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NON-MEMBER
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FREE Thursday, February 15, 2024 Volume 44, Issue 8



OPEN FOR BUSINESS & COMMUNITY – Deputy Premier and Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones joined Mayor Annette Groves, Council and dignitaries on Saturday for the grand opening of the Humber River Centre in Bolton.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE TOWN OF CALEDON

Humber Centre's grand opening spotlights its role as Entrepreneurial Hub in downtown Bolton

BY JIM STEWART

Over 200 residents and dignitaries attended the Grand Opening Celebration on Saturday morning of the Humber River Centre at 28 Ann Street in Bolton.

A menagerie of politicians, including Mayor Annette Groves and six of Caledon's Councillors – Mario Russo, Christina Early, Doug Maskell,

Dave Sheen, Tony Rosa, and Cosimo Napoli—joined Brampton North MP Ruby Sahotra and the Deputy Premier of Ontario, Minister of Health, and Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones, presided over the outdoor ribbon-cutting ceremony on Saturday morning in unseasonably warm February conditions.

Mayor Groves offered her gratitude towards the industrious workers from the Town of Caledon that brought the multimillion-dollar renewal project to fruition.

“Warm greetings to all and thanks to all the co-workers for making this a reality. It is fitting that we are opening this facility in the Town’s 50th year. The transformation of the Bolton Fire Hall is due to the dedicated town staff who involved in this project.”

Continued on Page B2

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Province gives Peel Region Transition Board new mandate

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Peel's three municipalities may soon be tasked with providing more services. The Province has given the Peel Region Transition Board a new mandate. The mandate is outlined in a January 24 letter from Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Paul Calandra to John Livey, Peel Region Transition Board Chair.

Instead of leading the dissolution of Peel as originally planned, the Board will now make recommendations on transferring the following Region-provided services to Caledon, Brampton, and Mississauga to manage themselves: land-use planning, water and wastewater, regional roads, and waste management.

All other Region of Peel services are not within the transition board's scope at this time.

Continued on Page A4

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Decision on Official Plan, bylaw amendments for place of worship deferred to April

Town staff recommended refusal of amendments in a staff report

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

A decision on allowing a place of worship at King Street and Centreville Creek Road has been pushed to April.

At Caledon Council's February 13 Planning and Development Committee Meeting, Town of Caledon staff submitted a report recommending refusal of official plan and zoning bylaw amendments for a proposed new place of worship.

Swaminarayan Mandir Vasna Sanstha (SMVS) Canada, a Hindu faith organization, would like to build a place of worship and place of assembly at 6939 King Street. This would require re-designating lands at the property, hence the official plan and zoning bylaw amendment requests.

With staff's recommendation being to refuse the amendments, Regional Councillor Mario Russo said he'd like to spend some more time reviewing the file before voting.

"This application needs a little bit more time for myself in particular, and perhaps some of my colleagues with the budget that we're going through and other items," said Russo. "I'd like to... put forward a motion of deferral so we can actually do some of the homework on it on our own accord, and then come back at a later date and give this application the attention and time it deserves."

Russo's motion of deferral was passed, and the amendment requests will come back to Council in April.

In their report, staff said planning staff reviewed the amendment applications and said they are not consistent with the Region of Peel and Town of Caledon's official plans.

"The proposal does not represent good planning nor is it in the public interest," reads the report. "It is recommended that Council refuse the applications."

The lands at 6939 King Street are 15 acres in size and are currently used for agricultural and residential purposes. Surrounding lands are rural residential and agricultural, with the Town of Caledon's Johnston Sports Park also nearby.

According to the staff report, at a June 2021 public meeting on the amendment proposals, residents expressed concerns "regarding the impact of the proposal on the environment, traffic volumes on adjacent roads, road safety, noise, site servicing and potential for land use conflicts with the surrounding agricultural land uses."

At a second public meeting on the amendment proposals in November 2023, residents raised similar concerns.

At the recent planning meeting (February 13, 2024), several people delegated in support of the amendment requests.

Kevin Bechard, a senior associate with IPS Consulting, which is managing SMVS' applications, said IPS Consulting does not agree with the Town of Caledon staff report recommending refusal of the amendments.

Bechard said SMVS has worked hard to satisfy Provincial policy requirements and that the place of worship will be a landmark building that's open to anyone of any faith. He said it's

A decision on allowing Swaminarayan Mandir Vasna Sanstha Canada, a Hindu faith organization, to build a place of worship and place of assembly at 6939 King Street has been pushed to April to give Councillors more time to mull it over.

TOWN OF CALEDON IMAGE



not intended to hold large festivals, outdoor events, or anything with fireworks, which were concerns he'd heard raised.

Bechard said weekly services at the site would attract around 250 participants. He said SMVS' application recognizes the needs of a diverse community. He said there are already over 3,500 people who identify as Hindu in Caledon, and that this number will grow as Caledon grows.

"It's clear there is an advancing and developing need to accommodate this faith community," said Bechard. "We believe that the subject applications... represent good planning. So, we are requesting approval of the application."

Bhavesh Patel is a Caledon resident and said the creation of a new place of worship in Caledon represents balanced development. He said spirituality is a pillar of a strong community and that everyone deserves a place to go where they can experience inner peace.

Patel said as an example, SMVS recent-

ly hosted an event all about mental health, as many people are currently going through very tough times in the current economy.

"We need to think wisely about our growing community... work together, grow together," said Patel. "I would prefer to try rather than regret."

Rushi Patel also delegated in support of SMVS' applications. He said he's been volunteering with SMVS since he was a teenager, and said he's seen immense benefits in his personal life, as well as in the lives of the people he works with. Rushi leads youth events with SMVS.

"SMVS, we give a lot of importance on giving back to the community and providing needs to those that we support," said Rushi. "We at SMVS are passionate about this endeavour to give back to the community. We have been working with you the past few years, and continue to work with you to iron out any concerns the city may have."

Dufferin, Caledon, Headwaters Hospital put \$150k towards physician recruitment

BY PAULA BROWN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Efforts to recruit new physicians in Dufferin and Caledon are underway as the Hills of Headwaters Collaborative Ontario Health Team (HOHC OHT) announces funding from partners.

The Hills of Headwaters Collaborative Ontario Health Team announced in a February 8 press release that the County of Dufferin, Town of Caledon and Headwaters Health Care Centre (HHCC) have committed a combined \$150,000 to support local physician recruitment efforts for one year.

"The Dufferin/Caledon community is in a unique situation when looking at the projected increase in population and the shortage of physicians we currently face," said Tracy Coffin, Executive Director of HOHC OHT. "This collaboration between key community partners to address the physician shortage in our community is

something we are very proud to be a part of."

According to the HOHC OHT, there are over 15,000 residents from Dufferin County and Caledon without a family physician, as of March 2022. With the population of the two communities projected to grow by 37 per cent by 2031, Dufferin and Caledon would require 43 additional family physicians to care for the population growth – 14 for Dufferin County and 29 for Caledon.

To address physician shortages, HOHC OHT's Physician Recruitment and Retention Task Force, which includes local government representatives, family physicians, health providers and community members, has developed a strategy to attract, recruit and retain family physicians and specialists to the area.

"Collaborating between the hospital and our communities is vital for attracting and retaining family physicians and specialists. The well-being of residents is a shared respon-

sibility and our region has so much to offer physicians and their families," said Kim Delahunt, President and CEO of Headwaters Hospital.

As part of their recruitment strategy, the Physician Recruitment and Retention Task Force plans to hire a physician recruiter to help bring new physicians to the community. The Physician Recruitment and Retention Task Force will be involved in the hiring of a physician recruiter. The position will include an estimated start date of April 2024.

"Dufferin County's vision under our 2023 to 2026 Strategic Plan is to be a community that grows together, with a key goal being to explore opportunities to improve access to healthcare services," said Dufferin County Warden Darren White. "Quality, local and accessible health care will allow us to create a community where everyone can thrive."

For more information on the work being done by HOHC OHT, visit www.hillsofheadwaterscollaborative.ca.

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/ or has been affected by someone who has problem with alcohol. If you have any questions please come any Thursday evening or email: boltonalanon@gmail.com.

Caledon Church of Canada. Every Sunday morning @ 10 am. Monday prayer meeting @ 7 pm. Resources: Prayer counselling, Baby/child dedication, Visit the sick, Wedding Services, Food bank and more!
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Location: 34 Nixon Rd., Bolton

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

Free Chair Yoga Program at Bolton United Church. Every Saturday at 8:30 am and Monday at 9:30 am starting on January 6 2024. To reserve your spot call 905-857-2615 Mon to Thurs mornings or email us at office@boltonunitedchurch.com. Taught by an experienced and qualified Yoga Instructor. Brought to you by an Ontario Trillium Fund grant.

