

Merry Christmas!

from

Kyle Seeback, M.P. Dufferin-Caledon



A Message from Kyle:

❄️ 'Tis the season ❄️
Dufferin-Caledon!

The Christmas season has arrived
Dufferin-Caledon!

It's my favourite time of the year because of the joy and positivity Christmas brings. It also brings a renewed sense of peace and hope, as we see the community come together to support one another. Much of that is due to the exceptional community groups and charities we have right here in Dufferin-Caledon. They dedicate themselves to ensuring critically important programs and services are delivered, not just during the Christmas season, but throughout the entire year.

If you have the means, I encourage you to support any of our local community groups or charities in Dufferin-Caledon to help them spread the magic of the season.

I also wish you and your loved ones
a very Merry Christmas and a
Happy and healthy 2024!

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



Kyle Seeback, M.P. Dufferin-Caledon
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**SOME OF THE AMAZING
CHARITIES & COMMUNITY GROUPS IN
DUFFERIN-CALEDON**

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

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

Shepherd's Cupboard Food Bank

Orangeville Food Bank

Family Transition Place

Caledon Animal Shelter

Headwaters Health Care Foundation

Hospice Dufferin

Bethell Hospice

Caledon Meals on Wheels

Choices Youth Shelter

Community Living Dufferin

Ontario SPCA Orangeville & District Animal Centre



Christmas in the Park



Be sure to check out Christmas in the Park with your loved ones during the holidays. The Orangeville Optimist Club has been bringing this free event to our community for over 30 years. You don't want to miss the spectacular lights, illuminated characters, and music. It's a fun event for the whole family to enjoy, running now until December 31st. For more details, please see below:

December 1 – 31, 2023

5:30 pm - 10:00 pm

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Caledon's Regional Councillors happy to see Peel remain whole

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

More voices have joined the chorus of support for the Region of Peel remaining whole.

On December 13, Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Paul Calandra announced the Province had reversed its decision to dissolve the Region of Peel.

and later pronounced as deceased.

“Heart Lake Road between Old School Road and Mayfield Road was closed for several hours while the OPP Technical Collision Investigators and Reconstructionists [assisted] with the investigation.”

Anyone who may have witnessed the collision or has dashcam footage is asked to contact Caledon OPP at 905-584-2241 or 1-888-310-1122.

If you are affected by this incident or witnessed the collision and wish to speak to victim services, Caledon/Dufferin Victim Services can be reached at 905-951-3838.

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Caledon Seniors Centre celebrates receipt of OTF grants at Christmas luncheon

Dufferin-Caledon
MPP Sylvia Jones and
Mayor Annette Groves
among those in
attendance

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

It's a merry Christmas for Caledon seniors. The Caledon Seniors Centre (CSC) recently celebrated the receipt of two Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) grants at its December 20 Christmas luncheon.

The first grant the CSC received was in the amount of \$148,000 and it funded the purchase and installation of a state-of-the-art audio/visual/lighting system in the CSC.

The second grant received by the CSC was in the amount of \$50,600 and will be used to install a canopy in the outdoor courtyard at the CSC, to make the space more usable in all weather situations.

Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones attended the luncheon and said the new audiovisual system in the CSC's multipurpose rooms, as well as the outdoor canopy, will lead to more seniors enjoying the excellent programming offered by the CSC.

"I've had the honour of being able to come here for many years as part of your Christmas lunch," said Jones. "You have such a strong, vibrant community here... it speaks to the hearts and souls of the people who make this facility work and run successfully."

CSC Manager Beverly Nurden said the grants



Ontario Minister of Seniors and Accessibility Raymond Cho, Deputy Premier and Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones, MP Kyle Seeback, and Caledon Mayor Annette Groves, and several Council members were among the dignitaries that attended the Caledon Seniors Centre's Christmas luncheon.

PHOTO BY ZACHARY ROMAN

allowed for the purchase of much-needed equipment that will optimize participatory opportunities for seniors.

"The high-performance audiovisual and lighting system ensures a more enjoyable, energizing and cognitive experience when participating in large groups or small gatherings — members will have greater interactive opportunities without a doubt," said Nurden. "The new outdoor program space enhancement... will increase our program-mable space and shield the seniors from sunlight and inclement weather."

The audiovisual system is also set up to easily be able to stream what's happening at the CSC online to Zoom, so seniors can access programs — like an exercise class, for example — from the comfort of their own home if they are unable to make it to the CSC.

"We're very grateful that we have the system... it's wonderful," said Nurden, adding the canopy in the CSC courtyard will be installed in the spring.

Caledon Mayor Annette Groves spoke at the luncheon and said she loves the CSC, adding that whenever she's there, she always sees people smiling. Groves said the audiovisual system is providing a meaningful return on investment to the Caledon community.

"A wide variety of programming is offered at this facility that connects seniors to learning, the community, and each other. Caledon's growing senior population will greatly benefit from this

enhancement," said Groves.

She said it was so great to see so many people out socializing at the luncheon, recalling the pandemic when isolation was causing many seniors, and people in general, to suffer.

Groves said the CSC is a great example of partnership in the community and thanked everyone who volunteers and works at the CSC for their dedication to making the community a better place.

Auditor General's report on aggregate finds "limited enforcement" of industry transgressions

Caledon group supports call for moratorium on new aggregate extraction operations

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

A Caledon group is calling on the Province to stop approval of any new aggregate extraction operations.

On December 18, the Forks of the Credit Preservation Group (FCPG) joined the Reform Gravel Mining Coalition (RGMC) in calling on the Ontario government to introduce "an immediate moratorium on new aggregate approvals, in order to implement the recommendations presented by the Auditor General in the Value-for-Money Audit of the Management of Aggregate Resources."

A report on this audit was published by the Office of the Auditor General of Ontario on December 6 and presented a variety of findings about the level of inspection and enforcement going on at aggregate operations across Ontario.

The audit said there is an inadequate number of inspections of aggregate pits and quarries being done by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, and a shortage of experienced inspectors in Ontario.

As of May 2023, there were only 34 designated inspectors.

This contributes to aggregate pits and quarries not adhering to extraction limits and other requirements, such as rehabilitation requirements, the report reads.

The audit found only 35 per cent of aggregate sites it reviewed had been inspected in the past five years.

"Despite high rates of non-compliance, in-

spectors rarely referred cases for enforcement. From 2018 to 2022, only 36 to 52 per cent of sites inspected each year were compliant," reads the report. "In the same five years, inspectors referred only 26 cases, less than one per cent of the over 3,400 violations identified during this time, for enforcement."

The audit also found cases where operators had exceeded their extraction limits — in three cases by over 1,000 per cent — and were still not investigated or charged.

In a media release, acting Auditor General Nick Stavropoulos said regular inspections and enforcement of pits and quarries are required to minimize impacts on communities and the environment.

"Limited inspection and enforcement, and the lack of experienced inspectors, means that the Province is not doing enough to maintain a balance between the need for aggregates for Ontario's growing population, and the need to minimize the impacts of aggregate operations on the environment and communities," said Stavropoulos.

In its own media release, the RGMC said the management of aggregate resources in Ontario is in crisis.

"The province is failing to protect the public from the negative impacts of gravel mining," reads the release. "The Ontario government must pull the emergency brake and halt new approvals until it can guarantee public safety by enforcing the Auditor General's common-sense proposals."

David Donnelly is an environmental lawyer working for the FCPG and RGMC. He said the aggregate industry has long claimed to be well-regulated, and that the recent audit proves this isn't true.

The FCPG wants the Town of Caledon and Region of Peel to join it and the RGMC in saying no to new aggregate operations.

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!
For all your pastoral services:
647-891-9400 • caledoncoc@gmail.com
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. 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!

Caledon East United Church is starting out the new year with our first **FREE** community breakfast. Pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausages, fruit, refreshments. The breakfast begins at 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. All welcome!

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Mayfield Secondary School students win in 2023 Canadian Music Class Challenge

“Magnetics” win Category 7 of challenge with performance of “I See You”

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

A recent “Magnetics” performance stuck with Canadian Music Class Challenge judges.

Magnetics is the performing name of a dedicated group of Mayfield Secondary School students in a music class taught by Jennifer Moon. They recently won Category 7 — Senior Vocal, grades 11 to 12 — of the CBC’s 2023 Canadian Music Class Challenge.

For the win, Mayfield Secondary School will get \$3,000 in new musical instruments and a plaque.

The Magnetics won with their performance of the song “I See You” by Tyler Shaw.

Hussein Jammohamed, a music educator and judge for the 2023 Canadian Music Class Challenge, reviewed the Magnetics’ performance.

“Congratulations to everyone involved for such a joyous performance. From the moment the music started, I was hooked,” said Jammohamed. “I loved how solo and group voices were woven together. Your voices aligned together as one, expressing pure emotion and heart. I wanted to put your recording on repeat because it just made me smile, and we need more of that in the world.”

Moon explained her music class meets every day for the entire school year and focuses on advanced repertoire in the realm of jazz studies. The class also often works on pop



Mayfield Secondary School students recently won in a country-wide music challenge.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

and contemporary crossover pieces.

This year, the Magnetics consist of 18 singers, a rhythm section, and a sound person.

Moon said she chose Shaw’s “I See You” for her class to perform for the challenge this year as it has great messages in its lyrics.

“Kids have different journeys and different things they are dealing with... lyrically, the song hit home with me with the idea of ‘don’t isolate yourself, be there for each other’,” said Moon. “I wanted kids to really connect with that message because I think in COVID, they were so isolated and got away

from leaning on others... being around people and having people to lean on will always pull you through.”

A former student of Moon, Matthew Oliveira, arranged the Magnetics’ performance. The performance was recorded live off the floor onto a soundboard in Moon’s classroom, and videotaped using 12 different cell phones. The performance can now be viewed on YouTube.

The Magnetics won’t be sitting on their laurels, as they have an exciting year of study and performance ahead. The Ontario Vocal Festival is going to be held at Mayfield

Secondary School in March, and the Magnetics are going to participate in it and help run it. The group also has some gigs with the Peel District School Board coming soon, as well as their spring music night.

Moon said she tries to give her students as much real-world experience as she can, so they can learn skills that will help them whether they choose music as a career or not. Students will be helping market the upcoming vocal festival, designing tickets, helping with setup and takedown, managing the stage, and more.

“It’s a real hands-on course,” said Moon.

Fortinos opens latest franchise in Bolton, grand opening held December 10



Fortinos Marketing Director Beverly Wright and Bolton Fortinos store owner Berkan Yaghiyurt at the store’s December 10 grand opening.

PHOTO BY ZACHARY ROMAN

CALEDON CITIZEN STAFF

There’s a new grocery store in Bolton.

On Highway 50, in what was formerly a Zehrs, Fortinos opened its latest store on December 10.

Beverly Wright, Fortinos’ Marketing Director, said she and store owner Berkan Yaghiyurt were very excited to be able to open the store before Christmastime.

“It was a hard push to get to this point but it’s very exciting, all of the trades worked very hard to make this happen — it’s a 60,000 square foot store,” said Wright.

She said Fortinos is excited about the Pane Fresco sections of its store, where it sells all kinds of hot and fresh foods. There’s a carvery with roasts, ribs and porchetta, soups and sandwiches, fresh-baked breads, Roman pizzas, a Café, fresh sushi station, and much more. It also has a 100-person seating area with free WiFi.

“We can do everything from individual meals to large catering orders,” said Wright. “The Pane Fresco area is very exciting.”

The Bolton Fortinos has fresh deli, seafood, and meat, over 500 types of cheese, a bakery, bulk foods, all kinds of produce and much more.

The store has an in-house florist and a certified holistic nutritionist, some of the about 300 people working at the Bolton Fortinos.

Wright said Yaghiyurt is looking forward to

meeting the community and supporting local events, schools, and organizations like Caledon Community Services, which runs Caledon’s food bank The Exchange.

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DRIVER CHARGED
FOLLOWING FATAL
COLLISION

Officers from the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have charged a driver involved in the July 7 fatal collision on Old Church Road.

“On July 7, 2023, just before 4:00 p.m., Caledon OPP and emergency crews responded to a two-vehicle collision on Old Church Road and Humber Station Road in the Town of Caledon,” say Police. “Four occupants were transported to hospital. A 74-year-old from Toronto was later pronounced deceased.

“Old Church Road between Highway 50 and The Gore Road, as well as Humber Station Road between Mill Lane and Castlederg Sideroad were closed for several hours while the OPP Technical Collision Investigators and Reconstructionists assisted with the investigation.”

As a result of the investigation, a 27-year-old male of Brampton was charged with:

- Fail to yield to traffic on through highway.

The accused is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Caledon East on January 31, 2024, to answer to the charge.



The charge has not been proven.

If you are affected by this incident or witnessed the collision and wish to speak to victim services, Caledon/Dufferin Victim Services can be reached at 905-951-3838.

SERIOUS COLLISION

Officers from the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are currently investigating a serious collision on Highway 10.

“On December 15, 2023, just after 6:00 a.m., Caledon OPP and emergency crews responded to a two-vehicle collision on Highway 10, at Old School Road,” say Police. “A commercial vehicle and a passenger vehicle were involved. The driver of the passenger vehicle sustained serious and life-threatening injuries and was transported to a Toronto-area trauma centre.

“Highway 10 in both directions between Mayfield Road and King Street was closed for several hours while the OPP Technical Collision Investigators and Reconstructionists assisted with the investigation. The investigation is ongoing. Anyone who may have witnessed the collision or has dashcam footage is asked to contact Caledon OPP at 905-584-2241 or 1-888-310-1122.”

If you are affected by this incident or witnessed the collision and wish to speak to vic-

tim services, Caledon/Dufferin Victim Services can be reached at 905-951-3838.

STOLEN VEHICLE
INVESTIGATION

Members of the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have laid charges in connection to a stolen vehicle investigation.

“On December 15, 2023, Caledon OPP responded to a stolen 2024 Chevrolet Corvette being GPS tracked to a residence on McLaughlin Road in the Town of Caledon,” say Police. “The Caledon Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU) executed a search warrant at the residence and recovered the Chevrolet Corvette and a suspected re-vinned 2019 GMC Sierra. As a result, two parties were arrested and the estimated value of property recovered was \$180,000.”

Ravinder Singh, 22, and Harbhinder Singh, 22, both of Caledon, were charged with:

- Possession of Property Obtained by Crime over \$5000

Both accused are scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on January 11, 2023, to answer to the charges.

The charges have not been proven.

If you suspect illegal activity in your neighbourhood, call 1-888-310-1122. You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at www.peelcrimestoppers.ca.



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MISCHIEF INVESTIGATION

Officers from the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are currently investigating a mischief incident at a local business and are requesting the public’s assistance to identify three suspects.

“On December 6, 2023, Caledon OPP responded to a mischief incident on Highway 9, near Kennedy Road,” say Police. “The preliminary investigation found that on December 5, 2023, just after 11:00 p.m., three suspects entered the parking lot of a local business and shot at 11 parked vehicles prior fleeing in a dark grey sedan.

Suspect descriptors:

- Shooter 1: male of unknown age/race, wearing a color-block sweater with a white upper and dark blue lower, blue jeans, and a dark toque;
- Shooter 2: male of unknown age/race, wearing a black hoodie or jacket with grey pants;
- Shooter 3: male of unknown age/race, wearing a black hoodie or jacket with a large diamond-shaped design on the back, and black pants.

