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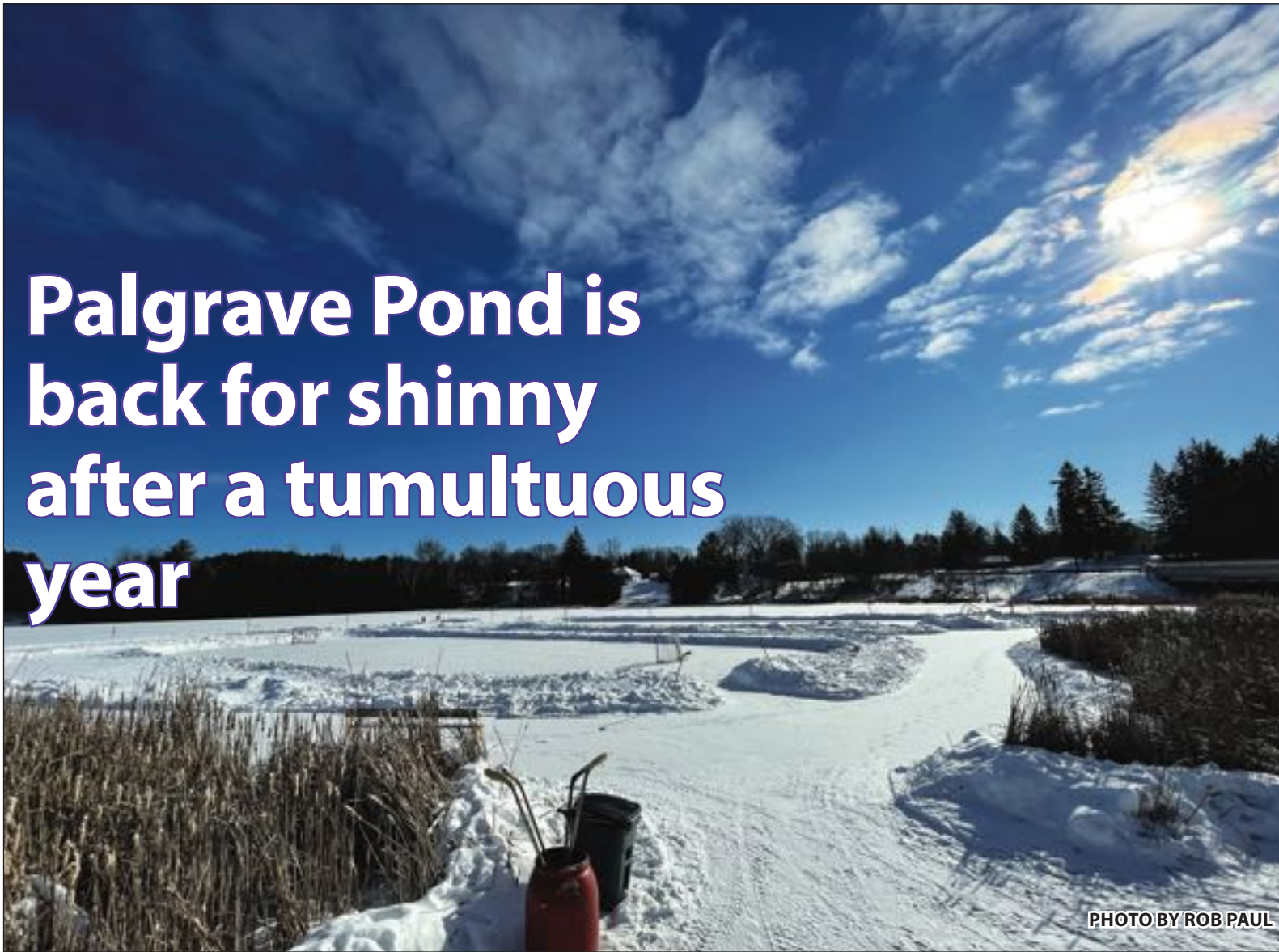


PHOTO BY ROB PAUL

BY ROB PAUL

The Palgrave Pond has become a community hub in Caledon. It's a place where families gather any chance they can get for shinny on the pond, the good old Canadian way.

Last year, that changed when the Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) told the Town it was no longer prohibited to have skaters on the pond due to safety concerns.

That hit nobody harder than Ken Hunt.

Known as the "ice angel," Hunt has been taking care of the pond since 2000 by ensuring it's safe and cleared for kids across Caledon to enjoy.

"It was heartbreaking, really," he said. "It was as if someone had just stabbed me, or like someone in my family had died. It was heart to swallow and just sit there and take that it was over."

The TRCA made the decision due to safety concerns because the Conservation Authority doesn't permit skating on ice with live water that it manages (rivers, streams, ponds, marshes, etc.).

Back last March, when residents inquired about

the closure, the TRCA issued a statement on the decision that led to Palgrave Pond being off limits for residents and how it would potentially return this winter.

"TRCA does not condone skating on any of our rivers, streams, ponds, reservoirs, wetlands and marshes [and] as such, no ponds are opened or closed by TRCA. Consistent with prior years, TRCA focused our enforcement efforts through educating residents of the risks of venturing out onto the ice on our properties, which were escalated for multiple reasons in 2021, including recent ice-related incidents across TRCA's jurisdiction; recent near/fatal ice related incidents in surrounding jurisdictions; science indicating that ice formation was its lowest in 50 years; gatherings of people, due to the ongoing pandemic.

"TRCA does not monitor ice safety for recreational purpose and skating on all TRCA properties remains a prohibited activity. The general public does not appreciate that the decision to operate the pond brings considerable personal risk to individuals that choose to activate the site.

"When TRCA enforcement staff visited Palgrave Mill Pond to discuss these factors, individual members of the public made the decision to cease and subsequently continue operating the rinks on the pond—there was no formal directive issued by TRCA or threat of penalty to anyone if they chose to continue. Additionally, it was brought to TRCA's attention that the Palgrave Rotary Club was supporting/promoting skating on the pond, and TRCA reached out with the same messaging that we provided in 2019 outlining the risks associated with doing so. TRCA's guidance regarding the creation of a body with adequate legal coverage and well documented ice safety policies and procedures to mitigate the risk to volunteers and the Palgrave Rotary Club has already started the process of being actioned. The Millpond Rotary Park Community Committee (MRCC) is expected to be in place for the 2021-22 skating season, with the mutual understanding that skating on the pond will always be done at the risk of the participants, as ice is never 100 per cent safe."

Continued on Page A13

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Caledon has plenty of winter programs to offer with recreation facilities reopening

BY ROB PAUL

As recreation facilities begin to reopen to the public as part of the Province's loosening of COVID-19 restrictions on January 31, the Town of Caledon will begin to once again offer in-person programming.

With indoor programming resuming, Caledon will offer winter programming across 15 different facilities in Bolton, Caledon East, and Mayfield. Programming ranges from seniors and adults of all ages all the way down to newborns. Virtual programs will continue to be offered.

Among the programs, there are four different categories with aquatics, fitness, skating, and general interest programs.

Swimming lessons offer various levels for age groups between four months and older teenagers with all levels offered including lifeguard training.

Skating lessons are also available for children between three and 13 years old. Among the different lessons offered are preschool level, youth, low-ratio, private, and hockey skills and drills.

Continued on Page A9

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CPL to eliminate overdue fines and give all residents a fresh start

BY ROB PAUL

In an effort to support the social and economic recovery of Caledon residents and reduce barriers to library use, the Caledon Public Library Board has eliminated overdue fines.

Caledon Public Library (CPL) will also remove any outstanding fees to give all members a fresh start.

The suspension of overdue fines began during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and was extended through to the end of 2021, as recommended by the Library Board and the Town’s Community Recovery Team.

The continued elimination of overdue fines was confirmed by Council’s approval of the Library’s 2022 budget.

“A fine-free service model fosters a positive customer experience where all are welcomed and library use is encouraged, rather than one where residents are hindered from making use of beneficial community resources and services,” said Colleen Lipp, Caledon Public Library’s CEO and Chief Librarian.

Though many libraries have long subscribed to the belief that overdue fines encourage patrons to return items promptly, it’s now being recognized that this isn’t actually the case and rarely do fines encourage those to return books.

“Recent evidence has demonstrated that fines can actually deter patrons from returning items at all and outstanding account balances can prevent residents from accessing beneficial library services,” said Lipp. “As a result, there is a steadily growing trend within Canadian libraries to eliminate overdue fines.”

Caledon Public Library believes that fines provide a significant barrier to many library-goers and eliminating them ensures that all residents are able to access the Library’s physical and virtual spaces equally, and now, more than ever, as Caledon works to recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the community needs access to its community library.

Library fines may seem like they have a meaningful impact on budgets, but CPL has found that this is not often the case and eliminating them won’t have any substantial long-term affect.

“The proportion of our budget that was offset by overdue fines and fees has decreased over the last several years, declin-

ing from 1.2 per cent of our total budget in 2014 to 0.8 per cent of our budget in 2019. This fell off dramatically with the onset of the pandemic in March of 2020,” said Lipp. “These figures include both overdue fines and replacement fees recovered when items are lost or damaged. We will be continuing to collect these replacement fees if items are not eventually returned or are returned in a condition that does not allow them to continue circulating.”

There will be a slight decrease in funds by eliminating fees, but through CPL’s budget, they will be balanced to make up for what is potentially lost.

“Our annual budget process includes an examination of any and all opportunities for efficiencies without negatively impacting service levels,” said Lipp. “There were a number of areas of savings in our 2022 budget that helped to offset the reduced fines revenue.”

When Betty White died on December 31, it was a big hit to the animal activism community.

The beloved star of The Golden Girls was a passionate animal activist and was set to celebrate her 100th birthday on January 17.

To honour White and her love for animals, the Betty White Challenge (#bettywhitechallenge) was born.

People across North America participated in the challenge by donating \$5 to local animal welfare and rescue groups.

Across Canada, organizations raised hundreds of thousands of dollars through the challenge.

Some of the major animal welfare organizations saw huge donation numbers: the Ontario SPCA & Humane Society (\$120,000), the BC SPCA (\$400,000), the Alberta Animal Rescue Crew Society (\$121,000), the Nova Scotia SPCA (\$78,000) and the Winnipeg Humane Society (\$41,000).

Caledon’s Animal Shelter also saw a spike in donations as people showed their love for both White and animals.

“The Caledon Animal Shelter has received several donations in honour of Betty

White, worth approximately \$400. We would like to thank the donors for their generosity,” said Tony Maxwell, Communications Advisor for the Town of Caledon.

To make a donation to the animal shelter, people can send a cheque payable to the

Even with COVID-19 leading to the suspension of overdue fees, this was not a decision that came about simply because of the pandemic. Lipp says CPL and many other libraries have been trending this direction for a long time.

“Though no official business case or budget submission was developed in advance of the pandemic, the elimination of overdue fines has been a topic of discussion and research amongst the Library’s leadership team and the Board for some time,” she said. “A move to fines-free services aligns with the Library’s core values and commitment to reducing barriers to services. This is true of the broader public library sector and has driven the related trend in North American libraries moving to a fines-free model. This shift amongst Canadian libraries is tracked through an online list of libraries who have made the change (librarianship.ca/features/fine-free-libraries-in-canada/). You’ll notice that the list has grown exponentially in recent months.”

With overdue fees temporarily suspended throughout the pandemic, it was perfect timing for CPL to implement the long-term plan of eliminating fees all together.

“It certainly made sense to extend what had been a temporary change and to turn a very challenging time into an opportunity,” said Lipp. “Many individuals, families and businesses have been struggling over the last two years and moving to a fines-free service model allows CPL to play a small part in supporting Caledon’s shared recovery. We also know that there are some people who have not visited or made use of the library in many years because of an outstanding account balance. We’ve wiped the slates clean and are eager to welcome them back. The amount of money in your wallet should never be a deciding factor in whether or not you can access your local library.”

Animal shelters see donation boost thanks to Betty White Challenge

BY ROB PAUL



PHOTO BY THOMAS J. WATSON

Town of Caledon; to Caledon Animal Services, 12889 Coleraine Drive, Bolton, ON L7E 3B5.

They can also drop off a donation to the animal shelter located at 12889 Coleraine Drive. Donations are also accepted by telephone.

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- Bulky item collection is suspended until further notice.

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WMG-0988 22/01

Ontario sets reopen dates as Peel reaches vaccination milestone

BY ROB PAUL

Last week, Premier Doug Ford and Dr. Kieran Moore, Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health, announced the Province will be reopening in a cautiously with a gradual ease in public health measures.

The reopen begins January 31, just under a month after Ontario moved back into Step Two of its Roadmap to Reopen.

“The evidence tells us that the measures we put in place to blunt transmission of Omicron are working,” said Ford. “We can be confident that the worst is behind us and that we are now in a position to cautiously and gradually ease public health measures. While February will continue to present its own challenges, given current trends these are challenges we are confident we can manage.”