Monthly Dinner
The Caledon Seniors Centre at Rotary Place in Bolton is hosting their Monthly Dinner on Friday, Feb. 23. The menu is: ham, scalloped potatoes, mixed vegetables, pineapple upside down cake.
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Headwaters Health Care Centre CEO stresses importance of Board of Directors during recruitment process

Applications for HHCC's volunteer Board of Directors accepted until March 29

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

An interesting volunteer opportunity is available for residents of Dufferin and Caledon.

On February 5, Headwaters Health Care Centre (HHCC) announced it was seeking applicants for its Board of Directors.

HHCC President and CEO Kim Delahunt shared in a February 8 interview that there are many reasons board members play an important role in shaping the future of the hospital. She also said there's many reasons it's beneficial to be an HHCC Board member.

"First and foremost, it's a way to give back to the local community and fulfil a sense of civic duty... that's most often what I hear from our Board members is that they really just wanted to give back and support the community and their own community hospital," said Delahunt.

She said being a Board member is an opportunity to use one's skills and knowledge for good, and an opportunity to take on a leadership role. Board members can also influence policy at the hospital, explained Delahunt.

"We spend a lot of time discussing quality of care and patient experience," said Delahunt. "There's a lot of valuable experience (Board members) can share... which forms a better experience for their neighbours, friends and family."

Board members often feel a sense of personal satisfaction, said Delahunt, for personally contributing to the health and wellbeing of others in their community.

Delahunt said the HHCC generally recruits new board members once a year, as it looks to fill any vacancies on its up-to-15-person board.

"It's a very robust process... this year we are recruiting for a few new Board directors..."



HEADWATERS PRESIDENT & CEO
KIM DELAHUNT
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

we have a skills-based board approach," she said.

HHCC Board members bring a wide variety of skills and lived experience to the table, with representation from finance, legal, clinical, and health system backgrounds, for example. The HHCC also seeks to represent the diversity of the Dufferin-Caledon community in its Board.

The HHCC Board meets monthly, except in July and August. Each board meeting begins with a patient story, which Delahunt said grounds everyone and reminds them why they're there: to help the patients the HHCC serves.

"Following the patient story at every board meeting, there's a board education topic that is covered," explained Delahunt. "We try to keep it relevant to something that's happening in the industry or in the sector or within the hospitals... we're always trying to support ongoing board education."

After that, meetings shift towards strategic discussion, where reports on how the hospital is advancing its strategic plan are shared and discussed. Board members are able to learn the inner workings of the hospital and discuss ways to improve service with their colleagues.

Board meetings also include typical board

work, such as governance items and discussion of reports from committees. Each board member is responsible for joining at least one committee — committees meet bi-monthly, separate from the main board.

Delahunt shared there are currently three committees: a finance and audit committee, a governance committee, and a quality committee.

"We set and create a Board work plan each and every year," said Delahunt, adding that this helps everyone know what is required and what's coming each year.

Delahunt said recruiting Board members is always exciting because the HHCC gets to tap into their expertise and experience. In return, the HHCC offers Board members various learning opportunities.

"There are many amazing free board education opportunities... we always provide a board calendar and a list of upcoming events," said Delahunt. "It's up to each indi-

vidual board member... how much ongoing education they'd like to do."

Some HHCC Board members are retired, while others still work full-time jobs.

"We've got a diversity of ages, diversity of backgrounds, diversity of cultures, diversity of skill sets," said Delahunt. "At the end of the day, we are always very cognizant that their volunteers are volunteering their time... we like to make things optional whenever possible... if there's anything that's a requirement, we try to incorporate it into existing committee or board meetings."

As CEO, Delahunt said she often taps into and relies on the HHCC Board of Directors. She said in a post-pandemic world with an aging population, more and more people are realizing the importance of health care.

Those interested in becoming a board member can submit an expression of interest via email to info@headwatershealth.ca by March 29.

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Board to provide recommendations on transferring services, such as land use planning, to municipalities

Continued from FRONT

Peel's dissolution was cancelled in December 2023 and it was then that a new mandate for the Transition Board was first announced.

Calandra's letter provided some clarity on the mandate, which the Province claims will make local government in Peel more efficient.

Calandra said the goals of the new mandate include accelerating the building of homes in Peel, reducing "duplication" and "layers of bureaucracy", and ensuring continuity of services.

The Transition Board is being asked to "move expeditiously" to ensure Caledon, Brampton, and Mississauga are equipped with necessary resources and personnel to undertake the transfer of planning authorities.

With regards to water and wastewater, the Board is being told to ensure recommendations brought forward will maintain public ownership and control of the services. Calandra also mentioned the Transition Board could look at creation of a municipal services corporation or services board.

"On all services listed above, any options or recommendations put forward by the Transition Board must ensure service continuity for residents without disruption," said Calandra.

He said all options or recommendations from the Board must take into account labour relations, back office support, and include a detailed financial analysis on local impacts.

"The Transition Board should continue to prioritize the preservation of frontline workers," said Calandra.

Calandra said he would like to see recommendations from the Transition Board this spring, and said his staff will be avail-

able to provide support to the board.

Calandra's letter, and a Region of Peel staff report on the Transition Board's new mandate, were presented to Regional Council for information at its February 8 meeting.

The staff report was authored by Sherona Hollman, Peel's Director of Strategy and Transformation, and submitted to Council by Peel's CAO Gary Kent.

The report explains that the new mandate impacts approximately 25 per cent of the Region's staff. It also said it remains unclear if the Transition Board's recommendations, when ready, will be made public.

The Transition Board has hired the services of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP and Hemson Consulting to work with Peel staff on creating "evidence-based options and recommendations."

On the Region's part, it said it's committed to working with Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing staff, the Transition Board, local municipalities, and third-party consultants to develop recommendations and options for Calandra by spring.

"Peel staff have provided over 700 documents (translating to over 10,000 pages) to support the Transition Board, Ministry staff and the local municipalities," reads the staff report. "Peel staff have also participated in over 40 meetings with the Transition Board and local municipalities through service working group meetings and critical milestone meetings."

Peel staff will continue to meet with the transition board bi-weekly until the end of April.

The staff report says financial impacts of the new mandate are unknown at this time, and that staff will continue to assess financial implications on an ongoing basis.



NEWS

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Family Day Activities

FEBRUARY 19

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- Caledon Centre for Recreation and Wellness
- Caledon East Community Complex
- Lloyd Wilson Centennial Arena
- Southfields Community Centre

Grand Opening of Reese's Rink



NEW! OUTDOOR ICE RINK IN CALEDON EAST

On **Saturday, February 17**, the Town of Caledon will be holding a special ceremony from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. to officially open Reese's Rink, the new outdoor rink at the Caledon East Community Complex (CECC). Named after Reese Meyer, a special young local hockey player for the Caledon Hawks who tragically lost his battle with cancer four years ago,

The event will involve the ceremonial puck drop by Mayor Annette Groves with Reese's parents, Glenn and Jennifer, and members of Reese's Caledon Hawks hockey team. Refreshments will be available in Banquet Hall A in the CECC and Reese's memorabilia will be available for viewing.

OUTDOOR RINK AVAILABILITY

Please note that from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Reese's Rink will be open for public skating once the grand opening puck drop has taken place.

At 1 p.m. the rink will remain open to the public under the usual daily schedule of skating activities.



Notice of Intention to Designate

TAKE NOTICE that the Town of Caledon intends to designate the following property as being of cultural heritage value or interest under Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18:

14275 THE GORE ROAD

The property is located on the east side of The Gore Road, approximately 900 metres north of King Street, being part of the West Half of Lot 12, Concession 4, in the geographic Township of Albion. It includes a west-facing brick farmhouse and a complex of agricultural outbuildings.

The property's design or physical value is linked primarily to its prominent, two-storey farmhouse, known locally as the Newlove House. Constructed between 1883 and 1891, the Newlove House has a high level of heritage integrity as a unique example of a rural farmhouse combining the design principles of both the American Gothic Revival and Italianate styles. Built of red brick with buff brick detailing, the house is a T-shaped plan with a projecting front wing ornamented with a one-storey bay window. Architectural decoration is also found around its windows, eaves, and front gable.

The property has historical value and associative value for the direct association between the Newlove House and James Newlove, a successful farmer who also played a leading role in the community's social development as Reeve of Albion, secretary-treasurer of the Macville Public School Board, and Treasurer of the Farmers Institute. James inherited the farm from his father Love Newlove, an early 19th century settler in Albion Township. The Newlove House represents the improvement of nineteenth century farmsteads as the agricultural community progressed past the early settlement phase. The property remained in the ownership of the Newlove family until 1951.

The property has contextual value as a local landmark and for its contribution to defining and maintaining the local rural and agricultural character of the area.

CONTACT

Please contact Heritage staff at heritage@caledon.ca for further information regarding the cultural heritage value and heritage attributes of this property.

Any person may, within thirty days after publication of this notice, dated February 15, 2024, serve the Clerk notice of their objection to the proposed designation in accordance with the Ontario Heritage Act, setting out the reason for the objection and all relevant facts.

