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**GARDENING SEASON** - Stan Cameron, Caledon's Peel District School Board Trustee, and Karen Hutchinson, head of Albion Hills Community Farm, attended James Grieve Public School on April 5 alongside Peel District School Board field centre staff to present gardening gear to teacher Jennifer Goodhand and students from the school's EcoTeam. Pictured here are Swasti, Gurnoor, Evika, Ashtyn and Aishwarya. The gear will be used to plant pollinator and vegetable gardens. For more, see Page 6.

PHOTO BY ZACHARY ROMAN

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## Town, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, issue joint statement on Bill 23

### Caledon, MCFN share concerns with Bill

BY ZACHARY ROMAN

The Town of Caledon and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN) have come together to voice shared concerns about Bill 23, the More Homes Built Faster act.

On April 10, the Town announced it had released a joint statement with MCFN outlining these shared worries about the impacts of the Bill. Doug Ford's Progressive Conservatives passed Bill 23 on November 28, 2022, amid criticism from municipalities, conservation authorities, and citizens.

The Town of Caledon has had a history of being opposed to the Bill.

On November 25, 2022, Caledon Mayor Annette Groves called an emergency meet-

ing of Caledon Council to discuss Bill 23. At the meeting, Council unanimously voted to "ask the province to halt Bill 23... and begin fulsome consultation with all municipalities on local impacts."

In the April 10, 2023 statement, the Town and MCFN said Bill 23 proposes changes that will severely impact environmental protection and heritage preservation.

Continued on Page 15

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### Caledon recognized as a pet-friendly city

BY ZACHARY ROMAN

Caledon is a great place for pets, according to Mars Petcare.

On April 11 at the dog park behind the Caledon Animal Shelter, Caledon was recognized by Mars Petcare as a pet-friendly city as part of its "Better Cities for Pets" program.

Mars Petcare is a division of Mars Incorporated, which has operations in Bolton.

Caledon is the first Canadian city to be recognized as a "Better City for Pets" in 2023.

Mayor Annette Groves, and Councillors Christina Early, Mario Russo, Dave Sheen, and Lynn Kiernan, attended the April 11 event. An award was presented to the Town and accepted by Groves, who shared a speech.

Continued on Page 5

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# Forster’s Book Garden hosting author, artisan and publisher showcase on April 29



Forster’s Book Garden has planned a showcase of local talent for Canadian independent bookstore day, April 29. CANADIAN INDEPENDENT BOOKSELLERS ASSOCIATION IMAGE

## Local bookstore celebrates 25th anniversary this month

BY ZACHARY ROMAN

Avid readers, aspiring authors, and art enthusiasts might want to check out Forster’s Book Garden soon.

On April 29, Forster’s is hosting an author, artisan and publisher showcase to celebrate Canadian independent bookstore day — and the store’s 25th anniversary.

The showcase will take place from 1 to 4 p.m. and will feature refreshments, contests, and draws. Forster’s regulars can also collect double points all day at the store.

Donna Forster has arranged for a wide variety of local talent to be at the store on April 29.

“They’re all people who don’t have a big sales force behind them because they’re not

from a big company,” said Forster. “This is a way of showcasing them.”

One of the people who will be there is Kathleen Davies, who Forster said is a painter who’s done many beautiful illustrations of the animals that have come into her back garden. Then, Forster said she decided to compile them all and make them into “a lovely little picture book.”

Caledon authors Lisa Oatway, who writes historical fiction, and Robyn Gram-Barclay, who writes and illustrates children’s books, will be at the event. Readers may remember the Citizen’s recent profiles of these authors after they each gave author talks for the Caledon Public Library.

David Stover, who runs his own publishing company called Rock’s Mills Press, will also be at the event. Forster said she often gets people in the store who are writing their own books and want to know what the next step is. Stover will be answering questions about book publishing, and Forster said he’s a great person to ask because he’s a small independent publisher.

Keirstin Gadjar makes knit goods like coffee cozies and book covers, the latter of which Forster’s Book Garden completely sold out of at

Christmastime. She’s an example of one of the artisans who will be at the celebration.

Other people who will be there include John

Steckley and Glenn Carley, who Forster said each have eclectic collections of work; Angel Adams, who writes romance and paranormal romance; Astrid Peters, who wrote a biography about her mother who came from the Netherlands and started Humber Nurseries; Terence Young, who wrote a well-researched book about the dangers of prescription drugs; Carol Good, who is a dedicated poet; Dallia Rahm, who writes mystery; J.P. Kemp, who writes fantasy; and Terry Kimbell, who makes metal and wood art.

Forster is getting excited for the event and hopes to see a great turnout of people coming to chat with all the local talent in attendance. She said she’s had some items and books donated by publishers to give away as prizes.

The Canadian Independent Booksellers Association is hosting a contest for Canadian independent bookstore day. For every book purchased at a local bookstore on April 29, one entry into a raffle for a gift certificate to an independent bookstore is gained.

Buyers must keep their receipts and visit [ciba-books.ca](http://ciba-books.ca) to enter the contest. There are three gift certificate prizes in amounts of \$1,000, \$500, and \$250 up for grabs.

Important to note is that books by Canadian authors get buyers two entries instead of one.

## National Volunteer Week is April 16 – 22

Join Volunteer Dufferin and communities across Canada in celebration of National Volunteer Week taking place April 16 through 22, 2023.

This year’s theme is “Volunteering Weaves Us Together”, which recognizes the incredible role volunteers play in “strengthening the fabric of our community.”

From coast, to coast, to coast, volunteers help communities “grow, thrive and create change” with “every action impacting our community, province, and country’s overall wellness, now and for future generations.”

Sheralyn Roman, Community Engagement Coordinator for Volunteer Dufferin, has this to say about the importance of celebrating the many volunteers who help to shape Dufferin County:

“We all have a gift to share. Whether it’s wisdom and experience working with a non-profit Board in a governance role, a willingness to give in a hands-on capacity at your local food bank or you have wealth to contribute, helping a non-profit to meet its financial obligations, your time and talents are the threads that weave us together.

“At Volunteer Dufferin, a supported program of HCIA, we’re happy to be able to support our 160 member agencies and 2450+ volunteers to connect with one another in support of improving the well-being of Dufferin County residents. Celebrating National Volunteer Week is just one of the many ways we’re able to say thank you to the people who help to shape a vibrant, sustainable and resilient communi-

ty together.”

Throughout Dufferin County, Town and County Councils will be proclaiming National Volunteer Week and participating in various events, both in person and virtually, in celebration of volunteers.

Non-profits are planning special thank you initiatives including volunteer teas, tokens of appreciation and invitations to special events. Volunteer Dufferin is sharing the message about the importance of volunteering in helping to build a sense of belonging and purpose with the local Rogers TV program Dufferin Life with Teena Avery.

“We appreciate the commitment of our local governments, organizations and businesses in recognizing the important role volunteers play in our communities. There has never been a more urgent need for volunteers. Right now, our local non-profits are in particular need of new members for their boards of directors. If you are looking for a way to make meaningful change, board work is a great way to find that sense of purpose and help shape the future of your community. Volunteer Dufferin is here to help!

“We match individuals with a broad range of meaningful opportunities through our robust web-based platform that is simple to use, quick and convenient. It’s also completely free for all users! In as little as 15 minutes you can log in to our portal, create a profile, identify areas you are interested in and browse available opportunities in the community. You will also receive email notifications when new opportunities match your profile.”



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# Home and Lifestyle show is returning in style for 2023

## Opening night of show features tribute to Caledon artist Cory Trépanier, who died in 2021

BY ZACHARY ROMAN

Caledon’s largest home and lifestyle show is coming soon, and local home and lifestyle industry experts will converge in Bolton.

The 2023 Home and Lifestyle Show will be held from April 28 to 30 at the Albion Bolton Community Centre and this year’s theme is “Inspiration, Motivation, Expert Advice.”

The show runs from 6 to 9 p.m. on Friday, April 28, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 29, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, April 30. Admission to the show is free if you sign up online on [homeandlifestyle-show.ca](http://homeandlifestyle-show.ca), or \$5 cash at the door. Children ages 12 and under are free no matter what.

There’s going to be a ticketed event on Friday evening, a tribute to renowned Caledon artist, explorer, and filmmaker Cory Trépanier. Tickets are \$35 each, can be purchased at the above link, and all proceeds from them will be going to Caledon Meals on Wheels.

People who buy a ticket to this event will be able to sample a wide variety of local wines, craft beers, and hard ciders. They’ll also be able to sample food from local restaurants, caterers, and boutique food vendors.

The Bill Parnaby Team is the presenting sponsor of the Cory Trépanier event. Bill Parnaby grew up with Trépanier and the two of them graduated from the same high school. Though they ventured down different paths in life, Shaughnessy said they always remained great friends and supporters of each other.