As of January 31, Ontario will allow an increase in social gatherings to 10 people indoors and 25 outdoors; increased capacity limits to 50 per cent in indoor public settings (restaurants, retailers, gyms, movie theatres, etc.). Proof of vaccination will

continue to be required for those settings.

Ontario will again ease restrictions on February 21 by increasing social gathering limits to 25 people indoors and 100 people outdoors; removing capacity limits in indoor public settings where proof of vaccination is required; permitting spectator capacity at sporting events, concert venues, and theatres at 50 per cent capacity.

Once again, restrictions will be eased on March 14 by lifting capacity limits in all indoor public settings and increasing social gathering limits to 50 people indoors with no limits for outdoor gatherings.

With COVID-19 impacting communities in different ways, to manage it over the long-term, local and regional responses by public health units may be deployed based on local context and conditions.

“Thanks to the efforts of Ontarians going out to get their booster dose and adhering to current public health and workplace safety measures, we are in a position where we can begin planning to gradually and cautiously ease restrictions,” said Dr. Moore. “The months ahead will require

continued vigilance, as we don’t want to cause any further disruption to people’s everyday lives. We must continue to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 in our communities by following the measures in place and by vaccinating those who have not yet received their doses.”

Vaccine coverage and third booster shots have continued to rise in Peel where 3,121,912 doses have been administered. 1,393,218 individuals have one dose, 1,241,912 have both doses, and 485,425 have received their third dose booster.

The Region now has 78.9 per cent of all residents with two dose coverage and 84.7 per cent with single dose. 90.1 per cent of those 12 and older are double vaccinated and 93.2 per cent have initiated the vaccination process—83.2 per cent of all eligible residents (5+) have both doses and 89.3 per cent have one.

Hitting the 90 per cent milestone for two dose coverage in those 12 and older is something to celebrate, says Dr. Lawrence Loh, Peel Medical Officer of Health.

“We are grateful to the residents who

have supported our collective efforts to save lives and keep each other safe through the pandemic response,” he said. “Despite the many challenges and barriers we faced, our community came together through four waves, first staying apart to keep each other safe and then getting vaccinated. I’d also like to acknowledge the tremendous effort of our staff and all of our partners, without whom reaching these milestones would not be possible.”

The Region has also seen more vaccine options available due to the supply of Pfizer becoming more readily available. Pfizer will once again be available as an option for those 30 and older after shortages prevented it for the last few months.

“While the widespread transmission we’ve seen with the Omicron wave to date is starting to slow down, we know that getting vaccinated with two doses and a booster continues to be the cornerstone of protection for our residents against ending up in hospital with severe illness,” Loh said. “Both mRNA vaccines provide strong protection, but we know that some residents have chosen to not book an appointment and even walked away from clinics when faced with just one vaccine option. The opportunity to offer residents a choice of mRNA vaccine for first, second, or booster doses is thus critical to our continued efforts. With reopening on the horizon, I urge all eligible residents to get protected as soon as possible, without delay.”

In Peel, there have been 6,395 new COVID-19 cases in the last week—over 3,000 less cases than the previous weeks new total—to bring the total to 166,312. The Region’s death count has now risen to 1,092 with 22 new deaths since last week.

Caledon has seen 200 new cases over the last week to bring the Town total to 7,186. There was also one new death this week with the count rising to 24.

To book a vaccine in the Region of Peel, visit www.peelregion.ca/coronavirus/vaccine/book-appointment/. To schedule a third dose booster, visit hccovid19.ontariohealth.ca/.

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

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

Headwaters CEO denies claims of kitchen staff assisting nurses

BY ROB PAUL

After the union representing frontline workers at Headwaters Health Care Centre in Orangeville suggested kitchen staff were being asked to help nurses in the hospital this past weekend, Headwaters President and CEO Kim Delahunt has released a statement calling the allegations false.

“I am compelled today to issue further clarification of the January 22 statement about false claims that continue to be shared in the media as a result of ‘tips’ and interviews by the Service Employees International Union (SEIU),” Delahunt said. “To be clear, only trained health care professionals provide patient care at Headwaters Health Care Centre, regardless of external or internal circumstances. Some non-clinical staff may perform duties outside of their usual scope of work occasion-

ally when necessary but rest assured that these do not include caring for patients.”

The statement came after SEIU Healthcare president Sharleen Stewart backed up statements from anonymous Headwaters nurses about kitchen staff being involved in helping them due to being shorthanded.


“There wasn’t much that dietary aids could do to assist them because what they need is all hands on deck, but they need to be the right hands, and that means that they need more nurses,” said Stewart. “We’ve been ringing alarm bells for years about the situation, particularly in nursing – the crisis, the government has ignored it and now hospitals are literally left on their own.”

The union represents over 60,000 health-care workers and due to staffing shortages as a result of COVID-19, Stewart says kitchen aides were asked to help out and SEIU was

contacted by nurses from Headwaters to express concern.

“In response to a baseless claim made by the SEIU, at no time have non-clinical staff been asked to, nor have they carried out any patient care duties,” said Delahunt. “As a result of Directive #2 issued by the Province on January 5, requiring all hospitals to ramp down all non-emergency surgeries and procedures and other non-urgent diagnostic imaging and ambulatory clinic activity, we have been able to redeploy clinical staff from the areas impacted by the directive to areas of the hospital with the highest need for additional patient care support. We are very disappointed that SEIU has created a false narrative at the expense of the hospital and our hard-working staff, who have given everything they have over the past 22 months in the service of their community.”

Continued on Page A13




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DON'T LEAVE RUNNING CARS UNATTENDED: POLICE

Officers from the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) responded to the report of a stolen vehicle that occurred on Humber Trail in the Town of Caledon.

“On Monday, January 24, 2022 at approximately 6:50 a.m. a resident started their vehicle to warm it up, leaving it in the driveway unattended,” say Police. “When the resident went to leave for work a short time later they found their vehicle was gone.

“With the cold weather upon us, many Caledon residents will be tempted to start their cars in the morning to warm them up. Caledon OPP is urging residents not to leave their vehicles running and unattended. If you feel the need to warm your



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vehicle up, consider installing a keyless remote starter for your vehicle to help deter its theft.

“Caledon OPP reminds local residents that theft is a crime of opportunity. Thieves often look for unattended or unsecured property to steal. Always secure your vehicle by removing car keys, locking all doors and windows, removing all valuables from plain view, and never leaving your car running and unattended.”

If you have any information in relation to this incident, contact Caledon OPP detachment at (905) 584-2241 or toll-free at 1-888-310-1122.

You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at www.peelcrimestoppers.ca.

When you contact Crime Stoppers you stay anonymous, you never have to testify, and you could receive a cash reward of up

ARRESTS IN SALT BIN THEFTS

Two persons have been identified, arrested and charged in the theft of salt bins in the Town of Caledon

“During the night of November 4, 2021, two persons were captured on CCTV video stealing plastic salt storage containers from businesses in the Bolton Industrial Area, in the Town of Caledon,” say Police. “In both instances, the suspects dumped the salt from the bins before taking the empty bins.”

Members of the Caledon OPP Detachment Community Street Crime Unit conducted an investigation which led to two suspects being identified, arrested and charged.

Simon Brand, 56-years-old from Brampton, and Jason Dahonick, 39-years-old from Caledon, have both been charged with:

- Theft Under \$5000 x 7 counts

Both accused are scheduled to appear in Orangeville Provincial Court in March, 2022.

The charges have not been proven.

If you have any information or video surveillance footage in relation these thefts, please call the Caledon OPP Detachment at (905) 584-2241 or 1-888-310-1122.

You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Peel Crime Stoppers at: 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at www.peelcrimestoppers.ca.

When you contact Crime Stoppers you stay anonymous, you never have to testify, and you could receive a cash reward of up to \$2,000 upon an arrest.

Dustin Sirois, 37-years-old from Brampton, has been charged with:

- Trespass at Night
- Drive While Suspended
- Fail to Stop for Police
- Pedestrian on a Controlled Access Highway

The accused is scheduled to appear in Orangeville Provincial Court in April 2022. The charges have not been proven.

“RIDE Checkpoints are held all year round by the Caledon OPP,” say Police. “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.”

SECOND DEGREE MURDER SUSPECT LOCATED DECEASED

Members of the Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have located a deceased male who was wanted in relation to a homicide.


“On January 8, 2022, at approximately 1:17 p.m., Dufferin OPP responded to a residence on Main Street in the Town of Shelburne, to check on the well-being of a person,” say Police. “Upon arrival, officers located Debra Neale, 65, of the Town of Shelburne, deceased in the home. The death was ruled a homicide. As a result of the investigation, an arrest warrant for Second Degree Murder was issued for Scott Eric Pinney, 44, of the Town of Orangeville.

“On January 17, 2022, the victim’s vehicle was discovered by a passerby in a secluded area near Hearst, Ontario. A deceased male was located inside the vehicle and later identified as Scott Pinney.”

The Dufferin OPP Crime Unit is continuing the investigation, under the direction of the OPP Criminal Investigation Branch (CIB), with assistance from OPP Forensic Identification Services (FIS) Unit and in conjunction with the Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario and the Ontario Forensic Pathology Service.

Anyone who has any information about this incident is asked to contact the Dufferin OPP at 1-888-310-1122. Should you wish to remain anonymous, you may call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

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DRIVER CHARGED AFTER “FLEEING RIDE CHECKPOINT”

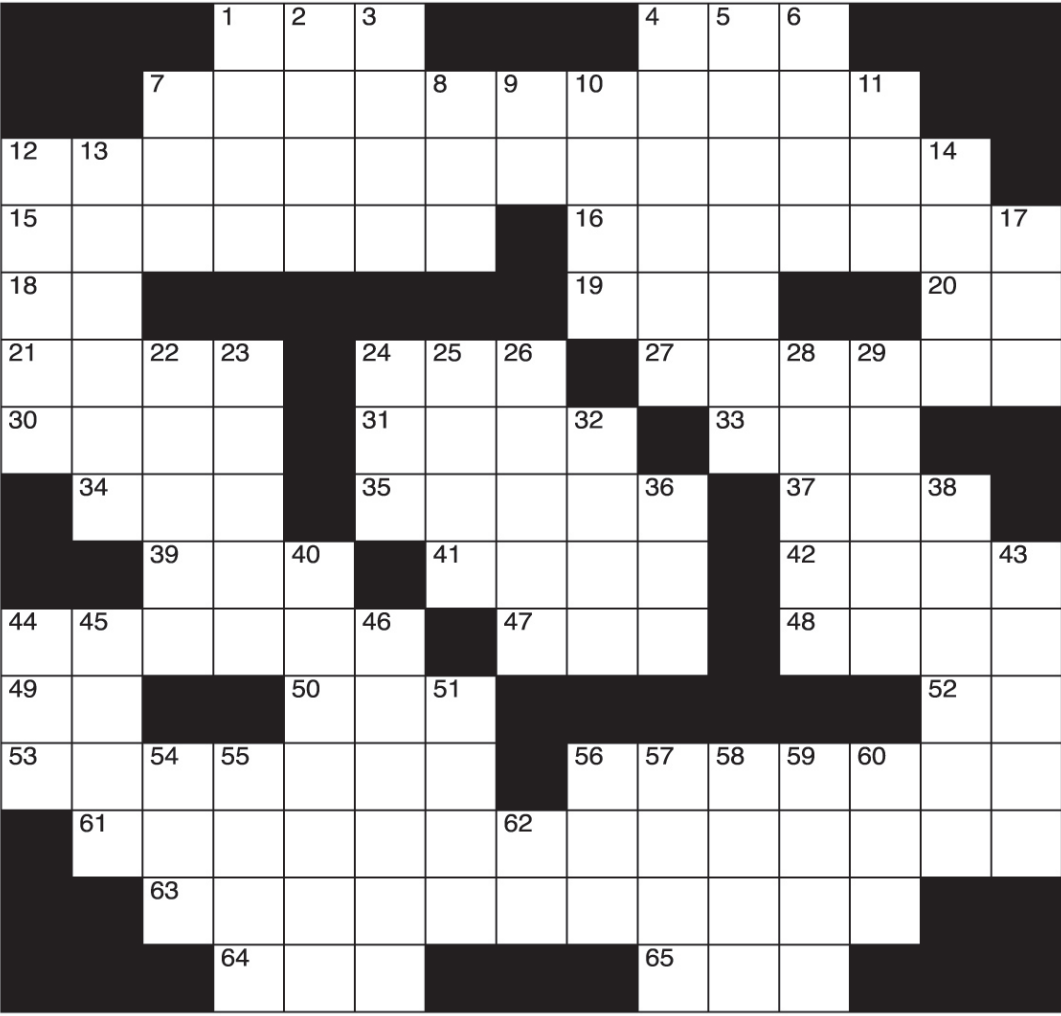
Officers from the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Caledon Detachment RIDE Unit located and charged a driver who “fled a RIDE Checkpoint” in the Town of Caledon.