By email: Kevin Klingenberg
Town Clerk
kevin.klingenberg@caledon.ca

By mail, courier or personal delivery attention: Kevin Klingenberg
Corporate Services/Town Clerk
6311 Old Church Road
Caledon ON L7C 1J6

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Bolton Secondary Plans Review



VISION AND PLANNING ALTERNATIVES

The Town of Caledon is in the process of updating and consolidating the land use policy framework for six secondary plans and other areas within Bolton from the existing Official Plan. The new consolidated secondary plan will guide intensification and land use changes in Bolton, especially along the Queen Street corridor.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION:

Public consultation is a vital component of the planning process. A Public Information Session is being held to present and receive your comments regarding the proposed vision and planning alternatives report for the Bolton Secondary Plans Review.

WHEN:
Thursday, February 22, 2024
Start Time: 6:30 p.m.
Presentation Time: 7:00 p.m.

If you would like to provide us with your comments, require additional information please contact:

Shahzad Mir
Community Planner
Town of Caledon
905.584.2272 x. 4556
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Abbotside Way extension will provide another exit out of Southfields Village community

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Another exit to Southfields Village is on its way, and so is another industrial warehouse in Caledon.

At Caledon Council's February 13 Planning and Development committee meeting, Councillors discussed a zoning bylaw amendment for the property at 0 and 12304 Heart Lake Road.

The property is owned by real estate developer Broccolini, which is seeking to rezone it from agricultural to prestige industrial. A condition of the rezoning would be that Broccolini completes an extension of Abbotside Way to Heart Lake Road.

Broccolini's property is on the west side of Heart Lake Road just north of the Highway 410 overpass. The planned extension of Abbotside Way, a road in the Southfields Village community, will run across the northern border of the property.

Council approved Broccolini's zoning bylaw amendment request, and it will come forward for final approval at a Caledon Council meeting.

Broccolini is planning to cre-

ate an industrial warehouse and distribution building with ancillary offices on their property. The planned extension of Abbotside Way would provide another exit out of the Southfields Village community, a massive residential development that currently only has two main exit points — Kennedy Road at Mayfield Road, and Kennedy Road at Old School Road.

A Town of Caledon staff report said completion of the Abbotside Way connection will direct truck and other employment traffic towards Heart Lake Road as opposed to the residential areas west towards Kennedy Road.

Ward 2 Councillor Dave Sheen represents the residents of Southfields Village.

"The community certainly has been anxious to see another exit out of Southfields Village created for a very long time," said Sheen. "So I'm really glad to see that we're making some progress forward."

Mayor Annette Groves said she was also pleased to see progress made on the file.

"Glad to hear that Abbotside Way is going to be well under construction, because it's been a long time coming," said Groves.



Real estate developer Broccolini plans to create an industrial warehouse and distribution building with ancillary offices here. In order to do so, the developer must extend Abbotside Way to Heart Lake Road.

TOWN OF CALEDON IMAGE

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PARK VANDALISM INVESTIGATED

Officers from the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are investigating after property was damaged at Forks of the Credit Provincial Park.

“On February 8, 2024, Caledon OPP officers received a report of vandalism at the Forks of the Credit Provincial Park,” say Police. “Throughout the park, various signage was torn down, and others were covered with graffiti. Since December 2023, several instances of vandalism have been reported at the park, resulting in thousands of dollars of damage.”

What is Graffiti?

Graffiti is defined as writing, drawing, or symbols applied to any surface without the consent of the property owner, authorized agent, or designate.

Is Graffiti illegal?

Yes. Mischief, which is a Criminal Code offence, is the wilful damage or destruction of property and can be punishable for up to a 10-year prison sentence.

How does Graffiti effect my community?

Contrary to popular belief, Graffiti is not a victimless crime. If ignored, it can:

- Leave the impression that no one cares;
- Lead to increased graffiti and crime;
- Loss of business growth and tourism;
- Clean up can divert tax dollars from community programs and services;
- Harm prosperity and reduce property values;
- Decrease residents feelings of safety.

If I'm a property or business owner, how can I prevent Graffiti?

- Install video surveillance equipment;
- Increase lighting and visibility in vulnerable locations;
- Restrict access to walls by planting shrubs or trees.

If you have any information regarding this, or other instances of vandalism, please report them by calling the OPP at 1 (888) 310-1122, or by visiting our website at www.opp.ca. You can also provide information anonymously regarding criminal offences by contacting Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or on-

line at www.peelcrimestoppers.ca. When you contact Crime Stoppers, you stay anonymous, and you never have to testify.

WEAPONS AND ALCOHOL CHARGES

Officers from the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have charged a Caledon resident following a traffic stop on Sunday.

“On February 11, 2024, just after 12:00 a.m., officers from the Caledon Detachment were patrolling the area of Mayfield Road near Torbram Road in the Town of Caledon, when a traffic stop was conducted upon a motor vehicle,” say Police. “During the course of the investigation, officers formed grounds that the driver’s ability to operate a motor vehicle was impaired by alcohol and was subsequently arrested. Following the arrest, officers conducted a search of the motor vehicle and located open liquor within reach of the driver, as well as a prohibited weapon.”

As a result, Manjinder Rai, 22, of Caledon, was charged with:

- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus);
- Driving motor vehicle with open container of liquor;
- Driving motor vehicle with liquor readily available;
- Possession of weapon for a dangerous purpose;
- Possession of a prohibited device.

The driver is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on February 29, 2024, to answer to the charges.

The charges have not been proven. Additionally, the driver’s vehicle was impounded for a period of seven days, and their driver’s licence suspended for a period of 90 days.

“Drivers who are impaired by drugs or alcohol continue to pose a significant threat on Ontario roads. Whether a driver is impaired by alcohol or drugs, impaired is impaired, and impaired driving is dangerous regardless of the source of impairment. If you suspect that someone is driving while impaired, it is important to call 9-1-1 to report it. 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.” For more information about the penalties of driving impaired, visit: www.ontario.ca/page/impaired-driving.

IMPAIRED CHARGES

Officers from the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have recently charged two individuals following RIDE programs.

“On January 30, 2024, Caledon OPP officers were conducting a R.I.D.E. (Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere) spot check on Horseshoe Hill Road, near Beech Grove Sideroad, in the Town of Caledon,” say Police. “Just after 5:00 p.m., a vehicle entered the area and officers subsequently formed grounds the driver’s ability to operate a motor vehicle was impaired by alcohol.”

As a result of the investigation, Paulo Frias Sousa, 37, of Caledon, was charged with:

- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus);
- Driving motor vehicle with open container of liquor.

The accused is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice on February 15, 2024, to answer to the charges.

The charges have not been proven.

“Just a few days later, on February 2, 2024, Caledon OPP officers were conducting another R.I.D.E. spot check on the Highway 410 off-ramp at Hurontario Street. Just before 1:00 a.m., a vehicle

entered the area and officers subsequently formed grounds that driver’s ability to operate a motor vehicle was impaired by alcohol.”

Following the investigation, Prabhjot Sidhu, 31, of Brampton, was charged with:

- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus);
- Driving motor vehicle with open container of liquor;
- Driving motor vehicle with liquor readily available.

The accused is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on February 22, 2024, to answer to the charges.

The charges have not been proven. Both individuals had their vehicles impounded for a period of seven days, and their driver’s licences were suspended for a period of 90 days.