Trépanier was a graduate of Humberview Secondary School in Bolton and went on to have a hugely influential career in the arts and documentary filmmaking. He is very well-known for his detailed oil paintings of Canada’s wilderness, and he was an avid Arctic explorer. Trépanier died of cancer in 2021.

Home & Lifestyle Showrunner Liz Shaughnessy said she had the pleasure of knowing Trépanier and his family.

“His masterpieces are now hanging in galleries and homes all over the world,” said



(LEFT) A painting of the Cliffs of Moher by Andie Trépanier, Cory Trépanier’s daughter. (RIGHT) A kitchen project completed by AC Custom Reno. CONTRIBUTED IMAGES



Shaughnessy. “But there are still pieces of Cory Trépanier art that can be purchased by the average person.”

Limited-edition pieces from Trépanier will be for sale at the event, including numbered prints, cards, and coffee table books. Cory’s daughter, Andie, is a landscape artist herself and will be at the show painting live and showcasing her art.

Another highlight of the Home & Lifestyle Show is the “Ask the Experts Stage” which will be running all day on Saturday and Sunday. Attendees can speak to industry experts in their respective fields of design, renovations, restorations, décor, and landscape gardening.

Shaughnessy said there’s going to be a great array of energy efficient options for

doors, windows, and roofing and more at the show. She added experts for both kitchen and bathroom renovations will be on site to offer expertise to tackle those essential rooms. People interested in DIY projects will love the show, said Shaughnessy, as they’ll be able to get hands-on tips and tricks from the pros.

Shaughnessy said there’s going to be “show only” specials on offer from some businesses at the show, and noted coming to the show for your home and lifestyle needs is a great way to support local businesses.

Supporting local businesses is one of Shaughnessy’s main goals for this year’s Home and Lifestyle Show, and she said the support for local businesses that bloomed in the pandemic is here to stay.

“Finding local exhibitors where consumers can walk in and get as good advice as they’re ever going to get anywhere in the country was the number one objective for the show,” said Shaughnessy. “We want people to walk in and feel motivated by the show. We want them to feel inspired by the show. We want them to bring their problems to the experts and get solid solutions.”

Shaughnessy said she can’t thank the Bolton Rotary Club enough for their time and effort in helping her set up this year’s show. She said the help they provide is so amazing that any event would be lucky to have them helping.

As always at the Home & Lifestyle Show, it will be a pet-friendly event and parking will be free.

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From left: Councillor Dave Sheen, Councillor Lynn Kiernan, David Calderoni of Mars Petcare, Mayor Annette Groves, Councillor Mario Russo, and Councillor Christina Early at the ceremony announcing Caledon as a pet-friendly city. PHOTO BY ZACHARY ROMAN

# Caledon recognized as a pet-friendly city by Mars Petcare

Continued from FRONT

Groves said she’s proud of the designation and what it says about how Caledon is a caring and pet-friendly Town in many ways. She thanked Caledon’s animal services team for “providing excellent services for pets and their owners.”

“Our community cat program helps keep our outdoor cats healthy, and our adoption program helps find homes for pets at the shelter,” said Groves. “This team also educates and raises awareness around responsible pet ownership year-round.”

There’s a new dog park coming to Caledon this year, and that’s something else Groves is proud of.

A fenced-in off-leash dog park is being planned at the corner of Kennedy Road and Abbotside Way in the south of Caledon. It will have a small parking lot and two off-leash areas — one for small dog breeds and one for big ones.

“Our off-leash dog parks connect pet owners, pets and their friends,” said Groves. “The new park will be located near a stormwater management pond and

will offer an attractive and safe setting for pets and their owners.”

Also noted by Groves was Caledon’s many trails that offer residents great places to walk their pets, and Caledon’s pet-friendly businesses.

“Many Caledon businesses have opened their doors to pets.... in fact, we have a new page on our Town of Caledon business website that lists all of the pet-friendly businesses,” said Groves.

She thanked Mars Canada for the recognition and award.

Daniel Calderoni, General Manager of Pet Nutrition in Canada for Mars Petcare, attended the April 11 event to present the award to Mayor Groves.

Calderoni explained Mars Petcare launched the Better Cities for Pets program five years ago as a way to recognize cities across Canada who make efforts to become pet-friendly “to make the benefits of pets available to as many people as possible.”

Calderoni said he and Mars Petcare were very proud to present Caledon with the Better Cities for Pets award.

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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 or emailing [admin@caledoncitizen.com](mailto:admin@caledoncitizen.com) 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 6:00-6:30 followed by a meeting. The initial annual fee incl. a bi-monthly magazine and starter kit is \$59, and monthly dues are \$20. Today is the best day to make changes to your lifestyle! If you have weight to lose and/or want to improve your health, we can help! We promote healthy eating and support the efforts of all our members, and your first meeting is free. Come join us. For more information call Marion at 905-857-5191 or see [www.tops.org](http://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/ or 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](mailto: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: Call – 647-891-9400 Email: [caledoncoc@gmail.com](mailto:caledoncoc@gmail.com) Location: 34 Nixon Rd., Bolton

The Peel Regional Aquarium Club (PRAC) welcomes new members! Do you have a fish tank or are interested in keeping fish, shrimp, snails or live plants? Join us monthly to learn more about the hobby, get tips from other hobbyists and participate in our mini monthly auctions! We meet in person on the third Wednesday of every month at 7pm. Please see our website for more details on speakers and location. [www.peelaquariumclub.org](http://www.peelaquariumclub.org) We encourage those attending to bring items to sell in our mini monthly auctions and a fish/ plant or other aquatic species to show in our

monthly bowl shows. This is great practise in learning how to show fish and practise judging as is done in the larger competitions. Join us in person!

CALEDON REDUCES/ECOCALEDON will be holding their next Repair Café on Saturday April 22nd, 10am -2pm, at the Caledon Seniors Centre - 7 Rotarian Way, Bolton. WHAT IS A REPAIR CAFÉ? It is a FREE opportunity to give your broken or damaged household items and clothing a second life, support a circular economy, have a coffee and connect with good community members! Want more info? Go to <https://justsayincaledon.com/what-you-need-to-know-to-be-ready-for-caledons-next-repair-cafe/> or contact [info@ecoCaledon.org](mailto:info@ecoCaledon.org)


The Albion Bolton Historical Society is holding their next meeting on Monday, April 17th - 7:30 pm start, at the Albion Bolton Community Centre, 150 Queen Street South, Bolton, Meeting Room C, 2nd floor. Valerie Mackie will present “Seven Hotels & a Distillery: The history of Bolton’s hospitality industry in the 19th century”. Questions, please contact Nathan at 905-584-2801 or [nhillerphoto@bell.net](mailto:nhillerphoto@bell.net) Visit our website [boltonhistory.com](http://boltonhistory.com)

Friday April 28 2023  
Free Community Event  
Let’s Talk ... Navigating Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD)  
Online via zoom (see website for link)  
6:30 Dinner via Zoom  
7 pm Guest Speaker Lauren Clark, President & CEO Bridge C-14 via Zoom  
Followed by discussion.  
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For more information call 905-857-2615 or e-mail [office@boltonunitedchurch.com](mailto:office@boltonunitedchurch.com) [www.boltonunitedchurch.com](http://www.boltonunitedchurch.com)

The next Toonie Sale is scheduled for Saturday, April 29 from 10 am to 1 pm in the President’s building at the Bolton Fairgrounds. Check it out at [www.boltonkin.com/toonie-sale](http://www.boltonkin.com/toonie-sale).




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# Peel Children’s Aid Society searching for new foster caregivers

Peel CAS wants to educate people on misconceptions about being a foster caregiver

BY ZACHARY ROMAN

Foster caregivers are needed in the Region of Peel.

The Peel Children’s Aid Society (Peel CAS) is putting the spotlight on foster care recruitment this month.

Dora Habashi, the Family Connections Service Manager for Peel CAS, supports the organization’s placement department and also helps with recruitment, adoption, kinship services, and supporting children in care with special medical needs.

She’s been working for Peel CAS since 2008 in a variety of roles, and has been in her current position for about two years. Peel CAS is a child well-being organization that is committed to working with children and families within the Peel Region.

Peel CAS’ kinship department works to connect children with their family members and extended family, so, if possible, children can be placed with their family members. It’s always Peel CAS’ first choice to have a child placed with their family.

“If a child can no longer safely remain with their family, our first step is to determine if there are any relatives or other adults the child has a significant relationship with,” said Habashi. “Where it’s possible, we try to explore that.”

Unfortunately, that’s not always possible, and that’s why there’s a need for foster caregivers in Peel.

