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Thursday, December 14, 2023

Volume 43, Issue 48



BY THE BOOK - The Caledon Trailway is continuing to improve thanks to the efforts of a dedicated group of volunteers. The Caledon Trailway Book Committee recently donated \$13,000 to the Town of Caledon to be used for improvements to the Caledon Trailway. Committee members Cheri Cowan, Wayne Noble, and Diane Allengame are pictured here with the book that has helped raise \$63,000 for improving green spaces. For more on their campaign, see Page A14.

PHOTO BY ZACHARY ROMAN

Peel dissolution cancelled as Province focuses on Regional “efficiencies”

Mayor applauds decision to keep Peel whole

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Region of Peel will remain whole. On December 13, Paul Calandra, Ontario’s Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, announced the Province had reversed its decision

to dissolve the Region of Peel. “While we originally thought that the best way to achieve our goals of better services and lower taxes was through dissolution, we’ve since heard loud and clear from municipal leaders and stakeholders that full dissolution would lead to significant tax hikes and disruption to critical services the people of Peel Region depend on,” said Calandra in a statement. “This is something our government will never support.” This summer the Province passed the Hazel McCallion Act, which would have seen Brampton, Caledon and Mississauga become

independent municipalities by January 1, 2025. The Ford government said legislation coming in the New Year means this will no longer happen. According to the Province, the transition board appointed to oversee Peel’s dissolution will now have a new mandate to “focus on making local government in Peel Region more efficient and responsive to the needs of taxpayers, including by improving regional services like policing, paramedics and public health.”

Continued on Page A2


Ontario food banks sounding alarm as demand reaches “crisis” levels

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Carolyn Stewart doesn’t use the word crisis lightly. In her 14 years as CEO of Ontario’s largest collective of hunger-relief organizations, Feed Ontario, she’s never used that word to describe hunger in the province. Feed Ontario has just released its 2023 Hunger Report, which contains data from

April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023. Its findings have leaders in the food bank sector asking: at what point will the province’s food bank network collapse? “You can only use the word ‘crisis’ once... and we have started using the word ‘crisis,’” said Stewart during a December 6 presentation at Caledon’s home for food support, The Exchange.

Continued on Page A11



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BUILT Ford TOUGH

Holiday Smile Cookie campaign raises over \$16,500 for Cassie’s Place

Local non-profit serves individuals with disabilities

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

A local non-profit is celebrating the generosity of Caledon residents and Tim Hortons owners.

On December 6, representatives from Cassie’s Place and local Tim Hortons restaurants gathered at the Tim Hortons at Airport and Mayfield roads for a cheque presentation.

In total, \$16,611.20 was raised for Cassie’s Place from this year’s Holiday Smile Cookie campaign.

From November 13 to 19, Holiday Smile Cookies were available for purchase for \$1.50 at all Tim Hortons locations in Caledon. Proceeds from these cookie purchases were split 50/50 between Cassie’s Place and Tim Hortons Foundation camps.

Cassie’s Place is a Caledon non-profit that provides a home away from home and many enriching programs for individuals with disabilities. It’s looking to expand more and more in the community as demand grows for its services.

Joe Sassine, a volunteer with Cassie’s Place, said the non-profit is extremely grateful for the support of the community and local Tim Hortons franchises. He said the donation from the Smile Cookie campaign will go a long way to providing the in-demand services Cassie’s Place offers.

“This incredible opportunity is a testament to the remarkable generosity of Tim Hortons and the unwavering support of local restaurant owners in Caledon,” reads the Cassie’s Place website. “Beyond enjoying delicious cookies, this initiative is about making a tangible difference in the community, exemplifying the power of unity and support.”



Local Tim Hortons owners and Cassie’s Place volunteers and participants came together to celebrate the success of this year’s Holiday Smile Cookie campaign on December 6.

PHOTO BY ZACHARY ROMAN

Cassie’s Place’s mission is to provide comprehensive and inclusive services to individuals with disabilities, allowing them to lead fulfilling lives. It runs a “home away from home” for its participants in Southfields Village where they learn life skills and participate in many enriching programs.

Peel dissolution cancelled as Province focuses on Regional “efficiencies”

Continued from FRONT

Caledon Mayor Annette Groves said she’s very pleased the Province has recognized the importance of keeping Peel Region together. She said the Region has a long history of providing great service to the residents of Brampton, Caledon and Mississauga.

Groves thanked Calandra and Premier Doug Ford for listening to Peel paramedics, police and health care providers, who had raised concerns with dissolution.

“Keeping the Region together and keeping those services together is extremely important,” she said, adding that keeping the community safe is paramount.

Groves said Peel staying together is good news for Caledon taxpayers.

“What a great Christmas present for the residents of Caledon... I know that a lot of my residents were very anxious about this decision,” said Groves. “This allows them to have more assurance and security know-

ing that those services that they’ve come to enjoy... will continue.”

At a Queen’s Park press conference on Wednesday, Calandra said Ford told him he’s “completely uninterested” in seeing tax increases for the people of Brampton, Caledon and Mississauga.

Ontario’s Leader of the Opposition, Marit Stiles of the NDP, said in the press conference that the chaos surrounding Peel’s dissolution stemmed from a complete failure of leadership from Ford and his Conservative government.

“We knew Peel’s dissolution was a bad deal from the very beginning,” said Stiles. “It should never have been made... Doug Ford and the Conservatives have wasted people’s time, their energy and their tax dollars pursuing terrible decisions.”

She then accused Ford and outgoing Mississauga Mayor/Ontario Liberal leader Bonnie Crombie of using the people of Peel Region as pawns in a “bizarre political chess game.”

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 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. 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!

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Location: 34 Nixon Rd., Bolton

Open to all - Electric Vehicle Society Caledon Chapter meetings. Come out to learn from the expertise of electric vehicle owners and enthusiasts about helping Canadians transition to electric transportation through education and advocacy. Local meetings are held in the Southfields Community Centre - Community Room from 7pm-9pm. Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday December 20th. Meetings are free. For more info:<https://evsociety.ca/caledon/> or email Kenneth.bokor@evsociety.ca

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE at CLAUDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 15175 HURONTARIO STREET (HWY #10) at 7 PM. The service will be led by Rev. Wayne Wardell. All are welcome!

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Everyone at the Caledon Area Families For Inclusion (CAFFI) swim and social event gathered for a festive photo to commemorate the evening. PHOTO BY ZACHARY ROMAN

Festive swim and social event held by Caledon Area Families For Inclusion

Event was all about bringing families together and finding commonality

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Last Sunday, Caledon residents participated in an inclusive evening of family fun. On December 10, Caledon Area Families For Inclusion (CAFFI) hosted a swim and social event at the Caledon Centre for Recreation and Wellness in Bolton. CAFFI was established in 2012 and works to promote the inclusion of individuals with disabilities in their own community. The group strives to provide inclusive social events and one of its main goals is ensuring there is support for individuals with disabilities in the community after they turn 21. The December 10 event began with an hour-long swim, and then families and friends gathered in a community room for games, dinner, and hot chocolate. The room was decorated for the holidays and Christmas music was playing. There was a surprise visit from Santa, who handed out presents.

Mike Brunetto, one of CAFFI’s volunteer leaders, explained that CAFFI partnered with the Town of Caledon to host the event. With the success of its recent event, its planning to host more like it, as well as a barbeque in the summer. “Our biggest goal here is to bring families together and get to know each other and realize how much commonality there is between one family and another,” said Brunetto. “Our biggest challenge that we face in the community is what does life look like for these kids when they turn 21?” Brunetto said CAFFI is advocating for more support and programming for adults with disabilities. He said CAFFI wants to partner with the Town and other similar agencies to support individuals with disabilities in their transition from school to life after. “It’s a very critical need,” said Brunetto. He said CAFFI is working with the Town of Caledon on its inclusion framework, which puts into policy the kinds of services and supports offered to individuals with disabilities in the community. Brunetto said he was very happy to see the December 10 social event succeed. “There’s a need for people to connect with one another... you can see, there’s long-term friendships to be made here,” said Brunetto.

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SHOP WITH A FIRST RESPONDER IS
“GREAT SUCCESS”

Members of the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) and Caledon Fire and Emergency Services would like to thank its partners, sponsors, and volunteers that made the 11th annual Shop with a First Responder event a great success.

“On November 26, Caledon OPP and Caledon Fire hosted 40 children from the local community in its annual Shop with a First Responder

event (previously known as Shop with a Cop),” say Police. “Each family was provided with a budget to shop at the Bolton Canadian Tire before being treated to a breakfast with Santa Claus at a local banquet hall, while building positive relationships with local first responders. They left with gifts for their entirely family wrapped and labeled.

“Families were selected based on a financial need or facing some type of a crisis in our community. The initiative is a partnership with the Optimist Club of Caledon, the Town of Caledon, and Caledon Community Services. The organizers would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude

to all the generous sponsors (businesses and community members), the numerous volunteers, that made this event a reality and success.”

Caledon Community Services is always in need for food donations. For a list of items most required, contact The Exchange at 905-584-2300 ext 202 or by email at kderi@ccs4u.org.

For the full list of programs and services, visit: <https://ccs4u.org/>

From your Caledon First Responders, we wish you a happy, safe, and healthy holiday season!

IMPAIRED CHARGES

Officers from the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have charged a driver involved in a collision with impaired operation.

“On December 5, 2023, just before midnight, officers were dispatched to a two-vehicle collision in the area of Chinguacousy Road, near Mayfield Road,” say Police. “No injuries were reported. During the investigation, grounds were formed that one driver’s ability to operate a motor vehicle was impaired by alcohol.”

Surinder Chhinda, 49, of Caledon, was charged with:

- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus);
- Operation while impaired – alcohol;
- Failure to stop after accident;
- Mischief - destroys or damages property.

The charges have not been proven.

The driver’s licence was suspended for 90 days, and the vehicle was impounded for seven. The accused is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on December 21, 2023, to answer to the charges.

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

With the holiday season fast approaching, the need to make those alternate arrangements will increase. In Caledon, HomeJames offers a FREE designated driver service. The program runs from November 17 to December 31, every Friday and Saturday from 9:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. (excluding December 24). More information is available at: www.homejames-caledon.ca.

STOLEN VEHICLE INVESTIGATION

Officers from the Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are investigating two separate motor vehicle thefts that took place this past weekend.

“On Saturday, December 9, 2023, Dufferin OPP responded to a report of a stolen motor vehicle from the parking lot of the Best Western in the Town of Orangeville,” say Police. “Police were informed by the victim that sometime between 9:00 p.m., and 11:00 p.m., on the evening of December 9, 2023, while he attended a Christmas party within the hotel, his silver 2021 Lexus SUV RX was stolen. The license plate of this motor vehicle is CTWC977.

“On Sunday, December 9, 2023, Dufferin OPP responded to a second report of a stolen motor vehicle at an address on the 8th Line within the Township of Amaranth. The victim informed police that his vehicle was last seen at 8:00 p.m., on December 9, 2023, and on December 10, 2023, at approximately 2:00 p.m., it was reported as missing. This motor vehicle is a 2017 white Ford Super duty quad-cab with a long box, and a fuel reserve tank on the back. The license plate of this motor vehicle is BT99679.”

If you have any information or video surveillance footage in relation to this theft, please call the Dufferin OPP Detachment at (519) 942-1711 or 1-888-310-1122.

You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or submit your information online at ontariocrimestoppers.ca.

STOLEN PROPERTY CHARGES

As a result of an ongoing police investigation, officers from the Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) charged a male connected to multiple criminal investigations.

“On December 5, 2023, members of the Dufferin Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU),



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CLUES ACROSS

1. Mimic

4. Payroll firm

7. Perform in a play

10. Opine: __ philosophical

11. Crony

12. Political action committee

13. 1991 Wimbledon winner

15. Affirmative

16. Exclamation of disgust

19. Action of connecting

21. A way to calm

23. Especially fine or decorative clothing

24. Walked proudly

25. Group of people related through male heir

26. Supplemented with difficulty

27. Soft touch

30. Erases

34. Spanish river

35. A princess can detect it

36. Clouds of gas

41. A way to get through

45. Part of a book

46. Southwestern US state

47. Fields where rice is grown

50. Area in Ghana

54. Sayings

55. Involve deeply

56. Compels to act

57. “Ignore all rules”

59. Indoor entertainment space

60. Born of

61. Back muscle

62. Sea dweller

63. Tools that resemble an axe

64. Prefix denoting class or kind

65. Tooth caregiver

31. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)

32. Records brain activity (abbr.)

33. Car mechanics group

37. Brought up to snuff

38. __ faire: Economic approach

39. Phil __, former CIA

40. Affixed

41. Period of adolescence

42. Substance

43. Danced

44. Baked without its shell

47. Parts per billion (abbr.)

48. Satisfaction

49. Balkans river

51. Christmas carols

52. Partner to tonic character Johnny

58. Swiss river

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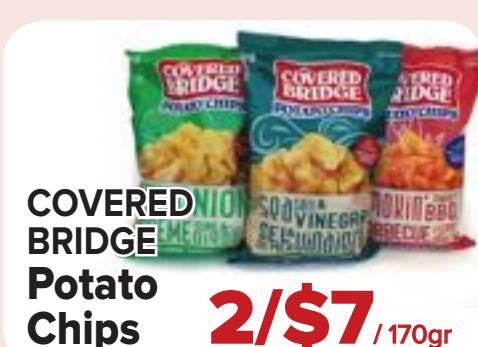
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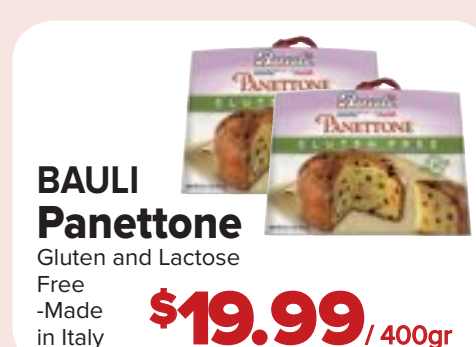
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Unwrapping an experience

If you're a millennial, it will be no surprise to read in this space that you all too often get an undeserved bad rap.

In the midst of the housing crisis where young families and individuals are looking to gain a foothold in the housing market, older generations like to gripe to anyone who will listen that millennials would have no problem buying a split-level if they just made their own coffee every morning rather than going to their drive-thru of choice. Or that giving up avocado toast consumption would somehow foster a generation of property tycoons.

All this, of course, not recognizing – or choosing not to recognize – the patently obvious fact that it was much easier for older demos to gain that foothold because, when they were attempting the same, homeownership required significantly less of your monthly and annual income.

But here is a generation being blamed for everything from housing woes to previously stalwart businesses losing their once ironclad market share in any number of industries.

A couple of weeks ago, Buzznet posted a revised list entitled “These things are disappearing because millennials refuse to pay for them.” The list differed little from similar lists posted by other outlets dating back, as far as I could tell, to the early 2010s, but as far as hoary old chestnuts go, this was reasonably up-to-date.

Among the purchases now seemingly on the chopping block:

Breakfast Cereals – “The New York Times reported that 40 percent of millennials surveyed said that the sweet and crunchy morning option ‘was an inconvenient breakfast choice because they had to clean up after eating it.’ That explains why avocado toast is so in demand now.” (Does it? Who makes avocado toast without having anything to clean up?)

Automobiles – “Cars are slowly becoming less of a necessity and more of a burden. The car industry is suffering in this modern age for a few reasons. One interesting stat is that millennials are waiting longer than ever to get their licenses, something automakers are entirely shocked to discover. Another and more obvious reason is Uber! Throw public transportation in the mix as well as ride sharing, and young urban adults are finding out that owning a car isn't worth it. Urban-based young people might give in and eventually buy a car.” (I'm getting the impression that this list wasn't compiled by people from suburban and urban-adjacent communities like ours.)

Soap – “The name of the game now is body wash. Bars of soap are almost obsolete, even when your bathtub might have a built-in soap dish. Chances are, younger folks haven't used that dish at all, and there's a good reason beyond that. A MarketWatch report said that 60 per cent of adults 18-24 think that soap bars become covered with germs after using it. That's alarming, but that explains why body wash is so popular now. Rest in peace to soap bars everywhere.” (I don't get the sense that the good people at Ivory or Dove are hurting, do you?)

Napkins – “When eating at home, there's a four in ten chance you're going to use a napkin. 15 years ago, that ratio was at six in ten. The decline is thanks to millennials, who are more likely to use a paper towel in place of a napkin. It works just as well, if not better, and it's one less thing to buy. A marketing director

also pointed out that the younger generation is less likely to eat around a table...is the dining table next on the list? (No.)