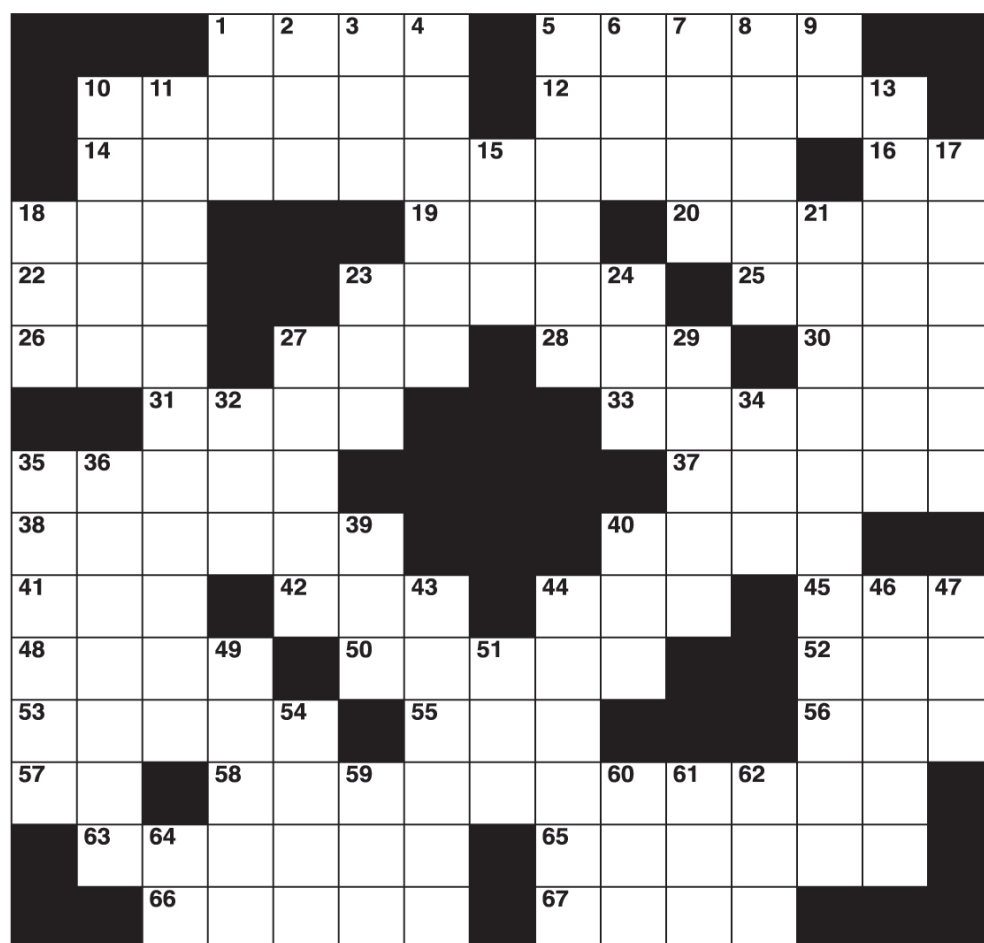
“The OPP remains committed to keeping our communities safe through enforcement and public education. Under the Liquor Licence and Control Act, ‘liquor’ is defined as spirits, wine and beer or any combination of them and includes any alcohol in a form appropriate for human consumption as a beverage, alone or in combination with any other matter. When transporting liquor, it must be in a container that is unopened and the seal unbroken, or packed in baggage that is fastened closed or not otherwise readily available to any person in the vehicle. For more information about the penalties of driving impaired, visit: www.ontario.ca/page/impaired-driving.”

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The Citizen CROSSWORD

Solution in CLASSIFIEDS



CLUES ACROSS

- Gene type
- Persian male given name
- Type of protection
- Cloud
- One who returns to life
- Gym class
- General’s assistant (abbr.)
- Baby’s dining accessory
- Enchantress
- Prefix denoting “in a”
- Spiritual leader
- Cavities
- Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- Foot (Latin)
- Sweet potato
- Pharaoh of Lower Egypt
- Land
- More inquisitive
- Dog breed: ___ Apso
- Stood up

- Direct and uninhibited
- Authorless
- Blocking type of drug (abbr.)
- Retrospective analysis (abbr.)
- Root mean square (abbr.)
- Macaws
- Actress Remini
- Polynesian wrapped skirt
- City of Angels hoops team (abbr.)
- Fitzgerald and Baker are two
- Bowling alley
- Must-have
- A way to cool down
- Ethnic group in Asia
- A way to alter
- Set of five
- Removes from the record
- Dummies
- Set period in office

- DC Comics superhero
- Brew
- Play
- Single-celled animals
- Rough to the touch (British)
- Often noted alongside cons
- Preparation of rootstock
- Atomic #44
- Egyptian unit of capacity
- About secretary
- Particular groups
- Poke fun at something occurs
- Financial term
- Justify
- Arbiter
- 007’s creato
- Czech name for Prague
- Groans
- American time

- No seats available
- ___ Stahl, journalist
- Cleft lip
- Talk incessantly
- Expresses atomic and molecular weights (abbr.)
- A part of a river where the current is very fast
- Curdled milk
- Running competitions
- A team’s best pitcher
- Carthaginian explorer
- World-renowned city
- Most common Japanese surname
- The bill in a restaurant
- They ___
- City of Angels football team (abbr.)
- Distinctive practice
- One quintillion bytes

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 CKF Inc – Social Fund
 Community Women's Circle, Caledon East
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 Healing Cycle Ride – Bob Mansbridge
 High Country United Church Women
 Higher Ground Café – Bon Appetit
 Hockley Valley Resort – Ski 4 Bethell Day
 Hot Night's Hotrods Ontario Inc.
 Inglewood Ball Hockey Club

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 Town of Caledon
 Tuuuba Palooza Summer Party – Mandy Gould
 Wicked Shortbread – The Bethell Box, Bon Appetit

Thank You Everyone for Your Support!

We are grateful for the support received from all of our community partners and apologize if we have inadvertently missed your name.

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Curiosity, comfort and lack thereof

Planning ahead was never a strong suit of my grandmother's. In fact, whenever someone asked if she had any commitments for a date in the future, her boiler plate response was, "I don't buy green bananas," despite them regularly serving as an ironic feature on her kitchen counter.

While many of you, I'm sure, spent Super Bowl Sunday watching the football game – or counting down the minutes to the half-time show at the very least – I instead spent the bulk of the time staring at a banana that only had a distant memory of the green, green peels of home.

Now, mind you, I wasn't watching a piece of fruit rapidly sprinting in the direction of a banana bread pan in real time; rather I was spending a couple of hours on a GO Train with little escape from an advertisement plugging CBC's Gem streaming service with the sweet, mottled fruitstuff.

Shining a light on a program which, I presume, was shining a further light of its own on some sort of foodie calamity, the ad was anchored by the slogan: "Get Curious. It's a Canada thing."

We've often been told that curiosity killed the proverbial cat – wiping out all nine lives on one fell swoop? – but where would we be without it?

It's led to innovation, intellectual breakthroughs, new and changed perspectives, and no end to self-improvement –and it's obviously not an exclusively "Canada thing", even though some might like to pretend it is.

As Canadians, we sometimes like to puff ourselves up by highlighting what we aren't rather than what we are. Several of us have watched the political landscape change south of our border from the comfort of our high horse, patting ourselves on the back that such drastic and dramatic shifts certainly couldn't happen here because we're curious enough to ask the tough questions and exercise critical thinking.

We also tend to paint ourselves with a more intellectually curious brush than our neighbours (see: the haw-haw'ing over Rick Mercer's Talking to Americans and no shortage of copycats on TikTok and Instagram).

I'm not here to say there's any particular differences when it comes to curiosity in our respective countries and amongst its citizenry. However, regardless of which side of the border we're talking about, I've noticed what can only be described as something of a decline in curiosity on scales large and small.

On Facebook, for instance, I follow a forum related to a particular pop culture interest and sometimes, for better or worse, wade in on the discussion – only if I have something to add. On a recent occasion, I posted what I thought was a pretty funny and on-topic joke. Most people "got it," some people didn't. One person who didn't get it, made that very clear early on, insisted that they did "get it" despite clear evidence to the contrary, and promptly blocked me for reasons known only to them.

Now, mind you, I wasn't overly concerned about being blocked by this fan; I had never interacted with them in my life, so it was no great loss, but I'd love to have some insight on the method of their perturbedness.

Blocking me didn't stop me from seeing their reply; it only blocked me from responding to them – thankfully, there were plenty of other people there to fill in the blanks. It didn't prevent me from seeing the thread. It didn't put a roadblock in the way of numerous other offshoot discussions that came from the joke's subject matter. It only prevented me, again, from

replying to them directly to explain the joke – but I guess that was enough. Explanations were neither wanted or needed; they were content with leaving their worldview unchallenged.

We're seeing this across all sectors, with business, tech, and political leaders, and even performers and artists, blocking people who disagree with them – as is their prerogative – but it doesn't do anything to stop discourse, critical or otherwise, on their product, platform, policy or performance. It merely removes said discourse out of the social media feed of the subject.

Outside of social media, I've observed no end of instances where people are more than willing to bolt, physically or virtually, when experiencing the least amount of discomfort. Whenever you happen to be in the world, pockets of discomfort are all around us. There isn't much room to find comfort when you get into the nitty-gritty of the myriad factors related to the Israel-Hamas war, Russia's invasion of Ukraine, or how the upcoming U.S. election is shaping up. And curiously, particularly in a column regarding curiosity, it is seemingly resulting in swathes of people seeking comfort in not knowing, not pursuing answers or, worse, simply seeing out answers and information – dubious or otherwise – that reinforces rather than challenges their worldview.

There is nothing wrong necessarily with seeking validation, but it could become a problem when one does so at the expense of keeping a foothold in reality.

The "business" of news is an environment where this is becoming an increasing challenge as well.

This is an industry where if one is an editor or reporter, you don't hear much when you're doing something right. If you do something that is perceived as wrong, however, you hardly hear the end of it. Several years ago, for example, I had a phone call from a reader who was outraged that I had the gall to refer to the MP of the day as "Member of Parliament." Why? Because they didn't vote for the person in question and, therefore, they were offended at... being confronted with reality?

Around that same time I had a call from a reader in one of our communities cancelling their delivery. When I asked why they no longer wished to receive that particular paper, the answer was slightly confounding: "I'm not interested in local news." Fast forward a couple of years, this same individual suggested we shine a light on something that had just hit their radar: the use of Strong Mayor powers in York and Peel Regions – this, despite more than a dozen total articles related to the subject in both geographic areas.