Habashi said she always thinks there will be a need to recruit foster caregivers who will be able to provide care and meet the cultural and social needs of children. She said, realistically, a lot of caregivers will be retiring in the next few years, and that organizations like Peel CAS are looking for ways to onboard new caregivers.

A key part of that is dispelling misconceptions about being a foster caregiver.

A foster caregiver is someone who plays a vital role in nurturing a child in what is a very difficult time in their lives. They look after the day-to-day needs of a child, take them to appointments, attend school events, facilitate the child’s connection to their family, culture and community, and more.

“They really [play] such a critical role in a child’s life,” said Habashi.

Peel CAS welcomes caregivers of all genders and cultural backgrounds. There is no need for foster caregivers to be married; Habashi said this is one of the most common misconceptions out there.

“We have applicants who come to us as single applicants and they get approved and are fostering as single applicants,” said Habashi.

There’s also no need for an applicant to have children of their own to be able to apply.

“I’m sure there’s a lot of people in the community who want to be caregivers, and maybe child rearing was not in their future for whatever reason, but they still have... a desire to give back to their community or a desire to provide caregiving to other children,” said Habashi.

Strong parenting skills, a love for children, and time to devote to a child’s emotional and physical needs are key aspects of what makes a good foster caregiver. Financial security is also a requirement of caregivers, though it’s important to note Peel CAS covers all related costs to fostering a child. Caregivers must also live in a non-smoking home with a suitable bedroom for the child they’re fostering, and be able to drive the child to appointments as needed.

“Truthfully, children and youth thrive best when there’s a full-time caregiver in the home,” said Habashi.

While being a foster caregiver is a big responsibility, it’s certainly not one that foster caregivers undertake alone. Peel CAS offers robust, free training opportunities for caregivers, for everything from first aid to Indig-

enous practices.

Foster caregivers also get professional support from Peel CAS’ care team which includes social workers, child and youth workers, and nurses. There’s even a foster caregiver support group that meets once a month.

“There’s a community of caregivers within our community of Peel... they lean on each other for support as well,” said Habashi.

Foster care is always intended to be short-term, as Peel CAS is always working towards reunifying children with their birth families.

Those who are interested in becoming a foster caregiver can start by visiting [peelcas.org](http://peelcas.org) to get more information. People are even able to submit an application to be a caregiver online.

“This is very rewarding work... there’s an opportunity to give back to your community and to be part of a child’s life,” said Habashi. “It really does take a village, and it’s an opportunity for community members to contribute to that village around the child.”

Habashi said specifically there is a need for caregivers willing to care for children with medical and behavioural needs, as well as teenagers and sibling groups. Peel CAS always tries to keep sibling groups together.

Caring for a teen is another area Habashi said there can be misconceptions around, but she explained there’s many benefits to caring for children of all different ages. She said she’s heard from many caregivers who are still in touch with teens they fostered who are now all grown up and working full time.

“It really is beautiful how some of these older youth maintain a relationship with their former caregivers,” said Habashi.

In speaking to caregivers who have been fostering children for over 25 years, Habashi said the most common reason behind their success is just a simple desire to give back to the community. Habashi is hoping to tap into that desire to give back to get more people interested in being foster caregivers.

## Students receive donations for school vegetable garden project

EcoTeam at James Grieve Public School excited to start their own gardens

BY ZACHARY ROMAN

Donations from Caledon gardeners and community members are going to help the next generation of green-thumbed residents begin their journeys.

On April 5, students and teachers from the “EcoTeam” at James Grieve Public School received donations gathered by the Albion Hills Community Farm (AHCF) and Palgrave United Community Kitchen (PUCK).

Donations included gardening books and equipment, reusable produce bags, and a gift basket from Glen Echo Nurseries.

The donations were received at the “Seedy Saturday” event held on February 25 by AHCF and PUCK in support of the Caledon public school vegetable garden project. Caledon’s Peel District School Board trustee, Stan Cameron, is leading a program to install vegetable gardens in all of Caledon’s public schools this year.

Seedy Saturday was held for the first time in Caledon this year, and brought together beginner and experienced gardeners for a day of fun and education. There was a wide variety of seeds available, a potting station, numerous vendor and community tables, and presentations at the event.

Jennifer Goodhand is a teacher at James Grieve Public School and has been involved with the EcoTeam there for seven years. She’s led students in initiatives like promoting litterless lunches, but the garden project at the school is a first for her.

“We are starting with planting a small 10 by five pollinator garden this year, and right next to it will be... the vegetable garden,” said Goodhand. “We’re going to do both gardens at the same time; the long-term plan is to build on them and expand them... but also turn (the area) into an outdoor learning (area).”

Goodhand said between 30 and 45 students between Grades 1 and 8 at James Grieve Public School are involved with the EcoTeam, as well as four teachers. EcoTeam students, as well as Grade 3 students learning about plants and soil, are going to go outside and help plant the school’s two gardens soon.

“We’ll be planting the pollinator seedlings first by the end of April or early May, and then vegetable seedlings in early June,” said Goodhand. “The staff of MDR Design + Build, a Caledon contracting company, are donating their labour to help us prepare the ground for our gardens. Local farmer Owen Goltz is loaning equipment for that purpose.”

Goodhand has always been passionate about environmental issues, but is new to the world of gardening. She said she has a bit of environmental anxiety and that it’s good to take action where you can. With students losing out on extracurriculars during the pandemic, Goodhand said she and her students are excited to go full force into the new garden project.

“I’m just trying to keep busy doing things that might be helpful,” said Goodhand.

Karen Hutchinson of the AHCF was on hand on April 5 to help present donations to the students. She said gardening is a great lesson for students as it teaches them their hard work will pay off. Gardening is experiential learning, said Hutchinson, and added it’s very important for students to learn where their food comes from.

Hutchinson has done many gardening workshops and said when people learn about something, they care about it more.

Naturally, she’s a big fan of the school vegetable garden project.

“There’s the environmental piece, the food piece, there’s the science piece... getting outside,” said Hutchinson. “Food connects us all.”

Hutchinson said while the vegetable garden project will be challenging, everyone is excited and ready to take it on.



## Curbside Battery Collection

April 10 – April 20, 2023

Place batteries in a clear, resealable bag. Set it:

- during your recycling week
- on your closed green bin

Visit [peelregion.ca/waste](http://peelregion.ca/waste) for new eligible batteries and to sign-up for FREE waste notification reminders.

You can also find a drop-off location near you to safely dispose of used and old batteries throughout the year by visiting [RecycleYourBatteries.ca](http://RecycleYourBatteries.ca).

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# Bolton couple complete second-storey addition to heritage house

The Blandizzi’s house was one of the first 16 settlements in Bolton

BY ZACHARY ROMAN

Imagine buying a new house, planning a major renovation on it, and having the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

That’s exactly what happened to Peter and Stephanie Blandizzi after they purchased an over 170-year-old heritage home in Bolton in December 2019.

Peter, 34, and Stephanie, 32, met in 2018 and moved in together about a year later when they purchased their home in Bolton. On the night they moved in, Peter proposed to Stephanie, and it was a very exciting time for the newly-engaged couple.

Then, in March 2020, restrictions came into place for the COVID-19 pandemic.

“It was terrifying for a while, because I’m self-employed,” said Peter, who runs the construction company Hammer & Castle with Stephanie. They do design, building, and restoration work.

Peter and Stephanie had their wedding delayed by the pandemic, as well as their plans to add a second storey to their new house. When they purchased it, their house was a bungalow with no basement.

“Stephanie and I said, ‘Why don’t we add a second floor’, and we looked into it,” said Peter. “This was before coronavirus, before things went crazy in the market... we [ended up] entering a build in the craziest time and we finished it with sheer force of will.”

Peter and Stephanie were finally able to begin renovating their house in May of 2022, right after they were finally able to get married. In total, it took about seven-and-a-half months for them to take the roof off their house and add a second storey, doing as much of the work as possible themselves.

Unfortunately, the price of lumber, building materials, and labour still hadn’t come down by the time they could start, and the cost of the renovation was nearly doubled.

To make things even more interesting, Stephanie found out she was pregnant midway through the process. It was the night after she and Peter spent the day lifting up a 17-step staircase with a pulley system. Peter and Stephanie are now expecting their first child this June.

Before meeting Peter, Stephanie had a career in insurance where she managed a team of five people. She always had a love of design and DIY projects, and Peter, who had been running Hammer & Castle for years, always had a desire to expand his company. So, when they got together romantically, they also partnered up to expand Hammer & Castle. Stephanie now works full time at Hammer & Castle with her husband.