Others on the list: fabric softener, ocean cruises, cable tv, dining in restaurants, diamonds, lottery tickets, irons and ironing boards, door bells, golf, home phones, beef, designer clothes, playing the stock market, bulk grocery shopping, wine with corks, mayonnaise, postcards, dairy milk, canned tuna, televised football, stiletto heels, bottled water, and on and on it goes.

As exhaustive as it is exhausting. In many of these cases, however, it seems the alternative is less tangible than the product in peril.

Despite many now seeing the drawbacks to relying on streaming services for your favourite tv shows and movies – i.e.: you really own nothing and are at the whim of the service provider keeping your entertainments online and at your fingertips – and a resulting surge back towards physical media, I do see the wisdom of shifting away from the tangible in some areas.

As the holidays approach this year, our family is in the midst of moving and I'm writing this surrounded by “things” that need to be boxed up, the privilege of which I am well aware.

There are “things” that are newer and have been in everyday use for as long as I can remember. There are others that have been recently brought back to light after languishing in the basement for two decades ready to be rediscovered. There are others still for which there must have been a rhyme or reason for keeping them, or, at the very least, a since-forgotten memory attached to it, that are now mysteries more than anything else.

Then there are a few things that seem to have followed me from place to place, for one reason or another. A half-full Simba-shaped bottle of bubble bath, a stocking stuffer from when the original Lion King was all the rage. A collection of loose soaps in the shape of animals that were once in a long-missing attractive box.

Perhaps most mysterious of all, a paper stub emblazoned with “KEEP THIS TICKET” but no indication of why. Of course, as soon as I throw out the stub, I'll either remember what it was for or my ship will come in pending proof of purchase. No, I don't think I've already won. There seems to be little danger these days of Alex Trebek or Ed McMahon arriving on my porch with an oversized Publishers Clearing House novelty cheque – but if that ticket has any chance of winning me a Ouija board, it could be anyone's game!

Going through all this at Christmas, a season of giving, tangible or otherwise, has put a lot of this in perspective. While it is always nice to receive gifts, and so much of what has collected through the years was heartfelt, enjoyed and loved, I think going forward it wouldn't hurt to focus less on things and more on experiences of some kind – receiving, giving or facilitating.

Maybe it's the millennial in me, maybe it's 30-something practicality kicking in, or maybe it's simply being overwhelmed with stuff to organize!

They don't have to be extravagant experiences like an ocean voyage (apparently outmoded, according to the clickbait), but it could be a ticket to a live show locally or further afield, a day trip, or some time outside in an area less explored.

If you could put one experience on your holiday list this year, what would it be? Send your thoughts to brock@lpcmedia.ca.

Mine might be an afternoon with Bewitched's Samantha Stephens. Hey, if that Ouija board is coming my way, a few well-placed nose twitches will greatly expedite this move!



Curiosity is one of our best qualities

by Mark Pavilons



“No one is dumb who is curious. The people who don't ask questions remain clueless throughout their lives.” – Neil deGrasse Tyson

Our lives are filled with questions yet ultimately, few answers.

Sure, we make it through our lives the hard way – by making mistakes and discovering the answers ourselves. Few are given to us in advance.

There are seldom any shortcuts, cheats or hacks along the way. And writing notes on your arm won't do in this test of life.

I heard recently that our children ask roughly a dozen questions per day, or a little over 4,000 per year. Parents, by all accounts, know the answers to roughly 40%, or 1,600 of them. Whew! And what of the remainder? I imagine they leave us scratching our heads, or picking up our phones to Google the information.

Queries from youngsters are the most genuine and innocent of all. The inquiries coming from youngsters – in the few times I spoke in classrooms – made me smile with hope in the human race.

John Locke noted that “there is frequently more to be learned from the unexpected questions of a child than the discourses of men.”

My advice to the youngins – keep ‘em coming! My son is addicted to asking questions. Some are rhetorical, others pointed, and some genuine.

Most have a hint of sarcasm or criticism. Many centre around the government's role and control over our lives. Others are critical of taxes, bank loans, trying to start a new business from scratch, and the various hurdles involved.

Recently, I told him my silence and shoulder shrugging was due to the fact I agreed with his assumptions, having lived all of these things firsthand. Alas, I have no answers. And I lack the business acumen and financial backing to help solve his dilemma.

Yes, I am the household devil's advocate, and while I often shoot down such dreams, I only mean to shed some practical light on the situation. Yes, I tend to offer explanations, not solutions or positive reinforcement. I wish I had better news.

Is that based on my own experiences, skepticism or years in the journalism business? I don't know. Some of it may have to do with my own upbringing.

My parents were both post-war European immigrants, who basically came here and started from scratch. They had basic education, a strong work ethic and a lot of common sense. The war gave them a keen survival instinct.

In my youth, I learned by watching and not so much by asking questions. We had an old set of Encyclopedia Britannica that I visited on occasion.

I did have a bit of a voracious appetite for knowledge and so I excelled in school and made frequent trips to the library to check out books on things like medieval history, astronomy and more.

In my line of work, I consume tons of knowledge on a daily and weekly basis, on all sorts of subject matter. In my thousands of encounters and interviews with people, I've learned a bit about everything – from neuroscience and metallurgy to the art of oil painting and even circumnavigating the globe!

That's the amazing part of my profession, glean something from every person I meet. I am richer for each and every conversation, interview, email and article I write.

Early on in my career, there were a few subjects we avoided – abortion, religion and sexuality. All three will end up in heated debates and arguments on all sides. Often, there is little safe, common ground on these matters.

But I love engaging in such exchanges nevertheless.

I find each of these subjects fascinating as well as controversial. I have also learned that ignorance tends to be at the root of false information and assumptions.

A word of advice from an old guy – never assume anything and always give others the benefit of the doubt.

And so, I love to learn new things and new perspectives. I will admit it when I don't know something or have little or no experience in a certain subject.

But that shouldn't stop me – or any of us – from getting better informed, more aware. That's how we break down barriers and open things up for genuine discourse and an exchange of viewpoints.

In newspapers, the most read things are editorials, columns and letters to the editor. That's what sparks an honest dialogue and yes, sometimes heated debate.

But that's the beauty of presenting ideas, views and standpoints in a public forum. It's what makes us think.

Mary Pilon once said that journalism isn't about what you know or how clever your questions are. It's about “your ability to embrace change and uncertainty.”

And through our evolution and “woke” periods, shouldn't we all embrace change and uncertainty?

I've always loved assignments in school, or open exchanges where there were no wrong answers. It allowed us to be free and express anything we wanted. That's a beautiful thing.

A certain high school English teacher of mine never shot down a student for a wrong or off-base answer. He always encouraged them to speak out, think and at least try.

Maybe we all need to try a bit harder to understand one another.

In these conflict-ridden times, the need for deliberation is far more important than contention.

Take it from this old dog, you can teach everyone some new tricks.

Who wants in?

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GENERAL MANAGER Zach Shoub zach@lpcmedia.ca	CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR Mary Speck admin@caledoncitizen.com	MOTORIZING Heather Erwin heather@caledoncitizen.com	DISPLAY ADVERTISING Erin Luckett erin@lpcmedia.ca	PRODUCTION John Speziali
EDITOR Brock Weir brock@lpcmedia.ca	REPORTERS Zachary Roman zachary@lpcmedia.ca	SPORTS Jim Stewart jim@lpcmedia.ca	Vicki Meisner vicki@lpcmedia.ca	 ocna Ontario Council of Newspaper Associations
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Dear Santa, All I Want For Christmas...

For those who believe in Santa, you might agree that this year, he has a pretty tall order ahead of him. Anyone asking for something other than a pink Barbie sweatshirt (malls and online shopping sites are swarming with them) is in for a bit of a shock and miracle worker though he might sometimes be, I'm not sure even Santa would be able to conjure up ANY of the items on my list. Despite this, I'm posting my "All I want to Christmas List" here in the vain hopes that if Santa won't come through, perhaps the Town of Caledon or even Doug Ford might. I'm doubtful.

I would hope it goes without saying that peace on earth, food for every belly and a commitment to clean, responsible and climate friendly energy are all top of the list. More locally, however, and perhaps just a smidge more achievable, the themes are similar. I'd love some peace amongst the forces seeking to divide Peel Region into three distinct entities. Peace for the many employees who have had their lives and careers thrown into upheaval and peace of mind for Caledon residents in particular who frankly have the most to lose in a dissolution scenario. It

would be nice to think we might still have prompt paramedic services and not have to worry about huge, double-digit tax increases. Even better would be to have the sure and certain knowledge that dissolution was not just an empty deathbed promise to one politician and an attempt to stave off the election of another to certain leadership of the provincial Liberals, but we can't have everything. Consistency on minor issues like the greenbelt, trees and highways would also be awesome. It would be wonderful to know that once Ford has stated, publicly and on the record, that he "won't touch the greenbelt," that he actually won't touch the greenbelt. Conversely I'd love to believe him when he says he's reversing his position on the greenbelt and returning ALL the land he removed but "Flip-Flop Ford" has a pretty reliable track record of changing his mind. The trees at Ontario Place? At least we know there will be no flip-flopping in this particular scenario - as quickly as Olivia Chow gave her "blessing" those trees were torn down faster than a pack of hungry teenage boys taking down a bag of Frito-Lays.

SHERALYN ROMAN TALK CALEDON



By the way Santa, I don't need a highway. Could you perhaps relay that message to Mr. Ford because while thousands of Ontario taxpayers have spoken vehemently against it, Ford's ears appear to be failing him. Perhaps a round or two of your very loud "HO, HO, HOLD off on building a highway," would do the trick? The added bonus is that if no extra highway is built, perhaps too there will be no need for another gravel pit! Think of the dangers you'll avoid in the future as your reindeer won't have to deke any blasted fly rock! Here's what some Caledon residents actually do want for Christmas Santa, a SAFE way to cross the road! Please oh pretty please Santa will you install a proper, overhead pedestrian crosswalk with lights, a signal and pavement markings in Southfields? If one were ageist, one might assume with your white beard and hair that you might be a senior and Santa, this crosswalk would help your fellow senior citizens. It's much needed, and located right outside the seniors building on one of the busiest residential roads in Caledon. Heck, your target audience - children - could use it too! If you can't do it Santa, drop a message down

Mr. Sheen's chimney - maybe he can help. Stability and consistency while you're at it for the folks at the Town of Caledon would also be nice. By last count, admittedly unofficial, there have been a total of 18+ people either "shown the door" or who have seen themselves out due to all the upheaval. Noticing that some of those staffers have now made their way over to our nearest northern neighbour and are working for the Town of Orangeville is certainly Orangeville's gain and Caledon's loss. Santa, I'm guessing you agree with me that Mayor Post has been very, very good this year and since she's on the nice list, deserves to be surrounded by nice employees too. Anyway, Santa, thanks for reading my Christmas list and to be clear I have far more faith in you and your abilities than I ever would in those of Mr. Ford. As for the Town of Caledon? I have hope, I'm just not sure for how much longer.

Are Canadian living standards deteriorating?

Declining life expectancy for Canadians. Plunging math scores among Canada's high school students. Fewer doctors. And longer wait times for emergency care. These were some of the headlines from the past week or so. They're warning signals - just a few in a long and growing list - about our country's declining living standards. A Statistics Canada report that didn't receive much attention showed that life expectancy for Canadians has dropped for the third straight year. In countries with high living standards, life expectancy should be rising, not falling. The second troubling headline related to the health and well-being of Canadians came from a report published in the Canadian Medical Association Journal. The report showed Canada was lagging behind a number of other OECD countries in various key health indicators. According to the report, Canada was one of the worst countries in the category of total number of physicians per resident and was at the very bottom when it came to receiving timely treatment in emergency care or access to a medical

specialist. But that's what happens when the economy no longer functions properly - there's less and less money for social programs like health, and fewer dollars to look after the most vulnerable and fragile in our society. And while health is one of the most important indicators regarding a country's quality of life and overall living standards, so too is education. An OECD report published last week revealed that the math scores of Canadian high school students continue to fall year after year. In fact, according to the report, they've been dropping for almost 20 years now. That can't be good in an economy that is increasingly reliant on technology and science, two fields where math skills are critical. The other worrisome headline from last week was related to a Statistics Canada report showing that Canada's economy is shrinking, household spending is flat, and exports are declining. When added together, all of these troubling symptoms about the state of our healthcare, education system and economy begin to paint a

picture of slow and steady decline. It's what happens when we import more and export less, when we stop manufacturing products here in Canada, and when a growing percentage of the wealth we do create gets eaten up by our bureaucracy and interest payments on the national debt. A country that no longer focuses on the creation of wealth will invariably see a decline in its living standards and the unraveling of its economic fabric. So how do we go about restoring our living standards, which used to be among the highest in the world? I believe the best way to do so is through the establishment of an Economic Charter of Rights and Responsibilities - a charter that would make our tax system simpler and fairer, boost the incomes of millions of Canadians through profit sharing, unshackle small business to create millions of new jobs, and put the brakes on out-of-control government spending while slashing red tape. An economic charter would also improve the

nutrition of Canadian children and give young Canadians the opportunity to learn technical trades and pursue good-paying careers. Most of all, an economic charter of rights would help us restore the high living standards that made Canada one of the most desirable countries in the world. To learn more about the economic charter and how it could generate economic growth and prosperity, email me at info@economiccharter.ca. Or to learn more about the economic charter, visit: www.economiccharter.ca. **Author Bio** Frank Stronach is the founder of Magna International Inc., one of Canada's largest global companies, and was inducted into the Automotive Hall of Fame. fstronachlpc@gmail.com

FRANK STRONACH THE PRINCIPLES OF A ECONOMIC CHARTER OF RIGHTS



Unity is our strength

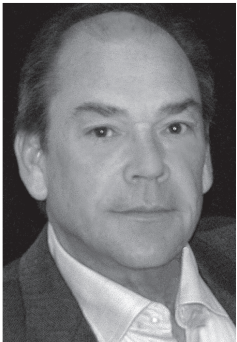
"United we stand - divided we fall."
"All for one, and one for all."
"Divide and conquer." Those are a few well known phrases that demonstrate that working as a group or unit, is better than working in disarray. Several of those phrases are several thousand years old. Even then, they knew the benefits of working as a team. We have been getting the diversity thing jammed down our throats over the past few years. We all know what it's supposed to mean, but the truth is, encouraging diversity just doesn't work. Take a look at those same phrases with diversity as the core meaning, and you get: "We stand apart - and we will fall."
"All for none, and none for all."
"Unit them, and we will be defeated." The whole diversity thing is supposed to encourage welcoming newcomers. Fair enough. But you shouldn't need to be told that. If you have a new person in your company, or social group, or neighbourhood, the decent thing to do is make them feel welcome. That's just a part of having good social skills.

However, saying "diversity is our strength" is just nonsense. Diversity doesn't create strength, the opposite happens. There are several thousand examples of this in the history books. The federal government likes to use the "diversity is our strength" thing a lot. They weren't saying that when the province of Quebec had its 1995 referendum to determine if they would proclaim itself a sovereign state. At that time, Quebec diversity was a big problem which could have cut the country in half. In fact, the federal government was doing everything it could to stop the diverse province, from breaking away. Now the diversity thing has become one of the politically correct things that everyone has to use in the company or organization propaganda. I've seen it on company and organization websites when the company or organization is about as diverse as a bag of oranges. But they still have it on the website because they feel pressured to have in on there. From my experience, most people who come here from other countries, don't want to

stand out as being diverse. Most of the people I know personally, who came here to live, want to blend into society and be part of the fabric of the country. They may hang on to some of their cultural customs, but they don't want to be known as "the guy from where ever." They know their kids will be growing up here, and they want them to fit in, not stand out. It's people from here who are pushing the diversity thing. Several years ago, I did a photo shoot for a local organization. The photos were going to be used for marketing purposes and had photos of many of the people who worked there. Some of them were in uniforms, others held tools of the trade that identified their position in the organization. The idea was to let the public know who worked there. When the marketing team was choosing the final photos for the piece, one woman was not pleased. "We need to show more diversity," she said. For some reason she directed her comment at me - as if I had anything to do with their

hiring practices. I only took the photos. I explained that I wasn't going to go out and find someone who looked different, and take their photo as a ringer, to show diversity. That would be insulting to both the organization, and the person who was asked to pose, because they looked different. Fortunately, the rest of the team agreed that we didn't need to bring in someone wearing a traditional dress from a foreign country to show the diversity that didn't actually exist. We should be promoting unity as a national message, not diversity. The diversity message is nothing more than a political ploy to gain favour and garner votes. No one ever won a hockey game by diversifying on the ice. No country every won a war by not being unified. Playing as a team will always been produce the best results.