Perhaps, from their perspective, local news didn't matter to them until it did! Thank heavens an issue finally piqued their curiosity! And, if it took that to spur engagement in the issues that matter, I suppose we can chalk that up as a win.

Now, in a world where A.I. is continuing unabated and deepfakes are popping up to further skew our perceptions of reality, maintaining that "win" will be challenging indeed.

Curiosity and critical thinking are essential for our world but, from my perspective, it's all too often thrown by the wayside in favour of affirmation.

Curiosity may be fatal for cats, but a lack of curiosity could be the death knell of many things we hold dear.

Be curious, ask questions, embrace opportunities to have your worldview challenged and don't shy away from being uncomfortable, if only for a moment.

We'll all be the better for it.



We should all be very concerned

by Mark Pavilons



Is anyone overly concerned about the state of world affairs?

I know the old saying – "you can lead a horse to water but you can't make it drink" – but come on, folks!

There are so many issues, concerns, and impactful events that our plates are overflowing.

I realize it's a lot to handle and take in, but we have to not only make sense of it all, but react accordingly.

"Awareness without action is worthless," according to Phil McGraw.

The alarm bells should be ringing loudly across the globe.

We are likely the most advanced and knowledgeable species in this region of the galaxy.

As our technology expands, so does our access to information.

The smart phone generation has so much power and potential at their fingertips that there's no reason our species isn't highly aware, informed and cognizant.

We know what's important and yet, what are we doing? Are we taking action, en masse, to solve the world's woes? Are we lifting that strong texting finger to lend a hand?

Leonardo DiCaprio said raising awareness on the most pressing environmental issues of our time is more important than ever.

We've been sounding the environmental alarm bells for more than a decade, but just how far have we come?

The RBC Climate Action Institute released its Climate Action 2024 report. It notes the federal government has covered roughly 80% of the cost of climate action since 2016. The provinces need to step up spending to get Canada back on track.

More than half of Canadian businesses have set emissions reduction targets for 2030, and 96% of CEOs surveyed are confident they can hit them.

Roughly two-thirds of Canadians want to do more to tackle climate change, but roughly half don't favour actions that could erode their standard of living.

Sad, but the bottom line affects us all.

King has laid the foundation for climate action and got ahead of the curve several years ago. We're hindered by limited funds, but there's no question the will is there. And that's a good thing.

Some of us, including King residents, are leaning on EVs to carry us into the future. But, as we've come to realize, they may not be the be all and end all.

The production of car batteries causes more harm than good, it seems, and production waste from EVs

is far from clean.

Going electric is a good thing, if that source is clean, abundant and sustainable.

According to OPG, hydro and nuclear power produce more than 85% of Ontario's total energy, and remain the "backbone of its grid – one of the cleanest in the world."

It's great we have a sustainable source, but as most homeowners know, hydro isn't cheap and the more we plug in, the more it will cost.

We are so very dependent on electricity, to heat our homes, power our numerous devices and, yes, keep us informed via the internet.

I'm sure there are challenges in the energy industry, yet most of us are unaware of them.

I'm positive that the next big conflict would involve simply turning off the juice, without a single shot being fired.

Speaking of conflicts, we have two major ones on our hands, and it seems little progress is being made on either front.

The war Israel has been devastating. As of February 6, more than 28,000 people (26,751 Palestinians and 1,410 Israelis) have been killed in the Israel-Hamas war, including 85 journalists and over 136 UNRWA aid workers.

While peace talks are taking place, there's no end in sight for this human tragedy.

Most Canadians are far removed from the conflict and unless you take note of the rallies and protests, you likely don't think about it much. But it has become a divisive factor here and abroad.

The ongoing Russian aggression in Ukraine is also taking a huge toll. Estimates put Russian soldier casualties at 300,000. Sources put Ukraine military and civilian casualties at 70,000, with another 120,000 wounded.

Here we are, in 2024, and tens of thousands are being killed and wounded daily in these aggressions.

I picture Edvard Munch's "The Scream" as I read about such tragedies. I can't even fathom such losses.

Are we not concerned about these things?

Throwing verbal and financial support at military and humanitarian efforts is one thing. Putting an end to hostilities is another.

And what of the aftermath of both of these wars? Has anyone even pondered the astronomical costs of the cleanup and finding new homes for the thousands upon thousands of displaced people?

Men, women and children will be mourning losses, filling holes and digging through the rubble for decades to come.

We will see a generation of war-torn people unlike anything since the Second World War.

And that should concern each and every one of us, from around the globe.

And let's not forget about what we've all lost through this – love, compassion, beauty, art, architecture, spirituality and even the sweet sounds of music.

Allen Ginsberg once said the only thing that can save the world is reclaiming awareness. And awareness may very well be the first step in healing, but where to begin?

"Every one of us has the ability to raise awareness, volunteer, educate our friends and family, and give back to our communities," Matt Barnes said.

Let that be our pledge, our mantra, as we move forward.

And be thankful we live in a peaceful country.

Submit your **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

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As good as it gets

If you have ever seen the 1997 movie, “As Good as it Gets,” starring Jack Nicholson and Helen Hunt, you will remember that Nicholson’s character is a full blown germaphobe with other compulsive disorders thrown in. He can’t step on cracks in the sidewalk, and he has other rituals he must perform just to get through the day.

In one scene, he visits his psychiatrist unannounced and asks for help. The doctor tells him he can’t just show up at the office, but must make an appointment.

Nicholson’s character has a good response – how could the doctor treat him for obsessive compulsive disorder, then be surprised when he shows up at the office unexpectedly without an appointment?

When the character leaves, he steps into the waiting room, filled with several very anxious people, waiting for their turn to see the doctor.

Nicholson stops, and says, “What if this is as good as it gets?”

That thought sinks like a dark cloud over the people in the waiting room, who are now considering the possibility that he may be right.

Maybe he is right – it could be as good as it gets – for some people.

I used to be acquainted with a family, who, for lack of a better word, were poor. The father had bailed years earlier and left his wife with three or four young children.

This family seemed destined to remain in a rut of near poverty. They lived in a partially winterized cottage on the north shore of Lake Erie. None of the kids, now older, seemed to value or understand the idea of getting a job – and neither did the mother.

It was the kind of household, where if the screen door came off one hinge, that door would still be hanging by one hinge, five years later.

My friend started a relationship with the daughter. He found himself, as a high school student, going to their cottage and fixing things that a normal home owner would do on their own.

The family found it amazing that he would think of things like actually fixing the hinge on the screen door so it would work properly, or cutting the grass once it grew to six inches tall.

One time I asked him about their situation as it seemed dismal.

It turns out they were stuck in a circle.

The mother figured she had been given a bad break in life, so she had no money. Because she had no money, she couldn’t get ahead. It was a circle of existence she couldn’t break.

Instead of finding a solution, she was content to collect public assistance and coast through life barely getting by.

For them, that probably is as good as it gets.

On the flip side, I went to high school with a guy, who is now one of the wealthiest men in the country. I knew he was doing well - you hear things through the grape vine - but one day a national newspaper printed a list of the top 20 wealthiest Canadians, and he was on the list.

This guy didn’t come from an uber-rich family, although they were probably upper middle class, and he didn’t attend some wildly expensive boarding school that has the clout to get their students into select universities.

He went to a typical public high school.

For some reason, this guy was driven from a young age. He had top marks in school, and the teachers loved him. He went on to a good university, then ended up in the UK, as a Rhodes

Scholar.

For him, as good as it gets, means having achieved wealth in the ten-digit range.

I know a lot of people who get into a job situation, and can’t get out. They may not like the job, but will stay with it for 30 or more years because they can’t give up the pay cheque.

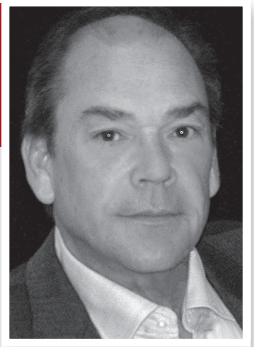
That is an understandable situation when others rely on you to put food on the table.

However, I’ve seen other people who are dissatisfied with their job, and decide to completely change their life by getting their real estate license, or something similar, and embarking on a brand-new career.

For them, as good as it gets, means putting out some effort and striving to find better opportunities.

Some people prefer to coast along and fly under the radar, while others strive for that next level of satisfaction.

Life – is what you make it.



BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW

That’s one for the “win” column!

Never let it be said that my bias is showing. Sure, I often write about the current provincial government and yes, it’s quite possible it is not always in the most favourable way. But I’m not above giving praise where praise is due – even if it took a court case to force the issue. The recent decision by the Court of Appeal for Ontario to uphold a lower court decision that Bill 124 is unconstitutional is good news. That Ford’s government has now decided to repeal the Bill in its entirety is even better.