The investigation is ongoing by the Caledon Major Crime Unit. Anyone with any information, including dashcam footage of the area at the time, should contact the Caledon OPP at 905-584-2241 or toll-free at 1-888-310-1122. You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at www.peelcrimestoppers.ca. When you contact Crime Stoppers, you stay anonymous, and you never have to testify.





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IMPAIRED CHARGES

Officers from the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have charged a driver reported as suspicious with impaired operation.

“On December 9, 2023, just before 8:00 p.m., a concerned citizen reported a suspicious vehicle in a restaurant parking lot in Bolton,” say Police. “Caledon OPP responded and located the driver. During the investigation, grounds were formed that the driver’s ability to operate a motor vehicle was impaired by alcohol.”

Ramandeep Malhi, 24, of Brampton, was charged with:

- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus);
- Operation while impaired – alcohol.

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 28, 2023, to answer to the charges.

The charges have not been proven.

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

The Citizen **CROSSWORD**

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CLUES ACROSS
1. Droops
5. Subatomic particle
10. Not in danger
14. Nursemaid
15. Black band worn in mourning
16. Long song in opera
17. Edible seed of a Philippine tree
18. Chicago political family
19. Pursues pleasure from one place to another
20. Appetizer
22. Hill (Celtic)
23. Simple shoe
24. Songs to one you love
27. Secret activities
30. Upset
31. Popular hot drink
32. Body art (slang)
35. Fired
37. Blood relation
38. Identical
39. Porticos
40. Partner to cheese
41. Type of sword
42. Enough (archaic)
43. Surface layer of ground
44. Cotton fabric woven like satin
45. Choose for a post
46. Father
47. Tell on
48. Indian title of respect
49. Fonts
52. Fencing sword
55. Mock
56. Vaccine developer
60. Atmosphere surrounding a person or place
61. Marten with a short tail
63. Chinese temple
64. Invests in little enterprises
65. Popular cut of meat
66. Charity
67. Iron-containing compound
68. River in Northern Europe
69. One point east of southeast

CLUES DOWN
1. Exhausts
2. Genus of fish related to gars
3. Impudent behavior
4. Adherents to Islam
5. They come after A
6. Spoke
7. Room to receive guests
8. About opera
9. End-blown flute
10. Heroic tales
11. Member of a Semitic people
12. Dog’s name
13. Opposite of west
21. Political divisions in ancient Greece
23. Ocean
25. Cool!
26. Young woman about to enter society
27. One from central Caucasus
28. Indian city
29. A way to serve ice cream
32. Emaciation
33. Escort aircraft
carrier
34. Italian city
36. Mythical settler of Kansas
37. Unhappy
38. High schoolers’ test
40. Measured in pace
41. Satisfies
43. Gullible person
44. Enclosed space
46. Substance used to color something
47. Shirt type
49. Discover by investigation
50. —Castell, makers of pens
51. Semitic Sun god
52. Grads wear one
53. French river
54. Part of a cap
57. Digestive fluid
58. Metrical foot
59. Body part
61. Very fast airplane
62. Supplement with difficulty

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

A holiday message from Headwaters President & CEO Kim Delahunt



As we approach the end of another year, I find myself reflecting on the remarkable journey we have shared. On behalf of Headwaters Health Care Centre, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to our devoted healthcare teams and our partners whose tireless dedication has ensured the delivery of exceptional care to those in need.

To our volunteers, community partners and donors, your unwavering support has been instrumental in our ability to enhance and expand our services. Your generosity has not only allowed us to meet the immediate needs of our patients but also empowers us to invest in cutting-edge technologies that will benefit our patients for years to come. Our Foundation's Smart Headwaters campaign is making great progress!

This year, thanks to your dona-

tions, we celebrated several milestones, including the introduction of new pharmacy equipment, the launch of an ED wait time clock both online and within our hospital, and the unveiling of the 'first in Canada' General Electric HealthCare Revolution Ascend CT scanner, among other vital medical equipment. Excitingly, an MRI is on the horizon for next year!

Beyond equipment upgrades, our commitment to providing an optimal healing environment has led to building renovations and improved signage. Your input, essential in shaping our services, has resulted in the completion of our Clinical Priorities Plan, a vital clinical program roadmap for the next five years. We will launch our revised strategic plan in 2024, also being developed collaboratively with the insights

from a diverse group of over 2,000 contributors. We are also developing a new Master Program and Master Plan that will support us with our future growth. This year we proudly opened our patient experience office to provide more ways for you to share your thoughts and to help us continually improve. Your feedback is invaluable.

Thank you for being an integral part of Headwaters Health Care Centre. I eagerly anticipate another year of collaboration, growth, and shared success.

As we embrace the holiday season, may joy, warmth, and moments of reflection on the strength of our community fill your hearts.

Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful holiday season and a happy, healthy New Year.

**SERVING THE PEOPLE OF CALEDON
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**Wishing you all a very
Merry Christmas!!**

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- CONN SMYTHE
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- ROBYN KEMP

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

Caledon East Community Complex
Banquet Hall



To buy tickets contact events@caledon.ca or visit Caledon.ca/CSHOF



Regional Councillors Christina Early and Mario Russo have welcomed the Province's decision to cancel Peel's dissolution.
PHOTOS BY ZACHARY ROMAN

Statements issued by Town and Regional Chair in support of Province cancelling dissolution

Continued from FRONT

“The economic effect would have been devastating for Caledon and its residents, especially given the short timeline,” said Early.

Caledon, Brampton and Mississauga were set to be independent by January 1, 2025, thanks to the Hazel McCallion Act.

New legislation coming in 2024 means this will no longer be the case.

“Trying to disassemble a 50-year-old region in one year, basically... I think it could have had disastrous effects,” said Early.

Caledon’s Regional Councillor for Wards 4, 5 and 6, Mario Russo, also said he’s happy to hear the Region of Peel will be remaining whole.

He said it was good the Province listened to municipalities that were advocating for the benefits of the regional governance model.

The transition board appointed to deal with Peel’s dissolution has now been mandated to find efficiencies in the way the Region of Peel operates.

Early said she’s looking forward to working with her Council colleagues from all three Peel municipalities to meet this goal.

Russo said it’s a bit of a silver lining that Peel municipalities have been brought to the table to look for new ways they can

best serve their residents.

“We should continue those dialogues and see where we can find better service models going forward,” he said. “There’s a lot of opportunity for us to make sure Caledon is best served.”

On December 13, the Town of Caledon issued a media release about the Region of Peel remaining whole.

In it, Caledon’s CAO Nathan Hyde said he takes pride in collective efforts made in recent months.

“Our dedicated staff demonstrated their expertise and fostered meaningful collaboration with our peers at the Region,” said Hyde.

Groves told the Citizen last week she applauds the Province’s decision to keep the Region of Peel whole. In the December 13 media release, she thanked the Province for rethinking dissolution.

Region of Peel Chair Nando Iannicca issued a statement on December 13 addressing the cancellation of regional dissolution.

“We welcome the news that Peel will continue, and look forward to understanding the new scope of the transition board and working diligently with them and other experts to identify efficiencies that generate value for taxpayer dollars,” said Iannicca. “I am thankful that the Premier and Minister recognized that Peel works well and we have work to do going forward.”

Ferguson

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Terra Cotta residents gathered on December 10 to protest illegal development at 301 King Street.

PHOTO BY ZACHARY ROMAN

Terra Cotta residents protest illegal development on Greenbelt land

Fish habitat, downstream communities threatened by work done at 301 King Street, say residents

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Residents of Terra Cotta recently protested outside of a property where they say illegal development has been occurring.

On December 10, concerned Terra Cotta residents gathered with protest signs out front of 301 King Street.

The property, which is on the Credit River flood plain and in the Greenbelt, has had 50 to 60 truckloads of fill brought into it, according to eyewitnesses.

A large gravel parking lot, a raised stone and gravel platform, and wooden structures have been built on the property since its current owner bought it in 2020, said Jim Thomas, a Terra Cotta resident who helped plan the protest.

The property owner, Hargobind Pura Inc., is a company with an address in Alliston that was incorporated in 2011. Contact information for anyone with the company was not able to be found before publication.

Due to the property’s location on a flood plain and in the Greenbelt, Terra Cotta residents say the development actions taken on it are illegal and will lead to environmental disaster.

Residents are concerned that those down-

stream of the property will see increased impacts from the spring ice break up; and that the illegal fill on the property will damage fish habitat.

Credit Valley Conservation issued a violation notice to the owners of 301 King Street on October 27. The notice said the property owner was “developing or allowing development to occur within a regulated area without the written permission of CVC contrary to Ontario Regulation 160/06.”

According to residents, orders to cease further damage to the property and restore the property

by December 10, 2023 were issued to the property owner by the Town of Caledon.

The Town of Caledon confirmed that “an order was issued to the address” but would not provide further details about the order.

Thomas said Terra Cotta residents would like to see the Town of Caledon restore the property itself and charge the property owner for the work, since the restoration order deadline was not met. In general, residents want to see violations and orders against the property enforced as soon as possible.

“There’s a normal way of doing business and there’s a ‘what happens if there’s an emergency?’ way of doing business. Every company is prepared for the exceptional circumstance (and) this is an exceptional circumstance,” said Thomas. “We’d better get going really quick on this before all this damage occurs.”

Thomas said preservation of natural habitats is a collective responsibility and Terra Cotta residents want to make sure their home remains a sanctuary for the environment.



CHIEF RETIRES - On December 13, the Town of Caledon held a retirement ceremony for outgoing Fire Chief Dave Forfar, a celebration of his 39 years of experience. “Thanks, Chief, for your dedication to keeping Caledon safe,” said the Town. “We hope you enjoy your well-earned retirement!”

TOWN OF CALEDON IMAGE

Town of Caledon Holiday Closures

Town of Caledon wishes everyone a happy and safe holiday season. Town offices and non-emergency services including Provincial Offences Courts, in Orangeville and Caledon East, will be closed from Monday, December 25, 2023 to Monday, January 1, 2024, inclusive, and will re-open for business Tuesday, January 2, 2024.

CALEDON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Caledon Public Library will be closed December 24, 25, 26, 31 and open with regular hours December 27-30. Libraries are closed January 1, 2024 and open January 2, 2024.

CALEDON RECREATION FACILITIES

Caledon Recreation Facilities will be closed December 24 (after 12 p.m.), 25, 26, 31 (after 12 p.m.) and January 1 and open with regular hours December 27-30. Recreation facilities will be open December 31 until 12 p.m. and closed January 1, 2024 and open January 2, 2024.

ANIMAL SERVICES

Animal Services will be closed December 25, 26 and January 1 and open regular hours December 27-30.

AFTER-HOURS EMERGENCIES

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

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

For power outages or to report downed wires, call Hydro One at 1-800-434-1235. To view the status of power outages, view their outage map.

The non-emergency number for the Caledon Ontario Provincial Police is 1-888-310-1122. If the emergency is life-threatening, call 9-1-1.

WASTE AND RECYCLING

Please refer to Region of Peel website for collection information: [peelregion.ca/waste](https://www.peelregion.ca/waste)



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BROCK WEIR
BROCK'S BANTER

Making the most out of a challenging time of year

At the risk of sounding like Ebenezer Scrooge, he of oft-told A Christmas Carol fame, when I try to visualize what the Ghost of Christmas Past might want to show me if I needed a good, swift kick in the pants, I like to think most of it would be a pleasant experience – regardless of the reason for the needed kick in the first place.

Over the course of my life thus far, I have been very blessed to receive wonderful, thoughtful gifts; some years more extravagant than others and that is something I look back on with gratitude and love.

There have been years where resources have been leaner than others, yet around this time of year we've been lucky enough to always have a nice meal on the table on the big day, with plenty of leftovers to sustain us through Boxing Week.

I don't recall there ever being trips to exotic locales to celebrate Christmas week; but plenty of chances to enjoy the fun the Canadian winters have to offer. A green Christmas has always been anathema to this Canuck – although, with Climate Change coming faster and more furious every year, that's going to be something the Ghost of Christmases Yet to Come and I will have to work through together – so that has always been a good thing to me.

Don't get me wrong, not all of my Christmas experiences have been fantastic.

My parents having split when I wasn't quite through half of my first decade, the holiday season for me was always spread over an extra day or two, leaving that much of a wider berth for things to go sideways.

When I was in my teens and my paternal grandmother's dementia reached a new level, at the last minute our plans were thrown for a loop when, sadly, she was unable to leave the house despite the best efforts of my grandfather, who was then her primary caregiver.

A year or two later, my maternal grandmother, who had lived for the better part of a decade with diabetes, went into shock at the Christmas dinner table, resulting in a call to first responders and an evening for all of us in hospital.

Those are holidays I would prefer the Ghost of Christmas Past to leave off the itinerary but, at the same time, they are all part of the yuletide tapestry.

That first instance brought some emotional extremes, for sure, from the anticipation of the excitement that was coming to the sudden turn that brought devastation – but, you know what? My overriding memory of that experience was our family pivoting pretty deftly to pack up the dinner, freshly finished, in just about every plastic container we had and bringing Christmas to my grandfather who tried so valiantly to get there. It was all hands-on-deck and, once we unpacked it, dinner might have tasted just a little bit sweeter.

In the second instance, as traumatic as the experience was, I prefer to – and often – remember individuals going the extra mile to put a temporary pin in the festivities so they could be picked up relatively smoothly after the emergency was well and truly in the rear-view mirror.

Not all of these memories are of celebra-

tions turning into calamities and back again, some are just plain silly fun over things that have gone awry.

My maternal grandmother, for all of her many culinary attributes, could never quite master the art of making Yorkshire Pudding. It was always a disappointment to her they never rose to the occasion and ultimately turned out to be, as she described them, more akin to “hockey pucks,” but they still tasted great and the memories are even more delicious.

In another instance, when I was quite young, my mom suddenly had one last gift to get for me – a tin sign that has personal significance to me and my family. It wasn't on the original Christmas list, mind you, but a last-minute plot twist when it happened to arrive at a store in the middle of a snowstorm... and in the middle of making mashed potatoes for the next day's dinner.

As much as I love the sign, and still have it, memories of the harrowing trek in near-zero visibility any and the surprise when we arrived back home to discover the boiled-and-drained-and-to-that-point-still-unmashed potatoes had turned a very unappetizing dark grey are the gifts that keep on giving.

As does the memory of one Christmas much more recent when our artificial tree, which comes in three sections, decided to give up the proverbial ghost on the afternoon of Christmas Eve – the middle section bit the dust leaving the top and bottom twinkling on their own. This minor disaster necessitated a 90-minute wintery excursion to the one Home Depot store in the GTA that had what was needed to restore the glow to my tree's waistline.

Did it put a damper on the festivities? No. The laughs far outweighed the trouble.

But not everyone is in the same boat – or should it be the same sleigh at this time of year?

The Christmas and Holiday Season are supposed to be times of joy and togetherness, but it is not the same for everybody.

As we all know, this season can be one of stress, struggle and loneliness for many, whether it is the first without a loved one, yet another where it is a season of want, or a time where bad memories can sometimes crowd out the good ones.

Yet, each season I am heartened by how many community members step up to the plate to make things just a little bit easier – and warmer – for those who are not faring as well at this time of year.

Whether you made a donation to a toy drive or a food bank, a lift to a senior looking to do a little shopping, wrapping gifts for people who couldn't, have plans to visit others who might not have families of their own, or will be volunteering at a dinner for community members who might otherwise not be able to have one, thank you from all of us.