(Top) Peter and Stephanie Blandizzi after they bought their first house together in Bolton. (Right) Peter and Stephanie are proud of their finished second storey, and plan to do more work on it in the future.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



“I think on our second date, we were building closets,” said Stephanie, which was a great sign that the pair were a good match. “Peter and I are different in certain ways, which is a really good thing for our company in terms of how we handle different situations.”

In general, Peter handles the construction work and Stephanie manages the financials, marketing, and design process. However, their work often intersects and both are fully involved in whatever project they are doing for a client.

“She has a very keen eye for design,” said Peter of his wife. “Every person we’ve worked with is floored... she adds all the little details.”

When Peter and Stephanie were renovating their house, they quickly noticed how strong the construction of it was. It was made entirely without nails using massive pieces of lumber, and they still have many of the pieces.

Things have certainly changed since Peter and Stephanie’s house was first built over 170 years ago.

“The world is always changing, you’ve got to change with it and continue to work hard and you’ll be okay,” said Peter.

Stephanie said she and Peter have so much faith in their company and are working hard every day to make it more successful.

“If you believe in it, you can really succeed,” said Stephanie.

# Expanded Caledon East Community Complex to open on September 5

BY ZACHARY ROMAN

Renovations to the Caledon East Community Complex are nearing completion.

On April 12, the Town of Caledon announced that the Caledon East Community Complex (CECC) will fully reopen to residents on September 5. There will be an official grand opening for the CECC on September 16.

In a media release, Caledon Mayor Annette Groves said the upcoming opening will be very exciting for Caledon residents.

“The new and modern facility will offer an additional 52,000 square feet for programs and features residents have been asking for,” said Groves.

The new and improved CECC will include a swimming pool; fitness centre and studio; library with maker space; indoor walking track overlooking a full-size gymnasium; an outdoor rink and pavilion; multi-purpose and meeting spaces; and a dedicated section for an enhanced Sports Hall of Fame.

Catherine McLean, Caledon’s Director of Community Services, said staff are working hard to complete the final stages of construction and prepare for the CECC’s opening.

“In addition to finishing the building, staff are preparing programming, schedules, facilities and equipment, as well as onboarding the various staff required to support operations when we open in September,” said McLean in the statement.

This year at Caledon Day on June 17 there will be a dedicated booth with information on jobs, programs, and what to expect at the new CECC.

The Town first broke ground on the CECC expansion project on September 7, 2021. On that day, then-Mayor Allan Thompson was joined by Council and Town Staff for a ground-breaking ceremony. At the time, the project was estimated to cost the Town \$31 million.

The CECC was originally built in 1978 and consisted of a single story with a basement. The first expansion of it began in 2007 and continued in 2010, when two arena structures were added on the east side of the original building.

The latest expansion has come in ahead of schedule, as it was originally expected to be completed in the winter of 2023.

With files from Rob Paul



NEWS | Subscribe: [caledon.ca/enews](https://caledon.ca/enews)

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Parks and Recreation

## Share your ideas for the future of Parks and Recreation!

Parks and recreation play an important part in community building, engaging people physically and socially, and improving quality of life. How do you want the next 10 years to look?

**TAKE THE ONLINE SURVEY NOW!**

[haveyoursaycaledon.ca/parks-recreation-strategy](https://haveyoursaycaledon.ca/parks-recreation-strategy)

Participate before April 20, 2023.

**TELEPHONE SURVEY**

Oraclepoll Research Ltd. will be conducting a telephone survey on behalf of the Town of Caledon. If you receive a call from Oracle Research, please take the time to answer the survey questions.

**HELP US IMAGINE, PLAN AND PLAY.**



## Calling all musicians and bands!

Are you a musical artist or band in the Region of Peel looking for exposure?

The Town of Caledon is recruiting local talent to perform in our new Music in the Park series.

Visit [caledon.ca/music](https://caledon.ca/music) to learn more and to apply. Applications close April 30.





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BROCK WEIR  
BROCK'S BANTER

## Listening for renewal

Despite the mud and soggy ground, families took advantage of the sun Mother Nature graced us with to take full advantage of the Easter Weekend that is now behind us.

It was, for many, a time to truly get back out there, take in the fresh air, absorb the sun, and, if you were amongst those celebrating the observance, maybe even collect a few colourful or chocolatey eggs left out in the spirit of Easter.

Spring may have got off to a bit of a slow start this year, but with this week's forecasted warm weather, it is well and truly here. Over the past few weeks, families of many faiths, backgrounds, and individual traditions, have had many reasons to celebrate the dawn of a new season, and now the feeling of renewal is all around us.

The birds are singing, the birds are chirping, and, I don't know about the rest of you, but with those two potent factors, along with the extended daylight hours, I'm not only feeling renewed, but re-engaged with the world around me re-energized to take it on.

In the Christian calendar, Easter is, of course, a time to mark the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, with Maundy Thursday, which fell on April 6 this year, serving as the poignant prelude to Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

This year, however, Maundy Thursday coincided with another significant event – the start of the one-month countdown to the coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla at Westminster Abbey on Saturday, May 6.

While the accession of a new monarch is tied with mourning its predecessor, the start of a new reign, such as that on September 8, 2022, is also a time of renewal, with fresh perspectives, new ways of engagement, and different approaches writ large are brought to the table by the now-heavy head that wears the crown.

This new reign is no exception – and to underscore this point, featured in the formal Coronation invitation is the image of The Green Man, a powerful symbol of nature and included in this depiction is a bower of wildflowers flowing out of its mouth to form a beautiful herbaceous border to frame one of the most coveted cards of the year.

Yet, as much as the feeling of renewal is in the air, excitement for next month's big event in this country is, in my opinion, unfortunately muted.

That is not to say, however, that nothing is planned or that things aren't in the works.

Once again in the spirit of renewal, and reflecting the King's passion for environmental stewardship, Federal government buildings, including Parliament Hill, as well as other notable landmarks like the Horseshoe Falls and CN Tower will be bathed in green light to mark the occasion.

In addition to a Canadian delegation being sent to London to attend the big day, here at home a ceremony in Ottawa, the details of which remained scant at press time this week, will include speeches, artistic performances and special unveilings.

"Dignitaries from the Table of Precedence of Canada, including members of the King's Privy Council for Canada, eminent Canadians, and individuals with ties to causes dear to His Majesty will be in attendance," said the Federal Department of Canadian Heritage a few weeks ago.

But, even closer to home, few events, again at the time of this writing, have been announced in

our communities to mark such a historic event – a shame, as what the King stands for, as he's underscored multiple times as Prince of Wales, are causes close to our hearts as well.

If only we take the time to listen.

On Thursday, when the month-long countdown to the Coronation began, I revisited some of the speeches our new Head of State has made in Canada, and what struck me was his commitment to the simple act of offering a listening ear.

It may not sound like such a herculean effort on the surface, but it's all too valuable in this day and age – both globally and here at home where we're still grappling with the realities of the Truth & Reconciliation process, even if Truth & Reconciliation isn't currently dominating the news cycle.

"Time and again, I have seen what makes this country truly great: her people and what they stand for – outward-looking, big-hearted, and embodying Canada's inherently global values," said the then-Prince of Wales in Newfoundland and Labrador last May, underscoring the themes of people and service (to family, community and country) that was the hallmark of his mother's Platinum Jubilee celebration in 2022. "If I may say so, this goes to the heart of what makes Canada so special and what my family and I have long admired so greatly about this country. It is seen in acts of kindness every day, in communities big and small, from coast to coast to coast, on the part of healthcare workers and first responders, teachers, community leaders, military personnel and veterans. It is demonstrated by the many Canadians who have opened their homes to those seeking refuge from conflicts around the world. It is made manifest by Canada's determination to be a force for good in our world.

"As we look to our collective future, as one people sharing one planet, we must find new ways to come to terms with the darker and more difficult aspects of the past; acknowledging, reconciling and striving to do better. It's a process that starts with listening. I have greatly appreciated the opportunity to discuss [with Governor General Mary Simon, the first Indigenous person to hold the office] the vital process of reconciliation in this country – not a one-off act, of course, but ongoing commitment to healing, respect and understanding. I know that our visit here this week comes at an important moment with Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples across Canada, committing to reflect honestly and openly about the past and to forge a new relationship for the future.

"We (he and the then-Duchess of Cornwall) look forward to listening to you and learning about the future you're working to build. As so often in the history of this country and her people, Canadians have embarked on a journey that demands commitment and courage. My wife and I could hardly be more privileged to travel part of this journey with you."

While the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla has not captured world's attention to the same extent as Elizabeth II's Coronation did in 1953, at least not yet, I am optimistic and looking forward to seeing the Crown renewed, re-engaged, re-energized and determined to be a part of our national conversation.

The least we can do is prick up our ears and listen to the start of a new chapter of our shared history.