“On Saturday, January 22, 2022 officers from the OPP Caledon Detachment RIDE Unit were conducting a RIDE Checkpoint at Highway 410 and Valleywood Boulevard when a vehicle approached, stopped and the driver fled on foot.

“Officers were able to locate the driver a short distance away in a residential area.”

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The Citizen CROSSWORD



1. Brew

4. NY ballplayer

7. Rigid external covering in some animals

12. Promotional materials

15. More high-pitched

16. Widely cultivated cereal

18. Dormitory employee

19. Bad act

20. One’s mother

21. Scored perfectly

24. Space station

27. Exchange for money

30. Edible seaweed

31. Iranian city

33. Lakers’ crosstown rivals

34. Nothing

35. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation

37. __ student, learns

CLUES ACROSS

39. Military official (abbr.)

41. Matchstick games

42. Gasteyer and De Armas are two

44. Distant planet

47. A type of residue

48. Punk art icon

Jimmy De __

49. Millihenry

50. Canadian media firm

52. Type of withdrawal

53. Spicy

56. Dish of minced meat or fish

61. Noted previously

63. Happily

64. “Partridge” actress Susan

65. Not present

CLUES DOWN

1. In a way, brought to an end

2. Scandalized

actress Loughlin

Solution in CLASSIFIEDS

3. This (Spanish)

4. Essay

5. Continuing indefinitely

6. Tool for lifting food

7. Partner to Adam

8. Dry white wine drink

9. Spanish be

10. Smaller quantity

11. Last or greatest in an indefinitely large series

12. (Scottish) island

13. Church officer

14. Large wrestler

17. Polite address for women

22. Famed Susan Lucci character “__ Kane”

23. Mason __ Line

24. Disfigure

25. Asian nation

26. Rage (Span.)

28. Khoikhoi peoples

29. Opera solo

32. Database management system

36. Similar

38. Move up and down playfully

40. Alfalfa

43. Satisfied

44. Baseball official

45. Large, flightless bird of S. America

46. Money given in support

51. Flower cluster

54. Beginning

55. Russian weight measurement

56. Explosive

57. An individual unit

58. Midskirt

59. Weapon featuring balls

60. Used of a number or amount not specified

62. Unit of measurement

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

PDSB experiencing bus driver shortage due to COVID-19

BY ROB PAUL

With the Omicron variant leading to record highs in COVID-19 cases, Peel District School Board is feeling the effects with a bus driver shortage.

Student Transportation of Peel Region (STO-PR) is dealing with increased driver absences due to COVID-19 and is experiencing bus route delays and cancellations as a result.

STOPR provides transportation for eligible students for both the Peel District School Board and the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board. STOPR transports approximately 68,000 students each day over approximately 1450 routes.

“STOPR has encountered a higher-than-normal rate of driver absence because of illness or self-isolation due to the COVID-19 Omicron variant. Therefore, we have had to cancel some routes/runs on a temporary basis,” said Malon Edwards, PDSB Manager of Communications. “We currently have 31 routes temporarily cancelled due to COVID-19.

“Our spare driver pool is covering other reasons for driver absence, i.e. vacations, appointments, leave of absences. Our current system was not built for a variant that has such a high rate of transmission. Prior to the Omicron variant, STOPR had not been required to cancel any routes during the pandemic. Our school bus operators are continually accepting applicants and training drivers.”

Parents have begun to feel the impact of the bus driver shortage with students being late to school and having to wait in the cold for buses to pick them up at the end of the day.

“In Dufferin County and Orangeville, there is a major shortage of bus drivers,” said parent Christine Facey. “High school kids are getting picked up an hour late in the morning and after school ends—kids can’t wait in the school for the bus.”

Despite the shortage, there hasn’t been a major outcry from parents nor many reaching out to PDSB as a result of the delays, according to Stan Cameron, PDSB Trustee for Caledon.

“I have not heard from any Caledon area parents who are directly affected by a bus cancellation,” said Cameron.

For now, STOPR is encouraging families to stay plugged in through its website and to set up alerts to keep in the know on when bus routes are cancelled or are resuming—some routes could be disrupted for over a week due to the shortage.

“If a bus route/run is cancelled due to COVID-19, it will be cancelled consecutively for approximately five to 10 days,” STOPR said in a statement. “All cancelled bus routes/runs will be posted on the STOPR website as soon as possible. It is important that parents/guardians and students are checking the STO-PR website and the ‘Delayed Buses’ page daily, to monitor the status of their morning route/run

and their afternoon route/run.

“It is important that parents/guardians monitor both their morning and afternoon transportation as some students travel to school in the morning on one bus route/run and then travel home in the afternoon on a different bus route/run. Therefore, it is possible that your transportation may be cancelled in the morning but not in the afternoon or vice versa. We strongly

encourage all parents/guardians to create an account with STOPR and sign up to receive our automatic ‘transportation alerts.’ These alerts will include late bus route/run information, cancellation notifications as well as an ‘anticipated return to service’ date for cancelled routes/runs.”

To check the status of your bus routes, visit businfo.stopr.ca/Alerts.

Gas Tax funding to provide more than \$670,000 toward supporting Dufferin-Caledon public transit

BY ROB PAUL

Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones announced January 19 that the Ontario government is providing more than \$670,000 to support the expansion and improvement of public transit services in Dufferin-Caledon.

The funding is part of the province’s Gas Tax program which will allocate \$375.6 million this year to 107 municipalities that deliver public transit.

In Dufferin-Caledon, the Towns of Caledon and Orangeville deliver public transit services within their municipality and receive funding through the province’s Gas Tax program— and both Caledon and Orangeville are seeing an uptick in funding this year.

Caledon is set to receive \$6,072 more in funding this year than last year (from \$379,401 to \$385,473) and Orangeville will receive \$1,762 more in funding this year (from \$287,668 to \$289,430).

“Our government knows that supporting public transit systems is more important

than ever as communities struggle to maintain service levels during COVID-19,” said Jones. “Both Orangeville and Caledon rely on the Gas Tax funding to ensure transit services operate today as well as planning to meet the future needs of our communities as the municipality grows.”

Funding for the Gas Tax program is determined by the number of litres of gasoline sold in the province during the previous year. Municipalities that support public transit services receive two cents per litre of provincial Gas Tax revenue, which can be used to extend service hours, buy transit vehicles, add routes, improve accessibility or upgrade infrastructure.

To make up for reduced gas sales due to COVID-19, this year’s Gas Tax funding includes one-time additional funding of \$120.4 million to ensure municipalities can support their transit systems.

“Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen how critical public transit is for frontline workers and for Ontarians who depend on these services to get to medical appointments, the grocery store

and other important locations,” said Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation. “Gas Tax funding remains a vital source of long-term transit funding that municipalities can rely on to help operate and expand existing public transit services—ensuring people have access to safe and reliable transportation when they need it.”

The 107 municipalities receiving funding through the Gas Tax program deliver public transit service to 142 communities representing more than 92 per cent of Ontario’s total population.

The provincial and federal governments are providing up to \$2.15 billion to support municipal transit systems across the province in response to COVID-19 through the Safe Restart Agreement.

Ontario is developing regional plans that will help build a better transportation system across the province. The province has released draft regional transportation plans for Northern Ontario and southwestern Ontario, and planning is underway for the Greater Golden Horseshoe and eastern Ontario.

Caledon pushes for change at ROMA conference

The Town of Caledon is sending a full delegation of staff and elected representatives to the annual Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) conference starting January 23 to push for more support on issues like broadband; affordable housing; public transit and climate change.

Caledon’s delegation will meet with provincial ministers and members of oppo-

sition parties to present issues and ask for more provincial support.

“This is a great opportunity for Council to help make Caledon’s voice heard on key local issues with provincial decision-makers,” said Mayor Allan Thompson. “With the provincial election just around the corner in June, the timing of ROMA 2022 is ideal, and we look forward to having

substantive discussions with our provincial colleagues.”

As the Town navigates the COVID-19 pandemic, government relations and advocacy remain a critical part of the Town’s focus. The Town of Caledon has been working with all orders of government to ensure public health and safety as well as social and economic response and recovery.

As focus shifts towards post-pandemic recovery, the Town is continuing to seek progress on a number of issues at ROMA, including: affordable housing; broadband; climate change infrastructure; planning for growth; traffic safety; and aggregate policy

For more information, visit caledon.ca/advocacy.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

Ward 2 - Proposed Official Plan Amendment

FILE NUMBER: POPA 2021-0010

This is to inform you that the Town of Caledon has received an Official Plan Amendment. Your input and insight will inform and shape plans that meet the needs of our community.

APPLICANT: Glen Schnarr & Associates Inc. on behalf of Snell’s Hollow Developers Group

LOCATION: 3728 Mayfield Road, 12097 Kennedy Road, 12141 Kennedy Road, 0 Heart Lake Road, 0 Kennedy Road
Parts of Lot 18, Concession 2 and 3 EHS (Chinguacousy)

All properties north of Mayfield Road, east of Kennedy Road south and west of Highway 410 including the properties on both sides of Heart Lake Road.
Ward 2

PROPOSED CHANGES:
The Applicant has applied for an Official Plan Amendment for a Secondary Plan study for Snell’s Hollow East. The community will consist of a mixture of residential, park, open space and commercial uses along with an internal road network.

The Official Plan Amendment would change the designation of the subject lands from Residential Policy Area A and Environmental Policy Area - Mayfield West Land Use Plan to Snell’s Hollow East Secondary Plan Area - Mayfield West Land Use Plan allowing for mixture of residential densities (low, medium and high), commercial, open space, storm water management ponds uses, and municipal roads.

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

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

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

HOW TO STAY INFORMED:
If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Town of Caledon on the proposed official plan amendment, you must make a written request to the Clerk of the Town of Caledon, 6311 Old Church Road, Caledon, ON, L7C 1J6.

ACCESSIBILITY:
If you require an accessibility accommodation to access any materials related to this item in an alternate format please contact Legislative Services by phone at 905-584-2272 x.2366 or via email at legislative.services@caledon.ca

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

Notice Date: January 27, 2022

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

October 24, 2022

is voting day for the
Ontario Municipal and School Board Elections.

Register to vote – or confirm you are already on the list – at voterlookup.ca.

The Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) is responsible for compiling information from eligible Ontario voters to create a Preliminary List of Electors for municipal and school board elections.

To make sure you are on the list and your information is accurate, visit voterlookup.ca to register, confirm details and update any information that may not be current.

Brock's Banter

Wading through an information desert

BY BROCK WEIR

Let's cast our minds back for a second to 2005. A simpler time and place, perhaps? Well, it depends on who you ask. Just a few years out of the tragic events of 9/11, we were, along with our allies in the heat of the Afghanistan conflict while, here at home, on both sides of the border, the debate raged on whether or not we should be there in the first place. Our biggest allies in the United States and the United Kingdom went a step further and took the fight to Iraq based on dubious evidence and, in the midst of all that chaos, and conflicting sources of information, there emerged the widespread coining of the term "truthiness."

Popularized by comedian and late-night host Stephen Colbert on The Colbert Report, it was a comment on the apparent prevalence of leaders peddling ideas that were essentially truth-adjacent rather than the truth itself. And while that is alarming in and of itself, it was greeted at the time with no small splash of humour.

"It used to be everyone was entitled to their own opinion, but not their own facts," Colbert told The A.V. Club at the time. "But that's not the case anymore. Facts matter not at all. Perception is everything. It's certainty. People love [then-president George W. Bush] because he's certain of his choices as a leader, even if the facts that back him up don't seem to exist. It's the fact that he's certain that is very appealing to a certain section of the country. I really feel a dichotomy in the American populace. What is important? What you want to be true, or what is true?"

"Truthiness is, 'What I say is right, and [nothing] anyone else says could possibly be true.' It's not only that I FEEL it to be true, but that I feel it to be true. There's not only an emotional quality, but there's a selfish quality."

We don't have to look very far beyond the presidency of George W. Bush, or just one side of the border, to see that the idea of "truthiness" is not simply observational humour but something that seems to have taken very strong root in our own culture.

The last two Presidential elections in the United States have shown that the tenets of "truthiness" have sadly become mainstream in public life. It didn't matter whether what people felt was in any way based on fact, but the fact they felt it gave it impenetrable clout. And if they needed something to back it up, why starting rumours in echo chambers seemed to do more than just the trick.

If someone said something that challenged their worldview or their gut-feeling, it, of course, was wrong, maybe seen as personal attack, and certainly not something worth a second look. The person with the different outlook was wrong, plain and simple.

We saw slightly less severe but no less worrying signs of "truthiness" in our public discourse in our own last Federal election, so we're certainly not immune to it, but I feel a new lack of information is setting the table for a resurgence of "truthiness."

