

Merry Christmas!

from

Kyle Seeback, M.P. Dufferin-Caledon



Kyle and his volunteers participating in the 2022 Orangeville Santa Claus Parade (November 19, 2022).

A Message from Kyle:



**Christmas is here
Dufferin-Caledon!**



It's official – Christmas is here Dufferin-Caledon! It's my favourite time of the year because, like most Canadians, it's an opportunity to spend time with family, friends, and everyone important to us. It's also a time to celebrate cherished traditions, passed down from generation to generation, and to remember the special Christmas memories we shared with those who are no longer with us, but remain close in our hearts.

Christmas is also my favourite time of year because it's the season of goodwill and giving which surrounds us. Every Christmas season, we see countless acts of charity and kindness in our community. Dufferin-Caledon is known for being a generous, compassionate, and caring community, always ready to lend a hand to those who need it.

There are many charities across Dufferin-Caledon that work extremely hard, always going above and beyond, to deliver critically important programs and services throughout our community. Christmas is a perfect time to open our hearts and give generously to support their work, ensuring everyone in this riding may revel in the joy and wonder of this special season.

If you have the means, I encourage you to support any of the fantastic community groups and local charities here in our community!

I would also like to encourage everyone to continue shopping local this Christmas season and beyond. Dufferin-Caledon is home to some of the very best products and services in Canada! Let's support local business owners who work immensely hard year-round to deliver these to us.

On behalf of my family and my office, I wish you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and Happy 2023!

**Sincerely,
Kyle Seeback, M.P. Dufferin-Caledon**



Kyle Seeback, M.P. Dufferin-Caledon
Constituency Office
229 Broadway, Unit 2
Orangeville, ON L9W 1K4
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Website: www.kyleseeback.ca
E-mail: kyle.seeback@parl.gc.ca

**SOME OF THE AMAZING
CHARITIES & COMMUNITY GROUPS IN
DUFFERIN-CALEDON**

Below I've listed a few of the outstanding local charities and community groups serving Dufferin-Caledon. If you're able to make a small contribution to any of them or any local charity during the Christmas season, it can have a huge impact on those they support.

**Caledon Community Services & The Exchange
Salvation Army New Hope Community Church**

Shepherd's Cupboard Food Bank

Orangeville Food Bank

Family Transition Place

Caledon Animal Shelter

Headwaters Health Care Foundation

Hospice Dufferin

Bethell Hospice

Caledon Meals on Wheels

Choices Youth Shelter

Community Living Dufferin

Ontario SPCA Orangeville & District Animal Centre



***Holiday Events
in Dufferin - Caledon***



**CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK
(UNTIL DECEMBER 31ST)**

Daily 5:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. (free admission)

Kay Cee Gardens

29 Bythia Street, Orangeville



**ARTFUL GIVING SHOW & SALE
(UNTIL JANUARY 8TH, 2023)**

Wednesday-Sunday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Headwaters Arts Gallery, Alton Mill Arts Centre

1402 Queen Street West, Alton



**UPCOMING BLOOD DONOR CLINIC IN
DUFFERIN-CALEDON**

One of the best gifts you can give this Christmas is the gift of blood to help someone in need. Canadian Blood Services (CBS) needs to fill every donation appointment this holiday season.

Now is the time to donate. There is growing pressure on blood supplies. CBS asks all eligible donors to book and honour their appointment to donate blood, platelets, and plasma.

For more information on the upcoming clinic in Dufferin-Caledon during the Christmas holidays and registration details, please see below:

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2022
2:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

(Appointment required)

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FREE Thursday, December 22, 2022 Volume 42, Issue 51



CHRISTMAS SUCCESS – It has been another successful year for The Sisters Touch of Christmas, a holiday store located at St. Kosmas Aitolos Greek Orthodox Monastery and operated by its community of Sisters, benefiting myriad community organizations. At the store this week, volunteers Athanasia and Maria were on hand to help sell items baked and hand-made by The Sisters. For more, see Page 6. **PHOTO BY ZACHARY ROMAN**

Caledon celebrates grand opening of expanded Seniors Centre

Room at Centre dedicated to long-time manager Beverley Nurdén

BY ZACHARY ROMAN

The expansion of the Caledon Seniors Centre is complete.

On December 20, a grand opening ceremony was held at the Centre to celebrate the completion of its nearly doubling in

size from 6,000 to 13,800 square feet.

Additions to the Seniors Centre, which is located at 7 Rotarian Place in Bolton, include a state-of-the-art commercial kitchen, laundry room, therapy room, office space, and a massive party room that can be divided into three separate rooms.

The grand opening began at 2 p.m. and the new party room was quickly filled with Caledon seniors, Caledon's Mayor and Council, Town of Caledon staff, politicians, donors, sponsors and more. Guests enjoyed complimentary drinks of coffee, tea, punch, beer and wine while they so-

cialized in the new gathering space, and snacks were also served.

Jane Chapman, President of the Caledon Seniors Centre board, a role she's held for the past six years, explained that due to the pandemic's impact on construction supply costs, the Seniors' Centre expansion went from a \$4.7 million project to a \$8 million dollar project.

This unexpected cost increase was managed thanks to the Town of Caledon, which is the owner of the Caledon Seniors Centre, and many fundraising efforts.

Continued on Page 17

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Mayor Annette Groves and Caledon Seniors Centre manager Beverley Nurdén helped cut cake for guests at the Centre's grand opening celebration.

PHOTO BY ZACHARY ROMAN

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Caledon East community gathers for tree lighting at Town Hall

Santa and Mrs. Claus showed up at the event for pictures and read a Christmas story

BY ZACHARY ROMAN

Caledon East got a little bit brighter last Wednesday.

At 5:30 p.m. on December 14, the community began gathering outside Caledon’s Town Hall on Old Church Road for a tree lighting ceremony. Upon arrival, attendees were greeted with holiday music and could grab a cup of free hot chocolate.

Treats from Caledon small businesses were being handed out for free, and donations of food for those in need were accepted.

Caledon Mayor Annette Groves and many members of Caledon Council came out to the event to celebrate with the community. It wasn’t long before a Caledon Fire and Emergency Services truck rolled up with Santa and Mrs. Claus in it.

Waving to the crowd, they exited the truck and greeted everyone, much to the kids in attendance’s delight. Santa and Mrs. Claus then invited everyone to gather around for a story, and read “Twas the Night Before Christmas” to the children.

The Grinch was even spotted at the event, though he was in good spirits and not up to the shenanigans one might expect. After the story, families lined up for pictures with Santa, Mrs. Claus, and even The Grinch.

The Town’s official tree lighting took place after Mayor Groves led the crowd



(LEFT) Councillor Dave Sheen, Mayor Annette Groves, Regional Councillor Christina Early, and Councillor Doug Maskell are pictured in front of the tree that was lit for the Town of Caledon’s tree lighting. (RIGHT) Georgia and Arzoie had their picture taken with The Grinch on December 14.

PHOTO BY ZACHARY ROMAN

in a countdown from 10. She wished the residents of Caledon a happy holiday season on behalf of her and all of Caledon Council.

“We had a great turnout, and thanks to the volunteers and staff who worked really hard to put the event together,” said Groves in an interview after the tree light-

ing. “Thanks to Santa and Mrs. Claus, it was great to see how many kids turned out. The weather was perfect and it was great to see the community out.”

Where to go for health care during the holiday season

BY ZACHARY ROMAN

Local health care professionals are encouraging people to be prepared and know their health care options this holiday season.

On December 16, Headwaters Health Care Centre and the Hills of Headwaters Collaborative Ontario Health Team issued a list of options people can turn to when they’re seeking both emergency and non-emergency

care.

“Due to the prevalence of respiratory illnesses like flu, colds, RSV and COVID, we are seeing much higher volumes in emergency department visits when compared with previous years,” said Kim Delahunt, President and CEO of Headwaters Health Care Centre.

A November statement from the Ontario Medical Association, the representative of Ontario’s physicians, said that emergency departments have seen “record volumes in recent months, on top of staff shortages and burnout, as patients return to the health-care system in large numbers.”

Tracy Coffin, Executive Director of the Hills of Headwaters Collaborative, said there are precautions people can take during the holidays such as getting their prescriptions filled in advance.

“However, illness and injuries happen, and this information will help people find care options,” said Coffin in the statement.

For those who have a family doctor, they should be their first point of contact when faced with a non-life-threatening illness or injury. However, according to the Ontario Medical Association, at least 1 million Ontarians do not have regular access to primary care, and this issue can be exacerbated in rural areas.

Those who do not have access to a family doctor (primary care) are encouraged to consider one of the following options: visit their pharmacist; call Health Connect Ontar-

io at 811; visit a walk-in clinic; or access virtual urgent care through the William Osler Health System.

Virtual urgent care can be accessed at the following link: tinyurl.com/vucholidays.

Virtual urgent care is offered on a first-come, first-served basis via scheduled video or audio call appointments. People can make appointments online on weekdays from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekends. Parents and caregivers can book appointments on behalf of others, and to qualify for a visit a patient must be at least three months of age.

In-person urgent care is available at Peel Memorial in Brampton 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Emergency care is available at the Headwaters Health Care Centre emergency department 24/7 as well. As always, those with immediate life-threatening injuries or conditions should call 911.

The holiday season is also a time when local health care professionals see an increased need for mental health support services. Persons 18 years of age or older can call the 24/7 Crisis Support Peel Dufferin line for support at 905-278-9036 or 1-888-811-2222. Persons under the age of 18 can receive 24/7 support by calling Dufferin Child and Family Services at 519-941-1530.

As before, those who need emergency services should call 911.

A comprehensive list of health care options for Caledon residents can be found online at headwatershealth.ca and hillsofheadwaterscollaborative.ca.