## Taking a look at our own circle of life



It's been said that the average North American has three stages of life – wanting stuff, accumulating stuff, and getting rid of stuff.

A truer word could never be spoken.

When you think of it in those very straightforward terms, it begs the question: just what the heck are we doing?

In my case I'd like to squeeze in a stage between the last two – the refusing to get stuff because I don't need it and it's too expensive phase.

We all must realize by now the fleeting nature of the "things" in our lives.

Let's turn the clock back to our youth – the Boomers will understand.

When we were young, we were happy with the necessities – clothes, decent running shoes and a bike. They didn't have to be fancy and some of the time they were hand-me-downs.

We were happy if the folks took us out to eat at the Red Barn or Ponderosa, or grabbed a bucket of KFC on the way home from work.

Of course, when we got older, we needed a car. Anyone living in a relatively small town knows this. Growing up just outside of Bolton meant I had to do what was necessary so I would borrow Dad's Oldsmobile or Mom's Chevy Citation. We didn't care what the car looked like, we were happy it moved.

I got my "365" and then my real licence after driving around Bolton for 15 minutes back in the early 80s. There were no G, G2 or G-anything. No restrictions, no limits on passengers. Generally speaking, we were respectful of our parents' cars and knew we'd get clobbered if we returned home with a new dent or flat tire. All in all, we were cautious and tried to avoid trouble.

During our youth, we didn't really aim to "collect stuff." That just wasn't a thing.

I had vinyl records, and tried to assemble a decent stereo – a mash of garage sale speakers and Radio Shack components.

I few knick-knacks lived on the shelf next to my desk.

I only began accumulating stuff when I met my beautiful wife. We picked up cool and cheap things at every flea market and discount store we visited.

The only "luxuries" we gathered were a handful of statues from a local gift store. That, and some really cool framed posters.

Every time we moved, we also tossed, and discovered a need to renew or replace things we needed. As our houses and family grew, so did our necessities.

If we were lucky, and snared a great deal, we accumulated some personal treasures.

We saved our excesses for our children – they

by Mark Pavilons

had every popular toy, movie and fashion accessory known. I believe my son still has a collection of Transformers and Harry Potter Lego somewhere. A small fortune in trinkets to be sure.

And again, much of this stuff fell out of use, or out of fashion, and ended up in the garage or destined for the nearest thrift store donation bin.

We've gotten rid of stuff so many times, I don't know why we still have so much. I think my accumulating stage started late in life, sometime in the last decade. When I discovered eBay, I entered a whole new world of cool stuff from around the globe.

My display case quickly filled up with tiny model airplanes, spaceships and collectibles of all shapes and sizes.

And only in the last couple of years have I sought out ancient and medieval artifacts, such as coins, and pendants, to proudly display in our master bedroom. They're relatively small and don't take up much room at all.

They're not overly rare or valuable, but they're cool nonetheless.

My wife, unfortunately, never had any serious hobbies.

My oldest daughter, likely in a wise move to prepare for her big transition one day, began hoarding things in our basement. Everything from pots and pans to an air fryer, vacuum and kettle are nestled in a corner, waiting for her to take with her.

At this rate, she'll be able to completely fill her first apartment or home.

Mom and dad didn't raise no fools.

After a few purges, all that's left is our messy garage, filled mostly with trash, empty boxes and the like. For some reason, this expansive space, somewhat like our Tupperware cupboard, can never stay clean.

This is always on Kim's to-do list and it will be front and centre when spring cleaning time arrives.

Recently, I sent some of my "collectibles" – mostly science fiction items – to a local store on consignment. They were literally hidden away in boxes and drawer and I haven't even seen them in years.

I've heard the rule of thumb is if you haven't used something, played with something, or displayed something within 3-6 months, it's time to get rid of them.

There are also other reasons for a regular clean sweep.

I had the gut-wrenching task of clearing out the belongings of three family members from their abodes. Aside from the sadness, the horrible reality is our lives can be reduced to just a few boxes of knick-knacks, old pieces of furniture, yellowed pictures on the wall and crappy old clothes. It really sucks.

So my friends, if we are far removed from those three stages of life I mentioned, where does that leave us?

I'd love to be in the man cave stage, surrounded by pinball machines, neon signs, walls of collectibles and perhaps even a superhero suit or two.

And yet, my practical side intervenes, putting a damper on my mental parade.

Priorities.

In order to help my fellow human beings, I am willing to take all of your antiques, old gold coins, muscle cars, suits of armour off your hands. After all, I'm just trying to help you out!

### Our Readers Write

## Underspending is not “fiscal responsibility,” says reader

Brian Perras' letter (March 30, 2023) about underspending is based on the assumption the government COMPLETED the assigned and funded tasks.

The reality of “underspending” is that government fails to accomplish the assignment because they withheld the approved funds.

Vastly different from the “fiscal responsibility” referenced by Perras.

Regressives are particularly guilty after having taken credit for passing funded legislation but quietly failing to fully underwrite and, thus, failing to complete the program.

GÉZA GÁSPÁRDY  
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Distributed throughout the Town of Caledon, the Citizen is published Thursdays by Caledon publishing Ltd.

The CALEDON CITIZEN is a member of the Ontario Press Council, an independent body set up by the newspapers of the province to uphold freedom of expression and deal with complaints from readers. The Press Council encourages complainants to first give the newspaper an opportunity to redress their grievances. If not satisfied, they may then write to the Council, enclosing a copy of material that is subject of the complaint, at 80 Gould St., Suite 206, Toronto, ON M5A 4L8.

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Funded by the Government of Canada  
Financé par le gouvernement du Canada

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# White collar crime

It's no secret that white collar crime is not dealt with very harshly.

You see stories all the time of people embezzling money from their employers or other people, and rarely do they receive a punishment that reflect the damage they have done.

In most cases, by the time the crime is discovered, the money is long gone – spent on frivolous notions, vacations, or other expensive things that aren't tangible.

Sometimes a person will spend the money on homes or cars, that can be recovered and recoup some of the losses, but you can't recover money that was spent on a private jet trip to Las Vegas with a ton of cash dropped at a casino.

In rare cases, a judge will order the person to pay back the stolen money. Good luck with that.

If a person steals \$5 million, and blows it all, which is usually the case, where are they going to get the money to pay it back?

A lot of people and businesses have been hurt by these types of scams. Depending on the business, it can take years before a crime is discovered as many people develop different systems of stealing money. Some create secret banks ac-

counts and write their own cheques.

Others develop false billing or similar and pretend to pay other people for services when the money is actually going to themselves.

There's all sorts of devious plans people devise to steal money, from simple outright theft, to very complicated accounting frauds.

The courts rarely hand out a harsh punishment for this type of crime, unless it's government money you're stealing.

A former Ontario government employee with the Ministry of Education, named Sanjay Madan will be cooling his heels in penitentiary after receiving a ten-year sentence for six counts of fraud, breach of trust, and money laundering.

He managed to steal \$47 million from government funds.

His crimes included stealing \$11 million from a pandemic aid fund that was supposed to help parents or guardians with money for educational expenses. On top of that, he had a fraud scheme going involving kickbacks on government-owned computers to the tune of \$36.6 million.

He apparently masterminded the scheme with one of his associates who is also facing a laundry

list of charges in a separate trial.

He did this while already making a salary of over \$170,000, at your expense.

His wife, Shalini Mada, and two adult sons, also worked for the provincial government. As part of a plea deal, criminal charges were dropped against her, but she still faces civil suit charges.

His family claimed they had no idea what he was up to. However, they couldn't offer an explanation as to why their father and husband could purchase \$28 million in assets in Canada and India including six Toronto condos worth \$3 million.

The family opened more than 400 bank accounts at the Bank of Montreal, then deposited around 10,000 cheques made out to fictitious applicants with thousands of non-existent children under the support program.

This type of fraud against you and me, the citizens of the province who paid the taxes to fund these programs, raises a lot of concerns.

How could a fraud that started in 2010, go undetected in government? Where were the checks and balances that are supposed to be in place to prevent this type of thing.

How could the bank not notice something fishy was going on? If you are one hour late on your mortgage payment, the bank knows it and you will be getting a call, but if a guy and his family, open 400 bank accounts with the same bank, no one in bank security found that a tad suspicious?

According to reports, once Madan gets out of the cooler, he will have five years to pay back the full amount, or face another six years in prison.

Good luck with that.

This type of fraud is the worst – he didn't pull a con on his own criminal associates, he stole from people who needed, and deserved that money.

Hopefully his associate, who is an even bigger fish in this scam pond, will get to match the ten-year sentence or hopefully receive more, to set a precedent that stealing from all of use, while already pretty much stealing from us considering his publicly funded bloated salary, will not be tolerated by the hard-working citizens of this province.