If this Christmas is an especially difficult one, I hope moments of warmth and light come to the surface, whether readily or where you least expect 'em, and are able to make the most of it.

I wish you all a safe, happy and healthy holiday season – and see you in 2024!



Writing our own stories while we still have time

by Mark Pavilons



Time is a luxury that many of our fellow human beings just don't have.

For the rest of us, we've abused it, squandered it, and mocked it.

But you can't cheat it, just as you can't cheat death.

As technology improves at an exponential rate, I imagine we will one day have wearable, watch-like health monitors. These gizmos will keep constant track of our total health, the parts that are wearing down, and an estimated “time and day of death.”

While this may sound like material for a good science fiction story, it may become reality in the not-too-distant future.

And what if it does? What if science comes up with a monitor that basically predicts our future?

There are already certain DNA tests that indicate what disease you're prone to, and which may, in fact, kill you.

So, my faithful readers, what to do with the time we have left? What would we do differently, if we knew exactly when and where God calls us home?

We tend to think of ourselves as biggies, the top of the food chain, the master of our own domain and the like. In reality, we are mere footnotes in the big picture. I think we should be lucky, and blessed, to be a paragraph, page or heck, even a chapter, in someone's diary.

I want to be one of those pages with the bent corner, to remind you to revisit it. You can put the book away, even for years at a time, but when you take it off the shelf, you will find that exact page and remember me.

In our family, my wife and I are the two main characters, the heroes of the story. Can there be two beloved leading characters?

Shakespeare always had protagonists and antagonists and he believed that life is one big stage, and we are merely actors.

Are we acting out our own tragedies and comedies, for all to see?

It's funny when we look back on our lives – or perhaps not so funny at all. I often don't see the humour in my past indiscretions or bad decisions. Some still haunt me today.

When we were young, we truly thought we were brilliant playwrights, creating our own stories and taking charge of our lives, chapter and verse.

Still today, many think they are strong, independent thinkers who can set the world on fire with their brilliance, compassion and talent.

I do encourage my offspring to take the bull by the horns, but that same bull has been tamed, partially neutered by the system and realities of the world today.

My son constantly comes up with some great business ideas, only to be deflated by the reality of modern economics. To get a start-up business loan, you have to be in business already and proven some success. You have to get inspections, licences, approvals ...

He plans on making oodles of money, only to realize a good portion goes to income tax.

He wants to be the captain of his own ship, but the wheel is being controlled by various levels of government, red tape, rules, regulations.

He often asks whether this is the country our fore-

fathers envisioned when they set about creating the Charter and all things Canadian?

Not likely.

I doubt many of our ancestors, who witnessed the birth of democracy, ever envisioned the power of the big banks; the cost of housing; skyrocketing food costs and unaffordable dwellings.

Democracy, as it turns out, is great if you can afford it.

I also doubt that Henry Ford thought automobiles would be planet-destroying contrivances for the very rich.

All of these are sending our fellow citizens to food banks in record numbers.

Things are not cheery, even though we are in the merry season.

Many people I have spoken with have scaled things back a bit this year. Expensive gifts, lavish offerings, huge parties, may all be a thing of a past.

I have been on a bit of a self-absorbed minor spending bender. But they are only small items – collectibles under \$20 or so – that I find on eBay.

I have rekindled my joy of model airplanes and I love getting a new one, re-painting it, making it right. They are made to fit together nicely, unlike the rest of our lives. They give me sanity and offer distraction from the nagging demons in my mind.

They offer solace in a world gone mad.

My family members are less than impressed with my efforts. My wife threatens to eat one of my tiny planes, mimicking King Kong.

Our kids are adults now, all at various stages of development in their lives.

Try as we may, we often don't have all the answers. Sure, we can offer advice, based on our years of successes and failures. But we try not to dampen their spirits.

Admittedly, it's getting harder and more than often than not I am the devil's advocate.

I'm a realist who looks for practical solutions or approaches. There are no shortcuts, cheats or hacks any more in the world today.

But even working, being dedicated and loyal won't necessarily garner you any rewards.

As we've witnessed in many fields and industries, companies don't care about cutting their workforce and sending out pink slips. It's downright shameful for any company to let people go this time of year.

Average people cringe when they see government deficits in the billions, with little relief in sight. We shake our heads that our children may never afford a \$1-million-plus home.

I really don't mind keeping them around a bit longer, but at one point we will have to downsize.

Where does that leave us?

Even we Boomers don't have a lot to leave behind.

We enter the world all excited, wiggly and noisy. We live through the twilight years in roughly the same way.

In between, we're constricted by a system that has us hog-tied. We're consuming peasants, trudging along at the whim of the elite and ivory tower decision-makers.

No, my son, this isn't the Canada my parents envisioned. It's not the perfect one I hoped for, either.

I say let's dispense with the over-the-top gifts this year, and wrap up some good, old fashioned dreams for Christmas. Let's serve up some hope along with the cookies and pie. Let's join together in love and feeling blessed.

Maybe we can rewrite our characters, and the plot to our own unfolding stories.

I say flip that giant, Wicked Witch-sized hourglass over and start the new year fresh. Best of luck everyone!

Our Readers Write

Intersection is a thorn in reader's side

This is in response to part of Ms. Roman's (December 14) column regarding a safe way to cross the road.

The intersection referred to is at the corner by the seniors building I live in. I have been actively involved in discussions via e-mail, phone and in person first with our former Councillor, Ms. Early and since the election, with Mr. D. Sheen to which both responded immediately. This particular spot has been a thorn in our sides with drivers disregarding the stop sign. One night, we counted eight vehicles that did not stop at the sign within one hour. We have witnessed people crossing the road and drivers, apparently not seeing other vehicles stopped, just continued right through almost hitting pedestrians.

Finally an accident did happen and fortunately, did not involve anyone crossing the

road. Both our former and current Councillors went to bat for us. Larger stop signs were put in place, again to no avail, and pavement markings were greatly improved. Some drivers will never obey the rules of the road, others are too distracted while driving, and some are only concerned with speed and having the loudest cars. It all happens here.

I have witnessed drivers making right turns on a red light or at a stop sign, but not stopping first. Drivers who ignore stop signs. While travelling south on Kennedy, I was stopped at Dougall on a red light and a vehicle in the left lane made a left turn on that red light. Our speed limit from Mayfield north on Kennedy is 50 mph but some do 75 before they get to Abbotsford.

Continued on Page A15

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Peace on earth

Peace on Earth, Goodwill toward men.

It is the holiday season and everyone looks forward to seeing family and friends, and enjoying everything good about Christmas.

The means giving gifts, having big dinners, going to a few parties, and enjoying a lot of socializing.

The overall meaning of the season means it's time to put your grudges aside, bury the hatchet, enjoy yourself with your family, and help those less fortunate.

Unfortunately, the world does not always work that way.

There is no peace on earth, and in many places, there is no goodwill toward your fellow inhabitants of this planet.

There are wars waging at several hot spots around the planet.

The Russian people have apparently not yet been told, or realize how many of their sons have died in a useless and futile war, that may expand in the near future if the Russian government decides to act on some of its threats. And if it expands to certain countries, we will be obligated through NATO, to get involved.

We are currently complicit in that war, whether good or bad, or whether we like it or not, through monetary means and supplying arms.

There are innocent people being held hostage in the Middle East, some of them are very young children who must be confused and sacred to death, and some of whom have already been murdered, and for those still alive, you can bet that no amount of Christmas cheer is going to ease their situation.

At the same time, other innocent people who had nothing to do with any of the events that have happened over the past few months, are being terrorized by bombs and missiles that have destroyed their homes.

So, what happens at Christmas? Hallmark will make the same movie that it made last year, but change the character names and move it to a different town.

King Charles will make a televised Christmas speech, and the Pope will also make some kind of speech – the same one that's been made for the past half-century.

Linus will explain the true meaning of Christmas to Charlie Brown, and Ralphie will once

again receive his Red Ryder Range 200 Shot BB gun and shoot himself in the eye with a ricochet, while his father battles his arch enemy in the basement.

Little kids will track Santa Claus on his journey through the NORAD radar system on Christmas eve, but fall asleep before he makes it anywhere near North America.

Children will rise at the crack of dawn, and wake their parents to see if Santa did arrive, and did he eat the cookies they left out for him?

Many turkeys will be the centrepiece of dinner, to which many people will wear their special Christmas clothes – which cannot be worn on any other day of the year.

Many of us will be missing a person or persons at the dinner table this year, who are gone and will never again be part of the family Christmas festivities.

In 1997, Mr. Rogers, the kids show host who invited you to be his neighbour, received a lifetime achievement award during the Daytime Emmy Awards. He stunned the audience, and brought many to tears, when he asked them to take ten seconds, to think about a special person

who made a difference in their life. Mr. Rogers timed it on his wrist watch.

Maybe this Christmas, you could put aside a few moments to do the same, and think of a person, or persons who have made a big impact on your life.

Maybe during all these festive and traditional moments, you can also reflect on this holiday and why it happens, and remember it is the celebration of the birth of a child, who will grow up to be a man who became the most influential person in history.

We have a lot to be grateful for in this country. We don't have any enemies dropping bombs on our homes, and we have the freedom to do almost anything.

Christmas is a chance to celebrate more than just receiving gifts, and eating and drinking too much.

It's a chance to celebrate life, and revel in the miracle that we are all here.

Merry Christmas to all, and to all, a good night.



BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW

To Santa's "Elves" Everywhere

For many families, this time of year is special, whether it's because of a visit from the big guy in red or for more faith-based reasons. For some families it's both. That said, I'll be clear, this column is for those of you who celebrate Christmas in all its crass, commercial glory. More specifically, it is an ode to Santa's "elves." You know who you are – mothers. Yeah, I'm sure there are some great Dads, caregivers or grandparents out there, but on average, Christmas (and more specifically Santa himself) relies on "Team Mom" to make the real magic happen.

First, a shout out to Moms who wrestle. I'm not sure what the "it" toy of the season is this year but no doubt mothers do and they've already been camped outside of a Walmart or Toys R Us for days in anticipation of a "smash and grab" style assault to make sure they're one of the few who obtain said toy. I get it (and may, or may not, have done similarly.) While I obviously don't condone violence, with tongue firmly planted in cheek I'll say this: If you are one of those grown adults wrestling on the floor of your local store for the sake of your child and not for the sake of reselling the item on Facebook marketplace for 8x the regular price, I've got your back. If you're the other kind - there's a special place in "H.E. Double-Hockey Sticks" for you. Actually, now that I think about it, these days all you have to do is point and click on something, drag it into your online basket, pay and

the "it" toy of the year is delivered straight to your front door. You new age moms have it so easy!

This next special shout-out goes to all those moms who wake up from a dead sleep at 3 a.m. in a panic, because they realize they've forgotten to move an elf. Not just any old elf - "that" elf, the one with an affinity for shelves. Much like the commercial Santa we are most familiar with was the marketing genius of some male advertising executive at Coca-Cola, so too is the Elf on the Shelf the work of a man. Only a man could have come up with such a punitive way to keep kids quiet and mothers everywhere consumed by both existential guilt AND dread. I mean if you ask me, which you didn't, but here we are, that whole elf business, what with him watching over you all the time AND moving around the house in the middle of the night – it's just creepy! It would have scared the crap out of me when I was a kid. As for putting all that pressure on moms to remember to move him, it's just one more item on the long list of "to dos" at this time of year and places a ridiculously unfair burden on your already burdensome list. Oh yeah, and for all you "perfect" people out there posting your super creative, staged scenes of "cute" Elf mayhem...thanks for putting all that additional pressure on the rest of us regular moms who are lucky if we even remember to move the **** elf at all.

Not so much a shout out, but a commentary on

the one holiday item I think women might have had a hand in. It's a delightful ditty known as the Twelve Days 12 of Christmas. Surely this song is some kind of allegory for the commercialism and nonsense related to the countdown to Christmas that has mothers madly spinning like tops in order to top last year's gift-giving creativity.

Cranky old lady alert: When I was a kid you got a tiny, paper door to open, with a pretty picture behind it. In later years that picture was upgraded to a piece of chocolate that you and your siblings fought over whose turn it was to eat, because there certainly weren't custom-curated chocolate cartoon calendars on the fridge for every kid in the house! These days, the countdown isn't just 12, but a full 24 days of creativity is required where moms are expected to mark each day as unique - as if December 25th isn't enough. Hence the song, an allegory for moms everywhere pointlessly searching for something far more than mere swans-a-swimming because they are SO yesterday. I think the song represents the incessant search for that perfect gift (which, for the record, is never, ever going to be noisy birds whether they're calling, doves, hens or a bleeping partridge in a pear tree!) As for the pipers piping and lords-a-leaping, you can keep them. The last thing we need is more men, making more noise, and uselessly leaping about in tights while we women try to buy the turkey, donate a turkey to the food bank,

cook a turkey (plus all the trimmings) AND do it all while not losing our cool and calling our mother-in-law a turkey!

It's at about this time that some of my male readers might chime in with "yeah, but we put up the outside lights," and "baby it's cold outside." Here's the thing; first of all, I'm nobody's "baby" and if you had put the d**m lights up on that mild day in mid-November like we told you to, it wouldn't have been so cold out would it? By the way, who was the one who untangled and tested all the lights you just threw in the box when you took them down last year? That's right, chances are it was a woman and if you live in my house (and at least two of my immediate neighbours' homes) it WAS the women putting up the outside lights because YES, we really can do everything.

Ahhh, Christmas, just another day on the calendar where men do all the dreaming, are not held to unrealistic beauty standards and get to be "fat and jolly" in a red velvet tracksuit plus they get all the credit while the real Santa's elves – moms everywhere – do all the work!

Dear gentlemen readers, do yourselves a favour and buy your wife a day at the spa. Trust me, she deserves it.



SHERALYN ROMAN
TALK CALEDON

Should Canada adopt Argentina's chainsaw approach to government spending?

Last month, voters in Argentina elected as their new President a political outsider who promised to inflict painful shock therapy to the nation's stagnant economy and who carried a chainsaw to campaign rallies as a dramatic symbol of his plan to slash the size of government.

Javier Milei was supported by fed-up voters who were tired of decades of government mismanagement and economic interference that resulted in growing poverty, out-of-control debt, and sky-high inflation running at about 120 per cent.

Last week, on his very first day in office, the gruff, straight-shooting Milei made good on his promise to take a chainsaw to the government bureaucracy by cutting the number of government ministries in half, from 18 to 9.

As part of his "chainsaw plan" to shrink the size of government and reduce the country's suffocating bureaucracy, Milei also wants to make massive cuts to government spending during his first year in office that total about 15 per cent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), or tens of

billions of dollars.

Could the same scenario ever take place here in Canada one day?

A growing number of Canadians worry that our country is on a fast track to becoming Argentina of the North on account of our own mushrooming debt and gorilla-sized government bureaucracy that keeps getting larger.

But the key difference is that Argentina was left with little choice but to enact extreme measures. Canada, however, still has time to get our spending under control, bring down our debt, and reduce the size of our bloated bureaucracy.

During the past year I've advocated for the adoption of a new national Canadian Economic Charter of Rights and Responsibilities. One of the key principles in the economic charter is a gradual reduction of government spending amounting to 5 percent per year over a 10-year period.

Instead of Argentina's brutal chainsaw approach, the method spelled out in the economic charter would be measured and would cause the

least amount of disruption possible while still bringing down spending and reducing the size of our government.