YourWaste

Holiday collection schedule

There will be no waste collection on December 26 and January 2. Waste will be collected one day later those weeks. (Dec 27-30 and Jan 3-6).

Check peelregion.ca/waste/calendar/ to find your pickup day or sign up to receive free waste collection reminders.

Community Recycling Centre hours:

- * Dec. 24 and Dec. 31 – Open from 8:30 a.m. to Noon
- * Dec. 25-26 and Jan. 1, 2022 – Closed
- * Dec. 27-30 – Open during normal business hours



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peelregion.ca/waste

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COMMUNITY events

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

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) ON 1344 Bolton – Real People, Real Weight Loss is a non-profit group. We meet weekly on Wed. evenings in the basement of Bolton United Church. Weigh-ins are 6:15-6:45 followed by a meeting. The initial annual fee incl. a bi-monthly magazine and starter kit is \$59, and monthly dues are only \$15. If you have weight to lose and/or want to improve your health, we can help! We promote healthy eating and your first meeting is free. Come join us! Now that the COVID19 protocols are starting to ease, it's a good time to make any necessary changes to your eating habits. For more information call Marion at 905-857-5191 or see www.tops.org. Online memberships are also available.

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

Caledon Church of Canada. Every Sunday morning @ 10 am. Monday prayer meeting @ 7 pm. Resources: Prayer counselling, Baby/child dedication, Visit the sick, Wedding Services, Food bank and more! For all your pastoral services:

New Year’s Eve and beyond: Upcoming events in Caledon and Peel Region

Town of Caledon hosting annual Winterfest event on January 8

BY ZACHARY ROMAN

Winterfest

An afternoon of free skating and swimming is planned not long into the new year. The Town of Caledon will host its 19th annual Winterfest event from 1 to 4 p.m. on January 8 at the Mayfield Recreation Complex. Mayor Annette Groves and members of Caledon Council will be there for the yearly event, which will feature free skating and swimming. There will also be games and activities for kids and refreshments. Jessica Stovin, Caledon’s Manager of Community Recreation, said each year Winterfest is a partnership between the Town’s recreation team and the Mayor’s office that’s held on the first Sunday of January. Groves said Winterfest is always a wonderful event for the community, especially for kids. “It’s a fun day for the community to come out and enjoy skating and swimming for free,” said Groves. “We will have some of our local charitable organizations there to help them bring awareness and promote what they do.”

New Year’s Eve

There’s a number of New Year’s Eve celebrations going down in Caledon, such as the one being held at the Royal Ambassador Event Centre in Caledon East. The Centre’s New Year’s Eve Gala is being held for the 19th time to ring in 2023. Tickets to the event include an open bar, martini station, Italian-style antipasto bar, three-course meal, and a late-night buffet. The event will feature DJ services from Digital X Entertain-

ment. Tickets to the Gala for adults are \$185 plus taxes and fees, while children ages 4 to 13 are half price. Tickets for seniors are \$175. The event begins at 7 p.m. and those interested in attending can call 905-584-6868 to book tickets. Another New Year’s night out in Caledon is the New Year’s Eve Celebration at The Vista by Chef Denis. The theme for the celebration is black and gold, and it’s a night out for those who are of legal drinking age. The culinary experience will see guests have a welcome cocktail, amuse-bouche and four-course meal. Guests can also opt into a five-course wine pairing menu. There will be live music played by the Charlie Webb Trio and Blackburn Brothers before a DJ plays from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. There will be a toast at midnight, a 360 photo booth and more at this event, and those interested in it can reserve a table online at thevistarestaurant.ca.

Get Creative

The Peel Art Gallery Museum and Archives (PAMA) is hosting a number of different drop-in art sessions over the holidays as part of “Winter Break Colourful Creations.” There’s something new every day from December 27 to 30 and January 2 to 6, and on each of those days families can drop by between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. (art sessions are recommended for kids ages four to 12). Admission to the sessions is free, but donations to PAMA are always accepted. The schedule for the art sessions is as follows: December 27, All about Puppets; December 28, Winter Prints; December 29, Fantastical Worlds; December 30, Countdown to 2023; January 2, Dots and Dashes; January 3, Creature Feature; January 4, Scenic Views; January 5, Cartoon Mania; and January 6, Art and Science.



MISTLETOE MOUNTAIN RETURNS TO MOUNT ALVERNO – Mistletoe Mountain returned to Mount Alverno earlier this month when the resort was transformed into a winter wonderland featuring activities for kids, photos and stories with Santa, a Christmas holiday market, holiday movie screening, and wine tasting for attendees. The event ran from December 2 to December 4 and was free to attend, but some of the money raised went to Family Transition Place and donations were collected on the organization’s behalf. **PHOTO BY PETER RICHARDSON**

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Public Notice

Notice to members of the public wishing to serve on the Regional Municipality of Peel Police Services Board

The Regional Municipality of Peel invites applications from members of the public who are interested in serving as a Citizen Appointee to the Peel Regional Police Services Board (PPSB) for a term ending November 14, 2026, or until a successor is appointed by Regional Council.

The PPSB is responsible for the provisions of police services, law enforcement and crime prevention within Peel region.

Minimum eligibility requirements:
A candidate shall be a resident of the Peel region or the owner or tenant of land in the Peel region, or spouse of such person; and a Canadian citizen at least 18 years of age.

A candidate shall not be a member of the Legislative Assembly, the Senate or House of Commons; an elected official of Council; a member of Regional Council; a crown employee; an employee of a municipality; a judge, or justice of the peace; otherwise disqualified from holding office or voting; a police officer; and a person who practices criminal law as a defence counsel.

Preferred qualifications:
Have skills or leadership in a business or a profession which demonstrate ability to work effectively as a member of a board; have demonstrated history of community service; be of good character (candidates will be required to provide, as a condition of appointment, confirmation that they do not have a criminal record for which a pardon has not been granted); have specific knowledge or experience which may be an asset to the Board (e.g., finance or human resources); have ability to devote up to 20 hours per month to PPSB matters, including availability during normal business hours.

Information regarding the PPSB, including the meeting schedule and the *Police Services Act* and Members of Police Services Boards Code of Conduct is available at **peelpoliceboard.ca**

Visit the Region of Peel website to apply: peelregion.ca/news/notices/2022

Application deadline:
January 4, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.

Only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Interviews of selected applicants will take place in early 2023.



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POLICE VEHICLE REAR-ENDED

Officers from the Caledon OPP have charged a driver who collided with a police cruiser setting up for Festive RIDE with impaired operation.

“On December 17, 2022, at approximately 12:39 a.m., an officer was setting up a Festive RIDE location on the offramp from Hurontario Street northbound to Valleywood Boulevard,” say Police. “The fully marked cruiser with emergency lights activated was stationary on the shoulder when it was rear ended by a vehicle. Minor injuries were sustained.

“During the collision investigation, officers suspected the driver’s abilities to operate a motor vehicle to be impaired and requested a breath sample into an Approved Screening Device (ADS). As a result, the driver was arrested for impaired operation and transported to the Caledon



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Thanks for shopping local! ♥



OPP Detachment where further breath tests were conducted.”

Yoel Morales Lemus, 48, of Caledon, was charged with:

- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)

The accused is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on February 27, 2023, to answer to the charge. The charge has not been proven.

The vehicle was impounded for a period of seven days and the driver’s licence suspended for 90 days.

“The Festive RIDE (Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere) campaign is an annual police enforcement and education initiative aimed at taking impaired drivers off Ontario roads during the holiday season. With the holiday season upon us, the need to make alternate arrangements has increased. In Caledon, HomeJames offers a free designated driver service. The program runs from November 25 to December

stead, arrange for a designated driver, take a taxi or public transit, or come up with another plan that takes impaired driving out of the picture.

VEHICLE INSPECTION FAILURES

Officers from the Traffic Unit of the Caledon OPP been conducting inspections and compliance investigations of tow trucks as part of the OPP Provincial Tow Program. A total of 12 tow trucks recently failed their inspection.

“As part of the Provincial Tow Program, Caledon OPP implemented the Tow & Storage Service Operators (TSSO) program on January 1, 2022,” say Police. “This program was provincially launched to regulate tow truck operators, ensure vehicle and equipment standards are met, regulate vehicle impound operations, and to protect the public. TSSOs wishing to work with the OPP must apply, be approved, and are subject to rules and regulations. Violations may result in the suspension of a towing and storage operator.

“Officers have been busy with inspections for the 2023 TSSO program. Approximately 40 tow trucks attended the Caledon OPP Detachment for a scheduled inspection, 12 of which failed to meet the requirements. While many of the failures were due to broken and missing tow equipment (winches, hooks, lighting, etcetera), others were attributed to general commercial motor vehicle (CMV) safety requirements and defects such as expired annual safety certificates, missing driver seat belt, fuel leaks, and other deficiencies. One vehicle was taken out of service and required to be towed.

“Two drivers, on two separate occasions, were charged for driving while under suspension. In another incident, an officer conducted a traffic stop due to excessive window tint. The tow truck driver was charged with multiple offences such as improper tires, excessive window tint, document offences, and an expired commercial vehicle inspection certificate. The plates were seized, and the truck required a tow.”

The OPP also acknowledges and commends the many safe CMV drivers who contribute to safe Ontario roads. For more information on safety requirements for commercial motor vehicle in Ontario, visit: www.ontario.ca/page/commercial-vehicles

The application package, new list of mandatory TSSO equipment, guidelines for providing towing services to the OPP and other information are available at www.opp.ca.

IMPAIRED DRIVING CHARGES

Officers from the Caledon OPP have charged two additional drivers with impaired operation.

“On December 18, 2022, at approximately 1:30 a.m., an officer was conducting speed enforcement on Highway 10, near Old School Road, in the Town of Caledon,” say Police. “At that time, a vehicle was observed traveling at a high rate of speed and was subsequently stopped. Since the officer suspected the driver’s abilities to operate a motor vehicle to be impaired, a breath sample into an Approved Screening Device (ASD) was requested. The driver was then arrested for impaired operation and transported to the Caledon OPP detachment where further breath tests were conducted.”