## BRIAN LOCKHART FROM THE SECOND ROW



# Taiwan: Ignore China's Connptions

China has been having connptions again.

President Tsai Ing-wen of Taiwan had a courtesy meeting last week with the Speaker of the US House of Representatives, Kevin McCarthy. Beijing reacted by issuing a "stern warning" to the United States, and then "encircled" the island (its own words) with Chinese fighters, bombers, naval destroyers and missile boats.

Kevin McCarthy? Who he? Yes, he sort of controls the US House of Representatives, but that is currently in the hands of the Republican Party, and thus has no power to shape the actions of the US Government.

As for the man himself, he only won the Speakership on the 15th ballot, the first time since 1923 that the post was even contested. He made such concessions to win support that he is effectively hostage to his own party's extreme right. He is the walking embodiment of powerlessness.

McCarthy's glancing encounter with President Tsai was staged in California, not in Washington DC, in order not to ruffle China's feathers too much. But it didn't help. Beijing's response was along the lines of King Lear. (You know: "I will do such things— What they are, yet I know not, but they shall be the terrors of the earth!")

China declared three days of military exercises de-

signed to show that Beijing could conquer Taiwan at a moment's notice. As Chinese state media put it, the drills would "simultaneously organise patrols and advances around Taiwan island, shaping an all-round encirclement and deterrence posture."

What do they mean by that? "Encirclement" means "blockade", and "deterrence" is about deterring the US Navy from trying to break that blockade. But it is just an expression of anger, not a statement of imminent strategic intent, nor even a demonstration of military capability.

In other words, we've heard it all before. We're hearing it more often now, in a louder voice, but that may just be due to the domestic Chinese political situation. China's ability to conquer Taiwan by military force has slowly improved over time, but is still far from assured.

That may be another reason, beyond mere anger at being defied, why Beijing stages all these pantomime military drills: to convince the Taiwanese government and its foreign friends that China already possesses a capability that it does not actually have.

This suggests two counter-strategies, one emotionally satisfying and the other practical.

The satisfying one would be to wear the Chinese regime down by monthly or even more frequent

meetings between American and Taiwan officials. Kevin McCarthy hasn't much else urgent on his agenda, so he could do half of them himself.

Just like the recent one in California that triggered such sound and fury from Beijing, they needn't be about anything in particular. But every time, Beijing would feel obliged to respond, using up immense amounts of fuel and steadily losing credibility. "I will do such things..."

However, one should avoid embarrassing people whenever possible, and backing them into corners would be just stupid. An unsuccessful Chinese invasion attempt against Taiwan would be almost as big a catastrophe as a successful one.

The right policy for the Biden administration would be to leave the high-profile meetings to publicity-hungry Republican politicians (no more Nancy Pelosi farewell tours); to confine President Biden to murmured promises to defend Taiwan (promptly walked back into ambiguity by his entourage); and to concentrate on the military realities.

The dominant military reality in the region is that China's armed forces will have a fair chance of success if they invade Taiwan in about five years' time, at their current rate of growth, but only on two conditions. One is that neither China nor the United States uses nuclear weapons. The other is that Tai-

wan stays as weak militarily as it is now.

The former assumption is probably safe; the other is not. Taiwan's various governments used to have such high confidence in the American deterrent that they let the country's military spending fall until it was actually below Australia's on a per capita basis.

That was unwise.

As Ukraine has demonstrated, US help does depend on a country being able to put up an effective defence itself. Taiwan's military spending is now rising rapidly, but it will be at least five years until it could hold out alone for more than a month.

If the two trends above unfold at similar rates in Taiwan and in China, there will never be a time when a Chinese invasion would be a militarily plausible undertaking. The primary US role should be to ensure that Taiwan urgently rebuilds its military defences, ignoring all Chinese threats and imprecations.

Avoiding a Chinese-American war should be the highest strategic priority for both countries, and this, paradoxically, would be the most valuable US contribution.

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Spring/Summer Sports Preview

Brewers’ revamped pitching rotation part of Bolton’s plan to avenge last year’s Game 7 loss in NDBL finals

BY JIM STEWART

Bolton Head Coach Mike Wallace and his Brewers have been busy all winter at the Baseball Zone in Mississauga to create better outcomes in 2023.

The veteran player-coach is also hoping for better health for the Brewers so they can finish championship finals with more joy and less sorrow.

The Brewers earned their way to the 2022 NDBL Championship Final, but lost in Game 7 to New Lowell. Bolton also scratched its way into the finals of both the major tournaments they participated in, but lost both championship finals. Three close calls have made the Brewers a hungry ball team that wants to win its big games in 2023.

To that celebratory end, the Brewers have imported a fresh influx of arms, thus adhering to the old baseball adage that you “can never have enough pitching.” Coach Wallace introduced the new arrivals to his staff and discussed the key returning Brewers in his pitching mix.

“We’ve added some top-end pitching. Aaron Dzib and Eddie Rodriguez both played professionally in Mexico. Sheldon Gowan, a Barrie native, is a hard-throwing left-hander who will join the Brewers’ rotation as well.”

With the “return of Trent Barwick, Victor Moguel, Nick Pettinaro, Shawn Chalmers, Mike Blackwood, and Brett Chater to the mound this season,” Wallace believes that he has “one of the best pitching staffs in the league.”

He also noted that younger Brewers will

begin to complement his veteran squad with “some youth and we will see Brayden Grech, Cameron O’Neil, Logan Hart, Mario Accardo, Daniel Amodeo, and Josh Catalanno getting into the action.”

All in all, Coach Wallace believes that due to the Brewers’ acquisitions and off-season regimen, “the ball team is looking great this season. Last year, a few players were injured for majority of it, but it looks like Drew Vokey and I will be ready to go at the start of the season.”

The Brewers’ skipper assessed the 2022 season as “a challenging season, but a very successful one.”

He noted that key injuries took their toll on the team up-the-middle.

“The challenging part was myself (as

the second baseman), Brett Chater at shortstop, and Drew Vokey our centerfielder were all injured and missed significant time. However, with these major injuries, we saw a great season and leadership from Carter Burnside who won the league’s Top Catcher Award. Amin Juarez (shortstop/ third base), Josh Hickey (first/3rd baseman), Chris Fafalois and Daniel Accardo in the outfield, and Greg Keenan at second base all had tremendous seasons with the bat and glove and did the bulk of the heavy lifting all season.”

Wallace also praised his 2022 pitching staff, adding, “On the mound, Trent Barwick and Victor Moguel were excellent down the stretch and in the playoffs. Shawn Chalmers and Nick Pettinaro also had an excellent season on the mound for the Brewers.”

The combination of steady hitting and pitching allowed the Brewers to mitigate the impact of their long list of injuries and the team accrued an outstanding .739 winning percentage in the NDBL, based on a 17-6 regular season record.

Coach Wallace reflected on the team’s final game of the 2022 season: “Drew Vokey returned for the Finals and caught fire with John Hutchinson, Steve Warden, and Mike Wallace. They helped the Brewers pound out 12 hits in game 7, but we ended up losing 3 to 2 to New Lowell.”

Prior to being edged in Game 7 by the Knights in the NDBL finals, Bolton started their trek to the championship final by beating Barrie 3 games to 2 in Round 1. The Brewers then defeated the Ivy Rangers 3 games to 2 in the semifinals. The Brewers also entered two tournaments, and earned their way to the championship game in both. However, Bolton lost to New Lowell in the Lisle tournament and lost again to New Lowell in the New Lowell tournament. Avoiding injuries and overcoming their nemesis New Lowell will surely be the battle cry of Coach Wallace’s Brewers this season.

Wallace has been a mainstay with the franchise and reflected on his multi-decade career as a Brewer: “I have been coaching and playing for the Bolton squad close to 20 years now. I love the game and I love that I am able to represent my town that I grew up in. I’m fortunate enough to play and coach with a tremendous bunch of players who play the game the right way and will give it everything they’ve got.”

When asked about prognostications for the 2023 season, the veteran coach leaned toward a favorable outcome for his ball club.

“I think this is one of our strongest teams that we have had. Hopefully, we can have a healthy season. Our group is pretty motivated after coming so close last season. With some extra arms and some positional depth, I think we should be a very strong team this year. We just have to stay healthy.”

An influx of pitching talent and better health may, indeed, be the championship-winning recipe for the Bolton Brewers in 2023.

The Brewers play on the North Hill Diamond #1. They play their home games at 7:30 p.m. on Thursdays.

The league website is NDBL.ca where residents can follow all the standings/player stats and schedules.





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# “Let’s do this” Love of performing arts leads Caledon residents to start production company

Auditions for  
“Something Rotten”  
are happening this  
weekend

BY ZACHARY ROMAN

Passion for the performing arts is the driving force behind a new theatre production company in Caledon.