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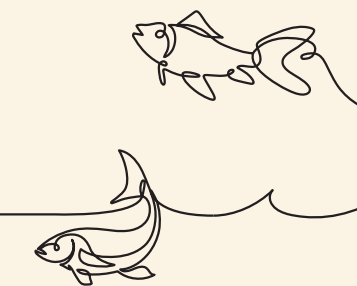


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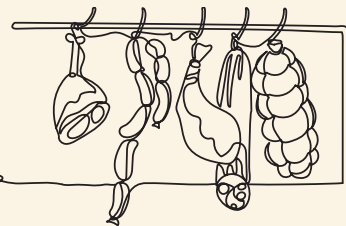


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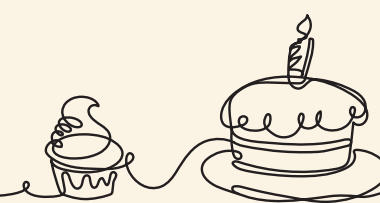


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Headwaters Health Care Centre unveils new CT machine

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

Headwaters Health Care Centre unveiled its new replacement computed tomography (CT) machine on Friday, December 8.

The machine replaced an older unit that had completed its limited lifetime service and needed to be replaced.

Headwaters images 20 CT outpatients per day, on average. This new machine will enable the hospital to provide greater appointment availability and improved patient experience.

As the first hospital in Canada to implement the GE HealthCare Revolution Ascend CT, the arrival of this innovative equipment demonstrates Headwaters' strategic direction of providing better care for patients in the community.

Features of the CT machine include a streamlined process through artificial intelligence technology to assist with patient comfort, fast scan times, greater patient accommodation and comfort, and prioritized patient safety with low-dose capabilities while maintaining high-quality imaging.

In addition, diagnostic imaging teams will experience improved workflow efficiencies and leverage technologies that will assist in making confident diagnoses and provide optimal patient care.

The new technology costs around \$1 million to install and provides high-definition images

that help doctors see inside a patient's body. The technology helps diagnose many different conditions.

The funds for the new unit came from the Headwaters Health Care Foundation.

"On behalf of the Headwaters Health Care Foundation, I would like to extend my most sincere appreciation to the donors who have helped to make this possible," said K.C. Carruthers, CEO of Headwaters Health Care Foundation. "It is because of our generous community and their steadfast support that we can purchase and install advanced medical equipment such as this CT machine."

Dr. Asad Naqvi, Chief of Diagnostic Imaging at Headwaters Health Care Centre, said the new system provides enhanced speed and efficiency of imaging services.

"I am thrilled to welcome the arrival of GE HealthCare Revolution Ascend CT system," Dr. Naqvi said. "We chose this system because its advanced technology not only enhances the speed and efficiency of our imaging services, but also significantly improves the level of detail we can capture. Our patients can expect more accurate and timely diagnoses, setting a new standard for diagnostic excellence and reinforcing Headwaters' commitment to delivering high-quality care today and in the future."



Steven Harwood, who volunteered to chair the December 2 Table Topics competition in Brampton, with second-place winner Emma Howlett.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Local woman places second at Toastmasters divisional competition

Emma Howlett lives in Orangeville and works for Town of Caledon

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

An Orangeville woman who recently won an area speech competition, advancing to the divisional level, has placed second there.

On December 2, Orangeville's Emma Howlett competed in a divisional Toastmasters International Table Topics Contest at Brampton City Hall.

Howlett was representing the Bolton Banter Toastmasters Club, of which she is a member.

She came second out of five competitors in the competition, and in the event the winner is unable to attend the coveted district competition, Howlett will go in their place.

The Table Topics Contest challenges participants' ability to organize their thoughts quickly and improvise when asked on-the-spot questions. The contest challenges speakers by giving them a topic to do a speech on just seconds before they begin talking. Contestants must then speak on the surprise topic for one to two minutes.

Howlett's speech in the divisional competition was about conflict, and in it, she spoke on themes of inner conflict, interpersonal conflict, and building bridges to reduce conflict. Howlett said choosing to manifest your own destiny is key to success.

"It was a great opportunity to challenge myself," said Howlett of competing in the divisional competition. "I enjoyed listening to the competitors and it was an honour to compete among such talented individuals, including distinguished toastmasters and even a previous International Speech Contest medal (3rd place) winner."

Anyone interested in learning more about Bolton's Toastmasters club can visit boltonbanter.org/contact.

FOCUS ON WOMEN IN BUSINESS

Wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday!

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CCS reports number of new food bank users has doubled



Feed Ontario CEO Carolyn Stewart is pictured delivering a presentation at The Exchange in Bolton on December 6. PHOTO BY ZACHARY ROMAN

Continued from FRONT

“That’s because over 800,000 people have accessed a food bank in the last year, and they visited just under six million times.”

That’s a 38 per cent increase in unique food bank users in Ontario compared to 2021-2022, and a 60 per cent increase compared to pre-pandemic levels.

“Hitting new highs in every category is a very unfortunate reality,” said Stewart.

Stewart said Ontario’s social support systems are failing because there are too many people now needing to rely on food banks. She said food banks are meant to be a response to an emergency need — but emergencies are supposed to end.

“40 per cent increases year-over-year, we can’t keep up with that because we weren’t intended to,” said Stewart.

In a letter written in the 2023 Hunger Report, Stewart said hunger is becoming an accepted norm in Ontario.

“Food banks are becoming a way to subsidize governments’ balanced budgets and corporations’ profit margins,” she wrote.

Caledon Community Services (CCS), which runs The Exchange, is a member of Feed Ontario. CCS CEO Geraldine Aguiar spoke at the December 6 presentation.

“The face of poverty, the face of hunger... looks different than whatever that Hollywood picture is you have in your mind,” said Aguiar. “It could be your co-worker at their desk at lunchtime, looking like they’re busy, but, really, they don’t have lunch. We have to challenge our perceptions.”

One in six people accessing a food bank now cite employment as their primary source of income, an 87 per cent increase from 2016-2017 and a 37 per cent increase from 2021-2022.

This means more people than ever with jobs still can’t make ends meet.

CCS staff have even seen people with multiple jobs needing to access food support.

In a Feed Ontario survey of food bank users, two-thirds of respondents reported they had less than \$100 left each month after paying for housing costs, with 22 per cent of respondents having housing costs that exceed their monthly income.

At present, 28.3 per cent of food bank users cite disability benefits as their primary income source; 25.5 per cent cite social assistance (On-

Michelle Venoit, Director of Community Resources at CCS, said things are just as bad in Caledon as they are in the rest of Ontario. She said CCS has seen a 30 per cent increase in people using its food support services.

“In the history of our organization, we are seeing the highest number of new people accessing our services; it almost doubled in 2023,” said Venoit. “We’re trying to keep up with that demand when there are no additional resources coming our way.”

Venoit said food bank clients are reporting an extreme sense of hopelessness for their future, and have high levels of anxiety about what the future will bring.

“In the last year, we served about 950 individuals who accessed our food support program about 2,600 times,” she said.

CCS has a model that prioritizes client choice, but Venoit said as demand increases, clients get less choice as food supply has to be rationed accordingly.

Stewart said everyone in Ontario should “sound the alarm bells” because there’s something wrong when so many people have no choice but to rely on emergency support to get by.

“This is not on the shoulders of a single organization or a single level of government,” she said. “This is a collective problem with collective solutions.”

Feed Ontario says governments can take the following actions, among others, to help address Ontario’s hunger crisis: increase provincial social assistance rates and reduce clawbacks on earned income and government benefits; invest in building and maintaining social housing and improve tenant protections; reduce the precarity of the labour market through improvements to labour laws and reducing barriers to unionization; and reform employment insurance and improve access to tax benefits through automatic tax filing.

Stewart said Ontario’s reliance on food banks has gotten to be so high because of precarious work, erosion of social support programs, and a failure to invest in affordable and supportive housing.

“There’s no greater day for collective action than today,” she said. “So, we encourage everyone to get involved.”

Feed Ontario is encouraging people to see what it’s like to live in the shoes of someone who accesses a food bank, having to make impossible choices. It’s created an online tool for this, which can be accessed at the following link: feedontario.ca/fork-in-the-road.

tario Works); and 17.1 per cent cite employment.

Currently, Ontario Works provides recipients with \$733 per month and the Ontario Disability Support Program provides recipients \$1,308 per month.

“When you’re relying on \$733 a month, you can’t even get your housing... these programs were intended to be transitional, to help people get back to work, but unfortunately they’re keeping people in poverty,” said Stewart. “This is why Ontarians can’t get ahead, they’re so far behind the starting line there’s no way for them to get there.”

Other top income sources for food bank users include old age pension (9 per cent), employment insurance income (2.4 per cent) and “other” (14.7 per cent).

Stewart said food banks believe everyone that can be employed should be employed, but they deserve quality work that will keep them out of poverty.

Overwhelmingly, the reason survey respondents accessed the food bank was cost of living: nearly 87 per cent of respondents said housing, food and utility costs were the reason they needed help.

Snow Removal Support Programs for 65+



The Town of Caledon is pleased to offer residents aged 65+ two snow removal support programs.

NEW! - Windrow Removal Assistance Pilot Program:
Windrow clearance from January – March. First-come, first-served for up to 200 residents. \$200 non-refundable fee applies.

UPDATED! - Snow Removal Financial Assistance Program:
Proof of low income is no longer required for residents 75+. Eligible residents receive up to \$500 to purchase snow removal services.

Visit caledon.ca/adult55 for more information on the programs and how to apply. Note: Residents cannot enroll in both programs.

Need Assistance with your application? Please call 311





First Annual Sport Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

Join us in Celebration of the 2024 Inductees

ATHLETES	BUILDERS	TEAMS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">BERT MCCAFFREY <i>Ice Hockey</i>BOB KNUCKEY <i>Triathlete</i>LAURIE GRAHAM <i>Skiing</i>ROBIN PLATTS <i>Jockey</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">BILL WHITBREAD <i>Editor & Reporter</i>CONN SMYTHE <i>Horse Racing</i>GORD EVERETT <i>Basketball</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">MAYFIELD SECONDARY SCHOOL <i>Girls Nordic Ski Team 2004</i>BRITTANY WEBSTERJULIE PORTERGILLIAN MONTGOMERYBRITTANY BARCLAY (REID)ROBYN KEMP

7-9 p.m. Wednesday, January 31, 2024

**Caledon East Community Complex
Banquet Hall**



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Expropriations Act

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL TO EXPROPRIATE LAND

IN THE MATTER OF an application by The Regional Municipality of Peel for approval to expropriate lands being described in Schedule “A” attached hereto, for the municipal purpose of facilitating the widening and improving of Airport Road from Perdue Court to 100 metres north of King Street together with works ancillary thereto.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that application has been made for approval to expropriate the interests in the lands described in Schedule “A”.

Any owner of lands in respect of which notice is given who desires a hearing into whether the taking of such land is fair, sound and reasonably necessary in the achievement of the objectives of the expropriating authority shall so notify the approving authority in writing,

- a) in the case of a registered owner, served personally or by registered mail within thirty (30) days after the registered owner is served with the notice, or, when the registered owner is served by publication, within thirty (30) days after the first publication of the notice;
- b) in the case of an owner who is not a registered owner, within thirty (30) days after the first publication of the notice.

The approving authority is:
The Council of The Regional Municipality of Peel
10 Peel Centre Drive, Brampton, Ontario L6T 4B9

The expropriating authority is:
The Regional Municipality of Peel
10 Peel Centre Drive, Brampton, Ontario L6T 4B9

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF PEE
Aretha Adams, Regional Clerk

This notice first published on the 7th day of December, 2023

Schedule “A”

Fee Simple: All Right, Title and Interest in the land.

Permanent Hydro Easement: Limited Interests in Perpetuity for the purpose of a free, uninterrupted and unobstructed permanent easement in gross or rights in the nature of a permanent easement in gross to enter, occupy and re-enter by The Regional Municipality of Peel including its servants, agents, employees, contractors, sub-contractors, workers, and entities authorized by statute to enter and occupy lands for the purposes set out herein, with all necessary material, including, but not limited to, vehicles, machinery, supplies and equipment at all times in, under, over, across, upon, along and through, the applicable lands for the purpose of facilitating the widening and improving of Airport Road and associated works including, but not limited to, the accommodation, construction, installation and/or relocation of an electrical distribution system and communication line(s) consisting of all electrical servicing supply and support equipment and infrastructure necessary to provide electrical servicing, and all related appurtenances and accessories thereto together with all rights necessary for the proper and efficient operation, maintenance, inspection, repair, alteration, removal, replacement, reconstruction, extension or enlargement of said works.

Permanent Drainage Easement – Corner: Limited Interests in Perpetuity for the purpose of a free, uninterrupted and unobstructed permanent easement in gross or rights in the nature of a permanent easement in gross to enter, occupy and re-enter by The Regional Municipality of Peel including its servants, agents, employees, contractors, sub-contractors, and workers, with all necessary material, including, but not limited to, vehicles, machinery, supplies and equipment at all times in, on, over, through, under, above, along and upon the applicable lands for the municipal purpose of constructing, installing, operating, maintaining, inspecting, altering, removing, replacing, reconstructing, enlarging and repairing drainage ditches, culverts, headwalls and related appurtenances, and side-slopes and grading appurtenant to intersection improvements at Airport Road and King Street, including without limiting the foregoing removal of trees, shrubs, bushes, branches, stumps and roots and prevention or control of growth of same (“Permanent Drainage Easement – Corner”).

Temporary Construction Easement - Entrance Grading: Temporary Limited Interests for the purpose of a free, uninterrupted and unobstructed temporary easement in gross or rights in the nature of a temporary easement in gross, on an exclusive basis as necessary, for a term of one (1) year commencing upon no less than three (3) months’ written notice to the registered owner for the purposes of entering upon and occupying the lands by The Regional Municipality of Peel including its servants, agents, employees, contractors, sub-contractors and workers with all necessary vehicles, machinery, equipment, material and supplies required for driveway grading and other works ancillary thereto resulting from the widening and improving of Airport Road (“Temporary Construction Easement – Entrance Grading”). In the absence of prior written notice, the rights under this Temporary Construction Easement – Entrance Grading shall commence on the first day of the seventh year following the date of the registration of the plan of expropriation, and will continue for one (1) year. All rights under this Temporary Construction Easement – Entrance Grading shall expire no later than seven (7) years after the date of the registration of the plan of expropriation.

Temporary Construction Easement - Demolition: Temporary Limited Interests for the purpose of a free, exclusive, uninterrupted and unobstructed temporary easement in gross or rights in the nature of a temporary easement in gross for a term of two (2) years commencing upon no less than three (3) months’ written notice to the registered owner for the purposes of entering upon and occupying the lands by The Regional Municipality of Peel including its servants, agents, employees, contractors, sub-contractors and workers with all necessary vehicles, machinery, equipment, material and supplies required to facilitate the widening and improving of Airport Road, demolition and removal of buildings, structures and any other improvements, grading and other works ancillary thereto (“Temporary Construction Easement – Demolition”). In the absence of prior written notice, the rights under this Temporary Construction Easement – Demolition shall commence on the first day of the sixth year following the date of the registration of the plan of expropriation and will continue for two (2) years. All rights under this Temporary Construction Easement – Demolition shall expire no later

than seven (7) years after the date of the registration of the plan of expropriation.

Temporary Construction Easement - Hydro Service Relocation: Temporary Limited Interests for the purpose of a free, uninterrupted and unobstructed temporary easement in gross or rights in the nature of a temporary easement in gross, on an exclusive basis as necessary, for a term of two (2) years commencing upon no less than three (3) months’ written notice to the registered owner for the purposes of entering upon and occupying the lands by The Regional Municipality of Peel including its servants, agents, employees, contractors, sub-contractors, workers and entities authorized by statute with all necessary vehicles, machinery, equipment, material and supplies required to facilitate the widening and improving of Airport Road, relocating the electric service, grading and other works ancillary thereto (“Temporary Construction Easement – Hydro Service Relocation”). In the absence of prior written notice, the rights under this Temporary Construction Easement – Hydro Service Relocation shall commence on the first day of the sixth year following the date of the registration of the plan of expropriation, and will continue for two (2) years. All rights under this Temporary Construction Easement – Hydro Service Relocation shall expire no later than seven (7) years after the date of the registration of the plan of expropriation.