Gurbir Gill, 24, of Brampton, was charged with:

- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)
- Speeding

The charges have not been proven.

“Later that same day, at approximately 7:02 p.m., Caledon OPP responded to a two-vehicle collision on Old School Road, near Creditview Road. During the investigation, officers formed reasonable grounds that one of the involved parties to be impaired. As a result, the driver was arrested for impaired operation and transported to an OPP detachment where breath tests were conducted.”

Adriana Carley, 30, of Caledon, was charged with:


- Operation while impaired – alcohol
- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)
- Fail to comply with probation order
- Novice driver - B.A.C. over zero


The charges have not been proven.

Both accused are scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on March 2, 2023, to answer to the charges. The vehicles were impounded for a period of seven days and the driver’s licences suspended for 90 days.




Drivers are reminded that no amount of alcohol or drugs in your system is safe when driving. If you plan on drinking or consuming drugs, plan to not drive. In-


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CLUES ACROSS
1. Product or ___ (abbr.)
4. Zodiac sign
9. S. China seaport
14. Former OSS
15. Early English printer
16. Aphid genus
17. General’s assistant (abbr.)
18. Aussies
20. Dissuades
22. Make law
23. Drench
24. Soak in a liquid
28. Male child
29. It cools your home
30. Small constellation
31. To call (archaic)
33. Explores beneath the Earth
37. Commercial
38. W. hemisphere organization

39. You can find it in a can
41. “Land of the free”
42 36 inches
43. Footwear
44. Challenges
46. They hold things together
49. Of I
50. Partner to flow
51. Not connected by kinship
55. Worries
58. Garlic mayonnaise
59. A way to take by force
60. Legendary English rockers
64. Your consciousness of your own identity
65. Fencing swords
66. Silly
67. Actor DiCaprio
68. Encircles with a belt

69. Mails a message
70. Longing

CLUES DOWN
1. Horse mackerels
2. It can be viral
3. Prickly plants
4. Consciousness
5. Type of sarcoma
6. Tax collector
7. Sun up in New York
8. One who scorches
9. Influential psychotherapist
10. Situated at an apex
11. Communicative
12. Forearm nerve
13. Former CIA
19. Folk singer DiFranco
21. Employee stock ownership plan
24. Large-scale environment
25. School
26. Remove

27. Male parents
31. Large rodent
32. Weighed down
34. Held tightly
35. ___ route: going there
36. Explains again
40. Exclamation of surprise
41. Courteously
45. Lying down
47. Judge
48. Forcefully took
52. Loosely compacted sediment
53. High mountain
54. Portable conical tents
56. Cereal grass
57. Dining utensil
59. Thoughtful
60. Helps you walk
61. Indicates near
62. Midway between northeast and east
63. Local area network

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

Auction raises over \$2,700 for victims of Bolton townhouse complex fire

Online auction ran from December 14 to 16

BY ZACHARY ROMAN

Caledon residents and businesses came together for a unique fundraiser to help three families who lost their homes in a fire.

On December 7, Caledon Fire and Emergency Services responded to a residential fire call on Stella Crescent in Bolton. All people and pets in the townhouse units impacted by the blaze were able to escape safely, but property damage was sustained.

Mira Budd, Sara Clarkson, Sherry Brioschi, Vilma LaManna Tarquini and Joanna Valeriani set up and ran an online auction from December 14 to 16 to raise money for the three families who lost their homes in the fire.

They obtained donations from many local businesses to auction off, and Clarkson said every single item that was donated was bid on.

“Everything got bid on, which is a good testament to our community,” said Clarkson.

In total, the auction initiative raised \$2,733, meaning after the \$42.11 expense of running the auction online, each family will receive a cheque for \$897.00. They will also receive a \$200.00 gift card donated by Garden Foods Market Bolton and a Christmas dinner from the Kitchen at Mono Mills.

Clarkson said Ward 5 Councillor Tony Rosa and Mayor Annette Groves have been acting as liaisons between the families impacted by the fire and the auction hosts.

“They’ve been really great to be able to connect us, and spread the word (about the auction) too,” said Clarkson.

Clarkson said she and the other auction organizers couldn’t imagine what it would

be like to lose their home before the holidays and it drove them to do whatever they could to try and help. She said it was fantastic the way both the business community, and community as a whole, stepped up to support the auction.

Here’s the full list, compiled by Budd, of businesses and individuals who donated to the auction in support of families impacted by the fire:

- Bake Shoppe
- Bask Realty
- Bolton British Bites
- Braveheart Chiropractic Bolton
- Caramel Cafe
- Vilma
- Caputo Group
- Christine’s Jewelry
- Coffee Time Bolton
- The Della Rovere Family
- Dr. Elizabeth Dimovski Dental
- Foodland Caledon East
- Four Corners Bakery
- Garden Foods Market
- It’s Roxies
- Kathleen and Rob Baggio (The Circulator Owners)
- Kathleen Schaller Baggio
- Lifeology 101 Creations
- Melanie Cozzi
- Mercato Fine Foods
- Mercedes Lee Beauty
- Nicola Yoga
- Raydiance Sun
- Rovili’s Petworld Bolton
- SFI Group
- Spirit Tree Estate Cidery
- Stacked Pancake and Breakfast House
- The Kitchen at Mono Mills
- The Royal Ambassador
- Toby Jug
- Tony Rosa
- Two Angels Aesthetics
- Victorian Garden Spa
- Villa Caledon Inn
- Wine Spot.

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Successful year for The Sisters Touch of Christmas fundraising store

Store will be open until December 24, then again for a sale on December 26

BY ZACHARY ROMAN

For just a few more days this Christmas season, The Sisters will be showcasing the magic of their handmade Christmas products at their store in Bolton.

The Sisters Touch of Christmas is a unique seasonal fundraising store located at St. Kosmas Aitolos Greek Orthodox Monastery (14155 Caledon King Townline South). The monastery is a women’s monastery, and upon its grounds live a group of nuns who have devoted their lives to serving and following Jesus Christ.

Two Sisters joined The Citizen for a tour of the store and interview on December 21. They said it’s been a great year for the store, as it’s much emptier than it was when the store opened in the last week of October.



The outside of The Sisters Touch of Christmas store is decorated with beautiful lights and Christmas decorations. PHOTO BY ZACHARY ROMAN

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Contact: Denise Donovan
Brampton Bridge Club
dcdonovan49@gmail.com
<https://www.bridgewebs.com/creditvalley>

All profits from the store go towards supporting charitable initiatives in the community such as Bethell Hospice, the Headwaters Health Care Foundation, and shelters and food banks across the Greater Toronto Area.

The Sisters explained the store began as a Christmas bazaar back in 2003, and due to the bazaar’s success, grew into the store that exists today. They said word of mouth is probably the best marketing tool they have, as they find many people tell their friends and family about the store once they have visited. Many people also find out about the store when they are given an item that was purchased there.

“We have people coming from hours away, not just locals,” said The Sisters. “It becomes a tradition for a lot of families... it’s wonderful to know that we’re a part of people’s Christmas season.”

Perhaps what The Sisters Touch of Christmas store is most known for is its hand-painted Christmas ornaments, which are painted throughout the year by the monastery’s Mother Superior. The Sisters explained each ornament is one-of-a-kind and that some people even get their ornaments customized.

“It’s truly handmade, there’s a lot of attention put into them,” said The Sisters. “There’s no two similar ones.”

The Sisters at the monastery make a wide variety of products themselves using all natural ingredients. They make soaps and skin care products; tap trees and make maple syrup, bake all kinds of classic holiday treats; create signature artisan tea blends; make flavoured olive oils and more.

“We’re so famous for our gingerbread cookies,” said The Sisters. “Everything is made here with real ingredients, just like your grandmother would use.”

The Sisters said they love making products people enjoy, but that the bigger picture is selling the products helps them support the many charitable initiatives they participate in year-round.

“We are together as a community, we’re helping each other,” they said. “People are giving back to the community by supporting what’s happening here.”

The Sisters Touch of Christmas is open today and tomorrow (December 22 and 23) from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on Christmas Eve (December 24) from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. — plus, the store will reopen for a special Boxing Day sale on December 26.

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**Mayor Annette Groves
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**For more information visit:
caledon.ca/Winterfest2023
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Chance of Snow? Street parking is a NO!



Help our Operations team keep the streets cleared of ice and snow so that we can all travel safely this holiday season!

Remove your vehicles from the road and from blocking sidewalks during winter operations (salting, sanding, plowing) and avoid being ticketed or towed!

These winter parking restrictions are in effect from November 1 until April 30.

Visit caledon.ca/winterparking for details.



News

Subscribe: caledon.ca/enews

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Passing of By-law 2022-086 to Extend the Period of Time of Interim Control By-law 2021-92

FILE NUMBER(S): RZ 2021-0018

On December 13, 2022 Town of Caledon Council enacted By-law 2022-086, which amends Interim Control By-law 2021-092 to extend the period of time during which the Interim Control By-law will be in effect for Bolton and Mayfield West.

PURPOSE AND EFFECT:

Interim Control By-law 2021-92, as amended by By-law 2022-086, restricts the use of land within the specified areas in Bolton and Mayfield West for an additional year (to December 14, 2023), to undertake a land use study to:

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

Caledon GO Station between each other and the broader Regional transit system.

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

- those uses which lawfully existed as of December 14, 2021 can continue to be used for such purpose;
- a Draft Plan of Subdivision may be registered where it was draft approved as of December 14, 2021;
- a building permit may be issued and the building or structure constructed, where a

Building Permit application was submitted and determined to be complete as of December 14, 2021 and;

- a Consent application may be approved or registered where the proposed Consent does not establish a new lot, except for the creation of a new lot in relation to File No. POPA 2022-0004 - Part of Lot 11, Concession 4, ALB (Caledon), which may be permitted.