Lucy Todish and John Thomas have both lived in Caledon for over 20 years. They saw the opportunity to bring musical theatre to Caledon by founding a new production company, and that’s exactly what they did last month.

Todish has always had a passion for the performing arts, whether it was watching or volunteering in productions her daughter was in. She met Thomas, an experienced director, through one of the shows she was volunteering for.

The pair started a friendship, bonding over their mutual love of performing arts. The idea to start their own production company actually began as a bit of a joke between them.

“Finally, [we] did it,” said Todish. “We both kind of went, ‘What are we waiting for? Let’s do this.’”

Todish and Thomas’ non-profit production company is called Over the Footlight Productions, and is also partnered with the Stage Academy Theatre Association. Ward 5 Councillor Tony Rosa is also involved in the project, and Todish said partnering with him has been amazing as he’s brought in so much connection to the community.

“He gave us some really good guidance on how to start it,” said Todish. “It just kind of

all came into place when we opened up those discussions with Tony and let him know what we were going to do.”

Coming up with a name for their production company didn’t take too long for Todish and Thomas. They wanted something that would resonate with people in the community.

Footlights are a row of lights that sit across the bottom of the stage that highlight the actors on the boards.

“Over the Footlight to us meant we would be the production company that will produce amazing stage performances over the footlights,” said Todish.

It also speaks to the company’s mission to highlight local talent.

After coming up with a name, Todish and Thomas started thinking about what their first production would be. They quickly landed on “Something Rotten”, which is set in the 1590s. It’s a funny show that follows the lives of two brothers who are struggling playwrights trying their best to compete with William Shakespeare.

“We wanted something that was very high energy... it’ll be full of comedy and dance and singing and great costumes,” said Todish.

Auditions for Something Rotten are happening this weekend at two different times (11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.) on April 15 at the Albion Bolton Community Centre. Call-backs will take place the following day, April 16, from 2 to 6 p.m.

Todish said she’s encouraging people to come out and audition; she and Thomas want to see as many people as possible coming out to share their talents.

“John and I are really passionate about this opportunity and what we’re bringing to the community,” said Todish.

To inquire about volunteering for the theatre company, interested parties can email [overthefootlight@gmail.com](mailto:overthefootlight@gmail.com).



The Dufferin-Peel Skating Club has had a good year in their first full season since the COVID-19 pandemic. Ella Stamenkovic finished in fifth place at the Provincial Championships held in Stratford. Jordan Young placed tenth in the same competition.

**CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

## Dufferin-Peel Skating Club success in first full post-Covid season

Two skaters advance to  
championships

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

In their first full season back after the COVID-19 pandemic, skaters with the Dufferin-Peel Skating Club have some strong representation from their competitive figure skating team at events across Ontario.

The skaters trained hard on the ice and had good performances at the events they attended this year.

Team members include Claudia Bennett, Olivia Chung, Sarah Hayden, Kaitlyn Hunt, Kristina Nilsson, Hailley Parker, Ella Stamenkovic, Jillian Young, Jordan Young and Sophia Thomas.

Ella Stamenkovic and Jordan Young advanced to the Provincial Championships in Stratford from Mar. 24 to 26 in STAR 5 Free Skate. Both skaters earned a personal best score and top ten finishes in the 36-skater field.

Ella finished in fifth place. Jordan placed tenth.

Formed in 1991, the Dufferin-Peel Skating Club is a member of Skate Canada, one of the world’s largest and most progressive skating associations. The Club offers Starskate and Competitive figure skating as well as programs for first-time skaters.

The team will continue spring and summer training at the Teen Ranch Ice Corral.

The Ice Corral features a full Olympic size ice surface that is a terrific training place for the Skate Club.



## Local musicians wanted for new Caledon “Music in the Park” series

Musicians will be paid for  
their performances

BY ZACHARY ROMAN

Looking for your next live gig? Look no further than the Town of Caledon’s new “Music in the Park” series.

Earlier this month, the Town announced it was seeking musicians from Peel Region to send in applications to perform in its new Music in the Park series this summer. Caledon musicians will be prioritized in the application process, but musicians from all around Peel are welcomed.

The series is going to be a free weekly event in Southfields Village geared towards families and supporting local talent.

Music in the Park is a new project from the Town of Caledon’s Economic Development Department, and musicians will be compensated with \$300 for their performances at Music in the Park.

Music in the Park will take place in July and August, on Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Dennison Park.

Musicians can apply online to perform a two-hour show in the new series by going to [caledon.ca](http://caledon.ca) and typing in “Music in the Park” in the search bar. Expressions of interest must be submitted to the Town by April 30.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

### NEW PRESIDENT OF ABBEYFIELD CALEDON BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gord Gunning is a graduate of Western University and is an experienced association and non-profit agency executive leading major professional, trade and health care organizations. Gord is CEO of CANES Community Care which provides 12 programs and services to over 4500 seniors in the west end of the GTA and his key responsibilities include government relations, strategic planning and implementation, business development and stakeholder relations.

A life-long learner, Gord has completed executive programs at the Ivey Business School, Western University and Harvard Business School. He has received numerous awards including the Bhayana Foundation Leadership Award presented by the United Way of Greater Toronto.

His commitment to volunteerism includes serving as Past President of the Canadian Society of Association Executives – Trillium Chapter, Member of the Policy Committee, Ontario Community Support Association (OCSA) and volunteer Treasurer of Caledon Hydro.

Gord has been appointed as a member of the Town of Caledon Age-Friendly Task Force for the 2023-2026 term of Council

Gord and his wife Judith have lived in Caledon for over 35 years and raised two sons and a daughter in the area. Gord now follows Judith to carry on their family commitment to Abbeyfield Caledon as she served on the original Building Committee and then on the Board of Directors for over nine years. He looks forward to serving on the Board of Directors with the goal to enhance the services available to the residents so that they can continue to live independently.

Past-Chair Joe McReynolds will continue to serve on the Abbeyfield Board of Directors.

## Celebrating National Volunteer Week April 24th-30th



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**Misc.** Murry 8/27 snowblower; engine hoist; Yardworks generator 7200 watts; Forney model C-5; America band saw; radial arm saw; floor model air compressor; older mowers; generator; 3 ph sprayer; lawn mowers; roto tiller as is; buzz saw; fence wire; barb wire; railroad ties; cedar rails; Case rake parts; one way 8 plate disc; cross cut saw; hay fork; wagon of misc.; Check website for terms and conditions as well as updates. **Antiques** The Thomas A. Edison phonograph 32" long flowered horn, 22" mouth ser #319375 (very nice); The Arthur Pequegnat Clock Co. Berlin Canada with key 24 1/2" tall, King Edward picture on front glass; Gingerbread clock; Painting Shack In The Woods by Frans Johnston 1888-1949; Humpback trunk; Kaufman 2 pc cabinet; captains chair; ant. Desk; Eastlake washstand; Ironstone chamber & pitcher; wooden butter bowl & paddle; desk & chair; steel bed; 4 dr. ant dresser; 3 dr ant dresser w/oval bevelled mirror; ant rocking chair; sq steamer trunk; preserving jars etc; **Preview** Fri. Apr 21st noon - 4. No buyers premium. **Terms** Cash or known cheque with proper ID only. M/C, Visa, Debit or e-transfer. Neither the owner, Estate nor Auctioneer(s) will be responsible for accident or property loss. Toilet and lunch booth

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**BRADLEY, MATTHEW**

Suddenly on Monday, April 3rd, 2023 at the age of 39 in Wickham New Brunswick. Loved son of Diana Schippers and Ian Bradley and his wife Benilda. Dear partner of Samantha Guitard. Brother of Vanessa Bradley (Patrick Farrell) and Geoffrey Bradley (Jennifer Russell). Proud uncle of Tatum and Addison. Matthew will also be greatly missed by other relatives and many friends.



Visitation will be held at the Dods & McNair Funeral Home, Chapel & Reception Centre, 21 First St., Orangeville on Friday April 14th, 2023 from 6-8 pm. A Graveside service will be held in the spring at Greenwood Cemetery in Orangeville. Memorial donations to the World Wildlife fund of Canada or The Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration would be appreciated by the family.