A quick recap will remind readers that Bill 124 was enacted by the Progressive Conservatives in 2019 as a “way to help the government eliminate a deficit.” That it was doing so on the backs of workers, and mostly workers in female dominated professions such as teaching and nursing, was abhorrent. Additionally, the Bill took effect at a time when a worldwide pandemic struck forcing some of the very people we were calling “heroes” on the one hand, to be capped at a one percent per year wage increase on the other hand, despite their exceptional efforts to keep us all safe. Finally, and perhaps the most important addition to the list of reasons

Bill 124 was so divisive, was the fact that the bill was essentially a constitutional violation of the collective bargaining rights of public sector workers.

While I’m tempted to hedge my bets when it comes to giving any high praise to Premier Ford (as we obviously don’t know what still might come in its place) overall the Premier’s announcement this past Monday that the government would repeal the bill is, as I said, good news. Labour unions too are happy, calling this a victory against the Ford government. Of course, who isn’t happy? Premier Ford. After all, his hand was forced by the courts and according to him, the government had already spent “billions of dollars” as a result of the legislation and he doesn’t believe the courts should have played any role at all in making decisions about Bill 124.

Personally, I’m not sure if his comments mean he laments “the billions” spent on reparations to workers, or “the billions” spent on the government’s decision to appeal their position in the courts. However, perhaps, in an effort to save face, Premier Ford went on during this

press conference to claim that “times are different now” largely because his government have been “prudent fiscal managers,” presumably meaning that now it’s ok to pay unionized workers what they had the constitutional right to bargain for in the first place.

It’s important to note (again as a friendly reminder to provide historical context) that even though Bill 124 was in place to cap wages, and save the government money, exceptions were made at that time for municipal fire-fighters and police officers, still largely known as male dominated professions. The true impact of this decision was that while calling all “first responders” heroes, the Ford government was in fact discriminating against at least one profession in that category, nurses, which in direct contrast to firefighters and police officers, is still largely a female dominated profession.

If that’s not gender-disparity at its finest on full display, I don’t know what is and I’m not the only one who felt (and still feels) that way. In an article written in February of 2022, (during the appeals process) Sarah Kaplan, a professor and director of the Institute for Gen-

der and the Economy, said while a policy itself may seem neutral, intentionally or not, “the impact is actually gendered.” Whether we’re talking about corporate downsizing or government caps, often these impacts of these policies end up disproportionately affecting not just women but other marginalized people... actually exacerbating inequality when you put them in place.”

In terms of Bill 124, the fact is that 55% of the public service employees impacted were women. Kaplan went on to call this “an example of the way that our society is not valuing the caring professions and (how such policies) actually are creating really negative outcomes when it comes to achieving equality in our society.” At the end of the day, as I said at the outset, the repeal of Bill 124 and the related court victory for labour unions is a definite addition to the “win” column. Whether or not we can give all the credit to Premier Ford? That’s debatable.



SHERALYN ROMAN
TALK CALEDON

There’s an economic storm brewing

No one likes being the bearer of bad news, but I truly believe, with every bone in my body, that we’re headed for some severe times in the years ahead.

How severe?

Depression-era levels of unemployment, for one. The large spike in joblessness will be brought about by many factors all taking place at once, including the digital and AI revolution, which will wipe out a large number of white-collar jobs, and the disruption to global trade brought about by increased regional strife and armed conflict.

I also foresee food shortages coming to our shores, and food will continue to become more and more costly.

A new poll published last week by the Financial Services Regulatory Authority of Ontario (FSRA) revealed that more than 44 per cent of residents in Ontario said the high cost of living is taking a big bite out of their cash-flow, leaving them with less dollars for retirement savings. In other words, while it’s getting harder and harder to put food on the table, it’s

also getting much more difficult to sock away savings for our retirement years.

I lived through the Great Depression as a young boy. People got by. They made do with what they had. In our house, that meant eating cornmeal three times a day. I don’t think the downturn we’re going to experience will be as bad or long, but I do think it will be more severe than any recession we’ve had in nearly a century.

For many small business owners in Canada right now, we’re already in a period of deep economic turmoil. A report published last week by the federal Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy showed that business bankruptcies were up 75 per cent over the previous year.

On top of that, according to Statistics Canada there were over 200,000 business closures between June and October 2023, which means the owners simply closed up shop rather than file for bankruptcy. That’s a sad commentary on the business environment we’ve created in this country.

As with everything in life, major disruptive

events like economic downturns are sometimes beyond our control. But it nevertheless makes you wonder: to what extent have we been the authors of our own economic misfortune?

Regardless, there are still many steps we can take right now to make our economy stronger and more resistant to the economic storm that is brewing.

One of the surest ways we can bolster our economy is through the implementation of an economic charter of rights that will get our government finances and economy back on a solid footing. I believe it would completely regenerate Canada by raising incomes and living standards and reining in the damage currently being done by government debt and spending that has gone completely off the rails.

Small business owners, who are being battered right now from all directions, would especially benefit from the economic charter since it would eliminate business tax on these companies and dramatically reduce the number of regulations currently strangling small business.

But small businesses and besieged Canadi-

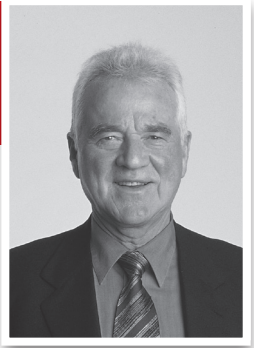
ans can’t sit back and hope for better days. They need to fight for change. The national coalition I’ve formed to push for an economic charter of rights is one of the best ways we can restore sound economic principles and place our country in a much better position to weather the economic downturn that is inevitably coming.

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.

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FRANK STRONACH
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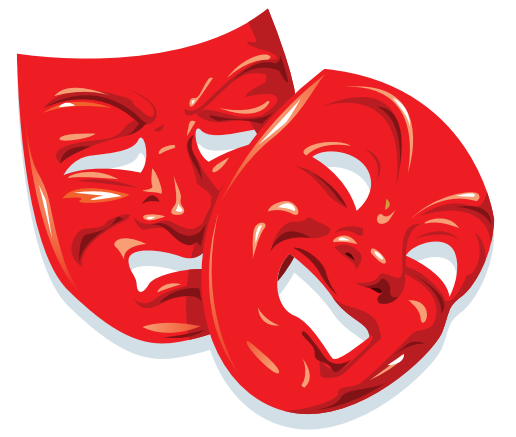
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ARTS & CULTURE



Fishing club aims to inspire next generation of conservationists

Steve Noakes and David Williams worried about threats to West Credit River

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Members of an area fly fishing club are advocating for conservation of the West Credit River as it faces existential threats from the Erin Wastewater Treatment Plant and a large proposed blasting quarry in Caledon.

Steve Noakes and David Williams belong to the Izaak Walton Fly Fishing Club (IWFFC), which recently released a seven-minute video on the importance of environmental preservation and the dangers the aforementioned treatment plant and quarry present for the Credit River watershed.

The video is available at the following link: youtu.be/2hYRRJwM3qg

Noakes spent hundreds of hours capturing footage for the video, which he hopes will inspire others to take action.

Noakes is a semi-retired professional aquarist and in addition to being an IWFFC member, he's on the Board of Directors for the Greg Clark chapter of Trout Unlimited Canada and is a founding member of the Coalition for the West Credit River. He enjoys photography, including underwater and drone work, which he used for the recent video.

"I spend most of my time designing restoration projects for brook trout habitat," said



Brook trout in the West Credit River.

STEVE NOAKES PHOTO

Noakes. "Tree planting, in-stream work restoring habitat... I live outside, basically."

Williams is a retired family doctor and is on the executive of the IWFFC. He looks after all the videos the club produces, editing them and putting them online.

Born in England, Williams came to Canada in 1975 and fell in love with the beautiful fishing here. He became more involved with

the conservation side of things when the Erin Wastewater Treatment Plant, which is now under construction, was proposed.

"I thought, 'that's rubbish, how can they put a wastewater treatment plant at the headwaters of some of the nicest brook trout fishing streams in Ontario?'," said Williams. "We've been working to try and mitigate the effects of the wastewater treatment plant."

Brook trout rely on a cold-water ecosystem, as they can only spawn in a certain temperature range, and Noakes said those ecosystems are increasingly at risk in Southern Ontario.

"It's a whole ecosystem that's disappearing... it's very underappreciated... people don't even notice they're there," said Noakes.

He said by rehabilitating brook trout habitat, positive impacts will be felt throughout the entire ecosystem.

Noakes said he recently worked on a habitat restoration project near Charleston Sideroad (Highway 24) in Caledon that's a stone's throw away from the proposed blasting quarry.

He said as the proposed quarry site is immediately upstream from the Forks of the Credit Provincial Park. He's dedicated to working with the Forks of the Credit Preservation Group to stop the quarry. Noakes said he's not against some industry, but the proposed blasting quarry is too close to the Credit River and the risk from it is too high.