The reduction would be achieved by imposing an immediate freeze on the hiring of any new government workers, as well as implementing a policy of not replacing employees who leave or retire.

But for this plan to work, we have to start downsizing now – not ten years from today.

The build-up of government bureaucracy is already clogging up the arteries of commerce and eroding Canadian living standards – and it will only grow worse in the years ahead.

The gradual reductions I've proposed to government spending over the period of a decade are doable, realistic and would cause minimal disruption.

But if we keep running deficits, racking up debt and expanding our government bureaucracy, we'll be left with no other choice than the same sort of desperate measures that Argentina is taking.

Argentina didn't become an economic basket case overnight – they got to this point after two

decades of disastrous economic policies and reckless government spending.

If we don't sort out our country's financial affairs now, then a few years down the road we'll be the ones taking a chainsaw to our overgrown bureaucracy – and it will be a lot messier and a lot more painful.

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 AN
ECONOMIC CHARTER OF RIGHTS

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Caledon woman completes Ecuador trek, raising money for Family Transition Place

Money raised also helps Royal Lepage Shelter Foundation

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

A Caledon woman recently completed an epic hike in Ecuador.

Trish Condo is a realtor with Royal Lepage, which runs the Royal Lepage Shelter Foundation.

Every two years, the foundation hosts a challenge hike for employees. They must raise at least \$6,000 and choose a local shelter to support — in Condo’s case, this was Family Transition Place in Orangeville — and cover their personal trek and travel costs to participate.

In November, 115 Royal Lepage employees took part in the “Ecuador Challenge for Shelter.” They flew to Ecuador and hiked for five days (camping for four nights) on their way to the base of Mt. Cotopaxi, one of the world’s highest active volcanoes.

In total, the employees raised \$1.7 million for the Royal Lepage Shelter Foundation, the



Local realtor Trish Condo participated in the 2023 Ecuador Challenge for Shelter.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

most ever raised by one of the treks. In addition to helping employees’ local shelters, funds also go to programs across Canada that teach youth how to build healthy relationships. Ad-

ditionally, a donation was made to the women’s shelter in Quito, Ecuador’s capital.

Condo explained she hosted a themed “Rock and Roll bingo” event which raised

\$4,000, and then completed the rest of her fundraising with donations from friends and family.

Condo said she loves hiking and she hiked a lot more than usual in the months leading up to the big trek to train.

“I’ve always loved nature,” said Condo. “If I could live in the woods by myself I wouldn’t have a problem.”

She said going on the treks is great because it feels amazing to raise money for a good cause while also seeing new things and having awesome life experiences. Condo has been on previous treks too, in places like Iceland and the Sahara Desert.

“Every day is different, and some days are very hard,” she said. “In Ecuador, we went as high as 13,000 feet.”

Condo recalled her trek in Iceland, crossing a treacherous bit of terrain called the “Cat’s Spine”.

“It felt like it was 100 metres long, and you can only put one foot in front of the other... there was a steep drop on each side,” she said.

Completing challenging hikes like this with colleagues is part of what makes going on the hikes so rewarding, said Condo.

Ontario to allow beer, wine sales at convenience stores by 2026

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

Many people in Ontario will be saying — “it’s about time.”

The Ontario government has announced that beginning no later than January 1, 2026, consumers will be able to buy beer, wine, cider, coolers, seltzers, and other low-alcohol ready-to-drink beverages at all participating convenience, grocery and big box stores across the province.

This new open marketplace will allow up to 8,500 locations where these products can be purchased.

This will be the largest expansion of consumer choice and convenience since the end of prohibition — almost 100 years ago.

Spirits like vodka, gin, and whisky will continue to be sold at the LCBO only.

“We made a promise to the people of Ontario to

deliver more choice and convenience,” said Ontario Premier Doug Ford. “Today, we’re delivering on that promise. There’s no reason why Ontario consumers shouldn’t enjoy the same convenient shopping experience as Canadians in every other province when buying some wine for their holiday party or a case of beer or seltzers on their way to the cottage.”

As a first step in the transition to a new retail marketplace, the government has informed Brewers Retail Inc. (The Beer Store) that the Master Framework Agreement, signed and extended for 10 years by the previous government in 2015, limited the number of retail stores that could be authorized to sell alcohol, will not be renewed after it expires on December 31, 2025.

The Beer Store and LCBO will continue their retail operations in Ontario’s new marketplace.

“The people of Ontario will soon have more choice and convenience on where they can buy alcohol,” said

Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance. “As we move towards implementing this expansion, our government will be taking a responsible, measured approach so we can ensure our transition to a new marketplace is smooth, safe, and stable.

The government’s balanced approach will include competitive pricing to promote competition and a better deal for consumers.

The province is removing restrictions and exclusivities on pack sizes.

The new program will help support local beverage producers with extended, dedicated shelf space requirements to give small producers a chance to compete.

The LCBO will continue to be the exclusive wholesaler for all retail locations, bars, and restaurants selling alcohol and will offer consumers an extensive array of choices, including domestic and imported products.

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All plans come with great standard specifications like 9’ ceilings, hardwood in the main living areas, large 18x18 tile in the kitchen, large ensuites with walk-in curbless showers among many other great features! Visit our model home (by appointment only) to see what makes a Thomasfield home so great!

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The Rotary Club of Orangeville Highlands presented the Dufferin Men's Shelter with a cheque for \$20,000 to help with their food security program. The funds were raised through the Club's Taste of Autumn Gala held on October 21. Rotary Club members Mari-Anne Tate, Cathy Campbell, Michelle Fisher, Len Meyer, Lori McHenry, and Anna Depalma, present the cheque to Jaime Edge, executive director of the Dufferin Men's Shelter on Monday, December 18. **PHOTO BY BRIAN LOCKHART**

Rotary Club of Orangeville Highlands donates \$20k to Men's Shelter

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Rotary Club of Orangeville Highlands donated \$20,000 to the Dufferin Men's Shelter in Orangeville from funds raised at the Club's annual Taste of Autumn event.

The event was held on October 21.

"We had our big fundraiser, the Taste of Autumn, in the fall, and we raised funds for different charities, and we're here today to present the portion that is going to the [Dufferin] Men's Shelter," explained Len Meyer, president of the Rotary Club of Orangeville Highlands. "The Taste of Autumn is a gala evening that our club hosts. It's a dinner with an auction, and people have the chance to donate."

This is the 29th year the Club has hosted the event. The Club raised the \$20,000 to support the Dufferin Men's Shelter Food Security program. This included selling pots of soup.

Len said the Club gets together to determine where the funds they raise will go when holding a large fundraiser.

"We try to go where the greatest need is," Len explained. "Our committee gets together and we see where there is a need in town. It's a new project, and you need those funds when you are trying something new."

"We usually have a major beneficiary and a couple of small beneficiaries," explained Rotary

Club member Michele Fisher. "We've been doing the gala for 29 years."

The funds will go a long way to help the shelter maintain its programs in Orangeville.

"The Men's Shelter is very new, it just recently opened," explained Jaime Edge, executive director of Choices Youth Shelter, which also runs the Dufferin Men's Shelter under the same umbrella. "Since then, we have been very busy. We average between ten and 15 men under our roof each night. The average stay can be anywhere from a couple of weeks to two or three months."

She added, "The men's shelter is very unique because Dufferin has never had a men's shelter. We have lots of services for youth and families, but there was a gap in the community that Choices thought they could fulfill."

There are many reasons why people come to the shelter. The Food Security Program ensures that residents receive nutritious meals while staying at the shelter.

"It's not just about putting a roof over their head or providing shelter and the basics; it's also about providing resources and connections, so we don't have people needing to come back to the shelter. We help with employment, and connections to mental health services, counsellors, and medical assistance if the need it. We want to make sure they are set up for success."



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Holiday Meal Bundle

9⁹⁹
Homestyle Mashed Potatoes 650 g

save \$2

24⁹⁹
Turkey Breast 875 g

save \$3

7⁹⁹
Turkey Gravy 300 mL

save \$1 **LIMITED TIME ONLY**

5⁹⁹
Muskoka Cranberry Fruit Spread 185 mL

save \$1

4⁹⁹
Pull-apart Potato Buns 6 BUNS 350 g

save \$1

8⁹⁹
Mussels in White Wine Sauce 907 g

save \$2

7⁹⁹
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6⁹⁹
Gourmet Stuffing 900 g

save \$2

9⁹⁹
Broccoli Gratin 500 g

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Meal Bundle for \$87⁹¹
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Holiday Starters

15 PIECES 279 g

Mini Franks in Pastry

12 PIECES 240 g

Beef Empanada Bites

16 PIECES 384 g

Mini Vegetable Spring Rolls

12 PIECES 340 g

Spanakopita

16 PIECES 340 g

Mini Quiche

8 PIECES 460 g

Pizza Rolls 2 Varieties

9⁹⁹ each

Sweet Holidays

700 g

Vanilla Raspberry Yule Log

LIMITED TIME ONLY

470 g

Extreme Caramel Cake

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ONE

Public Notice



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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PHOTO COURTESY OF CPL

Maw is retiring from her job at the library after more than 35 years

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Caledon Public Library is saying farewell to one of its longest-serving employees.

On December 18, a ceremony was held at the Albion Bolton branch of the Caledon Public Library (CPL) to celebrate the career of Mary Maw, who is retiring at the end of the month. The ceremony was attended by Maw's family and friends, CPL staff, Town of Caledon staff, community members, non-profit leaders, the CPL board, the Friends of the Caledon Public Library and more.

Maw is retiring as the CPL's Manager of Communications and Community Development, but started in 1979 as a student page. Over her career, she worked in the library's AV department, in circulation, children's services, and technical services, as a public service manager, Bolton branch manager, and in her current role.

Maw said she's fortunate to have been a part of a dynamic and esteemed organization like the CPL. She said she's also fortunate to have been able to work with so many people and organizations in the Caledon community.

"While I'm excited about the prospect of retirement and the opportunities it holds, I will undoubtedly miss the daily interactions and shared goals in my professional life," she remarked in a speech she gave at the December 18 ceremony. "My hope is to leave knowing that I left behind a strong foundation that will continue to serve the library and his customers effectively. Once again, thank you for the incredible journey

— I will forever hold the Caledon Public Library close to my heart.”

The CPL's CEO and Chief Librarian Colleen Lipp said Maw will be greatly missed by all she worked with. Lipp said Maw has contagious enthusiasm, amazing ideas, and is a true people person.

Lipp said there are so many CPL initiatives that couldn't have happened without Maw, such as Artful Caledon and Love Your Library Month. She said Maw was always ready to take on new challenges and excelled as her role shifted and changed over the years.

"I often say those who work in libraries do so not because they are passionate about books, but because they are passionate about people, and I think Mary exemplifies that statement," said Lipp. "She's also an incredibly skilled leader; she has built a strong and dedicated team, each just as passionate as she is."

Lipp said Maw is a leader, role model, and friend who taught CPL staff so much about community and the art of communication.

"The CPL is a better library because of you," said Lipp.

Tony Maxwell, Chair of the Caledon Public Library Board, said he and the rest of the board are wishing Maw a fulfilling and joyous retirement.

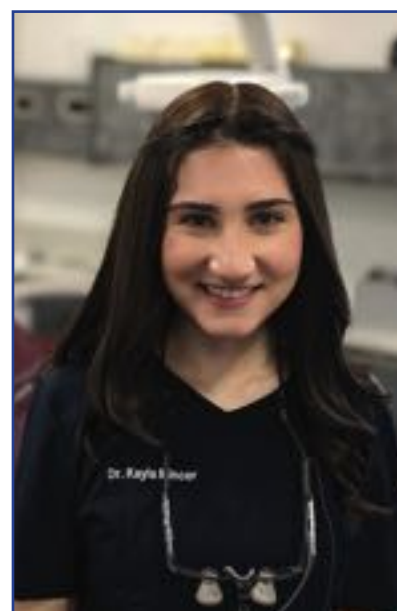
"I want to express our appreciation for Mary's commitment to excellence and her role in shaping CPL into the esteemed institution it is today," said Maxwell.

Maw said in retirement, she's looking forward to spending more time with family and friends, going on RV adventures, volunteering in the community, and hopefully marching in the parade when the Toronto Maple Leafs win the Stanley Cup.

"The very best part of working at CPL for all of these years has been working with the kindest, dedicated, most passionate colleagues who make a difference in our community every day," said Maw.

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.



Caledon author wins 2023 Canadian Book Club Award



Caledon author Lisa Oatway recently won a Canadian Book Club Award for her first children's novel. **FILE PHOTO**

Lisa Oatway's book won the Early Readers category

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

A Caledon woman recently won an award for her first children's novel. Lisa Oatway has won the 2023 Canadian Book Club Award in the category of Early Readers for her book "The Dinosaur Encounter: The Alberta Episode". The Dinosaur Encounter was Oatway's first book, and she has since written two more. Her books combine fantasy and Canadian history through the eyes of the Stonehart siblings, who can travel through time to help those in need. The Dinosaur Encounter is a story about facing one's fears and the amazing power of teamwork. It's also a story about the history of dinosaurs that used to live in what's now Alberta. Oatway's other books are "The Harbour Explosion" and "The Underground Railroad Twins", which are set in Nova Scotia and Ontario respectively. Oatway said she felt honoured to receive a Canadian Book Club Award as the whole premise of her series is to promote Canadian history. She got shortlisted for the award back in September, and found out just this month that she was a winner. In a media release, the Canadian Book Club Awards said its 2023 winners were selected by a dedicated, independent panel of readers. The Awards called Oatway's book "a thrilling adventure through prehistoric Alberta." The Canadian Book Club Awards were launched in 2019 and are dedicated to upholding the principles of inclusivity, accessibility and diversification within Canadian literature. This year, the most books ever were submitted for consideration of an award. Oatway said she was blown away when she found out she'd won. "For me, it was validation that I'm doing something right," said Oatway.

Our Readers Write

Continued from Page A9

While I personally was in the process of making a left turn onto Stowmarket after stopping, a car travelling south who had not been stopped and was not going to stop, forced me to step on the gas to get out of his way. Yes, I honked my horn hoping he would see the stop sign. Ignorance of and disobeying the rules of the road can lead to disaster. I have been assured that our Councilor and the Town are fully aware of our and other situations along Kennedy Road right from Mayfield to Old School Road and have done what they can to try and make improvements. I was informed that until construction behind our building is complete and the road is assumed, traffic lights will not be installed at our location. What else can be done to help us in the meantime? Maybe the red flashing lights on the stop signs as I have seen in other locations or a red light hung half-way across the road. In the meantime, those who need to cross at this intersection should be fully aware and constantly look around as they make their way to the other side in order to keep themselves safer. I would like to thank Ms. Early and Mr. Sheen for assisting as they have. They not only made the Town of Caledon aware of the situation, but have made themselves aware of the neighbourhood by driving through it, interacting with the residents, and doing what they can to assist us and for that, I am truly appreciative.

MARJORIE CULVER
SOUTHFIELDS

Winning the award has Oatway wanting to encourage potential authors to get involved with the writing world and start their projects. She said if someone has an inkling of an idea, they should sit down and write it. "Everyone has a story within them, so I encourage people to take it seriously," said Oatway. Oatway's books are available at Forster's Book Garden in Bolton and online.

Submit your

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Caledon Citizen
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Here's hoping your holiday is filled with plenty of rest, relaxation and a healthy dose of cheer. Thank you for your trust in us.