In my opinion, this new brand of "truthiness" is being fostered by a concerted and unnecessary lack of information – or, the very least, a torrent

of information that has sadly slowed to a trickle. As students this Friday complete their first full week back at school for in-person learning since the winter break, they and their families are doing so with a woeful lack of information. This is not a lack of information that can be laid at the foot of an educator's desk; rather it is a systemic breaking down of a previously-vital information stream.

School is currently underway without any formal public record being kept of how many cases of COVID-19 are in schools, how many students per day are exposed to the virus, how many are bringing the virus home to their families, and how many student cases will subsequently contribute to further spread.

Aside from a few bold teachers who have decided to buck the trend and share anecdotal information of what is truly going on in their classrooms, parents are essentially sending their children into the unknown each day, just hoping that the decision that was made that morning was not one that would be regretted in the evening.

They have little choice in the matter and my heart goes out to each and every person who faces this dilemma each day. Yet it doesn't have to be this way. A simple reporting of the true figures would go a long way in helping parents make the correct decision for their families.

But true numbers might belie assurances made by our leaders that schools are safe for students and teachers.

Given an apparent lack of testing resources, we're not given an accurate accounting of just how many active cases of COVID-19 there are in our communities. Instead, we're given the official numbers confirmed by local health units with the caveat that each day's release is almost certainly an undercounting of the actual numbers.

No actual numbers means the layman can't actually see trends in just how we're doing fighting the invisible enemy and now the ones we trust to give us projections are left to analyse wastewater to monitor trends.

Whether it's a lack of resources or not, it also seems like we're living in a COVID phase that is reflective of the early days of the pandemic when the number of deaths were tragically reported as mere statistics. We're told only "X" amount of children have been hospitalized with COVID, as if one wasn't already too many; that we're seeing some positives when just under 300 people in Ontario alone lost their battle with COVID between Sunday and Sunday, and just "X" of the people who lost the fight were under the age of "X."

I don't know about you, but I don't find any of those numbers comforting.

What I do find reassuring are accurate numbers and apparent trends that do not leave room for "truthiness" to hit the comeback trail.

But, on the positive side, unlike when the Province was so intent on blocking the previous government's health curriculum they set up a snitch line for parents and students to report any teachers who dared teach it, we're not seeing a similar reporting system set up for teachers who are bold enough to give parents an accurate picture of what's going on in their classrooms. At least not yet.



Our biggest concerns are affording groceries and gas

by Mark Pavilons



The latest financial news comes with some noticeable belt-tightening among average Canadians.

It was reported recently that "51% of Canadians can't afford a \$200 increase in monthly expenses."

Further, Canadians' confidence in their personal financial situation and debt repayment abilities is hitting a record-low, according to the latest MNP Consumer Debt Index.

"Nearly two years into the pandemic, financial confidence among Canadians has reached a record low, with household debt becoming increasingly worrisome," said Grant Bazian, president of MNP, in a news release.

"Canadians' financial optimism typically wanes as the holiday bills become due, but Canadians are feeling even more financially insecure this year – likely as a result of the Omicron variant and resulting pandemic fatigue, along with rising inflation and the potential for interest rate increases this year."

The survey found almost half of Canadians (45 per cent) aren't confident they'll be able to pay for basic living expenses this year. When it comes to debt levels, four-in-10 respondents (43 per cent) are worried about how much they currently owe.

In 2022, Canadians' top financial priorities are having a sufficient emergency fund (54%), paying down debt (48%) and saving for retirement (40%).

Canadians' top financial stressors for 2022 include buying groceries (59%), paying for gas & transportation (40%) and paying down their credit card debt (28%).

Almost half – 42% – admit they were more financially stressed in 2021 compared to the previous year.

This is beyond sad and troublesome. It's been said that surveys only paint part of the picture, and that respondents tend to be more positive than negative. This means the picture could be even bleaker.

Half of Canadians had to withdraw from savings or investments in 2021 to afford unexpected expenses, and one-third of Canadians would have one month or less of a cushion to fall back on if they or their partner were to lose their primary source of income.

I know the past 18 months have been challenging, difficult, even life-changing for many. I lived through it, too.

I go to the office every day, hoping things will be better. Most days are the same.

Will Doug Ford's announcement about reducing restrictions signal a return to "normal?" It's slow and steady, and other parts of the globe are also opening up. The fact is, everyone is sick and tired of the pandemic, and just want to get on with things. But desire, and having the financial means to do that are quite different.

In the same survey, 65% of Canadians consider themselves to be "financially resilient." Sure, we're all "resilient" in some ways, but you can't just keep taking water from the well. One day it will run dry.

According to the PolicyMe, the Canadians +

Our Readers Write

Being resourceful

In 1981, I started my current landscaping business.

Immediately I wanted to know all the plant materials I was dealing with by both common and botanical names. Then realizing everything we used had small gas engines, I needed to take a Small Engines Course. Then I signed up for a Dale Carnegie Sales 101 course. Eventually I realized I was chasing my tail and getting less and less done, and not done as well as I hoped. So, I hired talented staff to cover all these bases and it worked so much better. Case in point: We celebrated 40 years last year.

And I just watched the Caledon Council meeting last night, January 25, 2022. This was such a great meeting where they discussed how they will grow and develop the 20% (white belt) that can be developed as the 80% (green belt) is totally protected and will not change.

Council had guests from Vaughan and London and this was the most resourceful meeting I have ever watched. Everything from developing more parkland in ravines to abandoned quarries to everything anyone could need with-

in walking distance of a transit hub. It was so well orchestrated and the main theme seemed to be, "Let's get this right."

While I was watching I couldn't help but think of Mount Pleasant Cemetery in downtown Toronto. I have three passed family members there, so I visit often. It is a 250 acre very well landscaped cemetery with very large trees right in the heart of Canada's biggest and busiest city, and when you are walking the miles and miles of well-maintained roadways throughout the 250 acres you cannot tell you are in a city at all. It is surrounded mostly by residential neighborhoods as well as a large TTC Rail yard.

This is an example of what I hope Caledon is like in years to come: very green and natural.

So, kudos to Caledon's Town Council for the great job they are doing and I encourage everyone to watch these meetings online.

BRIAN PERRAS
CALEDON

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Community Hubs Make Communities Hum

The Town of Caledon is currently exploring uses for the Old Bolton Fire Station located in the downtown core on Ann Street. Of the many possibilities residents are being asked to weigh in on is the creation of a space that would act as a community hub of sorts; a building that provides opportunities for residents to gather, work, learn and play. This is a good thing in so many ways because a having a community gathering place, centrally located, is just one of the ways to help make a community – well - a community.

Community is variously described as, “a feeling that members have of belonging,” and where “neighbours take pride in their living environment, respecting and supporting one another regardless of age, gender, race, or creed.” It’s also considered to be a place that promotes a cohesive, safe and shared sense of space. Within community, the values most people actively seek out are: the safety of all, educational opportunities, economic health and/or advantages, including a chance to work, as well as health and wellness opportunities and a sense of belonging.

In other words, we all have a role to play in the fostering and development of our sense of community and using something like the Old Bolton Fire Station to create a central hub, to be used as a community meeting place for multi-purpose use, is a timely and necessary addition to our downtown core. It’s an opportunity for a citizen-

led design initiative where we can all have input on the kind of space we feel the Caledon community needs most.

Whether you are a small business owner, a senior, a young adult, a budding entrepreneur or a parent with small children, no doubt you have something to say about what you would like to see taken into consideration when it comes to the redesign of this piece of long-standing community architecture. The downtown core is ready for revitalization – in fact – it’s already begun with some of the areas historic buildings having already undergone beautiful renovations including Innovations The Salon and The Wine Spot. The Bake Shoppe and the many businesses located within and around the Courtyards area are also prime, central locations for everything a Caledon resident might need including; unique shopping experiences, access to social services and to fine dining. What else would make this area a “destination location” for you and/or your family? Now is your chance to have your say.

If, for example, you are the entrepreneur mentioned above – would a central spot for you to meet with other like-minded entrepreneurs to share ideas and strategies make sense? From personal experience, I can tell you that the energy, the ideas, the access to technology and the day to day business tools provided by such a centre offers fertile ground for new business

start-ups. Here you can make valuable connections, access tools and resources you may not otherwise be able to afford, and tap into the expertise of others as you launch your business idea. In other words, a technology and innovation hub with computer charging stations, “flex time” working spaces, small meeting rooms and easy access to technology might be just what you need.

Seniors and/or young adults may be drawn to the downtown core for different reasons. Perhaps something that offers them a safe space to gather, to attend an adult education class or training initiative, a computer class, or to learn how to make use of video and audio recording technology. Young children interested in 3D technology or teens interested in gaming may all benefit from a central hub that offers free and interactive access to such technological resources. Sometimes referred to as a “maker-space,” for a Town of our current and projected future size – such a hub would make good sense and would certainly help to “foster community.”

Having this renovated building potentially serve as an indoor/outdoor year-round farmers market (as has also been suggested) is another excellent opportunity to bring families and shoppers to the downtown core. Having a reason to come all year long to source fresh foods, engage with artisans and crafters and then partake of a

coffee or treat from any one of several downtown businesses, promotes a win-win scenario for vendors and families alike, all while fostering a community based, family and environmentally friendly central hub.

Together, any one of these ideas would help to encourage a strong sense of community. It’s likely that each of you have many more thoughtful and engaging ideas. We all play an important role in fostering a strong sense of community and belonging amongst our fellow Caledon residents and your suggestions for the revitalization of the Old Bolton Fire Hall are important.

Together let’s create the ideal community focussed building that helps ALL Caledon residents to prosper and succeed. Have your say in helping to create a space that offers Caledon residents everything that the dictionary says truly defines community: safety for all, educational opportunities, economic health and advantages, free work spaces and entrepreneurial hubs as well as health and wellness opportunities like weekly fresh farmers markets all year long.

To find out more visit haveyoursaycaledon.ca/ to contribute your thoughts on this and other topics of community interest.

SHERALYN ROMAN
TALK CALEDON



Technology- what’s next?

When Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone, it was considered a huge leap in technology.

Imagine being able to speak to your friend in the next town from the comfort of your own home – even if your nosy neighbour was eavesdropping on the party line.

It seems advancements in technology comes in spurts, and I think we are in the midst of technological growth that is going to greatly change our world.

Much of the leap forward began with the industrial revolution that changed the way industry operates. Those changes didn’t happen rapidly; it took around 80 years for that transition.

Over the next 50 years, technology continued to advance as scientists, inventors, and entrepreneurs invested in research and built on other people’s success and failures.

Contrary to common belief, the Wright Brothers did not invent the airplane. They used information from other inventors and scientists who had already been working on the problem for years. They may have been the first to actually lift off, but if it wasn’t for the experiments of others and the papers written, they would not have been able to do it.

The same goes for people like Thomas Edison. He may be credited with many inventions, but his-

tory shows he did build on the work of others.

The Second World War and the years following provided a huge boost in technology as scientists ramped up their research.

Of course, it wasn’t all good. The Atomic bomb may have changed the world, but you probably don’t want to have one anywhere near you.

The 60s issued in another new era of advancement. The concept of a transistor and the first working models were invented earlier but it wasn’t until the 1960s that they really became widespread and changed a lot of things.

When digital technology began to be known, there were a lot of skeptics. I recall a professor in college showing us his new state of the art digital sound recorder.

The feeling at the time was that in no way could digital technology ever replace camera film or sound recording. When was the last time you bought a roll of Kodachrome?

There have been so many advancements over the just the past ten years that many are rolled out to consumers without people even realizing what great achievements they are.

I bought a new electronic keyboard last year. This thing is incredible. My old keyboard had a huge amount of features, but this new one requires some kind of advanced classroom training to figure

out how to use all the functions.

It replicates a grand piano better than an actual piano and has the capability to replicate and record an entire orchestra.

Many cameras are quickly becoming obsolete as iPhones now have the ability to take a high-resolution photo that is just as good as many high-end cameras, although they do lack certain features that come with lenses and the ability to control shutter speed and aperture.

But for the average consumer, they are more enough to record your adventures and travels.

I was talking to a camera guy from a television station a couple of months ago. He was using a small palm size camera that could record well enough for broadcast. He also said he has recorded video on his iPhone that also made it on air.

Then there’s the auto industry. Wow, what your car can do for you these days. There is a sensor for just about everything. From tire pressure to the windshield washer fluid, your car will tell you what it needs.

The GPS systems available in most cars have pretty much destroyed the old fold-up paper map.

Add to that the new driver assist functions and the car will tell you that you are going out of your lane before you realize you swerved when you tried to grab your coffee.

All these advancements are a lot of fun for the average person, but other advancements are truly incredible.

Elon Musk and his company, Space-X are doing things that NASA couldn’t achieve.

While NASA may have put a man on the moon 53 years ago, they haven’t done much since.

Mostly because they are limited by government funding.

Space-X is its own company and they can spend their money anyway the want.