Operations at the proposed quarry would see work done below the water table, and Noakes said this is worrisome because brook trout rely on groundwater upwelling. He said groundwater upwelling helps to regulate trout egg temperatures throughout

the winter months.

"The eggs do not incubate and will not hatch without those upwellings, and they're very sensitive," said Noakes. "If you start drilling, altering the course of the groundwater, you potentially change all of that... a major spawning area is right next to where they plan on putting the quarry in and it will have a direct impact on them."

Williams and Noakes both said getting the next generation of people involved in conservation is very important.

"Anyone can volunteer, everyone is welcome," said Noakes. "We really need help... people don't realize that they can help, everybody brings something different to the table... whether it's a small contribution or a big one, if we all did something it would make a huge difference."

Williams said it's phenomenal to see the skills of the people volunteering for the various organizations dedicated to protecting the Credit River. He and Noakes said while there are some amazing subject matter experts volunteering, you don't need to have any background knowledge to make a positive impact on the environment.

"We need young people to get in on this... to understand what's happening," said Williams. "There's only a finite time we have to do something about this... we have to leave a story and a message for the younger generations so they can guard and protect what they have."

Noakes said one of his biggest regrets is that he didn't get into conservation work sooner.

"The biggest thing I would tell anyone is don't be on the sidelines for this," said Noakes. "Don't wait, do it now."



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Emilia Perri's painting, *Lacrime d'Amore (or, Love Tears)*, is on display at Headwaters Arts' From the Heart exhibition. **EMILIA PERRI IMAGE**

Local artists showcasing "heartfelt" works at Headwaters Arts Gallery

Opening reception for latest members exhibition at gallery to be held February 17

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

There's lots to love at a new art exhibition in Caledon.

Headwaters Arts is currently hosting its second members exhibition of the year at the Alton Mill Arts Centre. It's titled "From the Heart" and features work from 21 different artists who were asked to create visual representations of what "heartfelt" means to them.

An opening reception for the ex-

hibition will be held on February 17 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Arts Centre.

Sue Powell, Marketing and Communications chair of the Headwaters Arts Board, said that From the Heart is a deeply personal and heartwarming exhibition.

Emilia Perri, a well-known Dufferin artist and the owner of Maggiolly Art Supplies in Orangeville, has two large acrylic-on-canvas paintings on display at the From the Heart exhibition.

"My painting called, 'Lacrime d'Amore' or 'Love Tears' is about the sorrow one feels when

love is lost," said Perri. "There is the raining of tears that come and go, it doesn't matter how much time passes, the feelings from the background can come to the foreground at any given time."

Lorraine Roberts, an artist from Caledon, noted the theme From the Heart brought out her love of flowers.

"Flowers have been grown, cultivated and given as gifts for hundreds of years. They are symbols of heartfelt affection and love that are given on all occasions," said Roberts. "My paintings display a gardener's love of sharing the ephemeral beauty of flowers with any person passing by. This is a heartfelt act of giving without expecting anything in return."

Other Caledon artists featured at the exhibition include Iris Ranieri, MaryLou Hurley, Marion Hazel Plaunt, Barbara Guy Long and Patty Maher.

From the Heart opened on Valentine's Day and will run until March 17. The Headwaters Arts gallery will be open on Family Day, February 19, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and ready to welcome visitors.

The Headwaters Arts gallery's regular open hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Wednesday to Sunday. The Alton Mill Arts Centre is located at 1402 Queen Street West in Alton.

Bonnie Crombie visits Bolton, leads community engagement



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bonnie Crombie, leader of the Ontario Liberal Party, reinforced her commitment to Dufferin-Caledon residents during her visit to the riding's first meet and greet of the new year held in Bolton on February 10.

Crombie, accompanied by Dr. Adhil Shamji, Liberal Health Critic, emphasized the party's dedication to improving and rebuilding the Provincial healthcare system, including better services at Headwaters Hospital in Orangeville.

Crombie and Shamji made note that in Minister of Health Sylvia Jones's own riding, Headwaters Hospital was forced to close for 18 hours in 2023 amid a staff shortage.

Crombie also pledged strong support for rural Ontario and Dufferin-Caledon farmers recognizing their vital role in the economy of our riding and in our province.

Community engagement was evident, with over 75 attendees, including high school students seeking selfies with Crombie. Throughout the event, Crombie ensured every attendee had a chance to voice their concerns and aspirations.

"Thank you so much to Bonnie Crombie and Dr. Adil Shamji for spending time with us in Bolton on Saturday and reminding us about the reckless and dangerous healthcare policies Sylvia Jones and Doug Ford have used to break down our public healthcare system," said Josh Loeffler, President of the Dufferin-Caledon Provincial Liberal Association.

The event was the first in a series of planned events to be sponsored by the Dufferin-Caledon Provincial Liberal Association, setting the stage for ongoing community engagement and highlighting the Liberal Party's vision for rebuilding a stronger Ontario.

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Peel Region-raised NCAA Star and NWHL MVP Mikyla Grant-Mentis thriving with PWHL Ottawa



Mikyla Grant-Mentis is pictured in action for PWHL Ottawa.

BY JIM STEWART

These are exciting times for Peel Region's Mikyla Grant-Mentis.

The 25-year old forward, who starred with the NCAA Merrimack College Warriors and was named the NWHL's MVP in 2021 before signing the richest contract in PHF history with the Buffalo Beauts, is skating for PWHL Ottawa in a professional sports league that has captured the public's imagination.

13,361 fans cheered PWHL Minnesota to a 3-0 win over PWHL Montreal at the Xcel Energy Center on January 8, 2024 establishing a new record for attendance at a professional women's hockey game.

The gathering in Minnesota shattered the record set by Grant-Mentis's squad on January 3, 2024 when 8,318 fans, including more than 2,000 season ticket holders, jammed into TD Place in downtown Ottawa to take in their game versus Montreal. The PWHL Ottawa forward described this memorable and historical on-ice experience.

"It was amazing and it was so loud, I couldn't hear myself think. The arena was sold out and it was a surreal feeling to see and hear so much support by our fans."

Grant-Mentis has enjoyed her first five weeks in the new professional league.

"I'm enjoying the skill level. This is a way more competitive league. Anybody can beat anybody on any given night.

It's unfortunate that some players had to quit playing the game since there was only room for six teams this year, but the games are sold out, we have great players from all over the world in the league, and we have developed a great connection to the community of Ottawa. Another nice thing about playing in Ottawa is that we practice and play our games at the same rink."

Being in a stable league is refreshing for Grant-Mentis whose final season at Merrimack and a pro season in the NWHL were deeply affected by the Pandemic. She soldiered her way through the restrictions of the Pandemic as a member of the Toronto Six and noted that "playing with only eight people in the rink at a time was tough on the players and coaches and COVID ended up ruining the 2020-21 season.

When the Pandemic started, I was in my final year at school. We were told we had four days to get off campus. We drove home and didn't bring anything because we were told that we would return to complete the season in March and April. We didn't complete the season. By May, I was bored and I started working with my mom at FedEx. At least we were able to get out of the house."

When she got out of the house that spring, Grant-Mentis joined her mom's FedEx softball team and they played most of their games in Milton.

Grant-Mentis's athletic versatility is

evident in the sports that she chooses to play. The former Brampton Notre Dame basketball player and volleyball player also played ball hockey and golf during the off-season when she wasn't skating for the Mississauga Chiefs, Toronto Six, or the Buffalo Beauts.

Grant-Mentis has wide-ranging experience as an Elite, collegiate, and professional hockey player and is impressed by the foundations of the PWHL.

It is backed financially by billionaire Mark Walters who owns the Los Angeles Dodgers and the six-team league began play on January 1 to much fanfare when Toronto hosted New York at the Mattamy Center—tying the league's inaugural game to the site of venerable Maple Leaf Gardens.

The other Original Six franchises are located in New York and Boston.

Grant-Mentis's collegiate days were spent thirty minutes outside of Boston in North Andover, Massachusetts.

The high-scoring forward, whose 117 points in 137 games established her as the all-time career points leader with the NCAA Warriors, also played four years in the PHF with the Toronto Six and Buffalo Beauts.

After winning the NWHL's Most Valuable Player award in 2021, she signed a one-year \$80,000 contract with the Beauts that made her the highest-paid player in league history.

Grant-Mentis, who has tallied three assists in her first six games with Ottawa, is not only witnessing history in the nation's capital and the other five Original Six cities, but she's also had time to reflect on her brilliant collegiate career at Merrimack College.

Her fondest memories at the North Andover, Massachusetts school was the passion for sports exhibited by New Englanders.

"It's amazing how the locals got behind their sports teams. When I was there, the New England Patriots won the Super Bowl. It was nice to jump on the band wagon with them."

Grant-Mentis also noted that one of the best results of playing NCAA hockey was, "the people I met."

"I have three friends from College that I will have for life."