1. **Fee Simple**
Part of PIN 14348-0001 (LT)
Part of Lot 5, Concession 1, Town of Caledon (Geographic Township of Albion), Regional Municipality of Peel, designated as Part 2 on Reference Plan 43R-40592

Permanent Hydro Easement
Part of PIN 14348-0001 (LT)
Part of Lot 5, Concession 1, Town of Caledon (Geographic Township of Albion), Regional Municipality of Peel, designated as Part 1 on Reference Plan 43R-40592

Temporary Construction Easement - Entrance Grading
Part of PIN 14348-0001 (LT)
Part of Lot 5, Concession 1, Town of Caledon (Geographic Township of Albion), Regional Municipality of Peel, designated as Parts 3 and 4 on Reference Plan 43R-40592

2. **Fee Simple**
Part of PIN 14327-0002 (LT)
Part of Lot 6, Concession 1, Town of Caledon (Geographic Township of Albion), Regional Municipality of Peel, designated as Part 2 on Reference Plan 43R-40685

Permanent Hydro Easement
Part of PIN 14327-0002 (LT)
Part of Lot 6, Concession 1, Town of Caledon (Geographic Township of Albion), Regional Municipality of Peel, designated as Part 1 on Reference Plan 43R-40685

3. **Permanent Hydro Easement**
Part of PIN 14328-0167 (LT)
Part of Lot 11, Concession 1, Town of Caledon (Geographic Township of Albion), Regional Municipality of Peel, designated as Part 2 on Reference Plan 43R-40860

Temporary Construction Easement - Entrance Grading
Part of PIN 14328-0167 (LT)
Part of Lot 11, Concession 1, Town of Caledon (Geographic Township of Albion), Regional Municipality of Peel, designated as Part 1 on Reference Plan 43R-40860

4. **Fee Simple**
Part of PIN 14327-0025 (LT)
Part of Lot 10, Concession 1, Town of Caledon (Geographic Township of Albion), Regional Municipality of Peel, designated as Parts 1 and 2 on Reference Plan 43R-40795

Temporary Construction Easement - Entrance Grading
Part of PIN 14327-0025 (LT)
Part of Lot 10, Concession 1, Town of Caledon (Geographic Township of Albion), Regional Municipality of Peel, designated as Part 4 on Reference Plan 43R-40795

Temporary Construction Easement - Demolition
Part of PIN 14327-0025 (LT)
Part of Lot 10, Concession 1, Town of Caledon (Geographic Township of Albion), Regional Municipality of Peel, designated as Part 3 on Reference Plan 43R-40795

5. **Fee Simple**
Part of PIN 14348-0006 (LT)
Part of Lot 4, Concession 1, Town of Caledon (Geographic Township of Albion), Regional Municipality of Peel, designated as Part 1 on Reference Plan 43R-40912

Permanent Hydro Easement
Part of PIN 14348-0006 (LT)
Part of Lot 4, Concession 1, Town of Caledon (Geographic Township of Albion), Regional Municipality of Peel, designated as Part 2 on Reference Plan 43R-40912

6. **Fee Simple**
Part of PIN 14327-0054 (LT)
Part of Lot 8, Concession 1, Town of Caledon (Geographic Township of Albion), Regional Municipality of Peel, designated as Parts 1, 2, 3 and 5 on Reference Plan 43R-40885

Temporary Construction Easement - Entrance Grading
Part of PIN 14327-0054 (LT)
Part of Lot 8, Concession 1, Town of Caledon (Geographic Township of Albion), Regional Municipality of Peel, designated as Part 4 on Reference Plan 43R-40885

7. **Fee Simple**
Part of PIN 14327-0053 (LT)
Part of Lot 9, Concession 1, Town of Caledon (Geographic Township of Albion), Regional Municipality of Peel, designated as Part 1 on Reference Plan 43R-40896

Permanent Hydro Easement
Part of PIN 14327-0053 (LT)
Part of Lot 9, Concession 1, Town of Caledon (Geographic Township of Albion), Regional Municipality of Peel, designated as Parts 2, 3 and 4 on Reference Plan 43R-40896

Temporary Construction Easement - Entrance Grading
Part of PIN 14327-0053 (LT)
Part of Lot 9, Concession 1, Town of Caledon (Geographic Township of Albion), Regional Municipality of Peel, designated as Parts 3 and 5 on Reference Plan 43R-40896

8. **Fee Simple**
Part of PIN 14347-0111 (LT)
Part of Lot 20, Concession 6, East of Hurontario Street, Town of Caledon (Geographic Township of Chinguacousy), Regional Municipality of Peel, designated as Part 1 on Reference Plan 43R-41059

Permanent Hydro Easement
Part of PIN 14347-0111 (LT)
Part of Lot 20, Concession 6, East of Hurontario Street, Town of Caledon (Geographic Township of Chinguacousy), Regional Municipality of Peel, designated as Parts 4 and 5 on Reference Plan 43R-41059

Temporary Construction Easement - Entrance Grading
Part of PIN 14347-0111 (LT)
Part of Lot 20, Concession 6, East of Hurontario Street, Town of Caledon (Geographic Township of Chinguacousy), Regional Municipality of Peel, designated as Parts 2, 3, 6 and 7 on Reference Plan 43R-41059

9. **Fee Simple**
Part of PIN 14347-0115 (LT)
Part of Lot 21, Concession 6, East of Hurontario Street, Town of Caledon (Geographic Township of Chinguacousy), Regional Municipality of Peel, designated as Parts 1 and 3 on Reference Plan 43R-40602

Temporary Construction Easement - Entrance Grading
Part of PIN 14347-0115 (LT)
Part of Lot 21, Concession 6, East of Hurontario Street, Town of Caledon (Geographic Township of Chinguacousy), Regional Municipality of Peel, designated as Part 2 on Reference Plan 43R-40602

10. **Fee Simple**
Part of PIN 14348-0014 (LT)
Part of Lot 3, Concession 1, Town of Caledon (Geographic Township of Albion), Regional Municipality of Peel, designated as Part 1 on Reference Plan 43R-40890

Permanent Hydro Easement
Part of PIN 14348-0014 (LT)
Part of Lot 3, Concession 1, Town of Caledon (Geographic Township of Albion), Regional Municipality of Peel, designated as Parts 2 and 3 on Reference Plan 43R-40890

Temporary Construction Easement - Entrance Grading
Part of PIN 14348-0014 (LT)
Part of Lot 3, Concession 1, Town of Caledon (Geographic Township of Albion), Regional Municipality of Peel, designated as Parts 3 and 4 on Reference Plan 43R-40890

11. **Fee Simple**
Part of PIN 14348-0436 (LT)
Part of Lot 3, Concession 1, Town of Caledon (Geographic Township of Albion), Regional Municipality of Peel, designated as Part 1 on Reference Plan 43R-40892

Permanent Hydro Easement
Part of PIN 14348-0436 (LT)
Part of Lot 3, Concession 1, Town of Caledon (Geographic Township of Albion), Regional Municipality of Peel, designated as Part 2 on Reference Plan 43R-40892

12. **Fee Simple**
Part of PIN 14348-0008 (LT)
Part of Lot 4, Concession 1, Town of Caledon (Geographic Township of Albion), Regional Municipality of Peel, designated as Part 1 on Reference Plan 43R-40894

Permanent Hydro Easement
Part of PIN 14348-0008 (LT)
Part of Lot 4, Concession 1, Town of Caledon (Geographic Township of Albion), Regional Municipality of Peel, designated as Parts 2 and 3 on Reference Plan 43R-40894

Temporary Construction Easement - Entrance Grading
Part of PIN 14348-0008 (LT)
Part of Lot 4, Concession 1, Town of Caledon (Geographic Township of Albion), Regional Municipality of Peel, designated as Parts 3 and 4 on Reference Plan 43R-40894

13. **Fee Simple**
Part of PIN 14348-0007 (LT)
Part of Lot 4, Concession 1, Town of Caledon (Geographic Township of Albion), Regional Municipality of Peel, designated as Part 1 on Reference Plan 43R-40891

Permanent Hydro Easement
Part of PIN 14348-0007 (LT)
Part of Lot 4, Concession 1, Town of Caledon (Geographic Township of Albion), Regional Municipality of Peel, designated as Part 2 on Reference Plan 43R-40891

14. **Fee Simple**
Part of PIN 14348-0005 (LT)
Part of Lot 5, Concession 1, Town of Caledon (Geographic Township of Albion), Regional Municipality of Peel, designated as Part 1 on Reference Plan 43R-40893

Permanent Hydro Easement
Part of PIN 14348-0005 (LT)
Part of Lot 5, Concession 1, Town of Caledon (Geographic Township of Albion), Regional Municipality of Peel, designated as Parts 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8 and 9 on Reference Plan 43R-40893

Temporary Construction Easement - Entrance Grading
Part of PIN 14348-0005 (LT)
Part of Lot 5, Concession 1, Town of Caledon (Geographic Township of Albion), Regional Municipality of Peel, designated as Parts 5, 6, 9 and 10 on Reference Plan 43R-40893



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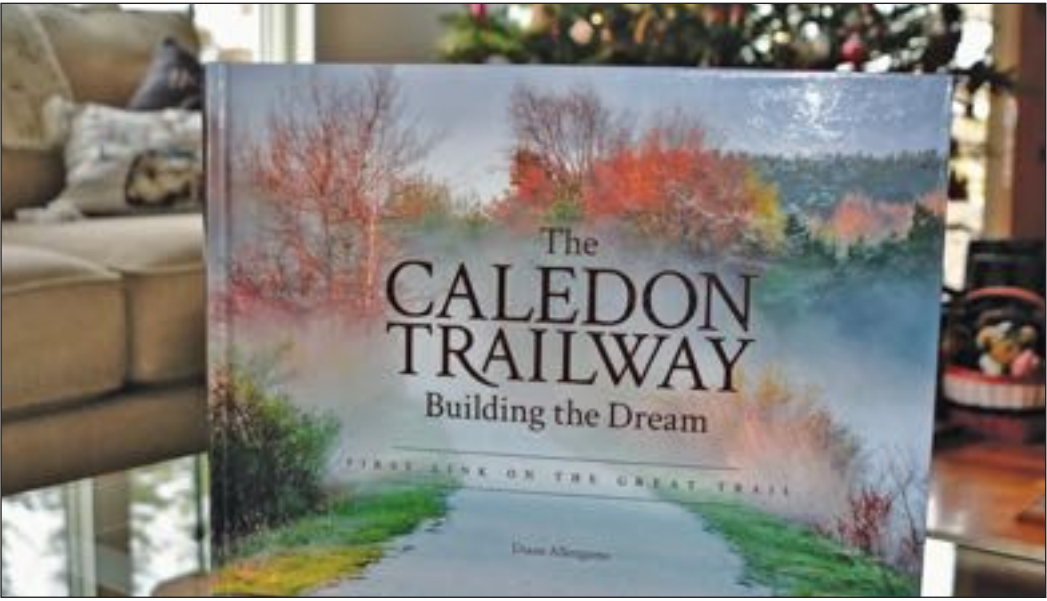
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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

\$13,000 going to Caledon Trailway improvements thanks to book committee

Caledon Trailway Book Committee has now raised \$63,000 from sales of its book

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Caledon Trailway is continuing to improve thanks to the efforts of a dedicated group of volunteers.

The Caledon Trailway Book Committee recently donated \$13,000 to the Town of Caledon to be used for improvements to the Caledon Trailway.

The committee was able to do this thanks to sales of its book, “The Caledon Trailway: Building the Dream”.

Including its first donation of \$50,000, the committee has now raised \$63,000 for the Caledon Trailway from book sales.

The committee chooses specific improvements it wants its donations to go towards. Some improvements to the trail funded by the committee include: a kiosk where the trail intersects with Mount Wolfe Road; metal benches on the trail in Palgrave, Caledon East, Inglewood, Terra Cotta and Cheltenham; stone benches on stretches of trail far away from any other places to rest; bike repair stands in Palgrave and Cheltenham; and restoration of the trail at Cardwell Junction.

The committee also has another bike repair stand ready to be installed at Mount Wolfe Road come spring, is planning to help the Town install a new kiosk on the trail in Caledon East, and is looking into a mural project.

“The Caledon Trailway: Building the Dream” was written by Diane Allengame, edited by Donna Davies, and published by the Caledon Trailway Book Committee in 2019. The book took two years to make and was a 100 per cent volunteer effort. In total, the committee published 1,650 copies of the book and has now sold all but 50.

Allengame explained the idea for the book originally came from Betty Ford, a lover of the Caledon Trailway who has many fond memories of time spent with family on it. It was Ford talking to friends

and fellow trail-lovers that sparked the creation of the Caledon Trailway Book Committee in 2017.

“We wanted to capture the stories of the genesis of the trail and its development,” said Allengame, noting that people quickly jumped on board with the idea and could tell the book had the potential to be amazing.

Book committee member Cheri Cowan said she was so happy with how the book turned out.

“It’s gorgeous... it’s really generated interest in the trail,” said Cowan.

The hardcover coffee table book was professionally designed by Wallflower Design and features beautiful photographs from many different photographers, both professional and amateur. The committee’s attention to historical accuracy, storytelling and great visuals means the book can be enjoyed at a glance or in-depth.

Allengame said the committee had many amazing photographs submitted for the book, and also gathered historical images from the Town of Caledon and Peel Art Gallery, Museum and Archives.

Cowan said much credit is due to committee members Ford and Fay McCrea for their countless hours spent going through photographs to choose the best ones.

Similarly, many long hours of research from Allengame, Davies and the committee were required to write and edit the book’s text. With each new chapter written for the book, the committee would go through it together.

Committee member Wayne Noble explained the committee worked on the book for the better part of 30 months, using a timeline planned around the book’s launch date.

“When it really hit home for me... is when you go to someone’s house or business and they have the book on their table,” said Noble, describing the great feeling of having the book published.

Allengame said the Caledon Trailway is a critical part of the fabric of Caledon.

“It unifies the Town and the care of it and development of it is really important,” said Allengame.

Those interested in purchasing one of the remaining Caledon Trailway books, which cost \$40, can visit caledontrailwaybook.ca. All proceeds from book sales go back to the Caledon Trailway.



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(Left) Town Crier Andrew Welch made a festive proclamation at Alton’s tree lighting ceremony. (Right) A tree in Alton Village Square is decorated for the holiday season.

PHOTOS BY ZACHARY ROMAN

Community gathers for Alton tree lighting ceremony

Event was a partnership between Alton Village Association and Legion

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A night of Christmas cheer brought the Alton community together last weekend. On December 9, the Alton Village Association hosted its annual tree lighting ceremony at the Alton Village Square. Caledon’s Town Crier Andrew Welch was in attendance at the ceremony and kicked off the evening at 6 p.m. with a proclamation. The community then counted down with Welch, singing the 12 Days

of Christmas, and the tree in the square was lit up. After the tree was lit, Eric Wood of the Alton Village Association led everyone in the singing of some Christmas carols. Once festivities at the Alton Village Square were complete, everyone moved over to the Alton Legion to enjoy refreshments. At the Legion, there was a very special visitor for kids: Santa Claus. Wood said he’s been involved in tree lighting ceremonies in Alton since 2002, when they took place at a church on Queen Street that’s no longer in use. Wood said it was exciting that this year’s ceremony was held in partnership with the Alton Legion. He said it was great to be able to continue the evening even after celebrations in the square were complete. Wood said the ceremony was a great way to bring the community together.

The Dr. Howarth Dental Office is excited to announce that our practice is growing! In order to continue bringing you excellent care, we have added a new dentist to our team.

We would like to introduce Dr. Kayla Mincer who completed her Doctor of Dental Surgery degree at the University of Toronto Faculty of Dentistry. Prior to this, she graduated with an Honours Bachelor of Science degree from York University. In her fourth year of dental school, she received a certificate of merit for achievement in the field of oral medicine, due to her work with medically compromised patients and is a member of the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario and the Ontario Dental Association.



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Peel non-profits looking for greater support of community services

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Before the Province reversed its decision to dissolve Peel Region on Wednesday, the Region’s non-profit sector kept pressing for greater support.

On December 7, the Metamorphosis Network called on the Province to ensure Peel Region’s community services receive adequate support should the dissolution of Peel happen or not.

The Metamorphosis Network represents over 100 non-profits that serve health and

social service needs in Caledon, Brampton and Mississauga.

On December 5, the Toronto Star reported that a source said Premier Doug Ford is considering reversing his decision that would have Caledon, Brampton and Mississauga be independent municipalities by

January 1, 2025. This reversal came at a press conference on the afternoon of December 13.

The Metamorphosis Network said in its release that the non-profit sector in Peel needs to see a clear plan that includes funding to meet the needs of Peel’s most vulnerable people.