That accounts for Captain Kirk being launched into a sub orbital flight just for fun.

It also accounts for the incredibly futuristic Star-Link system that will eventually have several thousand satellites linked together to provide internet service to countries around the world.

While all this has been going on, there have been huge developments in artificial intelligence and robot design over the past few years.

It will be interesting to see where this all takes us over the next ten years.

Maybe having a robot butler might be achievable in your lifetime.

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW





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

HOCKLEYBEER.CA

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Caledon resident to speak at third annual Endurance Exchange

BY ROBERT BELARDI

Lisa Bentley will be a keynote speaker at the Endurance Exchange, hosted by USA Triathlon from March 3 – 5.

Presented by BOA Nutrition, the third annual Endurance Exchange will be a virtual presentation.

Over the course of her illustrious triathlon career, Bentley won 11 Ironman Championships and 16 Ironman 70.3 competitions. For over 10 years, Bentley ranked fifth overall in the world and represented Canada many times, including in the 1995

Pan American Games.

Throughout her career, Bentley is known as a hero for having been able to even compete in triathlon. Diagnosed with cystic fibrosis in university, she told The Citizen in February 2020 that cystic fibrosis was her gift. She began using her victories – especially her 2002 Ironman Championship – to show those with CF that there is hope.

Almost four years ago, Bentley released her book “An Unlikely Champion” and since has been a motivational speaker. Her most memorable speeches, were in front of the Toronto Raptors and the Toronto Maple



Lisa Bentley.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Leafs. It was one of the proudest moments of her career.

Professionally, Bentley has worked with CBC, TSN, CTV and Sportsnet for triathlon in the 2012 and 2020 Olympic Games. She also is a part of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and a Triathlon Canada Hall of Fame inductee.

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Save the Date: February 1 the OJHL is back in action

BY ROBERT BELARDI

It has felt like half a year since hockey has taken place in communities. The good news is, players, fans and hockey lovers won't have to wait much longer.

The Ontario Junior Hockey League, confirmed their three-week hiatus is officially over and the league will resume play Tuesday, February, 1.

The league confirmed it has extended their regular season play until April 7 to accommodate all postponed games.

The OJHL has been shut down since January 5, seeing 125 total games closed due to the province's restrictions.

"The OJHL Board of Governors were unanimously in favour of extending the OJHL regular season to allow for our players to play the full 54-game season," OJHL Commissioner Marty Savoy said a League statement.

"When the provincial government announced the shutdown, our teams immediately started the process with the league of rescheduling games in an effort to have as many scheduled once the league resumed play."

This announcement comes nine days after the OJHL expanded their First Assist Program, offering mental health support virtually and to alumni players.

All arenas will be opening up to 50 per cent capacity or up to 500 people depending on the size of the venues.

Proof of vaccination continues to remain as a requirement to enter arenas. Wearing masks indoors is also mandatory as well.

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OBITUARIES

WEIR, William
May 23, 1932 - January 17, 2022

Billy passed away peacefully at Headwaters Health Care Centre on Monday, January 17, 2022 at the age of 89. Beloved Husband of Emily Weir; devoted Father to Linda Welsh, Julie Roberts (James), Pauline Weatherbee (Kevin), Elizabeth Weir-Cowley (Wayne) and Karen Farace (Matteo); cherished Grandad to Sharon (Colin), Donna (Willie), Amanda (Jason), Kevin (Jacquelin), William (Marissa), Emily (Kenny), Miranda, Robert (Alexa), Derek, Jake, Ethan, Cheyenne and Chelsea; dearly loved Great-Grandad to Archie, Emma, Ariel, Nate, Kevin, Jax and Shiloh. Billy will also be sadly missed by his many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends here, in the U.K. and the U.S.A.

Billy was born in Glasgow, Scotland and immigrated to Canada in 1966. He was an upholsterer by trade but mainly worked in the Aircraft Industry. He was a proud member of the Royal Canadian Legion for over 50 years. Billy was a Korean War Veteran and served in the British Army. He was also a life member of the Masonic Lodge and the Bramalea Rangers Football Club. A Private Family Service took place at *Dods & McNair Funeral Home, Chapel & Reception Centre* on Sunday, January 23, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. and can be viewed on Billy's page of the website marked as Webcasting.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Alzheimer Society of Dufferin County or Headwaters Health Care Foundation.

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

THANK YOU

Thank You

I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to all of my family, friends and neighbours for the love and support after the passing of Fred.

I greatly appreciate the many phone calls, sympathy cards, flowers, dinners, visits and Parkinson's donations during this difficult time. All of your kindness and thoughtfulness has helped me more than you can know.

I am grateful for all of the little stories and memories people shared of Fred. These stories put a smile on my face and reminded me of how many lives Fred had touched over the years. Memories ranging from taking friends' children for plane rides to helping those struggling to purchase the tires they needed for their vehicle.

Thank you all.

With love,
Joyce Brundle

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IN MEMORIAM

MICHAEL ALLAN STILLWELL

MARCH 23, 1962 ~ NOVEMBER 12, 2021

It is with great sadness that we announce the sudden passing of Michael Allan Stillwell at 59 years of age. Michael passed away as a result of a tragic car accident on November 12, 2021.



Michael is survived by his wife and soul mate of 39 years, Donna Stillwell, his two beautiful, loving children Dana DaSilva (Jose) and Terry Stillwell (Ashley). His four beautiful grandchildren were his pride and joy - Sabrina (age 12), Jessica (age 2 ½), Brayden (age 11) and Makayla (age 3). He is also survived by his mother Shirley Thornton, brother John Stillwell (Trudi) and sister Christine Stillwell (Morris) and predeceased by his father Ronald Stillwell. He had many nieces, nephews and friend Kathy.

Michael had a long career at Sandhill Disposal/GFL Environmental. He took great pride in his work. He loved being the life of the party and always knew how to make you smile whenever you were down or just having a bad day.

He will be sadly missed forever by everyone.

A private funeral service was held at the Egan Funeral Home, 203 Queen Street S (Hwy 50), Bolton (905-857-2213) on Thursday, January 6, 2022. Private interment Laurel Hill Cemetery, Bolton.

Condolences for the family may be offered at www.EganFuneralHome.com

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Palgrave Pond is back for shinny after a tumultuous year

Continued from FRONT

Caledon Councillor Jennifer Innis, who is the TRCA board chair, was happy to see the community come together to ensure the pond would be the place of joy it always has been for Caledon with some extra safety measures in place.

“Over the past year Councillor (Nick) deBoer and myself pulled together a diligent group comprised of the Town of Caledon, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, and the Palgrave Pond Community Inc. (a very special thank you to Nicole Wilkins and Ken Hunt) to create a plan to ensure the safety of users and the protection of our community volunteers who make skating on the pond a reality for so many to enjoy. As a result, the Millpond will continue to be used for skating. All skaters will be required to complete a waiver form (once per person, per season) which is easily accessible through a QR code. That QR code will be posted on site and will be available on the Town website shortly. Palgrave Pond Community Inc. has been actively monitoring and preparing this location for use and will advise when it’s officially open (which it was this past Sunday).”

Without any certainty the pond would ever be back, Hunt only recently found out he’d be able to get back out there.

“That’s why I was never really sure if we’d be back, and we didn’t really know until about two weeks ago that it would be approved by the Town for me to go ahead and do it.”

Having people throughout Caledon step up and ensure the pond would be back in business brought a tear to Hunt’s eye as he ramps up for his second decade taking care of the ice.

“It was hard because the TRCA didn’t want us out on the pond anymore and tried to put a stop to it after I’d been doing it for 20 years,” he said. “I was almost ready to give up and retire from it five years ago, but I just couldn’t stay away, and I kept going back. My kids are all away so now I want to do it for everybody else’s kids. I told myself the only thing that would be lost if it stopped would be

the fun the kids in town have on it. So, when TRCA tried to stop it, everybody in town went and made a petition right away and with the help of the community and everyone backing us up, the Town of Caledon came forward and helped me out to keep it going.”

Mayor Allan Thompson credits Caledon heroes like Ken Hunt for leaving their mark on the community simply because they want to put smiles on others faces.

“Nothing illustrates winter in the beautiful Caledon countryside quite like people skating on the Palgrave Pond,” said Thompson. “I’m so happy that an agreement was reached, and the community is able to enjoy skating on the pond this year. Volunteers and Community Champions like Ken Hunt are what make Caledon such a special place to call home.”

Now with the pond officially open, Hunt is back in the swing of things as the ice angel and loves seeing the kids come out for shinny.

“We had a late start because of the weather but everything is going well right now,” he said. “Because of the cold weather we’ve got tons of ice as well—we have about 12 inches of ice right now. We were out there flooding on Sunday morning and by 10 a.m. there were already kids on the ice skating and playing shinny.”

The tireless hours Hunt puts in have never been about anything other than making sure the kids in Caledon have a place to go when they want to skate or play shinny and his passion for pond hockey could drive him for a few more years.

“I keep going just to keep the kids happy and to get out of the house,” he said. “I’m not one of those guys who wants to be on the computer, and growing up in the country out east it was always about being outdoors and on ice. We grew up playing hockey on ponds and lakes and so I’ve always had a heart for skating rinks.”

“To me, it’s just seeing all the families coming out and spending a good day together skating. The kids play hockey, and the parents watch them, it’s such a great thing for the community. I was aiming

for 25 years; we’ll see what happens there with it.”

Ultimately, Hunt doesn’t think this is the last time the TRCA will try to stop him and the Caledon community from using the pond, but he’s making sure the ice is safe for all and wants more of an explanation on where this came from.

“I think it will come up again,” he said. “We’ve got the rinks at the diamonds now and the Town really wants everybody to go there because it’s on the ground and not on a pond, but the thing is, that’s just not the good Canadian way. That’s my thing, good old Canadian hockey is about playing shinny on the pond. It’s safe, I check the ice all the time and I put

markers out there for everybody. If it’s not safe I close it down. I’ve got records from 20 years ago from day one when I started back in 2000. I always kept notes so that’s why to me it was so hard to take because I was always being so cautious and safe. The biggest thing is liability and I’m happy the Town backed me up because this is so important. People come from Oakville, Newmarket, and Orangeville, it’s not just the people of Caledon, it’s people from all kinds of communities.”

Residents who wish to skate on Palgrave Pond have to sign the Town’s online waiver at caledon.ca/pondwaiver.



CALEDON COMMUNITY SERVICES

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“A Cold Walk for a Warmer Tomorrow”

by Michelle Veinot, Director, Community Resources



When you think of Caledon, what comes to mind? Rolling hills, quaint villages full of charming shops, gorgeous trails for walking and cycling, agricultural lands and equestrian events all make the list, but what about homelessness and precarious housing?

These harsh realities look different in Caledon than in other parts of the Region of Peel and the GTA. Our community doesn’t have urban sprawl where homelessness is rampant and in full view on downtown streets but make no mistake, while hidden by Caledon’s beauty, precarious housing and homelessness are very much a part of our community.

At Caledon Community Services (CCS) we see the struggle every day. Families couch surfing, people living in their cars or in tents hidden in forested areas are here.

Our Community Supports program at the Exchange (Caledon’s community hub) currently assists approximately 875 families who are struggling with housing, food and basic living essentials.

“I don’t know what I would have done without the support of CCS. The help

that we receive is so huge and means so very much to us.” – Single father with one daughter.

With almost no affordable housing in our community, some of our neighbours face the difficult decision of paying rent or putting food on the table, buying winter clothing or gas for their vehicle. Can you imagine the immense stress these choices create day after day?

This is why we walk in the Coldest Night of the Year on February 26th. For a brief time we experience what it must be like to be cold, homeless and feeling helpless. We walk to raise fund for vital programs and services that meet the needs of the homeless, hungry and hurting right here in our Caledon community. And when we’re done, we return to our warm homes for a hot meal where the reality is driven home that this is not an option available to everyone in Caledon.

Your participation in Coldest Night of the Year makes a difference for the most vulnerable members of our community and we need your help!

Visit cnoy.org/Caledon to register, start or join and engage your family and friends to donate in support.

It’s cold out there, Caledon, but together we can spread the warmth of caring to those who need it most!

How Do You See It?

Tell us how you see it.
Michelle Veinot, Director, Community Resources, Caledon Community Services at 905-584-2300 ext. 211 or mveinot@ccs4u.org

This column is provided free of charge by the Caledon Citizen.

Headwaters CEO denies claims

Continued from Page 3

After Delahunt’s denial of non-clinical staff being asked to help nurses, Stewart acknowledged province wide staffing issues are a problem but didn’t rescind the claims against Headwaters.

“If they’re worried about their reputation, I’m worried about the patients and the staff,” said Stewart.

Delahunt was adamant in her statement that Headwaters can handle staff shortages and would never consider asking non-clinical staff to fill in when shorthanded.