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

LOCATIONS:

MAYFIELD WEST:

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



- Legend**
- Transit Hub
 - 800m from Transit Hub
 - Lands subject to ICBL
 - Greenbelt Plan

BOLTON:

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



- Legend**
- 800m from Go Station
 - Lands subject to ICBL
 - Lands subject to O. Reg 171/21
 - Greenbelt Plan
 - Existing CP Rail/ Caledon GO Rail Corridor

LEAD PLANNER:

Carmine Caruso
Senior Planner, Development
Planning Department, Town of Caledon
905-584-2272 x.4258
carmine.caruso@caledon.ca

APPEAL PROCEDURE:

Any person of public body who was given notice of the passing of a by-law to extend the period of time during which it will be in effect may appeal to the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) by filing with the Clerk of the Town of Caledon not later than February 11, 2023, a notice of appeal setting out the objection to the by-law, and the reasons in support of the objection.

Such notice must be accompanied by the filing fee as set by the OLT, made payable to the Minister of Finance by certified cheque or money order only as required by the OLT. For additional information on OLT fees, please see the OLT Fee Schedule.

Only individuals, corporations and public bodies may appeal an interim control by-law to the OLT. A notice of appeal may not be filed by an unincorporated association or group. However, a notice of appeal may be filed in the name of an individual who is a member of the association or the group on its behalf.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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

ACCESSIBILITY:

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

Notice Date: December 22, 2022

Holiday Closures

Town of Caledon wishes everyone a happy and safe holiday season. Town offices and non-emergency services including Provincial Offences Courts, in Orangeville and Caledon East, will be closed from Monday, December 26, 2022 to Monday, January 2, 2023, inclusive, and will re-open for business Tuesday, January 3, 2023.

CALEDON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Caledon Public Library will be closed December 24, 25, 26, 31 and January 1st and open with regular hours December 27-30.

CALEDON RECREATION FACILITIES

Caledon Recreation Facilities will be closed December 24 (after 12 p.m.), 25, 26, 31 (after 12 p.m.), January 1, and open with regular hours December 27 -30, and January 2, 2023.

AFTER-HOURS EMERGENCIES

For after-hours emergencies such as downed trees on roads or flooding, call the Region of Peel at 1-800-563-7881.

To report an urgent issue about a stray domestic animal (certain conditions apply) or a sick and/or injured animal, call the Town's after-hours service at 1-800-563-7881

For power outages or to report downed wires, call Hydro One at 1-800-434-1235.

The non-emergency number for the Caledon Ontario Provincial Police is 1-888-310-1122.

If the emergency is life-threatening, call 9-1-1.

WASTE AND RECYCLING

Please refer to Region of Peel website for collection information: peelregion.ca/waste.

CALEDON 2023 BUDGET



Building on Success

The Town of Caledon is building on success to make its 2023 Budget and is looking for feedback from residents and businesses.

The survey will be open until January 3, 2023. Information about the 2023 Budget can be found on haveyoursaycaledon.ca. Watch the 2023 Budget video to learn more about how we're building on success to create a budget that balances the needs of our growing community with pressures of the current economy.

In January 2023 staff will make budget presentations for the proposed budget. Key dates can be found on haveyoursaycaledon.ca.



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Finding that elusive oasis of calm

The holiday season is a stressful time of year for just about anyone who celebrates one or more of the unique and marvellous observances currently underway, such as Hannukah, or just on the horizon – like Christmas.

It can be a matter of getting those last-minute items on your respective lists, whether a gift or the ingredients for that extra-special recipe you only trot out at this time of year. It can be a time helping family and friends who are unable to get out as they normally would check off everything they need, too. For some, it can be a time of exceptional loneliness, yet for others it can feel a bit overwhelming trying to figure out a way to meet up and experience the holiday cheer with far-flung loved ones.

As we put the finishing touches on our final edition of 2022, my holiday experience is veering towards that last option, involving several train, bus and car trips, zipping over much of the GTHA with stops in, chronologically, Orillia, downtown Toronto, Kitchener, Aurora, and finally Etobicoke.

I feel exhausted just typing that out, but, at the end of the day, I'm looking forward to it.

It's a singular time of year and this feels like the first time we've been able to experience it as it should be for the first time since 2019 – for better or worse, as much of the world seems content on pretending that COVID-19 is over... but I digress.

Maybe it won't be as exhausting as it feels at the moment; after this viral interlude that has lasted close to three years now, perhaps it's just a matter of being slightly out of practice. But I'm one of those people who loves Christmas, so not only am I hoping those travelling and socializing muscles snap back to attention pretty quickly, but I'm anticipating the "warm and fuzzies" will override any unnecessary weariness.

That's not to say I have found the last couple of pandemic Christmases a time to sit back and do nothing. I guess it's once again a matter of habit, but I rarely had a chance to really sit down and settle – with one possible exception.

For my own family, sometimes at my own insistence, the one moment where things were generally able to come to a halt was at the appointed hour of the Queen's Christmas Message.

Although it has been a yearly tradition, the first broadcast from the late monarch that sticks out in my mind was in 1991. While I was too young to appreciate the full import of her words, they were delivered as the Cold War fizzled, the Soviet Union took its final breaths, and the world was settling into a decidedly different balance of power.

"We need to remind ourselves of the essential elements which form the bedrock of our own free way of life, so valued and so easily taken for granted," said the monarch of people who were experiencing very new ways of life after the fall of any number of dictatorships. "We, who claim to be of the free world, should examine what we really mean by freedom, and how we can ensure that, once it's in place, it's here to stay.

"There are all sorts of elements to a free society, but I believe that among the most important is the willingness of ordinary men and women to play a part in the life of their community, rather than confining themselves to their own narrow interest. The parts that they play may not be major ones – indeed they can frequently turn out to be thankless tasks. The wonder is, though, that there are so many who are prepared to devote much of their lives, for no reward, to the service of their fellow men and women."

Although this message was delivered more than 30 years ago, it's remarkably timeless considering what our society writ large is going through today.

The events of the past year or three have shown us that it's never too late, rather it's all too important, to remind ourselves of the "essential elements which form the bedrock of our own free way of life" so that we don't take it for granted. It's also very important to take stock of what it really means and what we need to do to preserve it."

A lot has changed in our world since these words were uttered, and the remarkable woman who delivered them is no longer with us either, but so many elements, and, yes, questions have remained markedly the same.

While, of course, the wise words of Queen Elizabeth II, honed over nearly a century of experience on the world stage, as a leader and a uniter, will not punctuate our holidays this year, I'm confident the King's Christmas Message will continue to serve that purpose of unifying, offering food for thought on the year ahead, and providing a little oasis of calm and quiet in what can otherwise be a very hectic time of year.

It may also break new ground as the King, over his 60-odd years as Prince of Wales, has proved to be a man ahead of the curve on so many issues that are so close to our hearts, including the environment and sustainability. This could be the start of a new tradition.

As we sign off for 2022 before reconvening on January 5, 2023, I want to leave you with this message from what was ultimately the last broadcast of a much-loved monarch:

"Be it the singing of carols, as long as the tune is well known, decorating the tree, giving and receiving presents, or watching a favourite film where we already know the ending, it's no surprise that families so often treasure their Christmas routines. We see our own children and their families embrace the roles, traditions and values that mean so much to us, as these are passed from one generation to the next, sometimes being updated for changing times.

"I am sure someone somewhere today will remark that Christmas is a time for children. It's an engaging truth, but only half the story. Perhaps it's truer to say that Christmas can speak to the child within us all. Adults, when weighed down with worries, sometimes fail to see the joy in simple things, where children do not."

Don't shy away from it, embrace it fully.



Squeezing the stuffings out of our blessings!

by Mark Pavilons



We've been encouraged to "count our blessings" each and every day.

I don't think it's a matter of counting them. They're not currency. Unlike our medieval ancestors, who carried their life's wealth around in a drawstring pouch, we carry ours deep inside.

But, like a financial institution, our blessings can bear interest, or at least fruit.

But Eric Hoffer once said that the hardest arithmetic to master "is that which enables us to count our blessings."

My friends, our blessings are as unique as we are. They border on the heavenly, and could be considered tiny miracles all on their own.

It's a shame we humans have to live our lives forward, when the best lessons, and pearls of wisdom, come in our later stages. Oh, those pearls, those perfectly shaped pseudo-gems, come with years of learning, knowing, experiencing. They come with joy, and pain.

The late, great Lawrence Welk pointed out he improved with age, and marvelled at his blessings.

Is a "blessing" a gift, or a token of luck and good fortune? Is it tangible? Or is it a feeling, a form of gratitude?

While we associate blessing with religion, and consecration, it's much more than that. Merriam-Webster defines it as "a thing conducive to happiness or welfare."

Oh, happiness, that elusive, almost indescribable commodity.

A few years ago, I emailed as many people as I could – friends and acquaintances – and asked them how they define happiness.

While the responses were varied, there was a common thread. And that was being blessed with family.

And, as much as parents complain and nag their kids, some say "parent" is the best title in the world. And being able to have parents to call "mom" and "dad" is equally wonderful. For those who've lost theirs, and have a few empty seats this holiday season, my thoughts are with you.

Others say life is not a series of coincidences, accidents and missteps, but rather a long lineup of blessings. These are given to us to learn from so we can become better versions of ourselves.

Heck, I ought to be damn near perfect by now!

Perhaps blessings are directly linked to being grateful. Is it merely "showing an appreciation for something," or is it much, much more?

Just what does it mean to be thankful?

We should all be over the moon every morning we get out of bed to live another day. We should be indebted to whatever forces make the world spin and create a planet bursting with life and wonder. We must be obliged to a higher power.