The network said it’s raising the alarm over “continued lack of adequate funding for regional services including long-term care, childcare, affordable housing, social assistance, and seniors’ transit, to name a few.”

Sharon Mayne, CEO of Catholic Family Services Peel Dufferin, said the January 1, 2025 deadline would be hard to meet with a fully-developed plan and that she understands why the government may want to carefully consider its plans for change.

“Peel needs real change,” said Mayne. “We have crises in mental health, homelessness, housing, youth services, addictions, family violence, and seniors’ support that remain unaddressed.”

According to the Metamorphosis Network’s release, Peel gets half as much funding for community health programs compared to the Ontario average. The release said Peel residents also have half as much access to emergency rooms and primary care compared to provincial norms.

“Peel receives less funding per capita for policing, education, and other essential services than either Toronto or York Region,” reads the release. “Peel has half the population of Toronto, but about 1/8 the amount of social housing, and about 1/10 the number of shelter beds.”

The Metamorphosis Network said since it was announced Peel would be dissolved, staff in the non-profit and public service sectors have spent thousands of hours reviewing what the change would mean for their organizations.

Gurpreet Malhotra, CEO of Indus Community Services, said Peel non-profits deserve real commitment and investment from Queen’s Park.

“Whether dissolution proceeds or is withdrawn, whatever reform the Minister and the Premier have in store, we need a plan that meets the real needs of Peel. We cannot go back to the status quo,” said Malhotra.

Procyon Wildlife’s inaugural gala raises a whopping \$45,000



Procyon Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Centre held its inaugural fundraising Gala at the Best Western Plus in Orangeville on Dec. 1.

The results have now been tallied and Procyon is thrilled to have raised \$45,000. All of this money will be used toward the rescue, rehabilitation and release of wild animals back to their natural environment.

Wildlife centres such as Procyon Wildlife do not receive government funding so fundraising events such as the gala are crucial for the centre to continue operating.

Gala attendees were treated to a cocktail hour, while they perused silent and live auction tables. Hors d’oeuvres and the dinner were catered by Gourmandissimo. Emcee

Carlo Coppola guided attendees throughout the evening.

Debra Spilar, custodian and director for Procyon Wildlife, spoke about the organization’s mission to continue rescuing wildlife in need and how the centre has grown from caring for 50 animals per year to over 2,000.

Renowned wildlife artist Michael Pape was also in attendance and he spoke about his experiences as a wildlife artist. He also had a wide selection of his beautiful paintings on display and will be donating a portion of the proceeds of any paintings sold at the gala to Procyon.

After the lively live auction, conducted by auctioneer Dave Fulton, Mars Giammarco and his band Echo entertained gala attendees. Throughout the event, photographers William Sierra and Jennifer Howard were on hand to document the evening.

“Our thanks go out to our corporate sponsors Flutter-PokerStars who sponsored the music, Mr. Neil Mathieson, CPA who sponsored the wine at our tables, Flato Developments, Heartlake Insurance, Intact Insurance, Travelers Insurance, Trillium Ford, GFL, Paula Fleck and Anna Simone,” said Procyon Wildlife in a press release. “We are grateful to all the local businesses and private individuals who provided us with so many beautiful, silent and live auctions, and monetary donations. A special thank you goes out to all the Procyon Wildlife volunteers that worked so diligently planning the gala and during the evening of the gala. This community of fine individuals made this evening a success!”

If you are interested in learning more about Procyon Wildlife or would like to make a donation toward the care of one of the animals at the centre, please visit: www.procyonwildlife.com/donations/general-donation-toward-care-of-an-animal/

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Peel Art Gallery, Museum and Archives annual report released

Report looks to future

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Peel Art Gallery, Museum and Archives (PAMA) is looking back at past successes and preparing for the future.

At the Region of Peel Council’s December 7 meeting, PAMA’s annual report, authored by Peel’s Manager of Community and Cultural Engagement Rene Nand, was submitted to Council for information.

In 2022, PAMA completed mould abatement of its museum collection, made HVAC upgrades, and improved its building in Brampton with a high-density shelving system, fire prevention system, and climate control system in its storage area. The incremental return of museum artifacts that were temporarily removed while upgrades were completed began in October.

PAMA has also established the framework for an Indigenous Sharing Circle (ISC). The mandate of the ISC is to contribute to the development of exhibits and programming to promote awareness and understanding of Indigenous histories and contemporary experiences.

In 2022, PAMA presented eleven different exhibitions: two outdoor banner exhibitions, four art gallery exhibitions, three museum exhibitions, one virtual exhibition and one travelling exhibition.



It also partnered with Cawthra Park Secondary School to provide a panel discussion for students looking to pursue careers in arts and culture.

“Students had the opportunity to engage in meaningful dialogue with administrative and curatorial staff to gain a better understanding of the wide range of careers available in arts and culture and the realities therein,” reads the report.

This was just some of PAMA’s work with students in Peel, with outreach programming, and many creative workshops also taking place.

Some additional community programs run by PAMA included family staycation

drop-ins, tea tastings, forest bathing, art workshops, music with the Brampton Folk Club, and Connections: Art + Book Club with the Brampton Library.

In 2022, PAMA received over \$160,000 in grants and funding from Provincial and Federal partners to support exhibitions, programming, and reopening activities.

Weigh in and help shape Bolton’s future

The Town of Caledon is actively seeking community input to shape the future of Bolton as part of a comprehensive strategy for positive growth throughout the entire municipality.

“A strategic review of the Secondary Plans for the Bolton area is underway, with a specific focus on identifying an optimal location for

a second GO station along Highway 50,” says the Town. “This initiative aims to revitalize and enhance this crucial corridor, contributing to the overall progress of Caledon. The proposed Bolton Secondary Plan will serve as an updated, contemporary blueprint, establishing a framework for positive growth and transformation in the Bolton community.

“The survey is designed to gather insights on community needs and priorities, addressing key aspects such as visioning, guiding principles, built form, and transportation. The survey aims to guide the development of two distinct land use concepts to be presented to the public for additional feedback and input.”

To participate in shaping the future of

Bolton, visit haveyoursaycaledon.ca and take part in the Bolton Secondary Plan Review Survey. The survey will remain open until January 15, 2024.

“Your input is crucial in fostering a vibrant and sustainable future for Bolton within the broader context of Caledon’s positive growth trajectory.”

Public Notice

Peel Region
working with you

Environmental Assessment Study

NOTICE OF STUDY COMPLETION
SUPPLY CAPACITY INCREASE FOR PALGRAVE WELL # 4

The Class EA Study

Peel Region has completed a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Study to identify the upgrades/modifications to the existing Palgrave Well #4 Water Treatment Plant required to accommodate the proposed increase in water taking capacity of the existing municipal production well, Palgrave Well #4. An increase in water taking is necessary to enhance the security of supply in the Palgrave/Caledon East Drinking Water System and meet the long-term water needs of the serviced area. The study has been conducted in accordance with the requirements of a Schedule ‘C’ project under the Municipal Class Environmental (Class EA) Assessment document (March 2023) which is approved under the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act. The Class EA study included a comprehensive assessment of alternatives to accommodate additional treatment capacity in the existing Palgrave Water Treatment Plant. The Class EA study has identified the preferred recommended solution, comprising the following upgrades to the existing Palgrave Water Treatment Plant, located at 9 Buckstown Trail:

- Replacement of the existing greensand filters with larger units
- Twinning the existing chlorine contact pipe
- Replacement of the existing indoor diesel emergency standby genset with a larger natural gas genset unit.

All works associated with the proposed upgrades will be contained within the existing building footprint. A building expansion will not be required. Construction work will be limited within the existing property boundaries. The preferred solution has been selected to minimize potential impacts and maximize the opportunity to provide sustainable and reliable water servicing to the Palgrave- Caledon East serviced area.

Your Opinion Matters

An Environmental Study Report (ESR) has been prepared to document the planning and decision-making process, as well as consultation efforts, followed in the Class EA Study. By this notice, the ESR is being placed on the public record for a 45-calendar day review period from December 1, 2023 to January 15, 2024. The ESR will be available for public review on the Region’s website at <https://www.peelregion.ca/public-works/environmental-assessments/caledon/palgrave-ea-well4.asp>.

Peel Region is committed to ensuring that all Regional services, programs, and facilities are inclusive and accessible for persons. Please contact the Project Manager if you need any accommodations to provide comments or feedback for this study. All requests must be received within the review period.

Interested persons may provide written comments to our project team on or before January 15, 2024. All comments and concerns should be sent directly to Erin Ihnat at Peel Region by mail or e-mail.

Erin Ihnat, C.E.T., PMP

Project Manager, Environmental Assessments & Studies

Water/Wastewater Infrastructure Planning

Peel region | Public Works

10 Peel Centre Dr., 4th Fl., Suite A | Brampton, ON L6T 4B9

Tel. 905-791-7800 ext. 4665

Erin.ihn timer@peelregion.ca

In addition, a request may be made to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks for an order requiring a higher level of study (i.e., requiring an individual/ comprehensive EA approval before being able to proceed), or that conditions be imposed (e.g., require further studies), only on the grounds that the requested order may prevent, mitigate, or remedy adverse impacts on constitutionally protected Aboriginal and treaty rights. Requests on other grounds will not be considered. Requests should include the requester contact information and full name.

Requests should specify what kind of order is being requested (request for additional conditions or a request for an individual/comprehensive environmental assessment), how an order may prevent, mitigate or remedy those potential adverse impacts, and any information in support of the statements in the request. This will ensure that the Ministry is able to efficiently begin reviewing the request. The Section 16 Order request should be sent to the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks and the Director of Environmental Assessment Branch. You can submit your request by mail, email or hand delivered it to:

Hon. Andrea Khanjin, Minister

Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks

777 Bay Street, 5th Floor

Toronto ON M7A 2J3

minister.mecp@ontario.ca

and

Director, Environmental Assessment Branch

Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks

135 St. Clair Ave. W, 1st Floor

Toronto ON, M4V 1P5

EABDirector@ontario.ca

Requests should also be copied to the Region of Peel’s Project Manager, Erin Ihnat by mail or by e-mail. Please visit the ministry’s website for more information on requests for orders under section 16 of the Environmental Assessment Act at: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/class-environmental-assessments-part-ii-order>.

This notice was first issued on December 1, 2023

A map showing the location of the Palgrave Well #4 Water Treatment Plant. The map includes a north arrow and a legend. The plant is located at the intersection of Highway 50 and Highway 10. The map also shows the surrounding area, including the Palgrave Well #4 Water Treatment Plant and the Palgrave Well #4 Water Treatment Plant.

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U14 Caledon Hawks’ Food Drive and Bottle Collection embraces true meaning of giving

BY JIM STEWART

The Caledon Hawks U14 BB rep squad has struggled this year on the ice, but their charitable spirit is championship-calibre.

The 14 intrepid rep players displayed their Christmas cheer by setting their team’s Food Drive collection target at 500 pounds with all canned goods and other non-perishable items going to “The Exchange” in Bolton. Although the team has had some tough puck luck during their season thus far, their ability to battle food insecurity has been top notch.

The young Hawks exceeded their Food Drive goal by collecting 515 pounds of food and, through a related bottle drive, they were able to cash in \$42 worth of bottles at the Beer Store through their door-to-door efforts.

Neighbors were clearly impressed by the boys’ charitable actions and contributed cash if they didn’t have bottles to donate.

Consequently, the Hawks were able to donate a total of \$70 to the “The Exchange” along with their quarter-ton of food.

Caledon Hawks U14 BB Head Coach Joe Galluccio—speaking on behalf of the coaching staff that includes Assistant Coaches James Marjadsingh, Ryan Gulyas and Paolo Baldassarra – described the importance of this collection for his hockey team.

“We are extremely proud of the players for working as a team off the ice for a great cause that is larger than just a game. Giving back to the community in which we play gives us a sense of unity and it humbles players, parents, and staff.”

“Developing off the ice is just as important as on the ice. Not everyone is fortunate to play the game of hockey and many families are in need these days. This was the players’ way of gathering in unity to win in the game of life. This is a true example that at any age we can all get involved, do our part, to help others. We play for the Caledon Hawks; many sponsors believed in us not just to play hockey, but also represent goodness and act of giving.”

Silvana Robinson, a Team Parent and Head of Sponsorships for the U14 Hawks, helped coordinate the collections and was “ecstatic about the team’s energy.”

Robinson, whose son Lucas plays for the team, was impressed by the boys’ enthusiasm to help others less fortunate than them.

“This season has been about their hockey development, but we wanted to make a point as a group that people need help in our community. We may be losing on the ice so far this season, but we’re win-



Pictured Here: Jack Wenzel #57; Nicholas Canzio #10; Luca Barbuzzi #11; Thomas Torresan #88; Julian Galluccio #93; Nate Heaney #87; Kage Kara-siuk #66; Bryan Yuan #34; Lucas Robinson #77; Evan Falcioni #19; Leo Baldassarra #97; Ryan Marjadsingh #16; George Marinelli #1 (Goalie); Ben Gulyas #12.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ning for the community and, in a way, this is a much bigger victory for our players. The buzz and enthusiasm the kids had on November 18 was priceless and the players really grew as a team off the ice. It was truly rewarding in many ways.”

The U14 players also articulated the good feelings created by their Food Drive and Bottle Collection. Luca noted that, “We did this to help people in need” and Julian added that “We did this because it’s God’s work and to donate to people who have less than us. It makes us feel good and that we did something good in our hearts. Even though it’s been a tough season, we are still dedicated to making a difference in our community.”

Lucas R saw the importance of providing for families and he outlined some life lessons he learned.

“[Our collection] feeds families meals they don’t have, and it brought our team closer together. It was an amazing experience, I learned a lot about the needs in our area, and working together as team.”

Jack said he was pleased by the good feeling created by community service with his teammates: “It felt good to do good deeds for our community and I enjoyed working together with my team” – and Nicholas noted that,

“It made me feel proud being on this team and helping the people who need it most in our community.”

Leo reinforced Jack and Nicholas’s sentiments.

“It felt good because I was helping other people in need, it’s a good feeling to help people.”

Bryan added that “It felt fun, going around with my team. I can see myself doing this again.”

Thomas talked about the importance of giving back: “It felt good giving back to the community and it felt good helping others who need it most” while Ben discussed the importance of helping families and expressed his gratitude about playing for the Caledon Hawks.

“It was good to do the food drive to help the families in our community and give back to our town. It made me feel thankful for the food I have at home and lucky to play for the Caledon Hawks. My favourite part of the hockey season so far is seeing all my friends improve so much from when we first practiced together to where we are now, and really join together as a team.”

The Region of Peel is a much better place because the U14 Caledon Hawks have grasped the true spirit of the Christmas season and contributed to the greater good. Well done, boys!

If you’re interested in donating to “The Exchange,” you can donate canned goods and other non-perishables at 55 Healey Road in Bolton or call 905-584-2300.



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Christmas Concert coming to Hockley Village

BY DANIELLE WILLIAMS

Hockley Historic Community Hall and Chruch is putting together its first-ever Christmas Concert featuring three talented solo musicians who will take the stage on Sunday, December 17, to indulge the community with the joy and warmth of Christmas.

A variety of songs will be showcased, including traditional favourites like “O Holy Night,” thoughtfully performed in both French and English to recognize both of Canada’s official languages.

“It’s going to be a beautiful mixture of traditional music, audience participation, and soloists singing, both traditional as well as fun holiday songs,” said Angela van Breemen, one of the performers for the Christmas Concert.

The concert will feature three Canadian musicians – Kalon Young, a baritone who trained at Hit That Note vocal studio; Angela van Breemen, a soprano soloist who frequently lends her voice to charitable causes; and Cynthia Fox Fucile, a world-renowned pianist.

These three performers generously donated their time for a free performance open to the public.

A distinctive feature of this community event is active audience involvement, inviting everyone to join in the festive cheer.

Janice Mason, Secretary of Hockley Historical Community Hall and Chruch, expressed her gratitude to the performers for choosing to utilize their historic building, which has been part of the village for over 150 years.

“It’s great that it’s going to be used to

bring Christmas into the village,” said Janice.

However, operating entirely through volunteers, the unforeseen challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic posed an obstacle for the church. The restrictions and safety concerns brought on by the pandemic hindered its ability to host events and rent out spaces, dealing a “significant blow” to its usual sources of income.

Janice emphasizes that the donations the church receives will be placed into their reserve funds. Despite some financial challenges, the organization continues to preserve the cultural heritage embodied in the church and community hall.