“We at Headwaters are proud of our reputation as an exemplary place for residents in Dufferin-Caledon to seek health care, and we are dismayed to have to defend ourselves against flagrant lies. In challenging times, we count on our professional colleagues to work with us and rise to meet the occasion; our staff continue to go above and beyond, and we continue to be humbled by the courage, perseverance and resilience they have all shown.

“Unfortunately, inaccurate information in the media as a result of SEIU’s claim has conse-

quences. We are aware of at least one patient who needed to be transferred by ambulance to our emergency department who expressed hesitation about that because they ‘didn’t want to be cared for by kitchen staff.’ It is dangerous for patients who need emergency care not to seek that at Headwaters as a result of blatant misinformation. The union’s claims are baseless. We want to assure the public that Headwaters is a place they can continue to rely on for safe and compassionate care.”

Nursing shortages have become a major topic throughout the pandemic, especially with Premier Doug Ford’s government suppressing wages with Bill 124 which has led to health workers leaving the sector.

“The Premier needs to go into some of those organizations and stay the 14, 16, 18-hour shifts and then say ‘Okay, this bill needs to be gone,’” said Dr. Doris Grinspun, CEO of the Registered Nurses’ Association of Ontario.

Almost five percent of the hospital staff, physicians and midwives at Headwaters Health Care Centre are currently off sick or at home self-isolating due to COVID-19.

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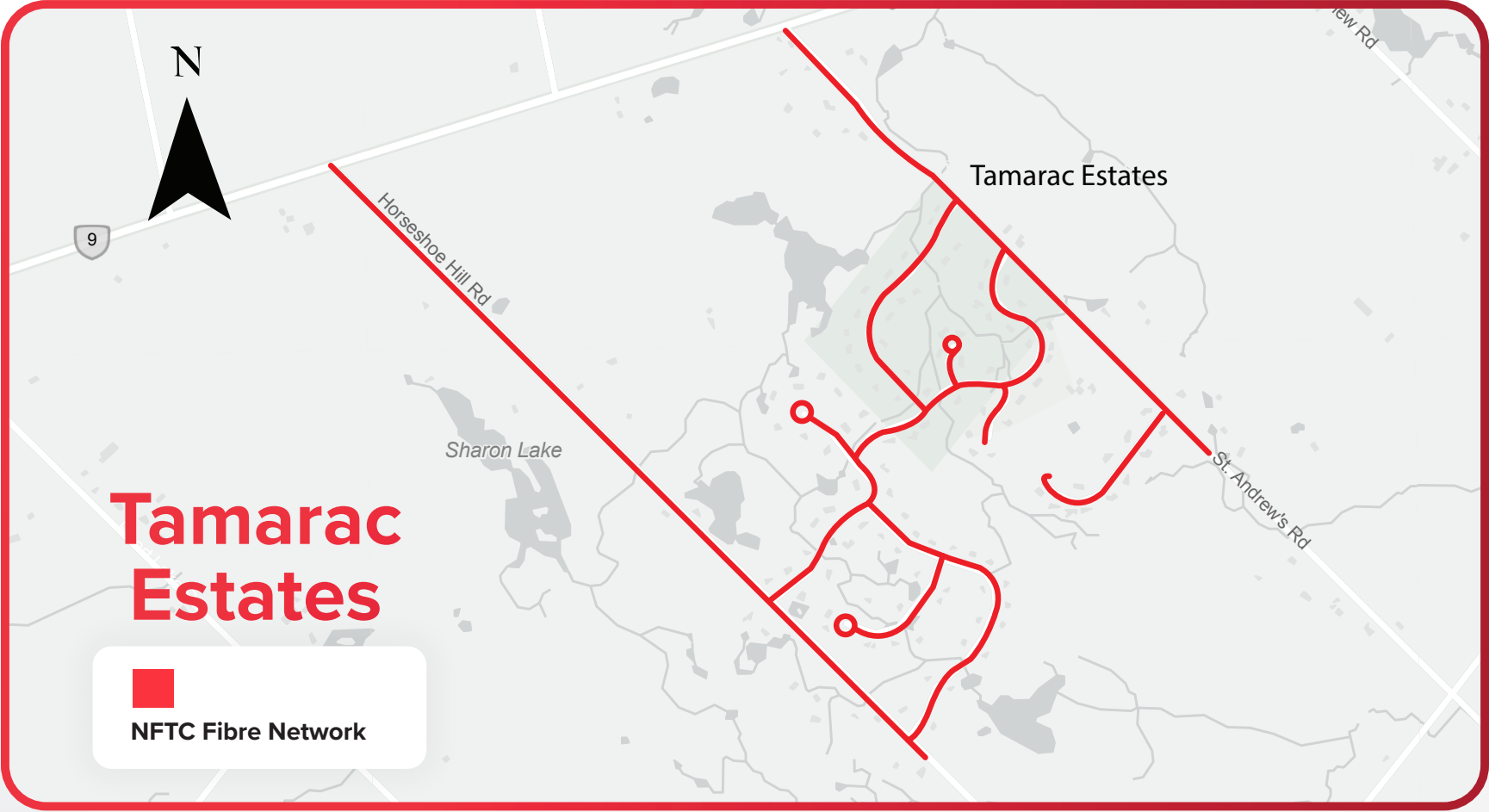
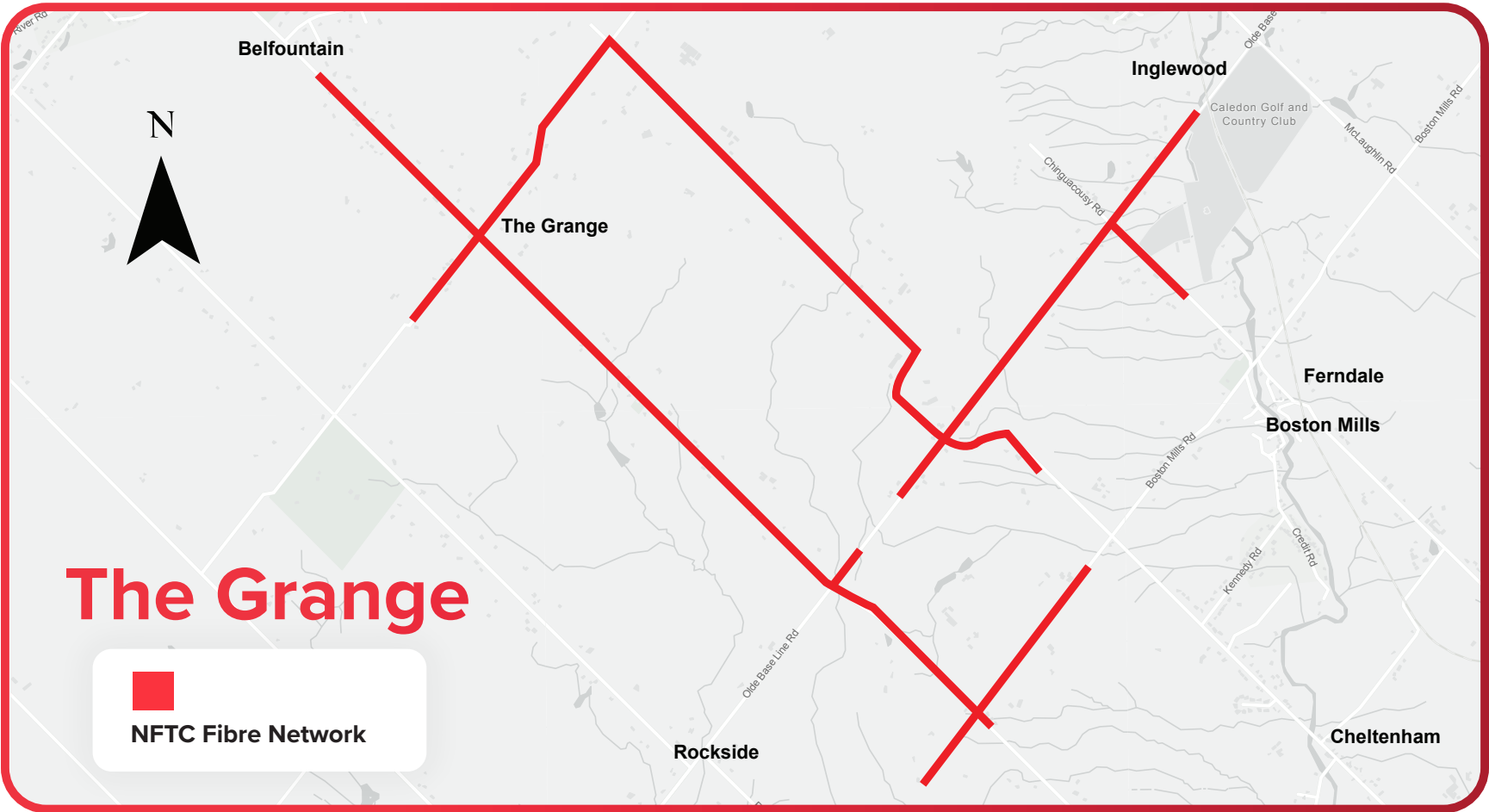
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Buying a home will most likely be the biggest investment you make in your lifetime.

THAT'S WHY working with a realtor who has your best interest at heart is so important to guide you through the entire process from finding the right house to closing the deal.

When choosing a realtor, it is important to find someone who has an intimate knowledge of the region and can help you find the right property based on your lifestyle and needs.

A local realtor knows the properties, the neighbourhoods, and the amenities that are most important to someone looking for a home.

John Walkinshaw, at WalkinshawPartners/eXp Realty, is a local resident who grew up in Dufferin County and has a lifetime of experience in the region on both a personal and business level.

He has decades of business experience after working in the local automotive market for 30 years which provided him with both sales experience as well as on the corporate side of negotiating important contracts. It also gave John the opportunity to meet many local residents over the years.

Treating customers 'properly and fairly,' John said, means they will come back to do more business when they are ready.

As a member of the community, John takes an active role in community involvement and leadership.

He is the acting chair and board member of Youth Unlimited / YFC, which operates The Door Youth Centres in Shelburne, Alliston, and Orangeville. In addition, he is on the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast committee for Dufferin County.

Walkinshaw Partners supports other activities like the annual Compass Run.

Internationally, they support New Story – an organization that helps build new houses for displaced people who have lost their homes due to natural disasters or war. Last year, Walkinshaw Partners donated enough to build two new homes in Mexico.

When it comes to local real estate, John plays an active role at the Orangeville District Real Estate Board. His role takes on that of one who helps educate local realtors in regards to training and new legal issues or changes that are happening in the real estate industry.

As a realtor, John is dedicated and professional. Out of his office at Walkinshaw Partners, his sales were over \$51 million in 2021.

"At Walkinshaw partners, we do professional home staging and a property walk-through video that explains all the positive features," John explained. "This takes time and costs money but we want to market our properties to the best of our abilities every time. Because of COVID, one of the benefits we do is a 360-degree tour. That way people can literally walk, step by step, through a house and look at the floor and the ceiling without

physically even going to the home. They can really understand exactly what is there. We do that because we want people to be safe and we want to feature our properties in the best light and as honestly as we can."

They also utilize drone aerial photography to capture a property from above. This is especially helpful on rural properties with a fair parcel of land. It can provide a potential buyer with the opportunity to see the entire property and amenities that go along with it.

...We have multiple strategies that we use to help buyers and sellers...

In today's real estate market, there is a real challenge for those wanting to buy property. The local market is hitting a historic low when it comes to available inventory up for sale.

This also creates some challenges for sellers as well. When you place your home on the market, typically you will have to find a new place to live. With such a shortage of available properties, sellers may have difficulty finding a new place for them to live.

"We have multiple strategies that we use to help buyers and sellers in that scenario," John explained. "One of the things we do is a listing for a seller with a long closing date. This allows a seller a lot of time to find a suitable home. With such a low inventory, there are buyers willing to allow really long closing."

Sometimes it can be arranged for a long closing that can be moved up if the sellers find an appropriate property they would like to purchase.

Another strategy that can work well, is when a seller sells the property but remains in the home until they find a new place to live and rents the house while they are looking. This can benefit both parties as the seller still has a place to live, and the new owner has an immediate tenant.

This type of arrangement is especially favourable for someone who buys property as an investment.

"These are just a couple of suggestions of 'out of the box' thinking that can make this awkward market work for people," John explained. "We're deploying those strategies day in and day out based on every buyer and seller's needs. You have to look at everyone's individual circumstances and think creatively. We would never put someone at risk."

John is a dedicated, professional, and knowledgeable realtor who always works for the best interest of his clients.

He and the team at Walkinshaw Partners are the experts in real estate in Dufferin County and the surrounding region.