Maybe the English language, despite its cornucopia of roughly 600,000 words, doesn't have one that perfectly suits this. Besides, while the average person may know 40,000 words, we only use about half that, or 20,000.

So, it's safe to say we're at a loss to fully explain and grasp our own blessings and gritudes.

Where does that leave us?

Well, we tell our kids to be thankful for the "little things" in their lives. But food, shelter, family, friends and maybe the family pet aren't little at all, are they?

Those who are fortunate to be connected with an animal know this to be a truly amazing experience. It can't be fully explained, either, and often breaks all the rules. We just know. And we just love every minute of it.

Some of us may not appreciate the time, energy, money and yes TLC that goes into every family dinner. And yet, we'd miss them terribly if they no longer took place.

To me, as I crest the ripe, old age of 60, I find my focus, and my blessings, taking wonderfully retro shapes and forms.

While dearly departed for some time, I can still clearly picture my mom's smile, and hear my uncle's loud belly laughs. I smile to myself when recall particularly serene moments from my childhood in rural Caledon.

I've been able to chalk up 59 fairly decent years on this planet. Okay, maybe I've had more downs than ups, and Lady Luck avoided me more often than not.

But blessings? I'm sure I've had plenty.

A lot of us Boomers say we were "lucky" growing up, but it wasn't luck at all. It was those aforementioned blessings – a stable, supportive family, simple pleasures and low stress levels.

We also tended to have conservative, realistic expectations. Perhaps we were lucky that we were not part of the "me generation."

Again, hindsight is 20/20. I now know that physical and mental health are way more important than any job, or material possession.

I realize, after years of ignorance, that just taking in a deep breath and looking at clouds or stars, can't be matched.

I've been able to see countless wonders on this Earth, and in my loved ones' eyes.

That's pretty damn good.

And I now cherish almost everything, because I know that it can all be gone in an instant. We can get broadsided when we least expect it, and have to carry on like nothing is weighing us down like an anchor around our necks.

And maybe knowing these things makes me more grateful. Wait, is that it? Attaining a certain amount of wisdom and gratitude IS our blessing?

It can't be that simple, can it?

To all those lucky enough to be reading this column, please accept all my heart-felt blessings throughout the holiday season and through 2023!

Submit your
**LETTERS
TO
THE
EDITOR**

Caledon Citizen
www.caledoncitizen.com



brock@lpcmedia.ca • 905-857-6626

MERRY CHRISTMAS

FROM ALL OF US AT THE CALEDON CITIZEN.

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Ghosts of Christmas yet to Come

Christmas is just around the corner. It happens only once each year and everyone celebrates the holiday season in a different way. Many prefer the old-fashioned holiday of family gathering on Christmas Eve or Christmas day and enjoying a traditional meal of turkey and all the fixin's that go along with it. Others like to enjoy the season by attending parties. Why not? You can have a pre-Christmas party, a Christmas Day party, a Boxing Day party, a mid-week party, and cap it off with a New Year's Eve party. Of course, if you're going to party that much, you may need a holiday from the holiday, when it's all over. Some people like to use the holiday break as a reason to have a vacation and escape the cold. I have known a lot of people over the years who decided to spend Christmas Day at Disney World or a casino in Las Vegas. That can be a lot of fun if you don't mind missing time with the extended family or friends and are prepared to finally realize that the casinos always have the advantage and your odds

of coming home with more money that you left with, are about zero. Christmas always provides many memories – usually good ones, I hope. Although I do know some people where the family dynamic just creates a nightmare every year, but that's a whole different story. Almost everyone has a favourite Christmas memory. It could be that time you received a special meaningful gift as a child. It could be at time that you were finally able to reconnect with family or friends you haven't seen in a long time. Or maybe it was a special winter trip to the cottage where Christmas Eve was spent by a bonfire and you gazed up at a million stars unfettered by the city lights. In the Dickens classic, A Christmas Carol, Ebenezer Scrooge is visited by three ghosts. I'm sure you know the story and have probably seen one of the film versions of the book. The Ghost of Christmas Past presents a memory of things that have happened in previous years. The Ghost of Christmas Present shows Scrooge the current Christmas and helps him see

the life of an ordinary man, a little clearer. The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come provides Scrooge with a look into the future. For Scrooge, the future does not provide a happy ending. He realizes that his miserable, miserly life ends with him dying alone – and no one cares that he is gone. It does however, offer him a chance at redemption. It's never too late, and of course at the end of the novel, Scrooge, knowing the future, changes his ways and is determined to be a better person. While Christmas memories will be made this year, and you can reflect on the past, maybe having a visit from the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come, would be a benefit to a lot of people. It may be a good time of year to not only reflect on the past, but take a look ahead and see if you can make improvements in your own life over the coming year, then celebrate those achievements when Christmas comes around next year. There are always the "New Year's resolutions" people make, but how often do you keep them? The resolution to start working out usually means a few trips to the gym, followed by put-

ting it off a day, then two days, then one day you realize you haven't been to the gym in a month. By planning for the future, and taking a few moments during the holidays to visit the future yourself, it just might be a catalyst to make some needed changes. It's easy to say you will plan ahead, but putting the plan into action is a different story. Some days you realize a month has gone by and you still haven't made the effort. That's okay – we're all human, and the difficult things can take time. In the end, maybe it is the special memories we make at Christmas that are the most important, and will stay with us for a lifetime. I hope you do make special memories this holiday season, and enjoy your time with family and friends, and have a prosperous and happy New Year. Merry Christmas to all, and to all, a good night.



BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW

Happy Holidays and all that

Given the proximity of this particular column to the holiday known as Christmas, it seems only fair (at least according to certain family members) that I keep the tone and spirit of this column "holly and jolly." I'm not entirely sure this is within my normal frame of reference but I will admit to a certain joy in using our Christmas countdown calendar (it has pockets!) to pass along notes, treats and jokes to my family. That has to count for something, right? So, for those who do celebrate this joyous season - Happy Holidays and all that. What is all that? Let's be frank here. If you are from a family facing minimal, or no hardships this holiday season, "all that" is actually a lot! In many families, "all that" falls to the mother and essentially means holiday gift shopping for Every. Single. Person. on your list - even your spouse's family. Chances are, it also means doing all the grocery shopping, meal prep and planning, and then all the cooking on the big day. If anyone has a sweet tooth, or at the very least if the kids want to leave out cookies for the big guy (notice how it's a man that gets all

the credit for a woman's work as usual) you'll have to do some holiday baking, too. It's right about now that any male readers may want to stop reading, no doubt you are already tired just thinking of what has to be done. Women, (and yeah, I know I am generalizing but it's true in many homes) you know what's next.... All that holiday shopping means holiday wrapping! Night after late night, after working, cleaning and cooking on any given regular day, you lock yourself behind closed doors and start wrapping gifts. I see you. You take extra care with Oma's present because she always loves pretty parcels almost better than what's inside. You work hard to disguise the giant dinosaur (insert similar hard to disguise item here) that Santa is bringing, in order to help add to the wonder of Christmas morning. Perhaps you are even building a bike or a Hot Wheels set. I recall one Christmas with a child in hospital close to the big day, all my peeps descending on my house to wrap parcels for me. They were in great spirits til I mentioned that in our house Santa wraps the stocking gifts too! (BTW, for-

ever grateful to friends and fellow mothers who understand the importance of the magic and made it happen that year in my house as well as in their own!) When the big night (Christmas Eve) approaches, maybe you've made reindeer fairy dust to spread on the front lawn to help Rudolph find his way. You have the plate of cookies, the carrots and mug of milk all ready to go. Then, when the kids are finally "tucked all snug in their beds," you begin the traipsing up and down the stairs to place the gifts under the tree before finally collapsing in bed about 1:00 in the morning - only to be awakened at 5:00 am bleary-eyed and coffee starved by hyper-active kids already bouncing off the walls! This is the moment everyone has been waiting for, even your spouse who no doubt still believes in the magic of Christmas too since they've hardly had anything to do! Next up, depending on your situation, relatives descend upon you or you pack up those hyper kids, and at least half of their newly received bounty, to go and visit at least one home

if not many depending on parents, grandparents, step-parents or whomever. This last step might actually go on for days depending on your family situation. No doubt at this point you are running on pure adrenalin alone and only the very staunchest amongst you has not already had at least one, if not twelve, "cups of Christmas cheer." Who can blame you? Happy Holidays and "all that" is a lot of "all that," and perhaps not as much of the "happy." Who am I kidding? Tis the season to be jolly and some of my absolute favourite memories are of Christmas mornings, Christmas dinners, tree cutting and tree decorating and reminiscing about each of the ornaments and their treasured history as part of our family story. If you are very lucky indeed, you have lots and lots of "all that" to celebrate and be grateful for. I know I do...and I am. Happy Holidays to all and to all a good night!



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“Community is always the silver lining in Caledon”
by Chrissy Jarvie, Communications Lead



Like your Spotify wrapped playlist to wrapping holiday gifts, the month of December signifies the wrap-up of another year. Much like 2021, it was a year plagued with ups and downs.

Facing rising inflation and shortages, the cost of daily living necessities has risen; it’s been a rough year for many, with more and more people reaching out for support.

An Ipsos poll, commissioned by CanadaHelps in November, found that 22% of Canadians plan to make use of non-profit services – an eight per cent increase from a similar poll conducted in January. The poll also found that Canadians ages 18-34 were the group most in need, with one in three planning to access support in the coming months.

As the demand for charitable services grows, so does concern over funding, as the poll suggests 20 per cent of Canadians will reduce their charitable contributions.

However, with skies darkened by more and more clouds these last few years, I find there is a silver lining in Caledon; our sense of community. I’ve had the fortune, especially since 2020, alongside my colleagues, to see the incredible sense of community that arises in

Caledon when our neighbours are in need. From financial donations, to food, supplies and gift card drives, to volunteers lending their time, it’s the people that make Caledon a strong, caring community.