Happy Holidays!

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Public Notice

Environmental Assessment Study

NOTICE OF STUDY COMMENCEMENT

MASTER PLAN FOR THE GROUNDWATER-BASED SYSTEMS

Peel Region is initiating a Master Plan study for its Peel owns and operates four (4) groundwater-based drinking water systems that supply drinking water to several communities in the Town of Caledon.

The Master Plan Study will identify long-term drinking water servicing strategies and infrastructure needs to support projected growth and planned development in the serviced areas within the Town of Caledon, consistent with the 2051 Official Plan. The limits of the Project Study Area are illustrated in the adjacent figure.

Master Plan Study Process

The Master Plan Study will be carried out in accordance with Approach 1 for Master Plans of the 2023 Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Process, which is an approved process under the Environmental Assessment Act. Phases 1 and 2 of the Class EA process will be completed. The Master Plan will become the basis for future investigations and additional work for specific Schedule B and C projects.

How to Stay Involved

Peel Region wishes to ensure that anyone with an interest in the study has an opportunity to get involved. Opportunities to get involved and provide feedback will include Public Information Centres (PICs) and direct consultation. The PICs will be held at key points during the study to present the results of the activities completed to date, next steps in the study and to gather feedback. Notices for PICs will be published in local newspapers, on the Region's website and distributed to all individuals who express an interest in this project.

We are interested in hearing from you about this project. To be added to the mailing list or to receive further information about the study, please email GWMasterPlan@peelregion.ca or contact either of the project team members below:

Kamal Adhikary
Region of Peel
kamal.adhikary@peelregion.ca

Sandra Rodriguez
CIMA+
sandra.rodriguez@cima.ca

For more information on this study, please visit Peel's website at: peelregion.ca/public-works/environmental-assessments/caledon/master-plan-drinkingwater-system.asp or by scanning the QR code with your smartphone.

This notice was first issued on December 21, 2023

With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record of the study. The study is being conducted according to the requirements of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment, which is a planning process approved under Ontario's Environmental Assessment Act.



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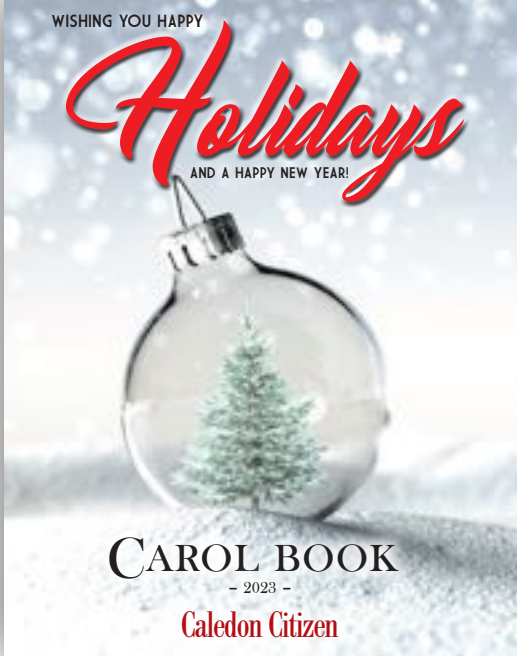

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Christmas Nite-Lights Patrol seeking singers for Christmas magic

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

If you can sing, you can be part of a magical Christmas event on Saturday, Dec. 23.

An area family with three young children has had a difficult time during the weeks leading up to the holiday season, including a few trips to SickKids Hospital in Toronto.

The Orangeville Christmas Nite-Lights Patrol is organizing the singing of Christmas Carol at the family’s home to make their holiday season a little brighter.

The event is growing rapidly and organizer Michelle Hartley said there is already over 50 people signed up to sing, and that number is climbing. The event has also expanded to include musicians, such as a guitarist and ukelele player. Even Santa will make an appearance at this festive event.

The Orangeville Christmas Nite-Lights Patrol began as a way of helping people view some of the best decorated homes around Halloween during the pandemic. It has since evolved to include a Christmas event where people can find out where the most spectacular Christmas decorations are set up around town.

The Orangeville Christmas Nite-Lights Patrol plans to sing 10 Christmas carols at the December 23 event. You don’t have to know the words to all the songs to take part, carollers will be using the Citizen’s own 2023 Carol Book for reference.

There is no limit to the number of singers that can participate, and it is open to all. It will take only 10 minutes of your time to participate in this Christmas memory making moment.

What’s remarkable is this event was requested by a six-year-old boy whose family has been making trips to SickKids Hospital over the past few weeks.

“Let’s thinking about this. A six-year-old boy wants this for his sister. He stared this out of love, sincere, pure love,” Ms. Hartley said.

You can be a part of this event and learn more by visiting the Orangeville Christmas Nite-Lights Patrol Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100077727480197, or by going to Facebook and searching for Orangeville Christmas Nite-Lights Patrol.

You can send a message to sign up and you will be given more details, including the address of the event and time the sing will take place.

The family receiving this holiday gift does not need any presents for the children to be donated.

However, there will be an opportunity to help the local food bank at the event.

The event will take place on a cul de sac, with parking at Spencer Avenue Elementary School.

Organizers are also looking for student volunteers to assist with parking and related duties.

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Mary Deltin celebrated the opening of her Cobs Bread franchise on December 19 and received a welcome to the Caledon business community from acting mayor Doug Maskell.
PHOTO BY ZACHARY ROMAN

Caledon woman opens Cobs Bread franchise on Highway 50

Mary Deltin excited to give back to community

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

A Caledon woman has realized her dream of owning her own business. On December 19, alongside her family, Caledon non-profits, and Caledon Council members, Mary Deltin opened her Cobs Bread franchise in Bolton. She first learned of Cobs Bread when a friend took her into the Georgetown location. She liked the atmosphere, and returned later to buy some bread herself. Deltin started doing some research on the company and after learning more, she decided she wanted to own her own franchise. “They do all that charitable work, and it was something I really wanted to be a part

of,” she said. At the end of each day, Cobs Bread donates its unsold product to local non-profits. Before they can even open a store, Deltin said franchisees must find non-profits who can make good use of unsold product. Some non-profits Deltin will be working with include Caledon Community Services, the Caledon Seniors Centre, and Peace Ranch. Deltin worked in education before embarking on her entrepreneurial journey. She said she loved it, but after 20 years, she wanted to try something new. “This fell at the right time, and it’s something I really love,” she said of running her new business. Deltin said after over a year of planning and preparation, it was a great feeling to finally be open for business. “It’s exciting and nerve-wracking — it’s kind of all the emotions put together,” she said.



Seasons Greetings!

Greetings to you during this bright time of year! We hope this year’s season is filled with the people and things that mean most to you - wishing you all the joys of the season and happiness throughout the coming year.

From our family to yours...
Happy holidays and have a wonderful New Year!

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Caledon Citizen’s Student Athlete of the Week

Cross-country racer Richter battles elements and broken arm to post personal best at OFSAA

BY JIM STEWART

Our last Student-Athlete of the Week feature before the Christmas Break is the inspirational story of

R.F. Hall Wolfpack Cross Country runner Gisele Richter.

The Grade 10 student-athlete, who also plays soccer for the Wolfpack, soldiered through all her Cross Country meets this year with a broken arm and still produced a personal best at the provincial championships.

The unsinkable sophomore overcame the discomfort of running across uneven terrain, toting her broken limb for an entire high school sports season, as explained by the Wolfpack Cross Country and Soccer coaching staff.

“Gisele ran her entire cross-country season in an arm cast, including ROPSSAA AND OFSAA which included her running a PB at OFSAA. Her skill on the soccer field is exemplary and was considered for the Senior team.”

Both the coaching staffs were in unison regarding Richter’s qualities as a student at Robert F. Hall CSS.

“She’s responsible, reliable, and dedicated. Giselle is thorough in her work completion. She asks questions beyond what is expected to ensure she fully understands all concepts.”

What impressed Richter’s coaches at Robert F. Hall CSS is her dual dedication to sports and school.

“There is no doubt, Gisele is an amazing athlete. What impresses us the most is her dedication to her athletics AND schoolwork. She did not let her busy schedule affect her Honour Roll status and Gisele always ensured to balance her schoolwork and athletics well. She puts in many hours of training and studying to make sure that she excels in everything in which she is involved. She is truly a team-player in the classroom and on her teams. She supports her peers and offers help to those that ask for it. On the field, she has a positive attitude and encourages her teammates to perform their best. Giselle not only strives to be her best, but tries to bring out the best in those around her.”

Richter’s cross-country coaches chose to highlight her key performance moment of the season which has a cinematic quality to it: “ROPSSAA had tough weather conditions. It had previously rained and was still raining during Gisele’s race. The course was extremely muddy and personal bests were no longer a target for many. Gisele, being prepared, had a bag to cover her cast, and not only did she have a big goal of qualifying for OFSAA, but also to be careful and not to fall on her already broken arm. She was able to qualify for OFSAA and cheered for her teammates as they all crossed the finish line in the end as well. It was incredible watching her cross the finish line with a qualifying time having her arm in a cast.”

Gisele Richter took time from her busy pre-Christmas activities, off-season training, and the completion of Semester One projects to answer our interview questions.

Caledon Citizen: What qualities did you demonstrate in your sports season to earn Student-Athlete of the Week honors?

Gisele Richter: “I think during the season I demonstrated hard work and dedication to earn the Student-Athlete of the Week honors.”

Caledon Citizen: What were your key statistics and performance moments from the 2022-23 season that you are most proud of?

Gisele Richter: “This year’s competition was much more challenging than last year; therefore, I am very proud that I qualified again just in general and the fact that I ran all my races with a hard cast.”

Caledon Citizen: In addition to your high school sports team(s), what other community teams do you play for and at what level?

Gisele Richter: “In addition to my high school sports teams, I always play competitive soccer for BWSC GU16 team.”

Caledon Citizen: How would you describe yourself as a student at Robert F Hall? To which sports teams and clubs do you belong? Honor Roll?

Gisele Richter: “I would say as a student at Robert F Hall, I am very dedicated to my studies and sports. I always try my best in everything. I think most of all I belong in cross country, because that is the only team that I would like to be a part of every year.”

Caledon Citizen: What are your post-secondary plans regarding prospective academic/athletic destinations?

Gisele Richter: “After high school I plan to go to University. I am not quite sure what profession I would like to study, but definitely something regarding math and science. I would like to play university level soccer, but we will see.”

Caledon Citizen: Who is your role model in terms of the person you admire the most?

Gisele Richter: “For me my dad is my role model. I look up to everything he does and has done in his life. He has many great accomplishments that I use to help me in my life path academically, athletically, and morally.”

Caledon Citizen: How do you feel about being nominated as The Caledon Citizen’s Student-Athlete of the Week?

Gisele Richter: “I feel very honoured and happy to be nominated as The Caledon Citizen’s Student-Athlete of the Week.”



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Public Notice

Environmental Assessment Study

NOTICE OF STUDY COMMENCEMENT

2025 Water and Wastewater Master Plan for the lake-based systems

Background:

Peel Region has initiated the 2025 Water and Wastewater Master Plan for the lake-based systems (where Lake Ontario is the drinking water source and the discharge point for treated wastewater). The study is as an update to the [2020 Master Plan](#), with adjustments to reflect the latest 2051 Official Plan as well as consider the higher growth targets from the province’s [Bill 23](#). The project team will identify strategies to meet existing servicing needs and will collaborate with local municipalities and other stakeholders to align infrastructure plans to support priority growth areas. The study area includes the City of Mississauga, the City of Brampton, and parts of the Town of Caledon, as shown in Figure 1.

Process:

The study will be carried out in accordance with the Municipal Class Environment Assessment (MCEA) process. In March 2023, the Municipal Engineers Association released an amendment to the MCEA document. The Master Plan will follow Approach #1 with a broad scope where identified projects will be subject to project specific requirements.

Your input is important:

Two Public Information Centres (PICs) will be held at key points during the study to present findings and gather feedback. The first PIC, to be announced in 2024, will present the problems or opportunities to be addressed, the existing conditions and constraints, and an overview of the study process. The second PIC will present the alternative solutions, evaluation findings, and the preferred water and wastewater servicing strategies. Once the study is complete, the Master Plan Report will document the full study process and be available for public review and comment.

Contact the team:

To be added to the mailing list or to receive further information about the study, please email WWmasterplan@peelregion.ca or contact:

Laura Borowiec, P.Eng.

Project Manager

Region of Peel

Mobile: 437-335-3054

Mark Zamojc, P.Eng.

Project Manager

GM BluePlan Engineering Ltd.

Phone: 416-703-0667 ext. 7212

For more information on this study, please visit the Region’s website at: peelregion.ca/public-works/environmental-assessments/#current (Regional-wide) or by scanning the QR code with your smartphone.

This notice was first issued on December 21, 2023

With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record of the study. The study is being conducted according to the requirements of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment, which is a planning process approved under Ontario’s Environmental Assessment Act.

Figure 1. Study Area

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Golden Hawks’ goaltender Chad Walker makes 102 saves over weekend, but Caledon drops two hard-fought PJHL Games

BY JIM STEWART

The Schomberg Cougars ventured onto the ice surface of the Mayfield Recreational Complex on Sunday afternoon with a goal in mind—literally.

The Cougars went goal-less in Orillia on Saturday night in a 3-0 loss to the Terriers and the Golden Hawks lost 3-2 in a hard-fought game in Huntsville on Friday night.

Both PJHL squads looked to get back in the win column on Sunday after tough losses, but Schomberg aimed to put some pucks past Golden Hawks’ goaltender Chad Walker who stymied the Cougars in a 2-2 OT draw in November.

The visiting Cougars accomplished their goals on both fronts.

Schomberg fired 57 shots at Walker, deposited five pucks past the netminding stalwart, and skated to a 5-1 victory over the Golden Hawks to improve its North Carruthers Division fourth-place record to 16-7-0-1. The loss on Sunday dropped seventh-place Caledon’s record to 9-15-1-2.

Walker was coming off another valiant performance when he stopped 50 of 53 shots in Caledon’s narrow loss to the Otters in which the Golden Hawks held a 1-0 lead going into the third period.

Christian Georgy, on assists from Patrick Polaczek and Jacob Altomare, got the Golden Hawks on the scoreboard at 12:01 of the second period and Walker kept the home side from scoring by repelling all 31 Otter shots he faced.

However, the Otters poured it on in the third period, firing 22 shots at Walker and yielding three goals from their offensive barrage.

Jacob Jennings, Tyler Dionne, and Aidan Hamelin lit the lamp for Huntsville over a span of twelve minutes to take a 3-1 lead.

Andrew Perrino’s unassisted goal with 90 seconds left the game drew the Golden Hawks to within one, but the tying goal was not forthcoming.

Walker was named the 3rd Star of the Game by PJHL Officials.

Although Walker gave up five goals on Sunday afternoon to the hard-charging Cougars, he was especially sharp in the first two periods as the Cougars peppered him with 44 shots in 40 minutes of play. All told, Walker sports a stellar save percentage of .921 which ranks 20th among active goaltenders in the 61-team league. The athletic goaltender should garner some North Carruthers MVP votes for his heroic performances for the Golden Hawks.

On Sunday afternoon, Schomberg’s Michael Termini scored two goals and Jordyn Palazzo earned three assists to pace the Cougars’ offence at Mayfield.