– Written by Brian Lockhart

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MEET THE TEAM

Jerry Gould-Broker-Listing & Purchasing Partner

Jerry Gould, leader of the GOULD TEAM, is known in the community as the “Lip Guy.” He has been voted one of Orangeville’s favourite Realtors since 2011. In 2013, he achieved the RE/MAX HALL OF FAME award. To date, he has also received the Life Time Achievement, the Diamond Club Awards and most recently The Re/Max Circle Of Legends award which recognizes a decade of sales and service excellence! His unique marketing strategies paired with humorous and inspirational quotes get his listings plenty of attention. He is a proud community supporter, from the Lions Club, Headwaters Health Care and a host of minor sports leagues in town. Jerry and his wife, Guylaine, are the proud parents of two beautiful children; Belle and Brady. The Power Couple have been a part of this community since 1987.

Jerry is proud to introduce The GOULD TEAM!!

Laurie Drury-Sales Representative-Listing & Purchasing Partner

Dufferin County has always been Laurie’s home, and she is proud to have raised her family in such an active, giving, and caring community. Laurie has worked in the real estate industry for over 15 years, and has an extensive background in Marketing and Sales. Her attention to detail and organizational skills are an asset to all of her clients. Laurie loves meeting new people and helping them find the perfect place to call home. Laurie appreciates how much the Gould Team takes part in the community and is excited to give back as well. Laurie would be happy to help you make your next move, or help you kiss your landlord goodbye.

Dina Amaral-Sales Representative-Listing & Purchasing Partner

Dina’s love for home renovations is what got her into real estate. The love for nature and trails made her move to Dufferin county, raise her family, her two dogs, and a couple of chickens! Dina takes care of her clients, her business is built on communication, dedication, and transparency. Clients will have all the information necessary to make the right decision when they are ready to buy or sell. Professional and reliable, Dina is very happy to be part of the Gould team and looking forward to giving back to the community in any way possible.

Kim Giles – Team Manager / Sales Representative-Listing & Purchasing Partner

After a successful career in the travel industry, traveling and working around the world, Kim settled down with her locally raised husband Dave, and has been raising their 2 wonderful children, Jessica and Carter. Not only does Kim have great admin abilities, but she is also a licensed Realtor. With her impressive repertoire of skills, knowledge, and understanding, Kim takes the lead in all our administrative and client care needs as well as being an active Realtor. We can always count on Kim to keep the rest of the team in check! She is just one more reason to choose The Gould Team!

Guylaine Gould – Administrative Partner

Guylaine has been part of the GOULD TEAM since 2008. She started out as a photographer and now helps out in the administration and accounting side of the business. Before Real Estate, Guylaine worked in the corporate world as a bilingual project coordinator for a major computer company. Now, when we have French speaking clients, she can assist with the translation! Most importantly, Guylaine is the motivation and greatest influence behind Jerry’s success. Beside every great man is a great woman! Guylaine’s spirit and love for the community is truly inspirational.

FAITH, COMMUNITY, EXPERIENCE... IT’S WHO WE ARE!

Ask A Realtor



CHATTELS AND FIXTURES

How do you decide?

When it comes to buying or selling a home, the small details are something you should be aware of when making an offer or putting your home on the market.

AS A BUYER, you don't want to be surprised when you are moving in only to discover that the previous owner left with some of the fixtures you thought came with the home.

As a seller, you must be aware of everything that is included in the deal and your obligations in the contract you signed when selling your home.

Other than the actual home itself, there are other important details that keep a house both operational and aesthetically intact.

Those details can be defined in two categories – chattels and fixtures.

Fixtures can be defined as anything that is actually attached to the house. This could include plumbing, electrical fixtures, or the small handles you use to open a window.

There's a saying in the real estate industry that if you

took your house and turned it upside down, anything that doesn't fall out would be considered a fixture.

Chattels are those things that aren't attached to the home but may be considered an important part of the house.

This could include things like appliances, window coverings, or even a piece of furniture designed specifically for one room.

When it comes to making a purchase agreement, it is important that these details be included in the contract.

Anything you expect to be there when you move in should be included in an agreement of purchase and sale.

While a buyer may expect to receive the kitchen appliances as part of the deal, it should not be assumed. Buyers and sellers may have their own understanding of what is included in a transaction, and those differences could cause a lot of problems on moving day.

The definition of chattels and fixtures can create a grey area that is left open to interpretation. That's why it is important to include these in an agreement of purchase and sale.

Quite often there can be disagreements about which items are chattels and which are fixtures.

These can include things like a bookshelf, if built-in, or something as simple as the bracket that holds a wall-mounted television.

It can also include items like custom-made lighting fixtures. While a homeowner may assume they can take a custom-designed chandelier with them, the new owner might be disappointed to discover the main hallway only has a couple of bare wires where the chandelier used to hang.

Quite often there are items in a home that were designed specifically for a room or area that might figure into the agreement.

An example could be a pool table that was custom-made for a specially designed billiard room. If the current owner is downsizing and moving to a condominium, that pool table won't be an option for them to take to their new dwelling.

In a case like that, having the pool table listed as chattel means it will stay in the home. Items like this should be put on paper.

This could also include furniture in the home, such as a large custom-built dining room table that was crafted specifically for the room.

When looking over all the options, you must also examine the area outside of the house.

This can include things like a backyard hot tub or a children's play area with structures.

There can also be an issue over rental items in the home. A furnace or hot water tank may be considered a

fixture, however, if they are rented, a seller cannot transfer ownership, and the buyer will have to assume ongoing payment obligations.

A realtor should take the time to meet with a client at the beginning of the process to go over what is included in the sale and what is not included.

The more you can explain to a person upfront all that is included in a sale, the easier your negotiations will go once a potential buyer is serious about the property.

One final thing you must consider is a clause in most negotiations that states fixtures and chattels must be in good working order upon closing.

For example, if you have closed a deal that includes working appliances, and the refrigerator breaks down the week before closing, it will be the seller's responsibility to replace that fridge with a similar one in good working order to fulfill their obligation to the contract.

Making sure all chattels and fixtures are covered in your agreement of purchase and sale will make your real estate transaction a clearly defined contract that will benefit both parties.

– Written by Brian Lockhart

Information provided by Jerry Gould and the Gould Team ReMax Real Estate Centre office at 115 First Street, Orangeville. Faith, Community, Experience... It's Who We Are! www.kissrealty.ca



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How to decorate with texture and scent

(NC) When it comes to home décor, there’s one element that many people unknowingly neglect: texture. Adding texture essentially means layering a variety of materials, colours and textiles to create visual interest — and it’s key for creating a finished and lived-in look.

To help you incorporate texture like a pro, follow these tips from celebrity designer Amanda Aerin.

REMEMBER TO CREATE AMBIANCE

“Making beautiful spaces is about more than furniture. For me, it’s important to address the feeling a client wants in a space to create a room filled with happiness and relaxation,” says Aerin. “Including texture in a space creates a more welcoming feeling.”

Choose the mood you want to curate and add items that make you feel that way, whether it’s a chunky knit blanket or a macrame pillow.

DON'T BE AFRAID TO MIX AND MATCH MATERIALS

Try adding cozy throws, knotted area rugs or woven window coverings for a lavish look. Aerin also suggests adding pieces that are both functional and

visually interesting. For example, using a texture like velvet on a chair in your bedroom creates the perfect spot to wind down in the evenings.

Keep these materials smelling fresh and ready to cozy up to with Febreze Unstopables Touch fabric spray. “It’s touch activated so you’ll get a burst of fresh scent every time you sit down,” explains Aerin.

INCORPORATE DIFFERENT TEXTURAL ELEMENTS IN EACH ROOM

Textured wallpaper, embossed with any pattern or design, is one of the easiest ways to create a polished room. Texture can also be added to your dining room by using softly upholstered chairs to bring a look of refined opulence to the space.

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MARKET UPDATE

Orangeville Statistics - December			
	December, 2021	December, 2020	% Change
# of Active Listings	4	10	-60.00%
# of Homes Listed	28	17	64.71%
# of Sales	29	21	38.10%
List Price vs. Sale Price Ratio	105%	101%	3.96%
Average Days on Market	7	24	-70.83%
Average Sale Price	\$967,317	\$770,707	25.51%

Orangeville Statistics - Year to Date			
	Jan - December, 2021	Jan - December, 2020	% Change
# of Homes Listed	840	733	14.60%
# of Sales	722	621	16.26%
List Price vs. Sale Price Ratio	106%	101%	4.95%
Average Days on Market	10	16	-37.50%
Average Sale Price	\$803,622	\$641,211	25.36%

Buyers Market vs. Sellers Market			
Current Number of Homes for Sale		4	
Divided by Sales per Month		29	
Months of Inventory		0.1	
There is currently .1 months of inventory on the Market in Orangeville. In a Buyers Market, there is normally more than 6 months worth of inventory.			

December 2021 vs. December 2020
The number of active listings in Orangeville decreased by 60% in December 2021 vs. December 2020. 11 more listings came on the Toronto Regional Real Estate Board in December 2021 vs. December 2020, which is an increase of 64.71%. The number of homes sold increased by 8 homes or 38.10%. The average days on the market decreased from 24 to 7 days. Average sale prices were up by 25.51%.

Year to Date 2021 vs. Year to Date 2020
The number of homes listed in Orangeville, year-to-date increased from 733 to 840, which is an increase of 14.60%. The number of homes sold increased by 101 homes. The average days on the market decreased from 16 to 10 days. Average sale prices were up year over year by 25.36%.

Peel - Caledon Statistics - December			
	December, 2021	December, 2020	% Change
# of Active Listings	20	34	-41.18%
# of Homes Listed	66	52	26.92%
# of Sales	68	77	-11.82%
List Price vs. Sale Price Ratio	104%	107%	-2.72%
Average Days on Market	15	20	-25.00%
Average Sale Price	\$1,714,945	\$1,921,369	-10.98%

Peel - Caledon Statistics - Year to Date			
	Jan - December, 2021	Jan - December, 2020	% Change
# of Homes Listed	1,841	1,812	0.47%
# of Sales	1,213	1,200	0.99%
List Price vs. Sale Price Ratio	103%	98%	5.10%
Average Days on Market	13	21	-38.10%
Average Sale Price	\$1,402,700	\$1,281,126	9.59%

Buyers Market vs. Sellers Market			
Current Number of Homes for Sale		52	
Divided by Sales per Month		34	
Months of Inventory		1	
There is currently 1 month of inventory on the Market in Caledon. In a Buyers Market, there is normally more than 6 months worth of inventory.			

December 2021 vs. December 2020
The number of active listings in Caledon decreased by 18.75% in December 2021 over the same month in 2020. The number of listings that came on the Toronto Regional Real Estate Board in December 2021 vs. December 2020 increased by 13 homes or 25.00%. The number of homes sold decreased by 13 homes or 16.67%. The average days on the market decreased from 20 days to 15 days. Average sale prices were up by 29.68%.

Year to Date 2021 vs. Year to Date 2020
The number of homes listed in Caledon, year-to-date decreased from 1932 to 1941, which is an increase of 0.47%. The number of homes sold increased by 83 homes or 6.59%. The average days on market decreased from 21 days to 13 days. Average sale prices were up by 30.59%.

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AREAS WE SERVE

Members of the Orangeville & District Real Estate primarily serve, but are not limited to, the following areas: all of Dufferin County which is comprised of the rural townships of Amaranth, East Garafraxa, East Luther, Melancthon, Mono, and Mulmur as well as the communities of Grand Valley, Orangeville and Shelburne. The members also serve the Township of Adjala, the Town of Caledon and the Township of Erin.

Using your home’s equity to invest in rental property

Your home will most likely be the biggest investment your make in your lifetime.

YOU HAVE SAVED UP A DOWN PAYMENT, shopped around till you found the place you can afford, then took out a mortgage to pay for it all. You can be happy knowing that in 25 years, you will actually own it. In the meantime, your monthly mortgage payments will build equity in your investment. Real estate has long been considered the most secure investment you can ever make. As the name implies, property investment is an investment in something real and tangible.

Over the next few years of homeownership, you will be increasing your equity in the property, meaning you now have more opportunities to use that equity to help build wealth. Many homeowners are using that equity to invest in other properties. You can take some of that equity and buy properties that can be rented out. If you do your homework and make a wise investment, your tenants will be paying for the property for you. There are several options available when deciding to invest in a rental property. You can choose from a detached home, a townhouse, or a semi-detached home. There is also the option of building a basement apartment and renting it out for additional income.



To come out ahead on this type of transaction, you must be able to purchase a property that will provide positive cash flow. Ideally, your tenant will be paying your mortgage and bills with a little leftover.

You can take up to 80 per cent, 'loan to value' of the equity in your home to buy a second property. This means there are tax advantages that can be used since the rental property has become a source of income.

The amount of equity you can take advantage of must be at least the needed funds for a 20 per cent down payment on the new property. This type of investment works well for those people who have invested in their homes, have paid down a considerable amount on their mortgage, and have built enough equity that they can afford to use that to their advantage.

A local realty has the knowledge of the region and can help guide you to appropriate properties that may achieve the investment goal you are looking for.