It’s been a privilege to have a front-row seat as Caledon Community Services (CCS) helped families put food on their tables, and supported newcomers and refugees as they transitioned to life in their new homes. I’ve seen job seekers young and old receive support and training to succeed in their careers, and the smiles of seniors who are able to thrive independently.

My heart is warmed by the relief on a parent’s face and a smile on their child’s when they receive school supplies or the opportunity to open presents on holiday mornings. I feel so incredibly blessed to be a part of a community that truly cares about one another offering hope for the future, not only during the holiday season, but each and every day of the year. Thank you Caledon, for helping to ensure that no one in our community is left behind. This community is the silver lining to the darkest cloud and a heartwarming gift every day of the year.

On behalf of CCS, we wish you a safe and wonderful holiday season and a very happy new year.

If you or a loved one needs a helping hand, or if you want to help make a difference for our neighbours in need, visit www.ccs4u.org.

How Do You See It?

Tell us how you see it.
Donna Cragg, Director, Communications and Marketing, Caledon Community Services at 905-584-2300 ext. 222 or dcragg@ccs4u.org

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

(From Left) Lauren Cancian, 9, Gabriella Caltagirone, 9, Sofia Caltagirone, 7, and Chelsea Cancian, 8..
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lauriella’s Baked Goods: Local children team up to raise money for Season of Hope

BY ZACHARY ROMAN

Two Caledon girls and their little sisters teamed up for a delicious fundraiser for those in need.

Lauren Cancian and Gabriella Caltagirone decided they would bake cookies together this holiday season and sell them to support Caledon Community Services’ (CCS) Season of Hope campaign. Lauren and Gabriella enlisted their younger sisters, Chelsea and Sofia, to help sell the cookies.

With never-before-seen inflation levels and slow post-pandemic recovery, Caledon families are struggling to pay rent and put food on the table. With its Season of Hope campaign, CCS aims to keep Caledon families fed with nutritious food, in warm homes, and on a path to health and independence.

Cancian’s mom, Liana, is CCS’ Events and Partnerships lead. She said her daughter was inspired by her work and is always thinking about how she can help unfortunate kids, especially during the holidays. In the past, Cancian has made jewelry in support of CCS too.

“She wanted to support the kids,” said Liana. “She’s always looking at what she can do, she’s very much the entrepreneur.”

Earlier this year, Cancian and Caltagirone had many conversations as they walked home from school, talking about their charitable plans. Since Cancian has a newfound love of baking, the pair ended up deciding to make cookies.

They settled on a combination of their first names and decided to call themselves Lauriella’s Baked Goods. Then, they had to decide what kinds of cookies to bake. They ended up making four different kinds — chocolate chip, peanut butter, gluten free, and oatmeal — dividing the work equally and each baking two kinds.

“They would get their cookies, set up their table, their sign, they would tell all their friends on their way home and kind of all throughout the day at school letting them all know that after school, they’re selling cookies,” said Liana. “If they saw that people weren’t coming, they recruited their little sisters to go door to door (selling to people they knew with parent supervision)”

Whichever cookies they didn’t sell would be frozen so they remained fresh, and eventually they were able to sell all their cookies and donate to CCS’ Season of Hope.

“They liked the idea that it was going to be supporting families and children that are obviously struggling; maybe giving them gifts for Christmas,” said Liana. “That made them feel better.”

CCS’ Season of Hope campaign ongoing, and donations to help Caledon residents in need can be made in person at The Exchange or CCS’ office, which are both located in Bolton. They can also be made online at ccs4u.org/donate/season-of-hope. Season of Hope as a whole will continue running into early 2023.

In an interview last week, CCS’ Chief Development Officer Mariia Kupriianova said the Season of Hope campaign is all about Caledon residents and businesses stepping up to help out their Caledon neighbours in need.

“Leaving no one behind — it’s a big task and it’s a task for togetherness. We can’t do it without support,” said Kupriianova. “Underneath all the beauty and abundance that Caledon has to offer, it’s sometimes not very obvious how many families are struggling.”

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Library invites Caledon residents to participate in “Valentines for Vets”

BY ZACHARY ROMAN

This Valentine’s Day, Caledon residents are asked to consider making a card for a Canadian veteran.

While Valentine’s Day is, of course not, until February 14, the Caledon Public Library (CPL) is beginning its Valentines for Vets campaign on January 2. This is because all Valentines must be dropped off at a CPL branch by January 21, so they can be sent off to Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) and distributed to our country’s veterans by Valentine’s Day.

Valentines for Vets began in 1989 when newspaper columnist Ann Landers asked her readers to create valentines for veterans in care facilities throughout Canada and the United States.

According to VAC, each year Landers would tell readers “to remember the sacrifices of their nations’ veterans by making them personal hand-crafted valentines.”

VAC first became involved with Valentines for Vets in 1996, when it first began receiving and distributing valentines to veterans in care facilities across Canada. Landers passed away in 2002, and VAC and organizations like the CPL continue to keep her tradition alive year after year.

Laurie Groe, the CPL’s manager of youth services, explained the library will be providing craft materials to all who are interested in creating a valentine. Caledon residents can make their valentines at the library or at home, and drop them off at any library branch. Kids are especially encouraged to participate in the initiative.

“If you’re popping into the library for any reason, there’s a little activity for you to do,” said Groe.

Groe said in the past, teachers have championed the activity and had their classes make valentines. “We had tons of them, it was delightful,” said Groe.

The CPL will let local teachers know about Valentines for Vets in the new year in hopes that more will participate with their classes ahead of this upcoming Valentine’s Day.

According to VAC, some Valentine’s Day messages people have written to veterans in the past include, “Thank you for your bravery and courage in the war. Without your courageous acts we may not be here today,” and, “I sincerely thank you for your dedication to our country. Your sacrifice in the face of great danger, and the bravery that you showed will echo in the generations to come. Your heroism has inspired me to do many things.”

Don’t throw out your Christmas trees, they’ll help the fish

Credit Valley Conservation uses trees for in-stream restoration

BY ZACHARY ROMAN

A local conservation authority is encouraging Caledon residents to not throw out their Christmas trees after the holidays this year.

On January 7 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) will host a Christmas tree drop-off event at the Upper Credit Conservation Area in Alton. There, CVC will be collecting trees to use in restoration projects in the Credit River Watershed.

Note that only real trees are accepted, and they must not have any tinsel, plastic wrap or sprays on them.

CVC has been collecting trees for over a decade now, placing

them along the banks of the river at the Upper Credit Conservation Area. Prior to it becoming a conservation area, the land there was used as a cattle pasture. Over the years, cattle damaged the banks of the river and it widened, in turn causing the temperature of the river to increase.

“The Upper Credit River is a coldwater fishery,” reads the CVC’s website. “That means increases in water temperature combined with habitat degradation impacts sensitive species like brook trout.”

According to CVC, Christmas trees are a great material for in-stream restoration because their needles and branches trap sediment that’s flowing downstream.

As time passes, the trees collect more and more sediment, which ends up narrowing the river by creating new riverbanks. Also, the river becomes deeper, which makes water temperatures colder — a good thing for species like the brook trout.

Trees and shrubs can be planted in the newly-formed riverbanks to provide shade and lower the water temperature of the river even more.

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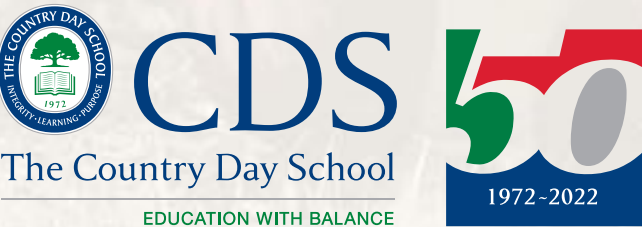
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Schomberg native took the road less travelled and now he's finding success at SPIRE

In an interview with *The Auroran*, the 18-year-old joked that he had zero athletic ability growing up.

Despite being enrolled in martial arts from a young age, Melvin explored some sporting options while at St. Patrick Catholic School. Basketball was one of them, and if you asked him at the time what he

But, at 12 years old, something seemed to have clicked in his brain. While watching a television show with his mother on Friday nights, basketball was a part of the program. It simply clicked. Melvin began to fashion a love for the game and he de-

In his first year of high school, Melvin attended the Orangeville Prep Athletic Institute for basketball, following the footsteps of a Lithuanian-Canadian player named Ignas Brazdeikis. The best part of it all? His athleticism began to get better and better.

In his pursuit of everything basketball, Melvin had verbally committed to a school named Royal Crown. But SPIRE came along and assistant coach Michael Doolley had been in communication with the 6-foot-1-point guard.

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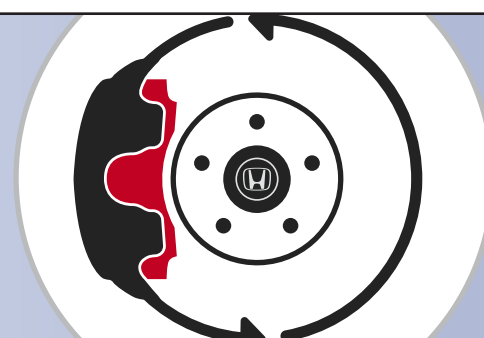
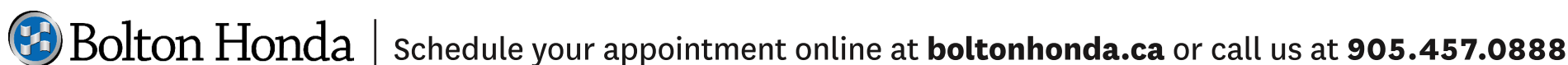
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Riley Melvin wants to go the distance in basketball and, through SPIRE Academy, he believes he will be able to get there. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

Continued from Page 12

SPIRE is a prep academy in Geneva, OH. It is a program offered in the United States for students one year removed from high school. The academy would be competing against D3 schools and other high schools in the Ohio Prep Conference. Melvin decided to go visit the school and never looked back.

