face a suicide rate that is the third highest in the industrialized world.

"Even before the pandemic, Canadian youth were experiencing a mental health crisis, marked by high rates of depression, eating disorders, suicide and obstacles in accessing youth-specific mental health services," says Rebecca Shields, CEO Canadian Mental Health Association, York and South Simcoe. "The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, isolation and disruption of school, workplaces and social recreation are exacerbating this mental health crisis. We are grateful for this year-long partnership with Vince's Market, which is raising much needed funds to support MOBYSS and increase awareness within our community about this unique and life-saving service for youth."

Since 2015, CMHA YRSS has been tackling the loss of young lives to mental illness, addiction and suicide through MOBYSS (Mobile York South Simcoe), Ontario's first and only, mobile walk-in health clinic for youth aged 12-25 years.



MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT CONTINUES – Vince's Markets will continue its support of local mental health programs through the Community Product Initiative, which donates a portion of the proceeds of specific products to a community cause each year. On Thursday, Vince's presented a cheque for \$25,812 to the Southlake Foundation, the 2021 beneficiary of the Community Product Initiative, for their mental health campaign. This year, Vince's will support the Canadian Mental Health Association of York Region and South Simcoe. Pictured above at the cheque presentation were (from left) Rhonda Flanagan, Director of Community Development for the Southlake Foundation, Corinna Jones, Community Events Officer, and Maria Ciarlandini, Community Ambassador for Vince's.

PHOTO BY GLENN RODGER

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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The Simple Joys

Continued from Page 9

Now I know that for many that's not possible. Before I hear from all the folks who HAD to go to work, I fully understand that snow days present immeasurable challenges for some families. I've even had to take my own kids with me to work in the past and I know if you have no choice but to go to work, or have difficulty making back-up plans for your child's care it can be difficult during such times. I'm also well aware that the children have been home these

past two weeks already engaging in on-line learning and for many, they were desperate to get back to school. I think it's safe to say, however, that those same kids weren't so "desperate" to get back to school if it meant online learning for yet another day.

This "new normal" has been in place for several years now and bottom line: I don't like it.

Sometimes there's nothing wrong with the "old normal." We're only young for a very, very short amount of time and this generation of elementary aged kids have already been through a lot. Let them play – long live the snow day!