Termini described his game-winning goal at 3:43 of the second period as the product of linemates working in unison: “We’ve been working on face-offs at practice. Jordyn and Zach worked the face-off perfectly. It takes all three guys to score a goal like that.”

The Cougars’ forward noted the importance of



The Golden Hawks go on the attack against Schomberg on Sunday afternoon. Michael Termini (8) fired two goals to lead the Cougars to a 5-1 win in PJHL action at Mayfield.

PHOTO BY JIM STEWART

the road win versus Caledon: “It’s huge for us. We were on a good three-game win streak so we can’t let games like last night against Orillia get us down.”

Termini, who like many of the Cougars took a regular shift on the PK, was impressed by his team’s ability to neutralize the Golden Hawks’ power play which went 0 for 12 on Sunday.

“After a loss, we needed to want it more and it showed in our penalty killing this afternoon. We got to loose pucks. Again, these are systems we’re working on in practice. We stayed disciplined as a penalty-killing unit and stayed true to what we know as a team.”

The Cougars applied pressure from the opening faceoff and fired long shots at Walker, beating Caledon defenders to loose pucks, and caging the Golden Hawks in their own end.

Cougars’ defenseman Carter Longland pinched in from the left point, pushed a pass to Palazzo who found Termini in the slot whose wrist shot beat Walker to stake the visitors to a 1-0 lead five minutes into the game.

After Palazzo and Andrew Hrinco set up Termini’s second goal of the game three minutes into the middle frame, the playmaking duo were at it again as they created an outlet pass to Zach Gallow whose wrist shot beat Walker at 11:05.

The Cougars outshot the Golden Hawks 44-12 after two periods suggesting a wide margin

in play, but Caledon got on the scoreboard thirty seconds into the third period when Liam Noonan ruined Cougar goaltender Anthony Paolini’s shutout bid and narrowed the visitors’ lead to 3-1.

However, Cougars’ forward Connor McGill snapped a shot from the slot to beat Walker two minutes later to restore Schomberg’s three-goal lead.

Exactly five minutes into the final frame, veteran Cougar Centre Anthony Nascimento jammed the puck past Walker during a goalmouth scramble to give his team a 5-1 lead and provide the margin of victory.

After Nascimento fired the visitors’ fifth goal, all Hell broke loose eighteen seconds later.

The referees and linemen worked diligently for the remaining fifteen minutes during which they called twenty-two penalties, including two misconducts and eight game misconducts which hollowed out both teams’ benches and restored order to the calamitous events committed in the cold conditions in Caledon.

The old adage “familiarity breeds contempt” will be put to the test when the Cougars host the Golden Hawks on Thursday, December 21 at the Trisan Centre at 7:30 p.m.

Caledon travels to Alliston on Friday, December 22 to take on the Hornets in their final game before the PJHL Christmas Break.

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Coping with grief during the holidays

COURTESY OF HOPE HOUSE HOSPICE

Birthdays, anniversaries and holidays tend to be particularly challenging for the bereaved, painfully triggering memories and longings for times past.


Even in the best of times, the holiday season can tax physical, emotional and financial resources. It should come as no surprise when grieving people start to feel a sense of dread as they contemplate the first holidays after the death of a loved one. Unfortunately, withdrawing into a cave and hibernating with the bears until next spring is not a practical option. A helpful strategy is to prepare and plan for the challenges that the holiday season may bring.

“The holidays can bring unique challenges and opportunities to people who are grieving,” says Heidi Bonner, Executive Director of Hope House Community Hospice. “The challenge may be to live through a time of joy when you are in a time of sorrow. There is also an opportunity to live through the season however you and your loved ones choose.”

Hope House Community Hospice recommends the following tips to cope with grief during the holidays.

- Recognize your human tendency to expect and predict the worst. In fact, most bereaved veterans of “first holidays” will tell you that, although the holiday itself presented them with some painful memories, their anticipation was much worse than the experience.
- Seek out structured opportunities to acknowledge your loss and honor the memory of your loved one. Participation in remembrance events or one of the many advocacy group-sponsored events, such as Walk To Conquer Cancer or Walk to End ALS, can serve as meaningful opportunities for healing.
- Involve other family members in planning for the holidays. A family meeting can be an effective forum that encourages the renegotiation of holiday plans and individual responsibilities based on input from everyone.
- Scale back or eliminate decorating, shopping, baking, sending cards and making social obligations. Even in the best of years, we often find ourselves exhausted by trying to do it all. When grief is part of the mix, it becomes clear that “doing it all” is more than impossible.

- Consider altering, rather than discarding, important family traditions. While it might be too painful this year to gather around the dining room table for the traditional home-cooked dinner, a buffet meal that everyone contributes to or dinner out at a restaurant may be preferable alternatives.
 - Create new rituals that incorporate your loved one’s memory into the holiday. Placing flameless candles that glow throughout the season, lighting a memorial candle at mealtime, and decorating the gravesite with seasonal flowers or other items are all examples of small, meaningful rituals that acknowledge our continuing bonds.
 - The custom of holiday gift giving is often a painful reminder of the gifts and people we are no longer shopping for. Many find that intentional gifts to lonely neighbours, residents in nursing homes, or individuals/families with material needs can be a meaningful way of honoring your loved ones.
 - Intentional “random acts of kindness” during the holiday season can be highly therapeutic. Leaving a larger tip for a waiter or waitress, paying the bill for an unsuspecting diner, leaving a book in a waiting room with a note to enjoy, sending an anonymous gift to someone you know, or offering a kind word to a frazzled mother. The opportunities to look outside of ourselves are limitless.
 - Nurture yourself. Take a nap. Sleep in, soak in the tub or get a massage.
 - Ask yourself this question: “If I knew this holiday season were to be the last one that I would have with my remaining loved ones, how would I spend it?” Loss teaches us that the moments we are granted in life are incredibly fleeting and valuable.
 - Seek out additional support. Attending a grief support group or talking to a grief counselor can be of immeasurable help in meeting the challenges of navigating the holiday season.
- If you, or someone you know, needs support this holiday season, Hope House Community Hospice is here to help. For more information or to connect with our staff please visit www.hopehousehospice.com.




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“Future Forward Focus; Reflecting on 2023 with Hope for 2024!”

by Chrissy Jarvie, Communications Lead



In what feels like the blink of an eye, another year has come and gone. 2023 was a year of change and uncertainty across the country and right here in Caledon.

At Caledon Community Services (CCS) we saw first-hand the struggles our neighbours faced, with many reaching out for support for the first time. Being employed no longer insulates you from not being able to meet basic needs as the cost of living continues to rise. 2023 will go down in history as a year of uncertainty and anxiety from the rapid pace of change and political uncertainty at home and around the globe.

Caledon residents have a long history of stepping up for those in need and at CCS we see it every day! As part of the CCS team, I’ve had the opportunity to hear incredible stories of our caring community; an insider’s view of humanity and compassion burning brightly in Caledon.

Your support helped hundreds of seniors thrive; maintaining their independence in the community they call home: “I’ve been using CCS Transportation for more than eight years,” says Dave. “Without CCS rides I would not be able to live in the town I love.”

Together we helped create brighter futures through job training and career coaching for people like Dan struggling with unemployment: “I’ve had the good

fortune of dealing with the jobs team at CCS,” he says. “They are professional and resourceful, and go above and beyond with the support they provide.”

Thousands of pounds of food, personal care and household items were donated by individuals, corporations, and community groups and distributed to support hundreds of families, individuals and children.

Allison a single mother of two’s kind words says it all: “Thank you for allowing me to use the pantry,” she says. “It was difficult to ask for help and I almost didn’t come in. You were very welcoming, thank you.”

Generous gift card donations ensured that nutritional additions like fresh milk and eggs were available and any gaps in needed items could be addressed. These stories touch the surface, proving that together, we make Caledon the caring community we all love to call home.

Thank you, Caledon – you inspire optimism – and together in 2024, we can stand strong to provide a helping hand where it is needed most. Whether it’s health, jobs or life in Caledon, CCS is here to make things better for all of us, adapting to whatever new realities come our way. That’s the shining light that can guide us into 2024.

With gratitude, we wish you warmth, health and happiness. Season’s greetings from all of us at CCS!

**Names and details have been changed to protect client privacy.*

How Do You See It?

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


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

May your heart be filled with *laughter*

Your soul with *joy*

And your home with *love* this *holiday season*






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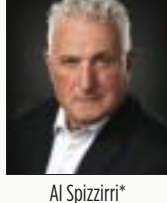







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OBITUARIES

BETTY VERNA ROBINSON



Passed at Stevenson Memorial Hospital, Alliston, surrounded by her family, on Monday, December 18, 2023, Betty Robinson, at the age of 76 years, beloved wife of Wilfred. Loving mother of Sue and Chris, Ben and Catherine. Cherished grandmother of Ben, Kait, and Lucas. Dear sister of Bill and Karen (deceased), Bonnie and Mike (deceased), Andy and Sonya. Private family funeral service will be held at the Egan Funeral Home, 203 Queen St. S. (Hwy. 50), Bolton (905-857-2213). Private interment Laurel Hill Cemetery, Bolton. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later time. If desired memorial donations may be made to Stevenson Memorial Hospital, 200 Fletcher Crescent, PO Box 4000, Alliston L9R 1W7 (stevensonhospital.ca) or OSPCA (ontariospca.ca). Condolences for the family may be offered at www.EganFuneralHome.com.

DIANNE ELIZABETH CRAWFORD

Dianne Elizabeth (nee Russell) Crawford (84) of Orangeville, Ontario, passed away peacefully on Thursday, December 14, 2023 at Headwaters Hospital, Orangeville. Predeceased by her husband Bill Crawford. She is survived by her daughter Kimberly (Allan) McGlade, son Russell (Vivian) Dawson, son Kevin (Tammy) Dawson, step daughter Mary Sue (Bob) Mitchnick and sister Carol Grimmer. Loved by grandchildren, Cameron (Yassi), Kaitlyn (Kasper), Connor, Diana, Jamie, JR and step grandchildren Krista and Scott. Missed by her 3 great grandchildren Leo, Raphael and Kaia. The family will receive their friends at the Egan Funeral Home, 203 Queen Street S (Hwy 50), Bolton (905-857-2213) on Wednesday evening, December 27 from 5 - 8 and Thursday morning, December 28 from 10:30 until the time of funeral service in the chapel at 12 o'clock. Interment at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Orangeville. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers the family has asked donations be made to MS Canada, ALS Society of Canada or your local Humane Society. Condolences for the family may be offered at www.EganFuneralHome.com

LANGEN, JOHN MARTIN

Peacefully at Headwaters Health Care Centre on Sunday, December 17th, 2023 at the age of 78. Beloved Father of Tamie Eberlin (Matt) and Sherry Corbitt (Chad). Dear grandfather of Jessica, Colby and Kaitlyn. Cherished brother of Johanna, Gary and Bill (Judy). Predeceased by his brother Jack, remembered by jacks wife Helen. John will also be greatly missed by other relatives and many friends.



Visitation will be held at the *Dods & McNair Funeral Home, Chapel & Reception Centre*, 21 First St., Orangeville on Saturday, January 6th, 2024 from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. with dinner at 6:00 pm, all are welcome to stay. PLEASE RSVP BY JANUARY 3rd, 2024 TO THE DINNER AT 6:30 PM. Memorial donations to Headwaters Health Care Foundation would be appreciated by the family. Condolences may be offered to the family at www.dodsandmcnair.com

IN MEMORIAM

Russ Macintosh

April 4, 1962 - December 21, 2022



Remembering you today and always. It is so hard to believe that a year has gone by so quickly. Oh, how we wish we weren't stuck in this "new normal." Words can not express how hard it is to keep moving forward, but we must for each other.

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Patti, Sarah & Matthew Macintosh

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The Lord Dufferin Chapter IODE holds their meetings at the Lord Dufferin Centre on the 4th Tuesday of every month. We are looking for women who would like to help in the Community. Call 519-941-1865.

IF YOU WANT to keep drinking, that's your business. **IF YOU WANT** to stop drinking, that's our business. **Call Alcoholics Anonymous Hot Line, 1-866-715-0005**. www.aanorthaltonein.org.

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

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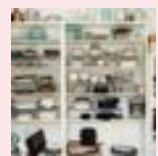
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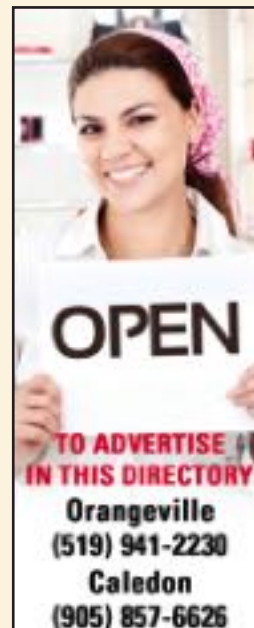
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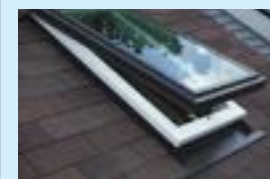
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The holiday season is that special time of year when you reconnect with family and friends.

It is also a time for giving gifts. For many, that means giving to those who are facing challenges or have current needs.

Local realtors appreciate the communities they live in and the support they receive by giving back to local charities and organizations that support those needing help during the holiday season.

While many real estate offices contribute to worthy causes throughout the year, the holiday season inspires many to create new initiatives or expand various projects to help provide a happy holiday season for everyone.

At the Mullin Group Team at Royal LePage Real Estate in Orangeville, they have created a unique, but necessary holiday tradition.

Sheila Mullin toured local shelters and became aware that many people arrive with just the clothes on their backs. She started the 'Show you Care with Underwear' initiative that encourages people to donate new underwear that will be distributed to shelters and needy persons through the Orangeville Food Bank.

The office Christmas tree is decorated with underwear, and the holiday event has become very successful. Many people shop on Amazon and have it sent directly to the real estate office.

At Slavens & Associates Real Estate – In the Hills, realtors Elaine Kehoe and Laura Pringle are once again supporting the Orangeville Food Bank.

Elaine and her team have food drives three times each year – at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter.

They accept food donations at their Mono Centre office.

They send out notices to the community letting everyone know about the food drive. To help people who want to donate – but have no way of doing so, they will be happy to come to your home and pick up your donations.

The food drives have been very successful and they have been well supported by the local community in Mono.

The office at Marg McCarthy Professional Real Estate Services in Shelburne is always a busy place, but during the holiday season they have a lot more visitors as the office becomes a drop-off location for the Shelburne Food Bank.

They receive non-perishable food items, gift cards, and hygiene products that will be delivered to the Food Bank. Staff from the office also help with sorting the items.

In addition, they help with the local Christmas Hamper program.

The office is also a place to drop off items for the local Senior Stocks program, which provides seniors in the area with items they may need.

In the lobby of the office, they have the 'giving tree.' As monetary donations come in, the tree is decorated with the donations inspiring others to give.

At Walkinshaw Partners Real Estate, an annual client appreciation party celebrates the season while providing an opportunity to donate gifts to the Salvation Army Toys for Tots campaign.

This year, toys were donated by people attending the event.

Realtor John Walkinshaw, along with his daughters, Carly and Laura, join together to organize several events throughout the year.

In addition to holiday giving, Walkinshaw Partners continues to contribute to the community in various ways all year long and encourages other small businesses to recognize that their success comes from the support of the community and asks them to also give back and support charitable organizations.