“We will probably use the proceeds to build up our funds again, because there is always work that needs to be done here and they’re always projects,” said Mason.

With expectations of a full house, Angela van Breemen, a long-time resident of Adjala-Tosorontio and soprano soloist, shared that Christmas is not just about attending a concert but about collective participation.

“I think part of Christmas is not just going to a Christmas concert but all of us singing together,” said van Breemen, emphasizing the communal spirit at the heart of the event.

In support of the church’s ongoing efforts, donations will be collected at the door during the concert, although it is free to attend, and all are welcome.

As the village prepares for this inaugural Christmas Concert, it is not only an opportunity for festive merriment but also a celebration of unity, heritage, and the enduring spirit of community.

GlowJam’s youth dance fundraisers are back with a Christmas special

BY DANIELLE WILLIAMS

GlowJam will host its first-ever toy drive youth dance fundraiser at Orangeville District Secondary School (ODSS) on Friday, December 15.

After starting the youth dance fundraisers 10 months ago, GlowJam is back with their ninth dance of the year.

GlowJam is spreading holiday joy by hosting a festive, fun-filled event featuring games, activities, and prize-giving competitions for children aged seven to 13, all while raising funds for the Orangeville Food Bank.

“We host these dances primarily for the kids, and it’s heartwarming to see them, including my nephews, having so much fun. It’s also incredibly rewarding to support local organizations through these events,” said Dylan Davis, head dance organizer and owner of Nexus Sound & Lighting Inc., the company behind GlowJam.

After seeing the success of GlowJam’s previous food drive at its October 27 dance, they decided to shape it into a toy drive with a holiday twist.

Partnering with the local 7-Eleven as they run an annual toy drive, GlowJam will accept unwrapped toy donations during the dance on December 15. All the toys collected by 7-Eleven and GlowJam will be donated to the Salvation Army, which provides them to less fortunate families so children can have gifts on Christmas.

“I love being part of these dances. You know, it’s not just a job for us; it feels like we’re part of something bigger,” said Tammy Cowen, who assists with planning the dances and managing its snack bar. “It’s amazing to see the community come out, have fun, and support each other.”

Ten years ago, when Dylan started as a DJ, he and his boss spoke about the potential of putting on events like the youth dances. Following COVID-19, the concept reappeared, and to “fill the void” left by COVID-19 for today’s youth, Dylan believed that something positive was essential.

“Coupled with my desire to create positive, community-focused events, especially important in mitigating the isolating effects of COVID, led to the birth of these dances,” said Davis.

Fundraising for local organizations and charities is essential, and Davis emphasizes the importance of community events.

“While raising funds is important, our primary goal is to ensure a great experience for attendees. Any funds raised will be a bonus to support local causes. We hope each dance continues to grow in popularity and impact,” said Davis.

As GlowJam moves into 2024, they are scheduled to have bi-weekly events starting January 12.

With one group per dance, GlowJam encourages local organizations to partner with them for an opportunity to “engage with the community.”



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OBITUARIES

DR. EDWARD WARREN TWIDDY

Our beloved Dad, Dr. Edward Warren Twiddy, passed away peacefully at home, with his family by his side, on November 24, 2023, in his 94th year. With us in mourning his loss, is his companion, Andrea Penikis, her son Mark Penikis, (Anne) and their two children Phaedra and Manix.

Warren is predeceased by his first wife, Kathryn Twiddy, his brothers, Richard and Irvine Twiddy and his sister Lois (Gerald) Kemp. He is also predeceased by his granddaughter Carla Mariane Sweeney.

He leaves behind his children: Kathryn (John) Firth, David (Jennifer) Twiddy and Lise (Walter) Twiddy. Warren had seven grandchildren, Nicole, Daniel, Ryan, Emily, Brandon and Matthew; and eight great-grandchildren, Kaitlynn, Alex, Winston, Charles, Zoey Emmet, Nathan and Jensen.

Dr. Twiddy served the Town of Caledon for 48 years as a respected family physician. From a family-owned logging sawmill operation at Stockdale, Ontario, he graduated from Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario in 1956. Following Dr. Twiddy's internship at the Kitchener-Waterloo hospital, he worked at a clinic in Orilla and then moved to his practice in Caledon East in 1957. Dr. Twiddy served three generations of people in the area and was well known for his many house calls and delivering a great number of babies. His practice was associated with the Dufferin Area Hospital, now known as the Headwaters Healthcare Centre. He was an avid bridge player, member of the Islington Sportsmen Club and thoroughly enjoyed many outdoor activities, particularly hunting, fishing and hiking.

Special thanks to Andrea Penikis for her loving care of Warren.

A private family celebration of life will be held at a later date.

In remembrance of Warren, in lieu of flowers, memorial donations to the Headwaters Health Care Foundation would be appreciated.

The family of Dr. Edward Warren Twiddy



GOTT, ROBERT DONALD

On Dec. 7, 2023, Robert Donald Gott age 84 died following a two-year battle with cancer and serious heart and lung issues. A lesser man would have succumbed months earlier but Bob was determined and refused to leave his beloved family without a fight.

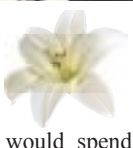
Bob was born in Dundalk on March 25, 1939, a twin to Bill. The boys, as were all nine children of John and Annie Gott (Demmans) were born at home, in a rambling farmhouse without electricity or running water. Bob would spend his early years working on the farm, leaving as a teenager for Toronto where he eventually found a job working for the Ministry of Transportation. Smart and dedicated to his work, Bob was promoted several times and ended his career as an area enforcement supervisor. He retired in 1992.

Throughout his life, Bob never lost his love of farming and later in life, discovered he was an excellent wood craftsman. He also loved to read and turned out to be a pretty good cook. Bob was also the first one to help anyone in need.

Quiet, good natured and a devoted family man, Bob particularly loved babies. Hence he earned the nickname the Baby Whisperer.

Bob is survived by his wife of 61 years, Sandra (nee Hill), daughters Christine Field (Dave) and Belinda Gott as well as grandchildren Dustin (Trisha) Dyer, Cody (Becky) Dyer and Tori (Darren) Bird as well as great grandchildren Lilly, Logan, Colton, Peyton, Austin and Addelyn.

He was predeceased by his parents as well as siblings Bill, Elgin, Ken, Joan and Daisy and is survived by siblings Margaret, Aubrey and Wayne.



Celebration of life will be held at *Dods & McNair Funeral Home, Chapel & Reception Centre* 21 First St Orangeville, Ontario on Sunday, December 17th, 2023 at 2:00 pm. with visitation beginning at 1:00 pm.

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

MCKELLAR, ESTELLA MARIE
FEBRUARY 9, 1917 -
DECEMBER 4, 2023

Daughter to Jawdacha Haidup and William Siniewicz.
Mother to William McKellar (d. 2020) and John McKellar.

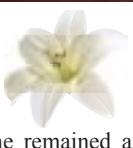
It is with great sadness that we announce that Estella gently passed at Providence Healthcare in Toronto.

Estella Marie McKellar was born February 09, 1917 in St. Andrews Manitoba. Due to unfavourable home conditions, she came to Toronto Ontario at a young age and resided with the sisters at St. Joseph's Convent. She remained a devout Catholic her entire life.

Before her marriage to James McKellar in 1942, she worked in the book department at Eaton's and when WWII began, she was employed at the ammunitions factory, General Dynamics.

In 1944, Estella and James moved to Orangeville, Ontario which became their permanent place of residence. In addition to raising 2 sons, Estella was very active in a variety of endeavours. She was a wonderful gardener of flowers and vegetables on the king size family property. But besides growing beautiful plants outdoors, she painted them on canvas as a graduate of the Famous Artists School. Estella also received a diploma from the Chicago School of Nursing, so her family was well taken care of in times of illness. Travel was another one of her passions and throughout her life she visited many destinations in Canada and the USA, as well as Australia and Israel.

Estella's sweet, friendly disposition won her numerous friends and admirers throughout her long life. She is fondly remembered by everyone she encounters. Her funeral service has taken place. In lieu of flowers, donations to Share Life or a charity of your choice are welcome



ZANNI, ANGELA

Peacefully at Headwaters Health Care Centre on Thursday November 30, 2023 in her 74th year. Loving aunt of Jennifer Zanni. Cherished great-aunt to Lachlan Dymond-Zanni, Gabriel Dymond-Zanni and Everett Dymond-Zanni. Predeceased by her parents and her brother. Angela will also be greatly missed by other relatives and many friends.

Memorial visitation will be held at the Dods & McNair Funeral Home, Chapel & Reception Centre, 21 First St., Orangeville on Saturday December 16, 2023 from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm. Memorial donations to the Orangeville Senior's Centre would be appreciated by the family.

A tree will be planted in memory of Angela in the Dods & McNair Memorial Forest at the Island Lake Conservation Area, Orangeville. 22nd Annual Dedication Service will be held on Sunday, September 8, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. Condolences may be offered to the family at www.dodsandmcnair.com



RICHARD "RICK" DEWSBURY

79, passed away unexpectedly, at home, on Thursday, December 7th, 2023.

Richard was born in North Bay and grew up in Brantford and London, Ontario. Richard received a bachelor's degree at Waterloo University. In 1967 His studies brought him to Sept Iles, Quebec where he met his wife of 56 years, Jocelyne. As a high school math and computer sciences teacher in Scarborough at Stephen Leacock Collegiate he inspired legions of students in STEM. In 1987 Rick and Jocelyne moved to a farm outside of Shelburne, raising cattle for many years.

Richard loved adventure and extreme sports. He skydived during his time in the military, traveled all over North America hang gliding and built his own ultralight plane. Richard was also civic minded, he participated in the Lions Club, founded the Great Canadian Worm Charming Competition and once ran for Mayor of Amaranth. Richard was always willing to help a friend or even a stranger in need and loved solving the puzzles of designing, building and repairing mechanical equipment.

Richard was predeceased by his parents Norman Dewsbury & Bertha Dewsbury (nee Richardson) and his eldest son Stefan.

Richard is survived by his loving wife Jocelyne, his sons Frank and Damon (Sara), and his grandchildren Christian (Meagan), Alex and Rhys "Raven". He will be greatly missed by his siblings, extended family and friends.

A celebration of life will be held in the spring. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Headwaters Health Care Centre. Online condolences and donations may be placed at www.jackdanthompsonfuneralhome.com



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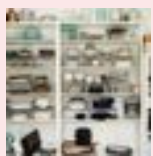
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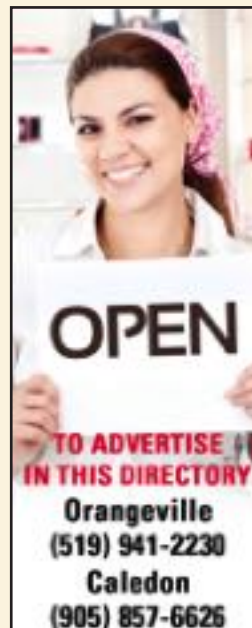
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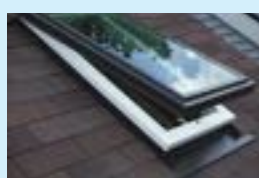
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Decorating is one of the joys of the holiday season. Families often decorate together, and such traditions may include dressing the Christmas tree and hanging holiday lights around the house.

A day spent making homemade ornaments is another great way to decorate and spend quality time together as a family during the holiday season. Though families can let their imaginations run wild when making ornaments at home, the following are some great starting points that can serve as springboards for holiday crafting sessions.

SNOWMEN: The holiday season simply wouldn't be the same without snowmen. Homemade snowmen can be made out of ping pong balls, which are the ideal size when making ornaments for the Christmas tree. Those who want to go a little bigger can glue wiffle balls or large polystyrene balls together or create their own papier mâché snowmen to display on mantles or console tables in a foyer or hallway.

SANTA CLAUS: Another staple of holiday decor, Santa Claus has inspired many a DIY holiday ornament over the years. A paper plate Santa Claus with a cotton ball beard glued on can make for a fun Christmas craft, especially for young children who can't wait for the big guy to appear on Christmas Eve.

PENGUINS: Though they might not have a direct link to the holiday season, penguins evoke feelings of cold weather, making them an ideal addition to

holiday decor schemes. Make your own penguin family using polystyrene craft balls in assorted sizes and then hang them on the tree or place them around the house.

REINDEER: Santa would not be able to get the job done each Christmas Eve without his trustworthy team of reindeer. Popsicle stick reindeer projects can be fun for kids of all ages and a great way for youngsters to recognize the efforts of Dasher, Dancer, Comet, Cupid, and, of course, Rudolph, among others.

COOKIE CUTTERS: Family baking sessions are a holiday tradition for millions of people. Though that often leads to batches upon batches of tasty cookies, it also means families tend to have a surplus of holiday cookie cutters around the house. Surplus cookie cutters tend to be discarded or relegated to the miscellaneous items drawer in kitchens, but a more awe-inspiring fate can await them. A coat of paint, some glitter and a little bit of string or twine is all families need to transform their extra cookie cutters into colourful tree ornaments.

Holiday decorating sessions can be made even more fun when families take the time to craft some DIY decorations together.



— Image by G.C. from Pixabay

A guide to picking the perfect fresh Christmas tree

Choose your species

Do some homework on the type of tree you want prior to buying the tree. Balsam fir and Fraser fir are popular Christmas tree varieties, but there are many others, such as noble fir and Norway spruce. Balsams are known for having the most fragrant smell, but Frasers tend to keep their needles the longest. For those who prefer a Douglas fir, keep in mind that they sometimes drop their needles prematurely due to foliar diseases like needle-cast fungus.

Space for ornaments

In addition to aroma and needle longevity, look for trees that have a desirable shape and allow for adequate space between branches, advises the home and garden resource The Spruce. Trees groomed to be lush and full will look beautiful unadorned, but once ornaments are added, full branches may cause those ornaments to hang low or even fall off. Trees with sparse branches allow for ornaments to hang straight.

Measure your space

Trees in the field or in a lot may look much smaller than they do when brought into the living room. Don't make the mistake of selecting a tree that is too large for your home. The agricultural firm Raglan & Massey says to measure the room from floor to ceiling and subtract the height of the tree stand and tree topper. It's equally important to measure the width of the area where the tree will stand and allow for ample space for foot traffic around the tree.

Perform a needle check

Every tree will drop some needles, and most evergreens hold their foliage. Modest needle loss is not an indicator of a poor tree. However, Decker's Nursery in Greenlawn, NY says if 50 percent of the needles are lost when you swipe your hand down three to five different branches around the tree, the tree likely is not a good choice. In addition, avoid a tree that has glaring defects in the trunk as it can impede water flow through the tree.

Heavier is better

A heavy pre-cut tree means it is full of water and has been cut more recently. A healthy, fresh tree is going to require an effort to lift. Older, dried-out trees will not be heavy.

Upon arriving home, make a fresh cut off the tree trunk and get it in water as soon as possible — even if that's a bucket until the tree stand can be set up.

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Automotive Maintenance would like to extend along with you, our sincere thanks and gratitude for all the loving care the staff at Caledon Exchange, Bethell and Hill House Hospices give to the residents.

May Christmas and the coming new year bring you and your entire family happiness and health.

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Festive films that make for a perfect family movie night this season

A family movie night makes for a great way for families to bond and enjoy some relaxing time together. Such nights are a tradition in households across the globe, and they can even become a fun way for extended families to celebrate the holiday days together. When hosting overnight guests this holiday season, hosts can plan a family movie night and line up any of these family-friendly holiday movies.



"A CHRISTMAS STORY" (1983): This beloved classic based on the writings of author Jean Shepherd focuses on young Ralphie Parker and his humorous family. That family includes his father, played by legendary actor Darren McGavin. All Ralphie wants for Christmas is a coveted Red Ryder air rifle, and generations of fans have enjoyed watching this film to see if Ralphie's dream comes true.

"HOME ALONE" (1990): Not unlike "A Christmas Story," this instant classic devotes much of its story to a young boy. Eight-year-old Kevin McAllister (Macaulay Culkin) awakens to an empty house after his parents forgetfully leave him behind as they depart on a holiday trip to Paris with their extended family. That proves to be bad news for bungling burglars Harry (Joe Pesci) and Marv (Daniel Stern), who are outwitted by Kevin at every turn.

ELF (2003): Middle-aged Buddy (Will Ferrell) grew up in the North Pole believing he is an elf, despite being significantly larger than the kind-hearted elves who raised him. Upon learning he is not an actual elf, Buddy is determined to reunite with the father (James Caan) he's never known. Hilarity ensues as the innocent Buddy ends up in the big city in search of his father.

"IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE" (1946): Among the most beloved holiday movies ever made, this classic stars Jimmy Stewart as George Bailey, a devoted family man who set aside his own big-city dreams to save the family business and, ultimately, his small hometown of Bedford Falls. Lamenting some bad luck that leaves him on the cusp of financial ruin, George wishes he'd never been born, only to be shown by an especially kind and patient angel-in-training (Henry Travers) how much worse off Bedford Falls and its residents might have been had George Bailey never existed.

"JINGLE ALL THE WAY" (1996): Featuring a future Governor of California in the lead role, this hijinks-filled holiday classic follows the efforts of Howard Langston (Arnold Schwarzenegger) as he tries to secure the must-have gift of the season for his son, Jamie (Jake Lloyd). Howard soon finds himself competing against a father (Sinbad) who's equally devoted to finding the coveted Turbo-Man action figure.

A holiday movie night makes for a fun, family-friendly evening when hosting overnight guests during this special time of year.

Fun books to read to children this holiday season

THE HOLIDAY SEASON is a special time of year for people of all ages, but children might be the most enthusiastic celebrants come December. Children spend much of the holiday season anticipating the arrival of the man in the red suit, and that enthusiasm can be contagious.

Families have their own unique traditions during the holiday season, but one popular way to harness kids' enthusiasm at Christmas is to read them holiday stories. There's no shortage of great holiday books for kids, but here are a handful that kids may remember well into adulthood.

***"The Polar Express," by Chris Van Allsburg:** The beloved tale is the story of a young boy who boards a mysterious train bound for the North Pole.

***"The Littlest Elf," by Brandi Dougherty:** Part of a series, this story focuses on a tiny elf named Oliver and a series of misadventures as he navigates his way through Santa's workshop.

***"Olive, the Other Reindeer," by Vivian Walsh:** Olive is no ordinary reindeer. In fact, Olive is a dog who heads to the North Pole believing she is a reindeer. Her decision to join Santa's team ultimately benefits the big man and his trusty reindeer.

***"The Miracle of the First Poinsettia: A Mexican Christmas Story," by Joanne Oppenheim:** A little girl named Juanita is the star of this retelling of a traditional Mexican tale with a valuable lesson.

***"Gingerbread Mouse: A Christmas Holiday Book for Kids," by Katy Bratton:** A fallen tree branch almost ruins Christmas for Mouse, whose determination and resourcefulness mixed in with a little Christmas magic ensures she finds a place to call home in time for the holidays.

***"A Night in Santa's Great Big Bag," by Kristin Kladstrup:** Santa saves the day in this tale starring a young boy's favourite stuffed animal, whose excitement for Christmas compels him to climb into Santa's big bag of presents on Christmas Eve.

***"Twas the Night Before Christmas:** Edited by Santa Claus for the Benefit of Children of the 21st Century," by Clement C. Moore: Parents

will appreciate this updated version of the popular tale that, among other things, has removed the reference to Santa smoking.

***"How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" by Dr. Seuss:** Children can join generations of fans that came before them as they hear the redemption story of the Grinch who was once determined to ruin Christmas for the happy people of Who-ville.

***"The Nutcracker," by the New York City Ballet:** The classic story is retold based on famed choreographer George Balanchine's production.

The holiday season is steeped in tradition. Reading new and classic holiday stories to children is one tradition any family can embrace.

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Season's Greetings 2023



How to involve kids with holiday baking

THE HOLIDAY SEASON is steeped in tradition. Many holiday traditions are centred around food, with much of the focus on all of the decadent treats and desserts taking centre stage at many family gatherings.

Many parents hope to involve their children in as many family holiday traditions as they can. Holiday baking is one kid-friendly tradition, and parents can make it even more so by taking a few simple steps before they get started.

Purchase kid-friendly baking equipment
Bakers rely on lots of tools to make cookies, cakes and other delicacies. That equipment is even available in kids' sizes. Kids may be more excited about baking if they have their own equipment, and such gear also can make it easier for them to lend a hand. A spatula made for youngsters can make it easier for kids to move cookies from a baking sheet to a platter, while colourful measuring cups and their own whisk can excite youngsters about baking.

Plan ahead
Seasoned bakers know that it's imperative to have the right supplies, including ingredients, on hand before beginning a baking session. That's even more necessary when baking with kids, who might not be as patient as moms and dads hope if a baking session has to be paused to run to the store for a missing ingredient or to dig out some tools from the back of

the pantry. Plan ahead by setting everything out and assembling all the necessary ingredients the night before you plan to bake.

Delegate wisely
Young kids may want to do everything mom and dad do, but baking is a delicate science that requires careful attention to detail and a strict adherence to recipes. So it's important that parents delegate wisely when involving children in holiday baking. Whisking, stirring and topping off cookies with frosting and sprinkles are fun, kid-friendly tasks.

Add some fun foods to the menu
If you plan to bake holiday cookies, purchase kid-friendly holiday cookie cutters before your baking session so youngsters have as much fun as possible. Kids may have more fun if they get to make Santa Claus, Frosty or Rudolph cookies.

Make a mess
Don't be afraid to get a little messy when baking with children. Moms and dads may love a clean kitchen, but kids tend to have more fun in the kitchen when things get a little messy. Douse each other with a little flour and make a joke of things if some ingredients find their way onto the counter or the floor instead of into your mixing bowl.

Parents can make the holiday baking that much more fun by letting their kids pitch in this year.



CALEDON SENIORS CENTRE

Health & Wellness 55+

The Caledon Seniors Centre is wishing Caledon a safe and happy holiday season.

The seniors centre would like to thank its volunteers that make the centre and its satellite locations special places for seniors to enjoy fun, fitness and fellowship. The centre also wants to extend a thank you to businesses that support the operation of the centre. A special thanks goes out to the Town of Caledon, Region of Peel, New Horizons and the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

The Caledon Seniors Centre is wishing everyone a happy, healthy and peaceful 2024.

The centre has some special events upcoming, such as a Christmas Luncheon on December 14. It is also hosting Saturday Night Socials every Saturday from 6 to 10 p.m. with games, refreshments, music and dancing.

On December 20, there will be a special luncheon with Sylvia Jones to announce funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

For more information on these and all Caledon Seniors Centre events, visit www.caledonseniors.ca

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Season's Greetings 2023

Tips and tricks for cutting out cookies

Baking is a holiday tradition in many households. The aroma of freshly baked cakes, pies and cookies wafts through the air of many homes this time of year, and that makes the holiday season even more special.

Cut cookies are some of the most popular cookies to make during the holiday season. Some families may have their share of favourite cookie-cutter shapes and dough recipes. Certain techniques can make holiday baking sessions easier and ensure consistent results.

❖ Work on a lightly floured, cool surface, such as a cutting board or stone countertop. Never work on a warm surface, which can cause dough to spread and stick.

❖ Roll out the dough between two sheets of baking or parchment paper. Betty Crocker recommends a thickness of about 1/8 inch unless noted in the recipe. This prevents the dough from sticking, and parchment enables you to easily transfer rolled-out dough to a refrigerator or elsewhere.

❖ When rolling out dough, portion it out into a few smaller amounts to roll out more easily. This will also help it to chill more readily.

❖ Cookies cut most easily when the dough is chilled. Refrigerate the dough for as long as possible, ideally an hour or more — even overnight. The more chilled, the firmer the dough will be.



❖ Rubber rolling pin rings that slip onto each side of the rolling pin can help ensure that the dough is being rolled out to a uniform thickness.

❖ Dip cookie cutters into flour with each cut. Work from the centre and move out to the edges when cutting out your designs. Try to maximize space and avoid scraps and re-rolling.

❖ Some expert bakers say that metal cookie cutters cut cleaner than plastic ones. Whichever cutter you use, cut the cookie by pressing it straight down; try not to twist or jiggle the cookie cutter when using it. Doughs with a high butter content can help, as the extra grease helps separate the dough from the cutters.

❖ If cut cookies have gotten warmer, place them in the freezer for a few minutes to firm up again and then cook. This will guarantee the cookies will not spread or distort while baking.

Extra steps may seem like they will take a lot of time. However, the extra effort and attention to detail will help produce cookies that win rave reviews.



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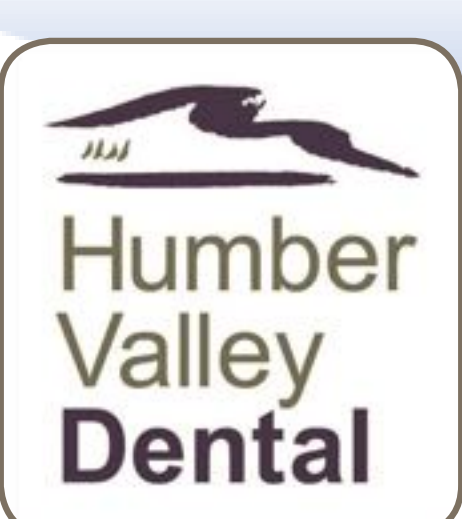
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Greetings of Hope this Holiday Season...

ON NOVEMBER 26, 2023, Feed Ontario released the “Hunger Report 2023: Why Ontarians can’t get ahead.” And on December 6, 2023, Caroline Stewart, CEO of Feed Ontario will be in Caledon to present the report at Caledon Community Services (CCS) Exchange in Bolton.

Similar trends in the report are being felt in Caledon and Michelle Veinot, Director of Community Resources says, “CCS has seen an increase of almost 30% of individuals and families utilizing our food bank. This is the highest ever number of new individuals accessing basic needs supports in our history.” And that history of serving Caledon spans more than half a century.

By now you’re probably wondering what’s HOPE got to do with it?

Hope stems from you – our remarkable Caledon community that never fails to step up for neighbours in need and so we choose to go into this season on a hopeful note.

We do understand the immense challenges and upheaval around the globe and closer to home we see

how real the struggle for so many every day, yet it’s one of the special times of year where goodwill can lift spirits if we let it in.

We are grateful for your support that provided the opportunity to build our community up because we know we couldn’t do it without you.

Last year your support helped connect the community by providing independence for seniors with over 20,000 life-changing rides provided by our Accessible and Community Transportation to medical appointments, shopping, day programs and events.

Over 565 times in one year we brought specialist care to Caledon, meaning residents did not have to leave our community for the care they needed.

548 people received help from CCS for their employment needs and 45 businesses received support. And, we are immensely grateful to you for the over 7,000 hours you chose to spend your time volunteering with CCS to make someone’s life better. Lots of fun was had in getting behind causes when together we participated in Coldest Night of the Year which happens every February and Velocity, a

bike ride supporting Caledon Seniors that takes place annually in June.

Last year alone with the help of so many individuals, families, groups, and businesses the amount of food, personal care, and household items distributed topped 160,000 lbs.

CCS has seen an increase of almost 30% of individuals and families utilizing our food bank.

These impacts and more are all included in CCS’ 2022/2023 Community Impact Report available on our website and you can follow along as we celebrate your caring and generosity on social media at both @Caledon Community Services and @The Exchange.

It’s through your actions that you prove in Caledon that HOPE is for everyone.

It is the “Season of Hope” after all and we are proud to share the passion and commitment with so many of you who strive to ensure Caledon is a very special and caring community to live in that we can ‘all’ love to call home.

As a sign of the season, we are very thankful for everyone who turned up to walk with CCS in this year’s Santa Claus Parade at this festive time of year. Those smiling faces inspire hope.

A recent survey by BMO reported that although 78 percent of Canadians plan to cut back on holiday spending, one-third will still give back to charitable causes to help those a greater need.

We invite you to join us in making this Season of Hope truly special.

Together, we can ensure that no neighbour goes hungry and that the spirit of giving shines bright in our community.

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Happy Holidays

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Season's Greetings 2023

HomeJames Caledon

celebrates its 16th year of operation with 15 nights of service this holiday season

[Caledon, ON] – HomeJames-Caledon, a dedicated community program committed to saving lives by offering a free designated driver service for impaired drivers in their vehicles, is excited to announce its 16th year of service during the upcoming holiday season. With 15 nights of operation, Home-James-Caledon aims to ensure the safety of our neighbors, friends, and family on the roads.

The holiday season operations will commence on November 17th, 2023. HomeJames-Caledon has been at the forefront of providing a responsible and essential service to the community and the 16th year promises to be another milestone in its mission to prevent accidents caused by impaired driving.

Key highlights of HomeJames-Caledon's 16th-year operations include:

1. Volunteer Opportunities: HomeJames-Caledon continually seeks dedicated volunteers to support this invaluable program. By becoming a volunteer, you can contribute to the safety and well-being of your community. Join us in our mission to save lives.



2. Enhanced Technology: HomeJames-Caledon's operations are supported by an innovative, user-friendly computerized volunteer registration & dispatching system supported by its own downloadable app.

3. Improved Rider Request Options: Home-James-Caledon accepts ride requests through telephone, website and smartphone applications to provide even better service. This expanded "request a ride" method offers greater convenience for those needing a safe ride home. For those interested in volunteering or Donating for/ to HomeJames-Caledon, registration can be completed online at HomeJames-Caledon's website or by calling 905-951-9000.

HomeJames-Caledon is a shining example of a community program that relies on the support and dedication of its volunteers to make a meaningful impact on the safety of our roads. We encourage everyone to join us in ensuring that our neighbors, friends, and family have a safe and joyful holiday season.

About HomeJames-Caledon: HomeJames-Caledon is a dedicated community program with a mission to save lives by providing a free designated driver service for impaired drivers in their own vehicles. Celebrating its 16th year of operation, Home-James-Caledon continues to grow and improve, with a focus on increased volunteer participation and advanced technology. For more information, please visit

www.homejames-caledon.ca
or call 905-951-9000.



HOMEJAMES-CALEDON ready to train new volunteers

A variety of roles are available for those looking to contribute to road safety in Caledon

Written by ZACHARY ROMAN

Caledon residents wanting to help make Town roads safer might consider volunteering with HomeJames-Caledon.

The local non-profit ensures people who have been drinking can get a free, safe ride home over the holidays in their own vehicle.

HomeJames-Caledon will be running in Town for the 16th time this year. It runs on December 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23, 29, 30 and 31.


Tom Publicover is a volunteer with HomeJames-Caledon and said right now is the perfect time to train new volunteers. He said the second week of December is usually when things get quite busy with calls for service, as holiday parties begin.

"That's when we need the most amount of volunteers," he said. Publicover said these days, HomeJames-Caledon volunteers often find themselves picking people up from house parties and functions rather than bars.

HomeJames-Caledon's website is www.homejames-caledon.ca and its phone number is 905-951-9000. Anyone interested in volunteering for Home-James-Caledon can visit that website or call that number.

Not every volunteer has to drive for HomeJames-Caledon, as there's help needed with dispatch, sponsorship, and marketing too.

"Depending on who (a volunteer) is and what interests them, we try to line them up with something that makes it enjoyable for them," said Publicover.



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Season's Greetings 2023

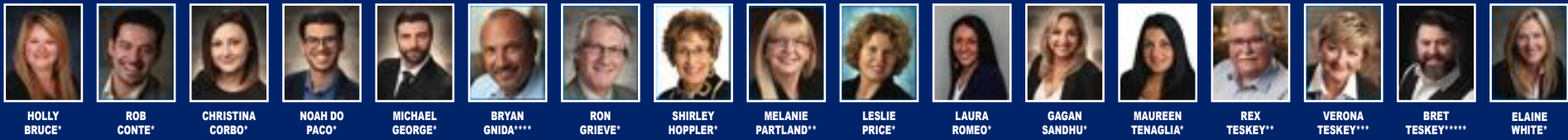


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Christmas stocking decorating tips and tricks

Hanging Christmas stockings is just one of the many traditions that fill the days leading up to Christmas. One theory regarding the origins of stockings says the tradition began when a poor widower who had three daughters worried about having enough money for their wedding dowries to help secure the daughters' futures. The women, who had hung their stockings by the fireplace to dry, woke up to find solid gold spheres inside. This legend suggests kindly St. Nicholas visited the home at night and left the presents, helping to ensure the daughters could marry well, after all.

Christmas stockings were the first places where gifts were stowed before the boughs of Christmas trees became the primary spot for placing gifts. Then stockings were secondary vessels reserved for small trinkets. Today stockings are largely Christmas decorations rather than places to place gifts. Still, they're a key component of holiday magic.

When including stockings in holiday festivities, follow these tips for whimsy and more.

Utilize stocking holders. Stocking holders are either metal or wooden devices that are placed on mantels. Hooks on the holders suspend the stockings. Just be sure the holders are sturdy enough to handle the weight of a stuffed stocking if you plan on filling it with goodies.