A tree will be planted in memory of Matthew in the Dods & McNair Memorial Forest at the Island Lake Conservation Area, Orangeville. 21st Annual Dedication Service will be held on Sunday, September 10, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. Condolences may be offered to the family at [www.dodsandmcnair.com](http://www.dodsandmcnair.com)

**PETER DAVID PARK**

It is with sadness and broken hearts we announce the passing of Peter David Park, age 95, in the early hours of February 7, 2023. Peter passed peacefully at Headwaters Hospital in Orangeville. Peter was a loving, devoted husband to Annie, father to the late Margaret Hanwell (2019), and Anne Hart. Grandfather to David (Heather), Brian (Lang), Katelynn (Alex), Chelsea and the late Taylor (1994). Great grandfather to Emma, Jane, Hannah, Michael and William. He was born in Glasgow, Scotland on April 3, 1927. Peter was conscripted into the Military Service in 1945 where he was assigned to the Royal Army Service Corps, wherehe served in Northern Ireland, and Germany, B.A.O.R. Headquarters as a tradesman. Peter married Annie Hartley on June 23, 1950. With his wife and eldest daughter, he emigrated to Canada on February 28, 1957. He commenced work as a Correctional Officer at Mimico Correctional Centre on March 5, 1957. After 35 years of service he retired as a Probation and Parole Field Supervisor. Peter was initiated into Craft Masonry in 1977 at Kilwinning Lodge. From 2017-2019 he was installed as Grand Supreme Ruler. Peter was also a long standing member of the Shriners and Claude Presbytery Church. Cremation has already taken Place at Dods and McNair Funeral Home in Orangeville. A Celebration of Life will be held from 1pm - 3pm on Saturday, April 22, 2023 and Claude Presbytery Church.



David passed peacefully at HHCC with his family by his side April 5. 2023 at the age of 73. Beloved husband of Kim Montgomery, dear brother of Fred (2016) (Barb), Bob (Betty) and Julie (Brian). Cherished uncle of Greg, Laurie (2004), Jim, Brian, Melissa, Matthew, Michael, Alana and Noah. Remembered by his brother-in-law Rob Harding. David was truly one of a kind and will be sadly missed by all family and friends. David had a unique sense of humour- never short of one liners, always involved in any shenanigans to be found including the occasional "borrowing" of cars from the Curling Club in his younger days. David started Montgomery Dry Cleaners at the age of 19 and after selling the business, started his career in the automotive sales business working at many dealerships around Orangeville. While working at Highland Chrysler, David met his future wife Kim where they fell in love. A few short years later, they joined their lives together in marriage at the Montgomery family farm in 1988. David enjoyed his many cars, hot rods and classic cars. He and Kim cruised around Georgian Bay for many years, finding their happy spot together- an island in Pointe au Baril where for the last 30+ years they built their little piece of paradise on the water. Together they enjoyed their northern life in many ways including boating, sea-doo adventures, snowmobile rides and many island parties with the occasional cocktail along the way. All who knew David will raise many a glass in his memory, celebrating all the lives he touched and all the smiles he shared along the way.



**GORDON, WILLIAM ROBERT JAMES**

With heavy hearts we announce the untimely passing of our head of household Jim Gordon at Headwaters Health Care Centre Friday April 7, 2023 surrounded by love. He put up a short but determined battle of Cancer. He leaves behind his loving wife of 48 years, Lori Gordon and loving children and spouses Jennifer and Jason Bourne, Mary and Robb Buchanan and John and Katie Gordon. Eldest son of Mabel and the late Wes Gordon. Missed by his grandchildren Savannah, Beth, Caleb, Lauren, Rachel and Evelyn who were his pride and joy. Sadly missed by his siblings Mary Lou Cunningham (Glen), Bob Gordon, June Gordon (Paul Smart) Special Uncle to Anne Putnam (Wayde), Scott Cunningham (Susan) and Charlotte Gordon. Greatly missed by many other family and friends.

Jim was a pillar to the community for much of his life. Served proudly as a Dufferin County Paramedic for almost 30 years. He enjoyed his work and loved the community. Motorcycles were his passion and loved the open road. Jim and Lori would come together with friends and become Orangeville Valley Riders. He always enjoyed helping others, and the club put together a yearly ride to raise funds for Hospice Dufferin. The ride poker run was a success and became a yearly fundraiser. The club managed to raise funds for 10 years. Special thanks to Dr. McKinnon for your support through this difficult process. Your kindness will always be remembered. Also to the staff of Fwing for your kindness and care of him. Thank You to Tom and Wendy Reid for always being a huge support. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations to Hospice Dufferin in Jim's memory.

Visitation will be held at the Dods & McNair Funeral Home, Chapel & Reception Centre, 21 First St., Orangeville on Saturday April 15th, 2023 from 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm . Funeral Service will be held in the chapel on Sunday April 16th, 2023 at 1:00 pm.

Condolences may be offered to the family at [www.dodsandmcnair.com](http://www.dodsandmcnair.com)

**MONTGOMERY, DAVID WALKER (MONTY)**

David passed peacefully at HHCC with his family by his side April 5. 2023 at the age of 73. Beloved husband of Kim Montgomery, dear brother of Fred (2016) (Barb), Bob (Betty) and Julie (Brian). Cherished uncle of Greg, Laurie (2004), Jim, Brian, Melissa, Matthew, Michael, Alana and Noah. Remembered by his brother-in-law Rob Harding. David was truly one of a kind and will be sadly missed by all family and friends. David had a unique sense of humour- never short of one liners, always involved in any shenanigans to be found including the occasional "borrowing" of cars from the Curling Club in his younger days. David started Montgomery Dry Cleaners at the age of 19 and after selling the business, started his career in the automotive sales business working at many dealerships around Orangeville. While working at Highland Chrysler, David met his future wife Kim where they fell in love. A few short years later, they joined their lives together in marriage at the Montgomery family farm in 1988. David enjoyed his many cars, hot rods and classic cars. He and Kim cruised around Georgian Bay for many years, finding their happy spot together- an island in Pointe au Baril where for the last 30+ years they built their little piece of paradise on the water. Together they enjoyed their northern life in many ways including boating, sea-doo adventures, snowmobile rides and many island parties with the occasional cocktail along the way. All who knew David will raise many a glass in his memory, celebrating all the lives he touched and all the smiles he shared along the way.



David's Celebration of Life will be held at Dods & McNair Funeral Home, Chapel and Reception Centre, 21 First St, Orangeville on Monday April 17th, 2023 from 4pm to 8pm. Memorial donations to the ALS Society would be appreciated by the family.

Condolences may be offered to the family at [www.dodsandmcnair.com](http://www.dodsandmcnair.com)

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**ARMSTRONG, Linda Gail**  
January 26, 1956 – April 17, 1999

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Linda, you were and still are the one true love of my life.

I miss you...be at peace my F&L.

Love Jack

**SCAGNETTI, Maureen**

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

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**ORANGEVILLE OVER 65** – Single Social Club. A place to meet and make new friends. We meet every Thursday at 5:30pm. Many activities .For information call Ken 519-942-1864/ Betty 519-942-3090.

**SANDRA MARY BRAGG**

Peacefully at Bethell Hospice, Inglewood, on Saturday, April 8, 2023, Sandra Bragg, at the age of 82 years, beloved wife for 62 years of Bill. Loving mother of Christopher and his wife Cathy, Andrea Gorman, Mark and his wife Shari. Cherished Nana of Sienna, Ethan, and Liam Bragg; Jordan and Kendra Gorman. Dear sister of Reginald Harvey and Margaret Kirk. The family will receive their friends at the Egan Funeral Home, 203 Queen St. S. (Hwy. 50), Bolton (905-857-2213) for a celebration of life on Saturday, April 22 from 1 o'clock until 4 o'clock. Speeches will take place at 3 o'clock. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Bethell Hospice Foundation, 15835 McLaughlin Road, Inglewood L7C 1H4. Condolences for the family may be offered at [www.EganFuneralHome.com](http://www.EganFuneralHome.com)



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# Town, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, issue joint statement on Bill 23

Continued from FRONT

“The Province has amended the Greenbelt Plan and re-designated lands in the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, anticipating future development of at least 50,000 new homes on the affected lands,” reads the statement. “These changes may impact key natural features in the Greenbelt, affect farmland and ecosystems and set a precedent that environmentally protected lands can be opened for development.”

Additionally, the Town and MCFN are worried changes to the Ontario Heritage Act will impact the ability of municipalities to protect their cultural heritage.

Of particular concern to the Town and MCFN is the Province’s lack of consultation with Indigenous communities, especially MCFN, whose lands are significantly impacted by Bill 23.

“Bill 23 removes the provincial government’s duty to consult with and accommodate Indigenous Peoples, impacting MCFN’s treaty rights, obligations and

land claims,” reads the statement.

According to the Town, Caledon Mayor Annette Groves raised all these concerns to Steve Clark, Ontario’s Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, at the January 2023 Rural Ontario Municipal Association Conference.

Groves expects that the Province will provide proper opportunities for consultation moving forward.

Chief Stacey LaForme of MCFN said the Province must consult and collaborate with his community and others impacted

by the Bill’s changes.

“The government has obligations to the people and our mother, the earth,” said LaForme.

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