“Once I got there, there was nothing better in mind. I had never seen a bigger, better, opportunity. It’s like being in NBA facilities. The coaching staff, the training staff, every bit of SPIRE, it was a perfect fit. I’m glad it has ended up being as good

as I thought it would be,” Melvin said.

At SPIRE, he immediately left a great impression on his coach, Jeffrey Sparrow.

He continues to improve at SPIRE and hopes to be noticed from schools. With a desire to get into Sports Management, Melvin wants to coach one day and SPIRE could also be a place to work in the future.

Having been at SPIRE since August 26, Melvin is currently in the process of speaking to schools. Currently there are no offers on the table. At least, not yet.

He is hoping to be scouted by a school that wants him and through SPIRE he has no shortage of confidence that something will happen this year.

Robert’s Rant: Is the GOAT debate over? Lionel Messi leads Argentina to World Cup glory

BY ROBERT BELARDI
OPINION

With Lionel Messi at the age of 35, this FIFA World Cup in particular seemed to have primed the Greatest of All-Time (GOAT) discussion once again.

A subjective point of view, of course, any case could be made of who is the greatest soccer player ever. Pelé, Diego Maradona, Messi and even Cristiano Ronaldo are all suitable options depending on your taste.

But after the world witnessed Messi lead Argentina to an enthralling 3-3 (4-2) victory against France in what is being considered the greatest World Cup Final of all time, many pundits are convinced the argument is dead in the water.

Heavily criticized for years and living in the shadows of Maradona himself, Messi added the one trophy missing in his cabinet. He did so in a historic World Cup for the 5-foot-7 forward from Rosario. Messi broke Lothar Matthaus’ record with 26 World Cup final appearances. He also has the most World Cup goals and assists combined in history, with 21.

He also became Argentina’s all-time World Cup goal scorer, surpassing Gabriel Batistuta and also became the first Argentine to appear in five FIFA World Cups, having made his first appearance in a 6-0 win in 2006 in Germany against Serbia and Montenegro.

Despite losing out on the golden boot to French superstar and Paris Saint-Germain teammate Kylian Mbappé – who recorded eight goals in the competition, including the second-ever hat trick in a World Cup final on Sunday – Messi became the first ever player to win multiple Golden Balls. Messi finished the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, with seven goals and three assists.

Seemingly, the list of accolades just piles up. So, after all of these stats, along with what is already in his trophy cabinet from his days with FC Barcelona and two previous international trophies, is it safe to say Lionel Messi is the greatest footballer the world has ever seen?

Again, it is still purely subjective. But, to many pundits, lovers of the game, and including myself, he most certainly is.

It hasn’t been an easy journey throughout his international career particularly. Messi – who normally saves everybody – needed to be saved at one point in time.

In 2016, following the Copa America finals loss to Chile, Messi was completely broken and had announced his retirement from the national team. A while following the tournament, Messi had made his return to La Albiceleste.

But after a 4-3 defeat to France in the Round of 16 in Russia in 2018, Messi had once again taken some time away from the national team. That was until his former teammate in 2006, Lionel Scaloni had taken charge of the national team after the 2018 tournament, and relit the fire that continued to go out.

With Scaloni at the helm, Messi has won three international trophies: the Copa América, the Finalissima and now the FIFA World Cup itself.

Ahead of the final this past Sunday, Messi had announced this would be his final World Cup match. However, following Argentina’s victory, it seems Messi renounced his statement and wants to continue playing with the national team as a champion. Scaloni said he would even save him a spot on the roster for the World Cup in Canada, United States and Mexico in 2026.

Messi will be 39 years old for that tournament and should he decide to attend, he would break another FIFA World Cup record. He would become the first player in history to appear in six FIFA World Cups. Just imagine that.

His historic performance was one the world wanted to see. The finals could have very well even-been Messi vs. Ronaldo if Portugal had made it through. But, in the words of Peter Drury, it was that “little magic man” who was on the end of something special. For fans of my generation, who grew up watching the game and seeing Messi dominate European football, there is no debate anymore. Messi is the GOAT. But, hey, that’s just simply me. The decision is entirely yours.



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Claims against estate of Mark Dennis Kameka, late of Twp of Melancthon, who died on April 22, 2022, must be filed with the undersigned estate trustee on or before January 10, 2023, after which date the estate will be distributed.

Dated December 6, 2022.
Aine Peter Kameka
Estate /Trustee
By his lawyer
Daley, Byers
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EIKHARD, SHIRLEY

On Thursday, December 15, 2022, Shirley Rose Eikhard died peacefully at Headwaters Health Care Centre in Orangeville due to complications from cancer. She had recently celebrated her 67th birthday. Predeceased by Lola Catherine Osborne, who was a gentle loving soul, and the love of Shirley's life. Shirley was much adored, and several of her close friends were fortunate to have had the opportunity to be with her over the past few days.

Shirley was born in Sackville, New Brunswick, and moved to Ontario when she was 8. On a professional level, Shirley was extraordinarily talented. She earned Juno awards in 1973 and 1974 for best country female artist, and has had numerous country and pop hits, including "You're My Weakness", "It Takes Time", and "Smilin' Wine". Her songs have been recorded by Cher, Anne Murray, Chet Atkins, Ginette Reno, Alannah Myles and Rita Coolidge. She is perhaps most famous for writing "Something to Talk About" which was recorded by Bonnie Raitt and became a huge hit. In 2020, Shirley was inducted into the Canadian Songwriters Hall of Fame for this song. She entertained the Canadian Armed Forces in the Arctic and overseas. She composed two scores for Toronto playwright George F. Walker, one of which won a Dora Mavor Moore award for sound design. Shirley has written over 500 songs and produced and developed several albums. She is the consummate musician and throughout the years had taught herself to play guitar, piano, bass, drums, percussion, chromatic harmonica, sax, banjo and mandolin with professional expertise. Regardless of her many accomplishments, Shirley was a very modest woman; and although she was so talented, the reasons those around her loved her so deeply - the reason we are heartbroken today - were not connected to her gifts. They were connected to her character: as with all wise people, she was kind; as with all wise people, she was generous; as with all wise people, her own tribulations were not her first concern. She exhibited steadfast optimism, no matter what life threw at her and her optimism was contagious. Besides being a singer, songwriter, and musician extraordinaire Shirley also had a passion for painting, was an animal lover (friend of the feral) and was deeply grateful for her "earth angels"; she was an environmental activist, and loving friend. She was incredibly well-read on many subjects, and had a wicked sense of humour. Our Shirley was a lovably eccentric pioneer woman; anyone who met her felt the gravitational pull of her indomitable spirit and she was treasured by so many. Shirley loved Christmas trees (6 every Christmas) her Starbucks, driving her truck to the dump, feeding all the wildlife around her home in the country, kayaking, and walking, ... walking the roads of Mono collecting cans and bottles to donate cash to animal welfare. ... "oh, that's Shir!". Some of us will see that silhouette of Shir! walking down the highway forever. Shirley did everything on her own terms, ... including living with her illness. Despite the many hills and valleys she confronted, Shirley was everlastingly grateful for her life. On beautiful days, she would raise her face to the sky and say "thank you." She did this to the last days of her life.

We would like to thank Shirley's palliative doctor, Dr. Canduso, and the wonderful, caring staff at Headwaters, who made her last days so comfortable and safe. We would also like to thank her other health care professionals; Dr. Raskin and staff, William Osler, and Dr. Conrad and staff at Southlake who helped guide Shirley through treatment and supported her throughout her journey of living with cancer. In lieu of flowers, Shirley would have wanted any remembrance of her to be made in the form of a donation to the Cancer Centre at Headwaters Health Care Centre, or to one of several animal care foundations or shelters.

Dearest Shirley, we just hadn't finished knowing you. You are such a loss to the world of music, but even a more profound loss to those of us who knew and loved you; but like celestial stars, your beautiful light will shine on. ...

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



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WINSTON PENNY

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved Winston on Saturday December 17, 2022 surrounded by his loving family. Winston is now reunited with his dear parents William Hedley and Anne Penny, his sisters Diane and Elaine and his daughter Carling. Winston was the loving husband of Marie Penny with whom he spent 59 wonderful years. He was the loving father of Brian, Suzanne (Shami) and Michael (Kata). He will forever be the devoted grampa of Jacob, Crystal, Ben, Adam, Ariel, Ubiratan, Caiano and Christopher. He will be sadly missed by his sister Beverly, many nieces and nephews and all who had the pleasure of knowing him.



Winston was the proud owner of Bolton Steel Tube Co. Ltd. As an owner, he made sure his employees were well taken care of and treated them as family. His long term employees were loyal to him.

Winston was a man with many passions and interests. His most prized treasures were his children, grandchildren and his galvanizing plant. Winston loved to tell stories of his childhood. He would enjoy sharing stories of his experiences fishing, golfing, horse racing and his travels. Winston was well loved and known for his generosity and kindness. He was a truly remarkable person and will be deeply missed by all whose lives he touched.



A private family visitation and funeral service will be held at the Scott Funeral Home – Brampton Chapel. Interment in Brampton Funeral Home and Cemetery (11061 Chinguacousy Road) to follow. In honor of Winston, a Celebration of life where family and friends can join together to share their fondest memories of Winston will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations in loving memory of Winston to the Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital would be appreciated by the family.