In the current hot-market situation in the region, the price of homes continues to rise. If you have been fortunate enough to have bought into the market and have made a considerable dent in your mortgage, using the leverage you have to invest in other properties could prove to be a wise decision to help secure your financial future.

Written by Brian Lockhart

Dufferin Real Estate Market Update

Dufferin Statistics (excluding Orangeville) - December			
	December, 2021	December, 2020	% Change
# of Active Listings	29	44	34.09%
# of Sales	16	50	53.33%
Average Sale Price	\$1,177,591	\$859,817	36.96%

Dufferin Statistics (excluding Orangeville) - Year to Date			
	Jan - December, 2021	Jan - December, 2020	% Change
# of Sales	734	667	10.04%
Average Sale Price	\$1,130,284	\$845,771	33.73%

Buyers Market vs. Sellers Market

Current Number of Homes for Sale	29
Divided by Sales per Month	16
Months of Inventory	1.8

There is currently .6 months of inventory on the Market in Dufferin (excluding Orangeville). In a Buyers Market, there is normally more than 6 months worth of inventory.

December 2021 vs. December 2020
The number of active listings in Dufferin (excluding Orangeville) decreased by 34.09% in December 2021 over the same month in 2020. The number of homes sold increased by 16 homes or 53.33% in December 2021. Average sale prices increased by 36.96%.

Year to Date 2021 vs. Year to Date 2020
The number of homes sold increased by 67 homes in December 2021 over the same month in 2020. Average sale prices were up by 33.73%.

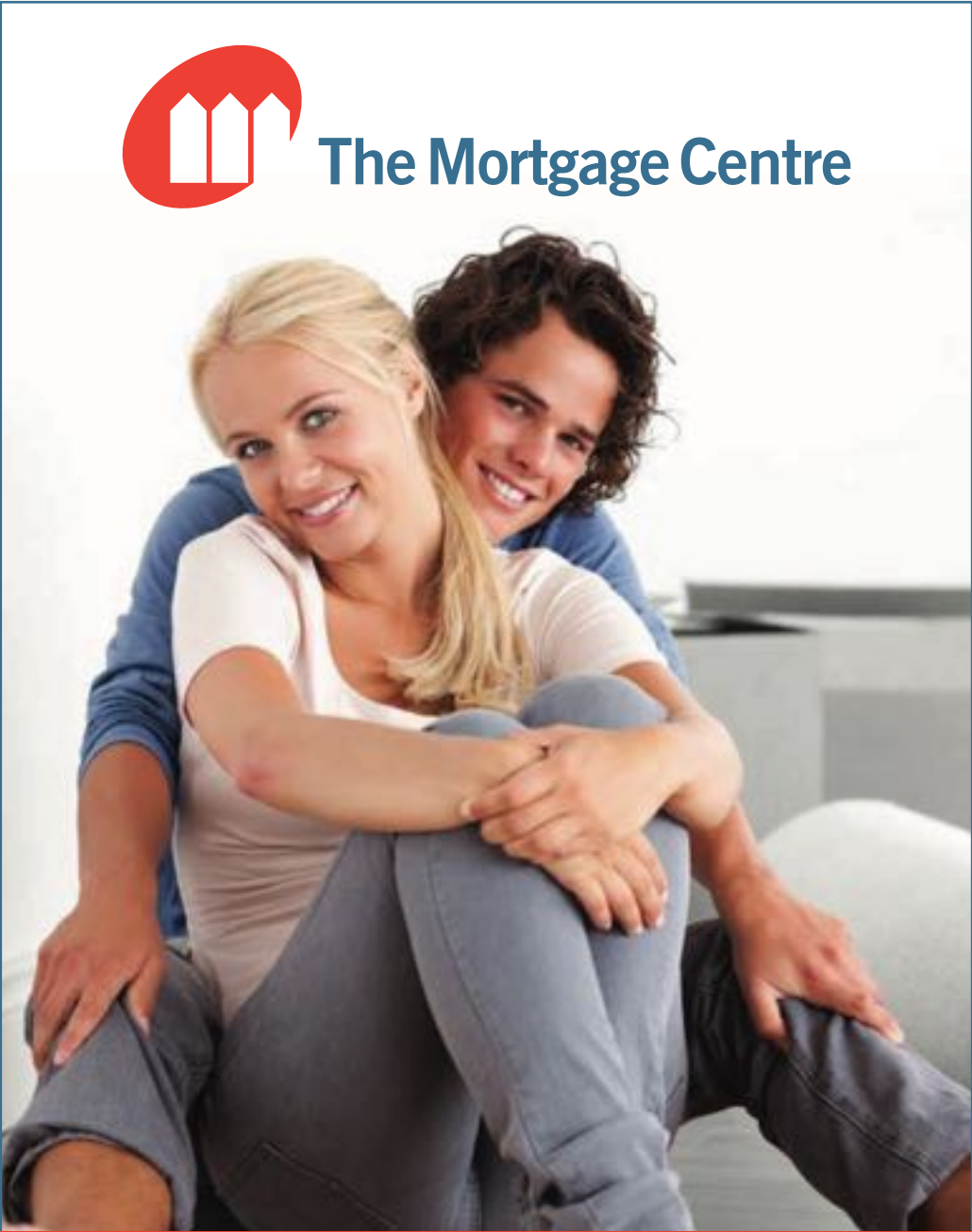
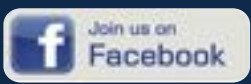


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Building a solid future

I have been fortunate enough to have been securing mortgages for over 32 years.

balances below 50% of the limit. Having multiple credit accounts with low balances will not negatively impact your score. Accounts that over-limit really have a negative impact, this should be avoided at all costs.

I have worked with many young couples that had it all together. Some, if they had just a little more guidance would have been better prepared and able to buy a home sooner. A lot of this is education that is really only available today from family, mentors, or personal research. There are some areas that are common sense, but others where misinformation causes young people to make wrong decisions.

Old unpaid balances with cell phones, cable companies, etc that turn into collections will also drop your score significantly. Unpaid bills will eventually go to collection, and they often will obtain a judgement. All score killers.

This month I want to address credit. Having a high credit score is a wonderful thing. It will get you a better interest rate on your car loan, your mortgage and your credit lines. It is very easy to maintain a high score but also easy to drop that score. It is not true that cancelling credit cards will increase your score, it is also not true that checking with 4 banks for a mortgage will drop your score. The frequently asked questions on the Equifax website will confirm that.

Multiple enquiries for more unsecured credit such as credit cards, credit lines etc., will have a negative impact if done in a very short period of time.

Credit score killers are: Missed payments on credit items, cell phones, utilities, mortgages etc. Cell phones and utilities do now report to the credit companies.

Having no score is also a reason for credit requests to be declined. Clients need a minimum of 2 years of established credit. If you are having trouble getting approved for a credit card because you have no accounts, a secured credit card is a great option. Credit card companies will give you a card with a small limit and ask for cash upfront to secure it. It is a great way to start establishing credit. You will need credit to get a mortgage from a Bank at a decent interest rate.

High balances on credit cards and credit lines are also killers. You should endeavour to keep your

There are 5 different credit scores available to the bank. The credit score available to consumers online is a generic score and a very good indicator of your score. The score banks use for mortgages etc., may be different.

If you have a low score, we have agents that can advise you as to how to increase it. We are always happy to help.

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9.59 ACRES OF VACANT LAND

Mature trees dot the front lot line but quickly opens up to a perfect mix of flat workable area & then gently rising to mixed forest. Trails lead to the back fence line where a small stream crosses the property. Stands of birch trees give way to a canopy of cedars –a nature lover's recipe to enjoy the diverse wildlife & flora that reside. The lot does not have a drive way entrance, but the road is paved & just by the 5th Sdrd. of Adjala which has natural gas & high speed internet. Close to but far enough away from Hwy 9 for peace & quiet. Great commuting access to the city, Tottenham, Bolton & Orangeville! Build your country escape & enjoy the life you have dreamed about! **ADJALA \$1,109,000**

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Who wants to drive thru traffic every weekend when you can have it all on 50 acres. Meander down a winding tree lined driveway that leads to a spectacular 5 bedroom, 7 bathroom, completely renovated home with luxury finishes, massive windows, heated floors, built-in appliances, multiple walk-outs, LED lighting, vaulted ceilings, Sonos throughout whole home as well as outside speakers to enjoy while swimming in the 14' deep pool or chilling out in the hot tub. Climb into the copper Japanese soaker tub or the sauna so many choices! 10 stall heated barn with extra stalls and wash rack, 10KW microfit solar, huge utility/storage building, multiple paddocks, run-ins, separate entrance to barn area, pond, creek, trails, geothermal, unbelievable guest house & bunkie- all tucked away in a gorgeous private quiet setting. Come see for yourself and you will never want to leave! **CALEDON \$7,375,000**

92 ACRES WITH 70 ACRES OF USABLE FARMLAND

2011 custom built bungalow with views over the countryside. The home has been engineered with quality materials & over 8000 square feet of living space. 6 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, high ceilings, hardwood & ceramic flooring give the home a palatial feel. The kitchen is open to a vast light filled great room & features built in appliances, custom island, exhaust fan 1200 CFM & has the ability for a wood burning fireplace. Fully finished basement has its own kitchen, spacious rec room, its own furnace & multiple walkouts. Long driveway has been wired for lighting, entryway gates & security cameras. Fruit trees & gardens are serviced by a drip irrigation system. Tankless hot water heater & water treatment all new in the last 6 months, HVAC throughout, Bell high-speed internet. Nicely landscaped property close to Orangeville for shopping, Headwaters Hospital, schools & Hwys 9 & 10 for commuting. The growth potential for the area is phenomenal, don't miss this opportunity! **CALEDON \$6,279,000**

SHOULD I STAY OR SHOULD I GO NOW?

This is the question that we are getting more now than ever before. Of course those of you who know that song performed by The Clash will probably be singing it, at least that chorus and I apologize if it gets stuck in your head for the rest of the day. The reality with regards to that question, when it comes to real estate and whether you should look for a new home or perhaps stay and renovate your existing home, is riddled with pros and cons. I'm sure that many homeowners are having sleepless nights wrestling with this quandary. As with many of these big questions it is often good to put pen to paper and list the pros and cons of renovating the home you are in versus finding the perfect property somewhere else.

Let's start with staying put and renovating.

1. Renovating and upgrading your home is for the most part an improvement to your biggest investment. A caution though, modifying your home to suit a specific use can sometimes limit the overall appeal of your home to the open market, thus all upgrades are not created equally.
2. The cost of materials is at an all time high. The availability of materials is dismal at best. The availability of contractors is scarce and so in these frustrating times starting a large renovation project is not for the faint of heart and will have obstacles and challenges that are amplified due to the current state of affairs.

3. The difficulty of starting new somewhere else is avoided. Think about trying to find family doctors, dentists, internet, jobs, activities for you and your family, etc. Now obviously if you are already struggling with providing some of these suggestions in your current home, then perhaps this is a pro for finding a new home. If you currently have all of these amenities where you are be sure that wherever you hope to go that these will be available.
4. The cost of moving. This is a tricky one as everyone has a different lens to look at this. To stay and renovate, those costs are fairly easy to find out- get some quotes for the work you would like to do! For moving, they are standard costs but typically you offset them by budgeting them within the parameters of the sale price of your home and the purchase price of your new home. But do not underestimate the costs of buying and selling: realtor commissions; mortgage refinancing; legal fees; moving company; paying out any lease to own or contracts on your home; prepping for sale with paint or those last few jobs you meant to get to but you only have 4 more episodes of Yellowstone left to watch!!! These costs can be prohibitive in the overall equation.

Trying to find a new home.

The market is still sitting at its lowest consecutive inventory rate ever. let me qualify that statement- since the Toronto Real Estate Board has been keeping this statistic. There is so little to choose from that you have to be ready to jump on

a property that fits your needs, be prepared to compete in a bidding war and more than likely pay more money then you think you wanted to. The reality is that your home will more than likely sell quickly and for excellent value but I can't stress enough that you should be conservative and cautious when setting the bar for value on both the sale and the purchase amount in this current market. The other issue at play is the stress of the unknown. In days past the discussion of should I buy first or should I sell first has been discussed. Right now unless you have secondary accommodations, meaning a cottage or a family or friend with lots of room, selling first before buying is setting yourself up for a lot of stress. Typically people would say if I don't find something to buy I will just rent, but today's rental market is just as lean and prices are continuing to escalate. So it is not that easy to find something to rent in a short time.

We hope that this article has touched upon the main concerns when trying to decide if it's time to stay or if it's time to go. Perhaps most of them you have already gone over in your own mind but seeing them from someone else's perspective may help shape your decision. We here at The Chris Richie Group would be happy to discuss your position, to hear your ideas for improving your home and to help you understand what is the best choice for you. We are in your neighborhood for over 30 years and we're happy to help, just give us a call.



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