Century 21 Millennium has a company-wide effort where real estate representatives put money in a fund which is then matched by the brokerage.

In Orangeville, Century 21 made a donation to two local schools – Parkinson Centennial Public

School and St. Peter Elementary School.

Guidance councillors at the schools are aware of families that may need some extra help during the holiday season. Each family will receive an allocation per child for necessities or Christmas presents as well as food to make the holiday season a little brighter.

Rock Capital Mortgage, through a collaborative effort, raised \$10,500 which was donated to the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation grants the wishes of children with critical illnesses, bringing joy, hope and strength to their lives.

Rock Capital Mortgage participates in various events throughout the year, and the team encourages agents to bring items for local food banks. In addition to monetary donations, paper items and feminine products were also collected and distributed to those in need.

While serving the real estate industry all year long, realtors in Orangeville make a special effort during the holiday season to give back to the community that supports them and make the season a little happier for many local residents.

– Written by Brian Lockhart

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CENTURY 21 MILLENNIUM *helps families* through school donations

The holiday season is upon us, and the thought of giving and making the season enjoyable for someone else is in many people's thoughts and hearts.

Many local businesses and organizations give back to the community that supports them throughout the year, and during Christmas, they make an extra effort to help provide a happy and joyous season – especially for those who may be struggling.

Century 21 Millennium in Orangeville raises money throughout the year and provides a gift to local families with children by donating funds that can help buy food as well as toys and other gifts that will make the Christmas season a little brighter and happier.

Through their efforts, Century 21 Millennium donated a total of \$5,750 to two Orangeville schools.

On Wednesday, December 6, Teodora Holom, Broker / Manager of Century 21 Millennium on Broadway in Orangeville, and her team visited Parkinson Centennial Public School, greeted staff and students, and gave them the Christmas donation.

They then travelled just around the corner to St. Peter Elementary School and provided that school with an equal donation. They enjoyed meeting the staff and some of the students and seeing the smiles on their faces.

The fundraising effort is an annual initiative Century 21 Millennium began over 25 years ago, and each branch office takes part in the holiday program.

Across the company, which has offices in Brampton, Orangeville, Wasaga Beach, Collingwood, and Thornbury, they raised a total of over \$37,000. There are over 220 real estate agents who work at Century 21 Millennium.

All of the agents at Century 21 Millennium put money into a pool for the holiday fundraiser, and the brokerage matches the pooled funds to double the impact the program will have.

This initiative was started by Century 21 Millennium founder Joanne Evens in Brampton more than two decades ago. Each branch in the company helps families that are local to their area.

When allocating the funds at the schools, the school guidance counsellor is a big help. The counsellors are familiar with the families who have children attending the school and are aware of which families could benefit from some help during the Christmas season.

This year, through the schools, eight local families, with 20 children were recipients of the Century 21 Millennium effort.

Through this effort, they are able to purchase Walmart gift cards for kids' clothing, needed supplies, and food. This ensures that every kid will have a present under the tree, a nice Christmas meal, and some nice new clothes to wear to school when the school year resumes in January.

The schools are very appreciative of the efforts of Century 21 Millennium and enjoy dispersing the funds to families who could use some help during this time of year. Each family that receives help quietly acknowledges the effort that will make their Christmas a little nicer and put a smile on their children's faces on Christmas morning.

Earlier in the year, Century 21 Millennium sent a message to the local schools letting them know that they could expect a special gift again this year.

The message said, "Entering our 20th plus, year of support for local schools and the community, we're delighted to share the exciting news that, thanks to the incredible support of our Agents this year, Century 21 millennium is able to donate Walmart gift cards to your school. We sincerely hope that this contribution will assist the children and families who need it most."

The message went on to say, "We thank you for allowing us to interact with you and the children in their day-to-day environment, share stories, connect and create special moments. We hope that we can bring the same enthusiasm this year! These are cherished memories, and the smiles on the children's faces forever in our hearts."

The message also expressed thanks to the teachers at the schools who spend every day working with and inspiring their students.

"Your dedication does not go unrecognized. You inspire these children to dream, to pursue their passions, and to believe in themselves. You are the unsung heroes of our community, working tirelessly to ensure that every child has the opportunity to shine."

As the Orangeville office continues to expand, they look forward to making the Holiday donation program even larger as more agents will be able to take part.

During the Christmas season, many people will experience difficulty, loneliness, or struggle to provide a happy holiday for their families. As local businesses celebrate the season of giving, making the effort to think about others can go a long way to helping provide a happy Christmas full of good memories that will last a lifetime.

The owners and management at Century 21 Millennium would like to thank all of their agents for their generosity with the recent holiday donation and support for other initiatives at the office throughout the year.

Anyone who would like to learn more about Century 21 Millennium can visit their website: millennium.c21.ca or call the Orangeville office at 519-940-2100.

They can also be reached through email at orangeville@c21m.ca or via their Facebook page titled "Century 21 Millennium Orangeville".

– Written by Brian Lockhart



Happy Holidays from everyone at Century 21 Millennium.

We hope your holidays will be filled with joy and laughter through the New Year.

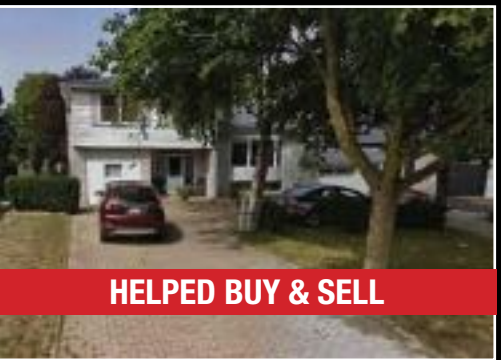
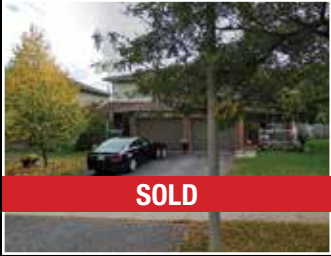
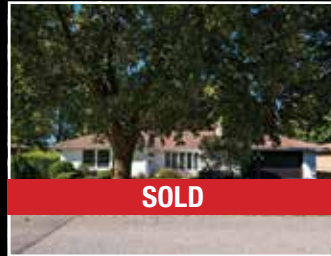
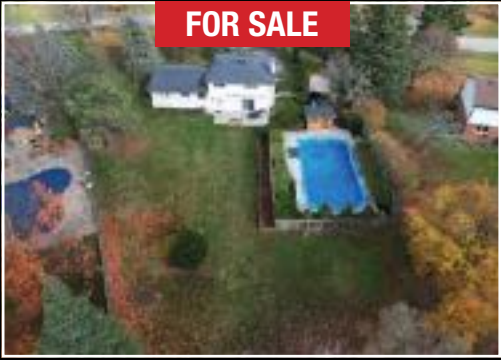
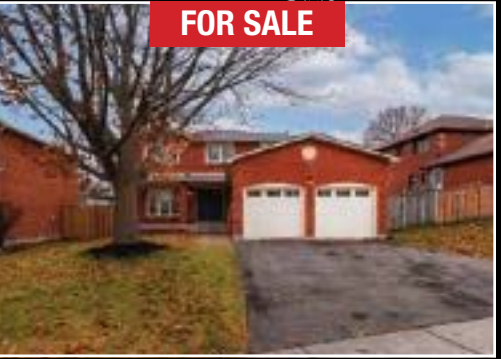


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*Even though the real estate market has been very challenging this year,
we are so thankful for our clients who have worked with us throughout 2023.*

*If you would like to find out how we can serve your family,
please don't hesitate to reach out 519-942-7413*



McCarthy Realty Brokerage,
The McCarthy Team

Giving back to
the community
during the

holiday
season



The McCarthy Team in Shelburne follows a list of core values that are displayed in every room at their offices.

Those values include Striving for Honesty, Integrity, Respect and Compassion, Humility, Growth and Knowledge, Excellence, Professionalism, Team Work and Being Happy. Striving to meet this, and they use Improving Lives Everyday! Team members strive to meet those goals every day as they deal with clients and the public, To Positively Impact every Interaction. Home Town Proud.

Giving back to the community is one-way Team McCarthy contributes to better themselves and the towns they do business in. While helping the community is something they do all year long, the holiday season provides a special opportunity to engage with other organizations to make Christmas a little brighter for many people by taking part in initiatives that display compassion toward their fellow citizens in this world.

Currently, food banks around the country are experiencing higher volumes than ever seen before as the economic crunch and inflation are shrinking pay cheques and forcing people to seek help just to put food on the table.

McCarthy Team members have been helping out at the Shepherd's Cupboard Food Bank in Shelburne by volunteering to collect and sort food donations.

The company office is a drop-off location for non-perishable food items, gift cards, cash, and hygiene products that will be distributed to those in need through the Food Bank.

The Shelburne Hamper Program collects needed items to support families for Christmas and will be distributed to families in the region.

The Hamper program distributes items to around 200 families and individuals annually and there is a growing number of people who could use this assistance. Volunteers from the McCarthy Team help out the Shelburne Rotary Club sort toys and set up the distribution for the applicants who have applied to receive the Christmas gifts.

The McCarthy Realty office has a Christmas tree, called The Giving Tree. When people bring in gift

cards and cash donations, the envelopes are placed on the tree. Toys and items are also welcome. This serves as an inspiration for others visiting the office to consider donating.

Those donations will be used to purchase needed items for the Hamper Program that will put a smile on someone's face who may otherwise have a bleak holiday season. While young children appreciate a toy, older children are harder to buy for.

...food banks around the country are experiencing higher volumes than ever seen before as the economic crunch and inflation are shrinking pay cheques...

Those financial donations allow the purchase of gift cards for older children so they can get something more suitable and needed for their age.

Another initiative the McCarthy Team likes to support is Seniors' Santa Christmas Stockings - Dufferin County. The program collects needed items and small

gifts for seniors in the community who live in retirement homes and nursing homes, as well as individuals who live on their own and may not have family in the area.

The stockings are filled with items and then delivered for Christmas Day. Not only do seniors appreciate receiving the stockings, but many are delighted to have a visitor for the holiday and may otherwise spend the day alone.

There is a needed supply list available, and members of the public can purchase items and drop them off at the McCarthy Realty office. A member of the Stockings for Seniors program will make sure they are distributed to seniors in the area.

As many of these local programs don't have an actual location because they exist only during the holiday season, the McCarthy Realty office serves as a convenient collection space to gather both gifts and monetary donations.

Items and monetary donations for Stockings for Seniors, The Shelburne Hamper Program, and the Shepherd's Cupboard Food Bank can be dropped off at the McCarthy Realty office, Monday to Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., at 110 Centennial Rd. in Shelburne.

– Written by Brian Lockhart



McCarthy

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- Covered Porch at side & Tree lined driveway
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2.5-STOREY BRICK BEAUTY



\$785,000

DUNDALK

- 3 Bedroom 3 Bathroom 2.5 Storey
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1.06 ACRES



\$948,400

MELANCTHON

- Updated 5 Bedroom 3 Bath Brick Bungalow
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McCarthy

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*From our home to yours, we wish you
all the best of the Holiday Season.*

Peace, Joy & Prosperity for 2024!

Merry Christmas,
Doug & Chris




\$749,900



DECK THE HALLS

Immaculate home located in central Shelburne, situated on a huge, mature lot 75' x 150'. Spacious 4-level sidesplit home, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, attached garage with front & rear roll up doors. Beautiful updated kitchen with stainless steel appliances and dining area with walkout to yard. Cozy family room has gas fireplace and built in cabinetry and walkup to rear yard. Enjoy heated floors in the entrance and bathrooms. Lots of additional space for storage or hobby area in the unfinished basement. Book your showing today.


\$1,595,000



A HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Start with a huge lot 120'x120' in central Orangeville, within walking distance to shops & restaurants, add a beautiful custom built home showcasing quality craftsmanship throughout with features like heated area floors, walnut cabinetry, European white oak floors, luxurious Primary bedroom and ensuite bath, multiple walkouts, large private patio area with mature landscaping, oversized & heated double garage, PLUS a separate 1 bedroom, main level apartment with its own entrance & driveway, perfect for home office, extended family or additional income!

\$959,900



GIFT YOURSELF

Treat yourself to this beautiful home with everything you need on one level PLUS a fully finished basement for family or guests. Spacious Great Room features vaulted ceiling, gas fireplace, hardwood & tile floors and open concept space with the kitchen & dining areas. The kitchen has centre work island, lots of storage options and walkout to private covered patio and fenced yard. Large Primary bedroom offers walkin closet and upgraded ensuite with soaker tub and separate shower. Main floor laundry offers convenient access to garage. The finished basement showcases an impressive recreation room, 2 additional bedrooms, full bathroom and separate storage/utility room.

\$1,297,000



PUT A BOW ON IT

The one you have been waiting for - beautiful, brick Bungalow in Watermark community with exceptional lot backing onto walking trail & Monora Park! With over 2,800 sq.ft. of living space, plus a finished walkout basement, this home has a welcoming foyer, open concept Great Room with vaulted ceiling, gas fireplace & walkout to large composite deck overlooking Nature's best. Spacious kitchen, separate dining room, main floor laundry with access to garage. With 2 primary suites, you can choose which level you would like for your primary bedroom, lots of room for extended family, entertaining & storage. This community offers a private recreation centre with Event Room, library, billiards, Fitness centre, the list goes on.

**Having trouble keeping pace with the
ever changing real estate market?**

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AREAS WE SERVE

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



Interest rates hold steady – for now

Potential new home buyers at least have an idea of what’s in store if they are thinking of buying after the Bank of Canada announced interest rates will not be changing.

The announcement was made on December 6, and the rate remains at 5 per cent.

However, future hikes in the rate are still possible, even as market watchers look for rate cuts in 2024.

The announcement was the final rate announcement of 2023.

In Canada, economic growth stalled during the middle quarters of 2023, and higher interest rates are clearly holding back spending. Business investment has been essentially flat over the past year.

The slowdown in the economy is reducing inflationary pressure over a range of goods and services prices.

However, shelter price inflation has picked up, reflecting faster growth in rent and other housing costs along with the continued contribution from elevated mortgage interest costs.

So how will this all affect people who are considering purchasing a home?

Traditionally, December is one of the slow months in the real estate market. People tend to put home-buying plans on hold as they focus on holiday celebrations, including travelling out of town.

However, this year, the December market in the region is enjoying a rather robust amount of interest and transactions.

This may be the result of consumer confidence and the fact that interest rates have stabilized, and some experts are predicting that rates may actually go down in 2024.

On top of that, the market slowed and houses dipped in price over the last year and still remain lower than they were just a year ago.

Bond rates have also been dropping and this can have an effect on the entire financial situation.

With interest rates where they are currently, potential home buyers have a good idea of what they will be able to afford if they buy now. This inspires confidence in people who are considering getting into the market.

The financial experts who are predicting rates will go down are saying it will be a gradual decline over the course of a year heading into 2025, probably at a quarter of a percent at a time.

While new buyers can benefit from the current rate, the downside will be for homeowners who locked in at a lower rate a few years ago and have mortgages that will be coming up for renewal in the next couple of years. Some owners may see a significant increase in their monthly payments if they have to renew at a few points higher than they currently have.

The key to success is to get your financial situation in order before placing an offer on a home.

You should know how much you will be paying on your mortgage each month and how much leeway you have, if in a few years rates rise again.

Buying a home requires due diligence when it comes to planning ahead and being ready to make adjustments when necessary.