Determine your style. There are Christmas stockings that coordinate with just about any interior design style. From farmhouse to modern to traditional, choose one that fits with your aesthetic. That isn't to say you can't mix and match stockings if you prefer a more eclectic, homespun feel.

Enhance your stocking look. If stockings are strictly decorative, enhance their look with a few tricks. First, use tissue paper or balled-up shopping bags to stuff the stockings and give them shape. Fill a small baggie with sand or florist glass and place it in the heel of the stocking to balance it out and prevent the stocking from blowing around in the breeze.

No fireplace: no problem. Stockings are traditionally hung from the fireplace mantel, but if you don't have a fireplace there is no need to fret. Simply use ribbons to hang them from the bannister of a staircase, or hang stockings right on walls with removable hooks, or from sturdy shelves. You also can think creatively and hang larger stockings on a door like you might a wreath.





It's unlikely that anyone aspires to be a last-minute holiday shopper.

Putting off holiday shopping until the last minute can make for a stressful home stretch to the season, and there's no guarantee store shelves won't already be picked clean or that gifts purchased online will arrive on time.

Despite how unappealing last-minute shopping can be, it's still a fact of life for millions of holiday shoppers. As the clock winds down this holiday season, shoppers can look to these ideas for inspiration.

GIFT CARDS: Gift cards may never earn a distinction as the most sentimental item to give a loved one during the holiday season, but they are surprisingly sought-after. In fact, a survey from the National Retail Federation found that 54 percent of participants identified gift cards as the most-wanted gift of the 2022 holiday season. Chain retailers, small businesses and restaurants are among the many establishments that sell gift cards, so shoppers are bound to find a card to please anyone on their shopping list.

FOOD/BEVERAGE: The holiday season is a popular time to indulge in some great food and wash it down with a favourite wine or another adult beverage. That

makes food and beverages a great holiday gift. Shoppers can take a loved one out to a favourite restaurant, prepare a homemade treat or purchase a favourite dish from a local specialty grocery store or eatery. Pair the food with an appropriate beverage and this accessible last-minute gift idea is sure to be a hit.

TICKETS: Tickets to a movie, sporting event, live theatre performance, or concert is another gift idea that likely won't be gobbled up by early bird shoppers. People of all ages enjoy experiences, and a 2022 survey from the travel booking platform GetYourGuide found that 50 percent of survey respondents indicated they would enjoy tickets to a concert or show.

BOOKS: Books make an ideal holiday gift for everyone from young kids to grandparents. Traditional print books are small enough that they can likely arrive on time even if they're purchased just a few days before Christmas. E-book sellers enable gift givers to pick the perfect time to notify loved ones they have received an electronic book. Audiobooks, which can be downloaded to a smartphone or given as a CD, make an ideal gift for loved ones who spend a lot of time behind the wheel.



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Season's Greetings 2023



Eggnog

(George Washington's original interpretation)

Ingredients:

- 1 quart cream
- 1 quart milk
- 1 dozen tablespoons sugar
- 1 pint brandy
- 1/2 pint rye whiskey
- 1/2 pint Jamaican rum
- 1/4 pint sherry
- Eggs (Washington forgot to include the number of eggs, so home chefs can improvise or use six, which seems to be the standard in traditional recipes)

Directions:

Mix liquor first, then separate yolks and whites of eggs, add sugar to beaten yolks, mix well. Add milk and cream, slowly beating. Beat whites of eggs until stiff and fold slowly into mixture. Let sit in a cool place for several days. Taste frequently.

Tip: Today's recipe makers may want to set the eggnog in the refrigerator as the "cool place" of choice.



Tasty tidbits about eggnog

Eggnog is a rich and delicious beverage that has become synonymous with the most festive time of year.

This milk- and egg-based concoction is tasty on its own, or it can be dressed up with other flavours and spiked with a favourite spirit when celebrating the holiday season with other adult partygoers.

December is National Eggnog Month, and December 24 is National Eggnog Day. There is no more perfect time of year to learn everything you can about eggnog — all the while sipping a cup of this creamy concoction. Indulge in these festive facts about the beverage, courtesy of Mental Floss, The Fact Site and Tastemade.

Eggnog likely originated in the medieval period and was known as "posset," a hot, milk-based drink made of spices and wine. Even though posset could be a cocktail, it also was used as a remedy for colds and flu for its soothing properties.

Milk, eggs and sherry used in the early recipes were difficult to come by, so when eggnog first appeared it was a drink only the wealthy could enjoy. That changed when eggnog was popularized in the American colonies, where dairy products and liquor were more readily available.

Entomologists believe "eggnog" stems from the word "noggin," which refers to small wooden mugs often used to serve strong ale, known by the slang word "nog."

In the Medieval period, it was risky to drink milk straight because it wasn't pasteurized. Eggnog contained alcohol so that it would kill off any harmful bacteria in the milk.

A typical homemade version of eggnog has roughly one egg per serving. However, commercial eggnog is regulated by the FDA and can only contain 1 percent of the product's final weight in egg yolk solids. That stems from fear of raw egg and salmonella.

President George Washington apparently enjoyed serving eggnog at Christmas and even had his own special recipe (see above left), according to the Old Farmer's Almanac.

There is no right or wrong alcohol to use when preparing eggnog. Distilled spirits like rum, sherry, cognac, and whiskey all have produced suitable egg-nogs.

Puerto Rican coquito is a traditional drink that is very similar to eggnog.

Individuals concerned about eggs or milk in eggnog can enjoy a vegan recipe made from nut milk instead. Commercially produced vegan eggnog offerings are now more widely available.

One of the more notable flavours in eggnog comes from the use of nutmeg. Nutmeg is a fragrant spice made from grinding the seed of the nutmeg tree.

Now that you've learned about eggnog, whip up a batch of George Washington's original recipe this holiday season.

Ginger Molasses Orange Cookies

BY: CHEF BLAIR FONTANA, SOUTHBROOK RETIREMENT RESIDENCE

Ingredients:

- 1 - 1/2 cups unsalted butter, softened to room temperature (not melted*)
- 1 cup granulated (white) sugar
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/2 cup unsulphured molasses
- 2 eggs
- 4 - 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 4 tsp baking soda*
- 1 tbsp ground ginger
- 2 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1 tsp ground cloves
- 1 tsp salt
- Grated zest of one orange (about 1 Tbsp.)

Directions:

1. In a medium bowl, whisk together flour, soda, cinnamon, cloves, ginger and salt. Set aside.
2. Using a separate mixing bowl, either with a stand mixer or a hand mixer, cream together the softened butter and sugars on medium-high speed until the mixture is light and fluffy and a pale yellow colour, about 2 minutes, scraping down the sides occasionally as needed. Mix in the eggs (one at a time) and molasses, and orange zest beat on medium-low speed until each is combined. Gradually add in the dry ingredient mixture and beat until it is evenly incorporated.

3. Transfer the dough to an airtight container and refrigerate for at least 2 hours, or until the dough is completely chilled.

4. Preheat oven to 350°F. Line a sheet pan with parchment paper; set aside.

5. Roll the dough into small balls, about 1-inch in diameter. Fill a separate small bowl with sugar, and roll each ball in the sugar until it is completely coated. Place dough balls on the prepared baking sheet.

6. Bake for about 8-10 minutes, until the cookies begin to slightly crack on top. (They will crack more while cooling.) Remove from the oven and let cool for 4-5 minutes. Then transfer the cookies to wire racks to cool completely.

7. Serve warm and enjoy, or store in a sealed container for up to 4 days. Or freeze for up to 3 months.



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Merry Christmas

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Did you know?

Christmas trees date back to celebrations of the winter solstice. The trees made them think of the spring to come.

In many scandinavian countries, the christmas season starts on December 13 with this celebration filled with candles. It is called St. Lucy's Day.

Tinsel was invented in 1610 in Germany and was once made of real silver. Many people put tinsel on Christmas trees as extra decoration.

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to Christmas.

T F E V I E S

Answers: Festive

L H L Y O

Answers: Holly

H R T W A E

Answers: Wreath

How to make Christmas Eve special for Kids

Christmas Eve is viewed differently by different people, even those who live under the same Santa-ready roof.



Adults may see Christmas Eve as crunch time when they must prepare food for the next day or set up presents for their children to open in the morning. Children, on the other hand, are focused on Santa's visit and little else.

Parents naturally want to make Christmastime as special as possible for their children, and that may involve ensuring that Christmas Eve is just as memorable as Christmas Day. The following are some ways to impart more magic into Christmas Eve celebrations.

ATTEND MASS AT MIDNIGHT
Practicing Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ on Christmas. On Christmas Eve, churches often hold celebrations that may include late-evening or midnight masses that celebrate the birth of Christ when the calendar switches over to December 25. While it does make for a late night, it can be thought-provoking for kids and a unique experience unlike any other.

BAKE FRESH COOKIES
Children like to leave out a plate of cookies and a glass of milk for Santa. That makes Christmas Eve a perfect time to whip up a fresh batch of cookies.

Explore different recipes to come up with a unique offering each year.

READ A CHRISTMAS STORY
Watching television or looking at a tablet or mobile phone before bed can be too stimulating when it's time for children to wind down for bed. Choose a holiday tale or tales that can be read as a Christmas Eve bedtime story. Reciting the poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas ("Twas the Night Before Christmas)" is a great way to set the Christmas Eve mood.

MAKE A BATCH OF 'REINDEER DUST'
Why should Santa's reindeer be left out when it comes to receiving treats? Reindeer dust, made from a combination of oatmeal, rice cereal, dried fruits, and glitter (if desired), is purported to attract Santa's reindeer and provide them with a nibble at the same time. Plus, it's generally safe for other animals in the yard to eat.

GO CAROLING
Caroling may not be the norm, but some families may want to revive it. Close-knit communities can organize family-centric caroling opportunities and roam the cul-de-sacs and other pedestrian-friendly areas singing popular songs.

Christmas Eve is a great time to embrace various traditions that help to make the season even more special.





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Season's Greetings 2023



Carrot Cookies With Orange Glaze

BY: SUE MCKEARNY

- Ingredients:**
- 1 cup shortening
 - 2 eggs
 - 2 cups all-purpose flour
 - 1/2 tsp salt
 - 3/4 cup sugar
 - 1 cup shredded carrots
 - 2 tsp baking powder

Directions:

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. In a bowl, cream shortening and sugar. Add eggs; mix well. Stir in carrots. Combine the flour, baking powder and salt; gradually add to carrot mixture. Drop by rounded teaspoonfuls 2 inches apart onto ungreased baking sheets. Bake until light browned, 8-10 minutes. Remove to wire racks to cool.

ORANGE GLAZE

- Ingredients:**
- 1 1/2 cups icing sugar
 - 1 tbsp grated orange rind
 - 3 tbsp orange juice

Directions:

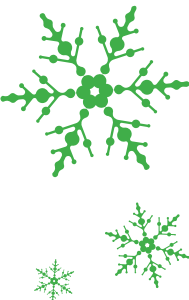
Combine powdered sugar, orange zest and orange juice together. Stir until smooth.

Dipped the top of cooled cookies into the glaze or apply with a pastry brush. Place cookies on baking rack until glaze has set.

No Bake Mud Cookies

BY: NEITHA MYRA

- Ingredients:**
- 1/2 cup butter
 - 2 cups white sugar
 - 1/2 cup milk
 - 1/2 cup cocoa
 - 1 tsp vanilla
 - 1/4 tsp salt
 - 2 1/2 cups oatmeal
 - 3/4 cup flaked coconut



Directions:

Bring butter, sugar and milk to a boil.

Simmer for 3 minutes. Remove from heat and add cocoa. Stir vigorously. Add remaining ingredients.

Cool for 2 minutes.

Drop by spoonfuls onto wax paper. Let harden. After completely cooled, store in an air-tight container in the fridge.



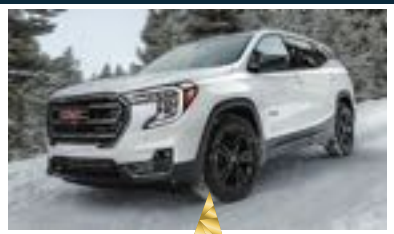
Whipped Shortbread Cookies

BY: JACKIE ANDERSON

- Ingredients:**
- 1 cup soft margarine
 - 1/2 cup icing sugar
 - 1/4 cup cornstarch
 - 1 1/2 cups flour

Directions:

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Combine ingredients with mixer on low speed until blended. Turn on high until the mixture resembles whipped cream. Dust hands with cornstarch and form the dough into balls about 2 teaspoons to 1 tablespoon in size and put onto a baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Press down the top of each cookie with a fork or cookie press. (You can top it with a few candy sprinkles if you like.) Bake until lightly browned, 14-16 minutes. Allow to cool on a wire rack.



From our Family to Yours
Wishing you a Safe and
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Be a Santa to a Senior

Brings joy to older adults across GTA

As the festivities of the holiday season begin, Home Instead encourages York and Peel Region area residents to participate in the Be a Santa to a Senior program and share the joy by giving a gift to older adults in the community who may not have anyone to celebrate with.

“The holidays can be hard for many older adults, especially those who may not have a companion to share them with,” said Greg Bechard, owner of the New-market Home Instead office. “Through Be a Santa to a Senior, we can help these seniors experience the happiness and togetherness the season can bring.”



This year program coordinators hope to collect gifts for dozens of area adults.

To participate, shoppers can look for the Be a Santa to a Senior tree display at a number of locations. Ornaments featuring the name and desired gift of an older adult will be on display, and shoppers can buy the requested gift and return it in a gift bag to the location with the ornament attached. Ornaments will be available through Friday, December 15.

The gifts will be delivered to local older adults in time for the holidays.

“Gifts aside, the true value comes in the connection Be a Santa to a Senior makes between the community and our older neighbors,” said Bechard.

Be a Santa to a Senior is a true community program. The Home Instead office has partnered with local businesses, non-profit organizations, volunteers, and members of the community to help with gift collection and distribution.



As a franchise network, Home Instead is celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Be a Santa to a Senior program.

Over that time, Be a Santa to a Senior has engaged more than 65,000 volunteers, provided more than 2.2 million gifts, and shared the holiday spirit with about 800,000 older adults across North America.

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GREAT GIFTS FOR AVID SNOWBIRDS

EVERY WINTER, MILLIONS OF PEOPLE — largely seniors and retirees — pack their bags, load up their RVs or book their flights with warm destinations in mind. Soon after they start sharing photos of themselves sipping tropical drinks on sandy shores while the rest of their family members are likely shivering in icy drifts back home.

This seasonal migration has become the norm for a distinct demographic who prefer to ride out the winter in locales that are free from snow, ice and frigid temperatures. The term “snowbird” was first used in the 1920s to describe seasonal workers who moved south for the winter months, and in 1979 it was used in reference to tourists who headed south each winter. According to Vacations Made Easy, around 10 percent of the snowbirds who head to the southern United States each winter are Canadian. Florida is one of the most popular destinations for snowbirds.

A significant percentage of snowbirds eventually will make their southern residences permanent. In the

meantime, shoppers who want to give a fitting gift for the snowbirds who are still traveling each year can consider the following ideas this holiday season.

GOLF COURSE GUIDE: Retirees often spend time out on the golf course. Offer a guide to various courses in southern states, and they can plan their trips by making road trips as they visit each course.

GPS DEVICE: While many snowbirds have cars already equipped with built-in navigation, those driving older vehicles may benefit from a GPS device they can mount to the dashboard, which will provide directions if they have to divert from their normal routes or when they want to go off the beaten path on their way to sunny skies.

DECORATIVE STATIONERY: Make it easy for snowbirds to communicate with friends and family back home in a traditional way. Decorative note cards,

post cards or other stationery can be a nice gift, and these notes can serve as mementos for recipients, particularly grandchildren.

CUSTOMIZED T-SHIRTS: Have T-shirts monogrammed or customized with messages that play to snowbirds’ love of travel and/or sense of humor.

BEACH ESSENTIALS: Put together a gift that makes spending time on the beach more enjoyable. A beach caddy stocked with sunscreen, towels, an umbrella, and flip flops will give beachgoers a head start on gathering seaside essentials.

FOOD AND WINE CARRIER: Keeping items cool is critical in hot climates. A well-insulated food and beverage carrier can make picnics or snacks by the shore comfortable and safe.

LOUNGES: Whether you offer a zero-gravity lounge

to set up on the lenai or a floating beach lounge for relaxing in the waves, a gift that brings relaxation to the next level will be appreciated.

Snowbirds travel many miles to reach warm destinations and ride out winter in comfort. Gifts geared around this annual tradition are guaranteed to make snowbirds smile.



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