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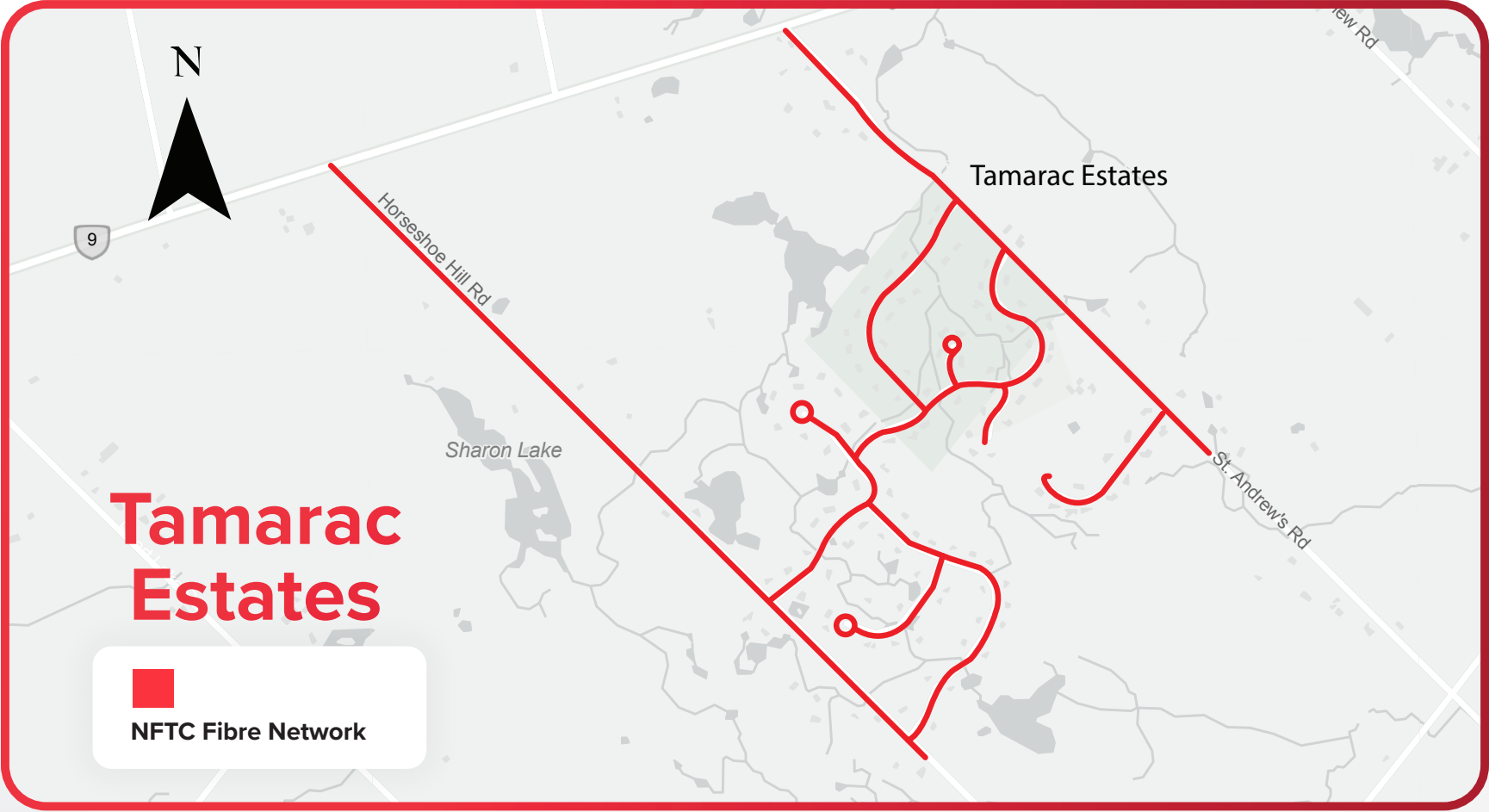
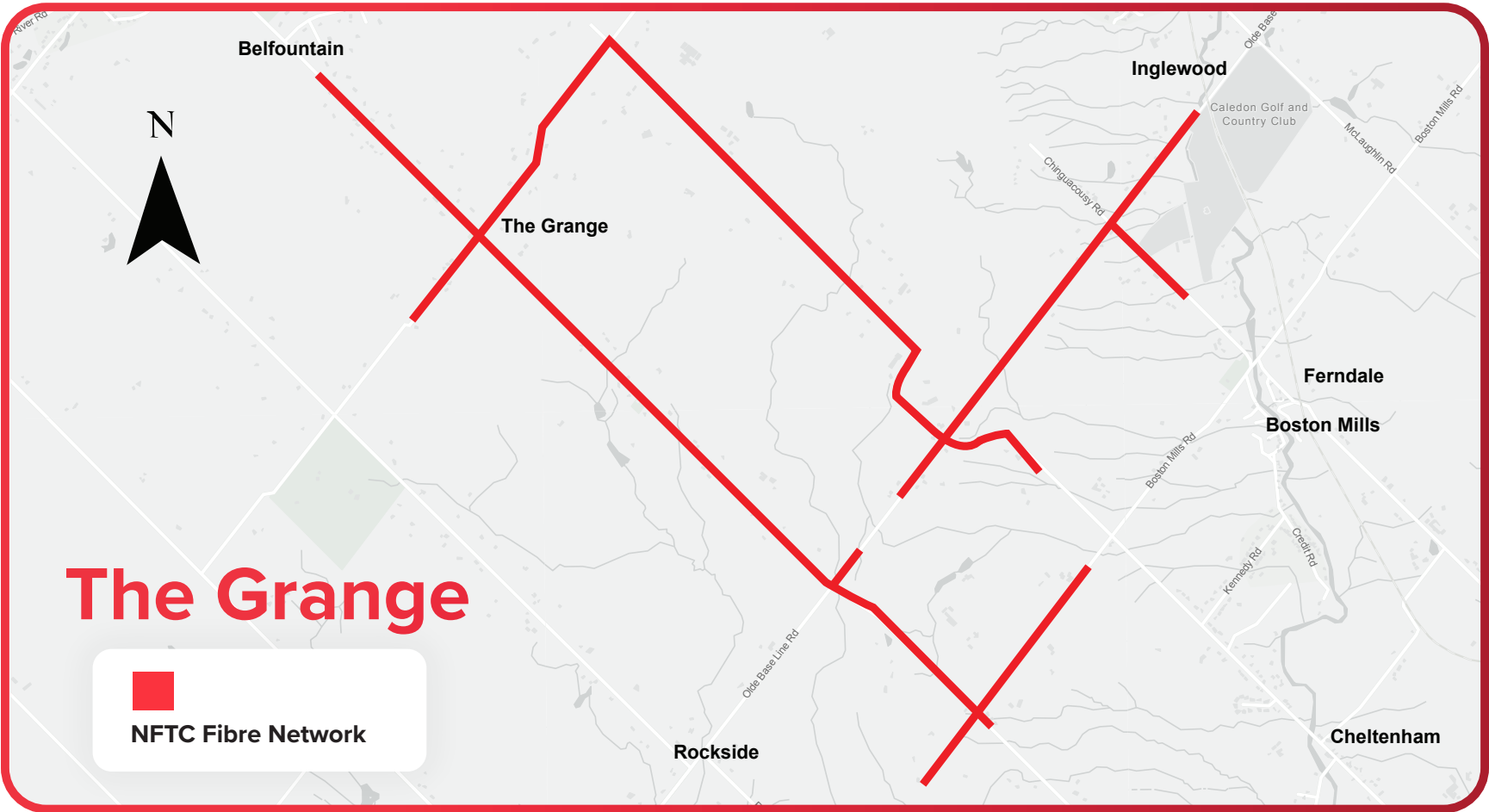
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