Your understanding, condolences and continued support are very much appreciated during this very difficult time. All are encouraged to share words of comfort, stories and photos with the family by visiting Winston's online guestbook at www.scottbrampton.ca

MATSON, JULIA ANN (NEE SCOLES)

Died peacefully following a brief illness on Monday December 12, 2022 at Campbell House, Collingwood at the age of 79. Julia of Stayner, beloved wife of the late Robert "Bud" Matson. Loving mother of Mary and her husband Mark Pelkey. Cherished Grandma of Curtis, Caitlin and Dana. Dear sister of John Scoles and his family. She will also be missed by her many nieces and nephews, by her friends and her neighbours. Julia was a kind, outgoing woman who enjoyed life. She loved to shop and enjoyed her shopping trips with Mary and her friends to Toronto. A wonderful baker, her home was always inviting and smelled wonderful, particularly during the Christmas season. She will be fondly remembered. Friends will be received at the Carruthers & Davidson Funeral Home -Stayner Chapel, 7313 Highway 26, Stayner on Wednesday December 28, 2022 from 10 a.m. for the Funeral Mass to be held at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, 215 Pine Street, Stayner at 11 o'clock. Interment Morningside Cemetery, Palgrave. If desired, donations to Hospice Georgian Triangle Foundation for Campbell House or the Collingwood General & Marine Hospital Foundation would be appreciated by Mary's family. To sign Julia's Book of Memories, please visit www.carruthersdavidson.com.



ROESNER, REGINALD ROSS

Reginald Ross Roesner of Shelburne, Ontario. Born June 21, 1959 in Stratford Ontario. Reg finished his earthly journey suddenly on Dec. 13, 2022 at Headwaters Healthcare Centre in Orangeville, Ontario in his 64th year. He is survived by his mother Betty, his sisters Ruth Ann (Scott McConnell), Rose (Ronnie Lucas), and his nieces and nephews; Thomas, Josh (Casey), Rachel McConnell (Ty Belair), Tara Mino and Tyler Lucas. Reg was predeceased by his father, Hazon Roesner (2014). He will be greatly missed by his family and many friends from all generations. He will be remembered for his excellence in car mechanics and his quick-witted sense of humour.



A celebration of Life will take place at a later date. Future interment to take place at the Avondale Cemetery in Stratford, Ontario. Donations in Reg's memory can be made to Headwaters Health Care Centre in Orangeville Ontario. Condolences may be offered to the family at www.dodsandmcnair.com

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And keep my heart alive.*

*I remember how good life use to be
Your warm and gentle hand in mine
The simple ways you cared for me
And memories that become
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A ribbon-cutting marked the official grand opening of the expanded Caledon Seniors Centre, and was presided over by Raymond Cho, Ontario's Minister of Seniors and Accessibility, front row centre, MPP Sylvia Jones, Mayor Annette Groves and Council.
 PHOTO BY ZACHARY ROMAN

Caledon celebrates grand opening of expanded Seniors Centre

Continued from FRONT

"We couldn't be happier or more thankful to the Town and all the corporations and our members who have given to us," said Chapman in an interview, adding that the Town was very diligent in listening to the needs of seniors in Caledon. The entire Seniors Centre is fully accessible for those who use walkers and wheelchairs, and all the doors have push to open buttons.

While planning for the expansion of the Seniors Centre began years ago, ground was officially broken for construction and renovation of it in September 2021. Chapman said the expansion process has been an exciting journey.

"I'm just so pumped, and to me this is our baby. This is what we worked so hard for," said Chapman. "This is a second home for so many seniors that don't have a spouse or don't have children or their children have moved away."

Membership at the Caledon Seniors Centre is around 1,000 people and with the new expansion complete that number is expected to grow — and because of the expansion there's now room for that growth.

Beverley Nurden, Manager of the Seniors Centre for the last 25 years, joked that she's been around long enough that she's part of the furniture.

Nurden said when she first started at the Centre she remembers juggling making lunches, answering the phone, calling bingo numbers and signing up members with volunteers. She said there's "No 'I' in team" and that everyone works hard to do what needs to be done at the centre.

With the expansion of the Seniors Centre complete, Nurden is looking forward to filling the new space with more and more programs for Caledon seniors.

At 3 p.m. everyone sat down at their tables to listen to speeches from attending dignitaries and those involved with the Seniors Centre.

Mayor Annette Groves began the speeches with a land acknowledgement then shared how excited she was for the special occasion.

"All the volunteers, they make this place a reality... they've put in thousands and thousands of hours," said Groves. "And, of course, there wouldn't be a Centre if we didn't have Bev (Beverley) Nurden."

Groves said she's had a long history with the Centre and that it all began with a dream. She thanked the Egan family and Bolton Rotary for their foundational roles in the Centre's inception, and expressed her thoughts on how well the Centre has evolved over the years to become what it is today.

"This incredible expansion, featuring state-of-the-art program and therapy space and a full commercial kitchen, is a result of a group of dedicated community members who had a dream, and then used the power of partnerships and working with government to make their dream a reality," said Groves. "Today, we have a facility that will serve our community and our seniors well into the future... this is what you get when all levels of government and community come together."

Groves also thanked Town of Caledon staff and the Caledon Seniors Centre board in her speech. She then introduced some of the many special guests at the event, like Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones, Ontario's Minister for Seniors and Accessibility Raymond Cho, former Caledon mayors Allan Thompson and Carol Seglins, and members of Caledon Council.

Jones was next to speak and said to her the Caledon Seniors Centre has always been about people coming together to help their friends, neighbours, and families.

"I'm thrilled to be able to join you here to celebrate your grand opening," said Jones.

She commended the Caledon Seniors Centre team for providing programming even during the pandemic's darkest days, and said it speaks to the team's commitment to making a difference in the community.

"Congratulations everyone," said Jones, who then welcomed her colleague in government, Cho.

Cho took to the stage with a huge smile and said he was totally impressed with how happy, energetic and engaged the Caledon seniors he met at the grand opening were. He said he was very thankful to have been invited to the grand opening and that the Seniors Centre expansion is like a Christmas present to Caledon seniors.

"This is truly a special place, I really mean that," said Cho. "We have (about) 300 seniors' activity centres in the province, but this centre is one of the best, if not the best centre."

Cho said he could feel the leadership of Chapman and Nurden and how much they care about every senior that comes into the centre.

He said that the Caledon Seniors Centre has almost everything and that it's the kind of seniors' centre that every community should aspire to have.

A senior himself, Cho said the centre is a testament to what seniors can do when they work together. He said seniors have a can-do attitude, and are the ones who raised their families "and built the best province in the best country in the world."

Cho said it made him so happy to see everyone so-

cializing at the centre because during the pandemic, isolation was especially hard on seniors.

Next up to the microphone was Ward 5 Councillor Tony Rosa, who said it was an honour to be at the grand opening speaking on behalf of Caledon Council. He said in September 2021 it was almost hard to believe the Caledon Seniors Centre could be expanded in such a short time, and said it's exciting the expansion was built so quickly. Rosa thanked construction company, Percon Construction, for their "wonderful job" managing the project.

"Now, more than ever, we need re-engagement for seniors... we spent a very long time in isolation locked up due to the pandemic," said Rosa. "This is an incredible 21st-century facility that will provide expanded senior programming, which was one of the most important goals of our last term of council — and I know it's a goal for this term (too)."

Rosa thanked Chapman and her board for delegating at Council and helping Council understand just how important the expansion was. He also thanked Nora Martin, a past Caledon Seniors Centre Board President and Chair of the Board's expansion committee. Rosa said seniors are the ones who have contributed to the community for the longest time, building Caledon into what it is today. He said the Seniors' Centre is a way to give back to seniors and thank them.

"I look forward to 2023 and coming out and seeing the incredible programs that will be offered here for our seniors," said Rosa. Regional Councillor, Wards 4, 5 and 6 Mario Russo took to the stage after Rosa and gave a brief speech thanking the volunteers who make the Caledon Seniors Centre so great.

Chapman followed Russo as the next speaker, and used her time to thank Margaret Patterson and Nurden — who now both have rooms named after them at the centre.

"Beverley has been a leader in this organization... her love for seniors shines through... This is not just a career for Beverley, it's a genuine giving from her heart," said Chapman. "Margaret has been very involved in all the aspects of the centre, but her culinary skills and preserves have been her forte... we are so blessed to have what you have given to us. Your time and dedication has not gone unnoticed. We thank you and your family for all that you have done."

Nurden then addressed the crowd — which included some of her family members from the United Kingdom, Florida, and New York — next. She said it's been a privilege to work at the centre for the past 25 years and counting, and that starting programming

Caledon Seniors Centre board president Jane Chapman accepts a thank you plaque from Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones.

PHOTO BY ZACHARY ROMAN

in the expanded facility will be a dream come true. Nurden said the Seniors Centre began as, and remains, a grassroots organization.

"We are a team and we work together for the common good. And if it wasn't for volunteers, none of us would be here today," said Nurden. "I always think it's like a family here... we look after each other."

Martin was the final person to give a speech, and began by thanking all of Caledon's previous Council and former mayor Allan Thompson, who she said were a huge help in making the expansion happen.

Martin said development charges (DCs) were critical in making the Seniors Centre expansion a reality, and addressed MPP Jones in hopes her Progressive Conservative government would realize how important the charges are.

The Conservatives' recently-passed Bill 23, The More Homes Built Faster Act, eliminates or reduces some development charges that municipalities can charge developers. DCs help pay for the cost of municipal services and infrastructure.

"If we didn't have DCs we would not have this project," said Martin. "I hope there's going to be some compromise... or we won't have any community centres in Ontario in the future."

Martin said there were so many sponsors who helped make the Seniors Centre expansion a reality, and shared some of the types of groups that donated to the project. She said there were real estate companies, insurance companies, a funeral home, non-profits, Bolton Kin, Bolton Rotary, construction companies, a car dealership, government, and many, many more.

There were also fundraisers held to support the expansion such as the Spring Fling Fashion Show, a golf tournament, and bottle drive.

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