An informed consumer can make sound financial decisions and be ready in case your mortgage is changed due to an increase or decrease in the interest rates.

Written by Brian Lockhart



Members of the Orangeville & District Real Estate Board (ODREB) are also members of the Canadian Real Estate Association (CREA), the Ontario Real Estate Association (OREA), and the Toronto Real Estate Board (TREB), and, as such, adhere to a high standard of professional conduct and a strict Code of Ethics.

The Board fosters understanding and co-operation amongst the members resulting in enhanced professional services to the public.



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THE ROSE PERDUE TEAM

A Time For Reflection

As we near the end of 2023, we find ourselves extremely proud of the value and commitment we provided to our clients this year.

For those who continue to advocate on our behalf by sharing our name to family, friends and colleagues - YOU are appreciated!

The relationships we have amongst our community and clients is truly an honour!

We look forward to being counted on for step-by-step advice on buying and selling properties in order for your 2024 real estate dreams to come true.

Wishing everyone good health, laughter and joy - ALWAYS!

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RESALE
HOMES
COLLECTIONS

John Walkinshaw, and daughters, Laura and Carley, show some of the toys that were donated at the annual Walkinshaw Partners client appreciation party, held at Drysdale's Tree Farm on December 3. Around 100 toys were donated to go to the Salvation Army's Toys for Tots program.

WALKINSHAW PARTNERS
REAL ESTATE

*gives
back*
to the community all year long

Walkinshaw Partners Real Estate believes that their success comes from the support they receive from the community.

They choose to pay that support forward by volunteering and donating back to causes and organizations in the community to help make someone else's life a little better.

Walkinshaw Partners, John, and daughters Laura and Carley work as a team to get things done throughout the year, and this includes participating in several charitable events and initiatives both at home and abroad.

On December 3, Walkinshaw Partners held their annual client appreciation Christmas party at Drysdale's Tree Farm in Essa. While the party celebrates a successful year and thanks clients for their support, it also serves to contribute to a good cause.

"This was our client appreciation party," John explained. "We had a really great event and one of the

things we asked is for people to bring toys for the Salvation Army's Toys for Tots program. That program is one where the parents can go into the Salvation Army and choose toys for their kids for Christmas morning so that every child gets to have Christmas. We ended up collecting 100 different toys for the day, from the ones that people brought and those we donated. We also had donations as well which go toward gift cards. The older kids typically get gift cards."

As part of their company culture, Walkinshaw Partners donates to and sponsors multiple charities throughout the year.

"That's the way it should be," John believes of the way he thinks businesses should offer support. "More and more, the governments don't have the funds to support different charitable organizations. Small businesses and communities need to step up and support

them, especially at the local level. All of us volunteer at different organizations throughout the year and support financially, different charitable organizations."

John is the Board Chair, of Youth Unlimited. They operate The Door Youth Centre which has locations in Shelburne, Orangeville, Alliston, and nine other locations in Ontario. The Door offers a safe place for youth up to 18 years old to socialize in a mentoring environment.

John has been on the board of The Door Youth Centre for 25 years.

"We sponsor their golf tournament and other golf tournaments, and other different events," John said.

At the international level, Walkinshaw Partners supports an organization called 'New Story,' which builds homes for people in places that have been ravaged by a natural disaster or war.

"We support them, and they build in either really economically depressed areas or war-torn regions," John explained. "They build houses for people. Right now our contributions are going toward a build in Mexico. They can actually build a home for around \$6,000."

The team also supports Compassion Canada, which supports children in countries that are impoverished.

The Walkinshaw team believes in the power of giving through the holiday season, but they continue giving throughout the year to help make the community a better place.

– Written by Brian Lockhart

Wishing all our, clients, family and friends a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



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from all the staff at

RESALE HOMES COLLECTIONS

Happy Holidays and all the best in the New Year!



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RESALE
HOMES
COLLECTIONS

MARKET UPDATE

Orangeville Statistics - November

	November, 2023	November, 2022	% Change
# of Active Listings	76	64	18.75%
# of Homes Listed	72	42	71.43%
# of Sales	37	22	68.18%
List Price vs. Sale Price Ratio	97%	96%	1.04%
Average Days on Market	31	28	10.71%
Average Sale Price	\$784,578	\$732,027	7.18%

Orangeville Statistics - Year to Date

	Jan - November, 2023	Jan - November, 2022	% Change
# of Homes Listed	731	682	-7.12%
# of Sales	389	476	-18.28%
List Price vs. Sale Price Ratio	99%	105%	-5.71%
Average Days on Market	19	16	18.75%
Average Sale Price	\$827,145	\$916,251	-9.73%

Buyers Market vs. Sellers Market

Current Number of Homes for Sale	76
Divided by Sales per Month	37
Months of Inventory	2.1

There is currently 2.1 months of inventory on the Market in Orangeville.
In a Buyers Market, there is normally more than 6 months worth of inventory.

Peel - Caledon Statistics - November

	November, 2023	November, 2022	% Change
# of Active Listings	286	224	27.68%
# of Homes Listed	147	151	-2.65%
# of Sales	49	56	-12.50%
List Price vs. Sale Price Ratio	94%	96%	-2.05%
Average Days on Market	28	24	16.67%
Average Sale Price	\$1,508,143	\$1,389,287	10.00%

Peel - Caledon Statistics - Year to Date

	Jan - November, 2023	Jan - November, 2022	% Change
# of Homes Listed	2,008	1,976	1.47%
# of Sales	720	764	-5.76%
List Price vs. Sale Price Ratio	97%	101%	-3.96%
Average Days on Market	24	17	41.18%
Average Sale Price	\$1,386,607	\$1,449,989	-3.65%

Buyers Market vs. Sellers Market

Current Number of Homes for Sale	286
Divided by Sales per Month	49
Months of Inventory	5.8

There is currently 5.8 months of inventory on the Market in Caledon.
In a Buyers Market, there is normally more than 6 months worth of inventory.

Simcoe - New Tecumseth Statistics - November

	November, 2023	November, 2022	% Change
# of Active Listings	158	127	24.41%
# of Homes Listed	84	75	12.00%
# of Sales	28	43	-39.53%
List Price vs. Sale Price Ratio	98%	95%	3.16%
Average Days on Market	35	31	12.90%
Average Sale Price	\$835,127	\$840,012	-0.58%

Simcoe - New Tecumseth Statistics - Year to Date

	Jan - November, 2023	Jan - November, 2022	% Change
# of Homes Listed	1,180	1,460	-19.67%
# of Sales	550	532	3.38%
List Price vs. Sale Price Ratio	99%	103%	-3.88%
Average Days on Market	26	19	35.84%
Average Sale Price	\$903,887	\$1,017,253	-11.16%

Buyers Market vs. Sellers Market

Current Number of Homes for Sale	158
Divided by Sales per Month	28
Months of Inventory	6.1

There is currently 6.1 months of inventory on the Market in New Tecumseth.
In a Buyers Market, there is normally more than 6 months worth of inventory.

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- Joe*

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\$799,000

Check out this beautiful bungalow 10 minutes from Orangeville! The ultimate spot to run your small business from home, with huge shop & separate office! Bungalow is a lovely 3 bedroom updated home on a pretty lot with fire pit and two decks! 2 full baths with the ensuite boasting heated floors & glass shower. Pot lights throughout, hard floors with no carpet. Shop is heated for the handyman, car enthusiast or contractor. Lots of parking. Great price! Call for your private viewing!

WISHING OUR CLIENTS AND COLLEAGUES, FRIENDS AND FAMILY A VERY



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RESALE
HOMES
COLLECTIONS

EASY holiday CENTREPIECE IDEAS

The holiday season is a great time to make any home a bit more merry and bright. Most individuals let their personalities show through their home decor, and holiday decorating is just as personal as decorating throughout the rest of the year.

The main living areas of a home get the most decorating attention, with a Christmas tree or menorah taking a prominent position in the front window. Garlands, candles and other accoutrements also may dress up spaces. However, when it comes to holiday hosting, attention also should be given to the dining table — which can benefit from a festive centerpiece.

Premade centerpieces are undeniably attractive, but adding a homespun touch can be a fun creative pursuit and become a family tradition. Explore these eight simple ideas to dress up your holiday table.

FROSTED PINE CONES: Take advantage of a crisp winter's day to venture into a forest or park that is rich with evergreen trees. Gather pine cones from the forest floor and, if possible, a few evergreen boughs.

Give the pine cones a touch of winter whimsy with a little faux snow in a can or even white paint. Nestle the boughs and pine cones into a wide-mouthed vase or bowl in the centre of the table. Individual pine cones can later be turned into place cards for seating guests.

HOLIDAY THANKS: Cut many strips of paper roughly 6 inches in length from various coloured pieces of paper to match the holiday theme. When guests arrive, ask them to write a favourite holiday memory or two, or what they're thankful for. Twirl the paper strips around a pencil to curl them, and then place the curlies into a decorative bowl in the centre of the table. Later in the evening, the host or hostess can read some of the sentiments.

MAGICAL FOREST: Use green and silver conical party hats to turn a table or sideboard into a veritable

evergreen forest. Arrange them on a blanket of faux snow or white confetti.

FRESHLY CUT: Select attractive flowers in vibrant holiday hues from a florist or even the supermarket floral section. Cut the stems and place them into an unusual display container, such as holiday-themed mugs or a punch bowl.

GLASS BAUBLES: Who says ornaments should be exclusive to the tree? A crystal or glass cake stand can be transformed into an icy delight when topped with silver and clear glass ornaments.

BIRCHWOOD: The crisp white colouring of birch bark is right at home with holiday decor. Go stark with pieces of cut wood in varying heights intermingled with white candles that mimic the shapes and scale of the wood.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLES: If guests are coming over and the race is on for a fast centerpiece, look no further than the kitchen. Lemons, artichokes, pears, or pomegranates look festive in a bowl interspersed with some greenery and baby's breath.

CORNUCOPIA: The Horn of Plenty can be customized for any holiday. Purchase a horn in wicker or woven grapevine and fill it with flowers, fruit and greenery, or even painted gourds or miniature pumpkins.

Holiday hosts and hostesses should not neglect the dining table when they decorate. Festive centerpieces can be handmade without much effort on the part of hosts.



Mortgage Team raises over \$10,500 for Make-A-Wish and supports local food banks

In a heartwarming display of generosity and community spirit, the team members and management of Rock Capital Mortgage have once again come together to make a difference in the lives of others. This year, their collective efforts have resulted in a remarkable donation of over \$10,500 to the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation is a non-profit organization that grants the wishes of children with critical illnesses, bringing joy, hope, and strength to their lives. The funds raised by Rock Capital will go towards fulfilling the dreams of these brave children, providing them with unforgettable experiences and cherished memories.

But the giving doesn't stop there. Rock Capital also recognizes the importance of supporting local communities, particularly those in need. At various events throughout the year, the team encourages agents to bring items for local food banks, ensuring that those facing food insecurity have access to essential supplies.

Last year, Rock Capital Mortgage made significant contributions to both the Barrie Food Bank and the Mississauga Food Bank. In addition to monetary donations, paper items and feminine products were also collected and distributed to those in need. These items were generously given at the company's spring conference and annual golf tournament, demonstrating the team's commitment to making a positive impact in their community.

The dedication and compassion shown by Rock Capital Mortgage and its members are truly inspiring. Their efforts not only provide immediate assistance to those in need, but also serve as a reminder of the power of collective action and the importance of giving back.

As we enter a new year, let us all take a moment to reflect on the incredible impact that acts of kindness and generosity can have on individuals and communities. Whether it's a small donation or a significant contribution, every effort counts and has the potential to make a lasting difference.

Rock Capital Mortgage serves as a shining example of how businesses can use their resources and influence to create positive change. Their commitment to supporting the Make-A-Wish Foundation and local food banks is a testament to their values and their dedication to making the world a better place.

Let us applaud the team members and management of Rock Capital Mortgage for their outstanding efforts and encourage others to follow in their footsteps. Together, we can make a profound difference in the lives of those in need and build a stronger, more compassionate society.

— Provided by Dwight Trafford



The Mortgage Centre



The Power of Giving in 2024

In a world that often feels divided and uncertain, the act of giving has never been more important. As we step into 2024, let us remember the profound impact that our generosity can have on others. Whether it's donating to a charitable cause, volunteering our time, or simply offering a helping hand to those in need, giving has the power to uplift, inspire, and create positive change.

By embracing the spirit of giving, we not only make a difference in the lives of others, but we also cultivate a sense of compassion, empathy, and unity within ourselves and our communities.

Let us make 2024 a year of giving, and together, let's create a brighter future for all.



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Happy holidays

and all the best in 2024

from the Chris Richie Group





TURN THIS INTO YOUR CUSTOM COUNTRY ESCAPE

Privacy & views of countryside on 1.5 acres. Bungalow with addition in the 80's: vaulted ceiling, fireplace & walkout. Inside is ready for someone to rejuvenate the entire package. Trees line property perimeter. 300 ft of frontage on a quiet road. Toronto only 45 mins away.

16437 KENNEDY ROAD, CALEDON \$1,250,000



LOG HOME WITH DETACHED 3 CAR GARAGE & STUDIO ABOVE

2 storey log home with 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, family room with vaulted ceiling & walkout basement. Outstanding garage features a studio above with bathroom, kitchenette & living space. 10 acres, gated entry & Geothermal heat.

873043 5th LINE, MONO \$1,999,999



21 ACRES WITH INCREDIBLE VIEWS OVER HOCKLEY RIDGE

This estate bungalow features 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, updated kitchen with marble top island, open concept family/living area & part finished walkout basement. Huge covered deck, paved driveway, 2 car garage plus large workshop.

247515 5th SIDEROAD, MONO \$2,499,000



A CHANCE TO BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME ON 1.37 ACRES

Across the road from an exclusive golf course, The Devils Pulpit. Tucked away in the hills of Caledon but close to amenities. Hike nearby Bruce Trail, ski at The Caledon Ski Club. It is the perfect spot for your country retreat with in this spectacular setting.

3246 ESCARPMENT SIDEROAD, CALEDON \$995,000



EXCLUSIVE SUBDIVISION WITH PRIVACY ON 1.4 ACRES

Bungalow, 3+2 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, updated kitchen, open concept dining/living, main floor laundry, 4 season hot tub room & finished basement with 2 bedrooms, bathroom, kitchen & games area. 3.5 car garage & concrete driveway.

41 PINE RIDGE ROAD, ERIN \$2,099,000



GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE THIS HOME YOUR ESCAPE

This home is presently unfinished, layout is 3 bedrooms (1 on the main floor), 3 bathrooms, open concept kitchen/dining/living. On the Nottawasaga River plus a stream runs through the property to the river: bring ideas & dreams.

308045 HOCKLEY RD., MONO \$599,000



LOCATED IN THE HEART OF TOWN

Bungalow, 2+2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully finished basement that could offer potential rental income & 1 car garage with additional parking for 3. Upgrades include: kitchen, back deck, electrical panel, roof, windows, water heater & furnace.

41 OSPREY ST. N., DUNDALK \$535,000



BRIGHT CONDO IN SOUGHT AFTER BUILDING

2 bedrooms with double closets, 1 bathroom with walk-in shower/tub, combined dining/living area, enclosed solarium on the 2nd floor. Common meeting/party room & exercise room, 1 designated parking spot plus visitor parking.

250 ROBERT ST., SHELburne \$449,000