She enjoyed her four years as a student-athlete at Merrimack.

"Our coaching staff and academic advisors made it easier so we could play hockey and complete our studies. It was the kind of balance that was easy to manage. I liked to be continually busy between playing hockey and completing my homework. I was able to complete a degree in Criminology with a minor in Psychology."

When we asked the graduate of Notre Dame CHS in Brampton what advice she would offer to current high school and OWHL players who wanted to follow the same career path she has taken to US College and the PWHL, the former Mississauga Chief encouraged them to persevere.

"Don't give up on a dream. It will take a lot of extra effort, but it will be worth it. Do whatever you can do to be the best possible version of yourself."

Grant-Mentis observed that the best possible version of herself was made possible by the helpfulness of her mom and dad, Sandra Grant-Mentis and James Mentis.

"My mom and dad and my two brothers— Marquis and Tre — were very supportive. From Day 1, they were behind me. They came to see me play at Merrimack to support me and they watched me play for Toronto and Buffalo, too. My dad kept pushing me when I was down about my game or didn't feel like carrying on."

She also credited some good-natured but keen competition with her twin brother, Marquis, as a motivating factor that contributed to her athletic success.

"I was spurred on by my desire to beat my twin brother at any sport we played. We were always competing, especially when we played on the same team. I always wanted to score more goals than him."

It's this kind of competitive spirit that has marked Mikyla Grant-Mentis's remarkable hockey career as the Merrimack Warriors' all-time leading scorer, the PHF's MVP as the leader of the Toronto Six, the league's highest-paid player with the Buffalo Beauts, and a current founding member of PWHL Ottawa.

It's the kind of Canadian success story to be emulated for aspiring hockey players in Peel Region and across the nation.

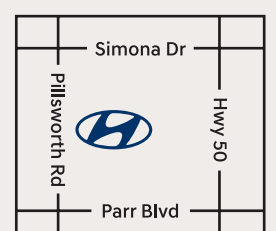
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Plans for Mayfield West community discussed

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

A proposed development in Mayfield West, and an official plan amendment it requires, were discussed at a recent public meeting.

On February 13, the Town of Caledon hosted a public meeting where consulting firm Malone Given Parsons, on behalf of Brookvalley Project Management, presented its proposal for a community in Mayfield West that would see approximately 4,551 dwelling units built.

The community would be built south of Old School Road between Chinguacousy Road and Hurontario Street (Highway 10) and feature low and medium-density units.

Brookvalley Project Management seeks to amend Caledon's Mayfield West Secondary Plan to determine land use designations, as well as population, employment, and density targets, for their owned lands in the area (subject lands). The addresses of their lands are as follows: 0 Chinguacousy Road, 12502 McLaughlin Road, 12711 McLaughlin Road, 0 Old School Road, 0 McLaughlin Road, and 12760 Hurontario Street.

Town of Caledon staff prepared an information report ahead of the public meeting. It explains the subject lands are about 180 hectares in size and are currently vacant or used for agricultural and residential purposes. Greenbelt lands are not included in that 180 hectares.

The proposed new community would house an estimated 13,061 people and include commercial land to be used for retail, service, and office uses. The community would also include one public and one Catholic elementary school to service its residents.

Also proposed are four neigh-

bourhood parks, one community park, and "urban squares". A total of 13 stormwater ponds would be needed to service the community.

The Ministry of Transportation has said some of the subject lands are within the land protection boundary of the proposed Highway 413 project and that the Highway 413 project team does not endorse new developments within the "Focused Analysis Area" of the 413 project.

A long list of documentation from Malone Given Parsons and Brookvalley Project Management in support of the proposed development is available on the Town of Caledon's website. This includes things like an urban design brief, servicing study, traffic impact study and more.

Ward 5 Councillor Tony Rosa said he appreciates the variety of housing types being proposed in the community. He said he'd like to see options for safe cycling in the community, specifically ways to keep cyclists separate from pedestrians and vehicles.

Ward 3 Councillor Doug Maskell said he'd like to see an integrated trail network in the community, connecting neighbourhoods to schools, parks, and commercial areas. He also shared that he'd like to see enough parking planned for in the community, as other new communities have struggled with parking issues.

Caledon Council does not make recommendations or decisions at public meetings; they are held for information purposes. A planning report on the proposed development and official plan amendment will be brought forward for Council's consideration at a later date.

To view a recording of the public meeting, and access documentation submitted for it, interested residents can visit the following link: caledon.ca/en/government/agendas-and-minutes.aspx.



PHOTO BY JIM STEWART

Grand opening spotlights Centre's role as Entrepreneurial Hub

Continued from FRONT

Mayor Groves delineated the many uses of the Humber River Centre and noted in closing that "this Centre brings a lot of life to downtown Bolton."

The state-of-the-art community and business hub to which Mayor Groves referred features 10,000 square feet of sustainable, accessible space that will house business support services, arts and culture events, and co-working space.

Co-working at the Humber River Centre will include free access to a flexible workspace or hot desk and public WIFI. Access is limited to early-stage Caledon-based entrepreneurs working on a new business venture or start-up business owners.

Notably, the hub is home to the Caledon Chamber of Commerce, a community organization dedicated to supporting Caledon

businesses through events, workshops, networking opportunities, and advocacy.

MP Ruby Sahotra, speaking on behalf of Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure, and Communities of Canada, stated that she was pleased to deploy federal funding to build energy-efficient businesses and to help entrepreneurs. In short, Sahotra praised the transformational process and noted that "It's a great day for the Town of Caledon."

The transformation of the old Fire Hall into a Business Hub was funded in part by "a \$3.5 million investment from the Canada Community-Building Fund and a \$4.2 million investment from the federal government's Green and Inclusive Community Buildings Program. Consequently, the Humber Centre is the most energy-efficient facility in the Town's ownership that

features LED lighting, air source heat pumps and energy recovery ventilators, more insulative windows and doors, increased roof insulation, on-demand electric water heaters, and building automation system. These environmentally-friendly innovations are expected to reduce greenhouse emissions by 29.5 tonnes per year and fuel consumption by 56.2%." (Source: The Town of Caledon and the Government of Canada).

After the ribbon-cutting ceremony, the entourage moved indoors and tours led by Town staff were conducted for residents to learn more about the Humber River Centre's programs and services. Residents were invited to enjoy an afternoon of activities including a market with more than twenty vendors and makers that added a charming element to the festivities at the Ann Street facility.



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Golden Hawks Changing PJHL Divisions

BY JIM STEWART

The Caledon Golden Hawks will be on the move next season as the PJHL announced realignment plans that will coincide with the Muskoka Bears joining the 63-team league in 2024-25.

The expansion Bears—operating out of Bracebridge— will join the North Carruthers Division.

Consequently, both the Golden Hawks and the Schomberg Cougars will move to a revamped seven-team East Orr Division that will include perennial powerhouse Clarington Eagles as well as the Georgina Ice, Uxbridge Bruins, Port Perry Lumberjacks, and Little Britain Merchants.

The Golden Hawks will bid adieu to long-time divisional rivals such as the Stayner Siskins, Allison Hornets, Orillia Terriers, Huntsville Otters, Midland Flyers, Penetang Kings, and the Innisfil Spartans. The move by the PJHL has significant travel, recruiting, and scouting implications for the Golden Hawks as the division's most westerly franchise.

Three other PJHL teams will be on the move as the league balances its eight divisions: the Dorchester Dolphins who move from the West Yeck Division to South Doherty Division; the North Kawartha Knights and Lakefield Chiefs move from the East Orr Division to the East Todd Division.

The PJHL—which rosters 1,450 players – is the largest junior hockey league in the world.

“Great Backyard Bird Count” is a fun activity for Family Day

BY JIM STEWART

The “Great Backyard Bird Count”—which takes place on February 16, 17, 18, and 19—is a bird-watching and bird-counting event organized by Birds Canada, the National Audubon Society, and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

Its purpose is to take stock of bird populations before they begin annual migrations across the world.

Enjoying a charm of goldfinches enjoying seeds at backyard feeders is one way of participating in the Bird Count, but trips to the forests and fields of the GTA during the Family Day Weekend are other ways to help bird conservation organizations track avian populations. The annual event is sponsored by Wild Birds Unlimited which provides timely advice and supplies for aspiring birders.

During our interview on the weekend, WBU Store Manager and conservationist Kristen Martyn offered readers some timely tips about how to get involved with this important global Bird Count and how to assist with bird conservation strategies already in place and supported by Birds Canada and Cornell U:

Caledon Citizen: Please discuss the live bird feeder cam that is sponsored by the Wild Birds Unlimited stores.

Kristen Martyn: We wanted to create a virtual wild bird experience for people to help foster an appreciation for backyard birds. One way we thought we could do this was through live bird feeding stations. We sponsor two cameras year-round (Backyard Bird Feeding Cam and the Ground Feeding Cam). Seasonally, we introduce a live Hummingbird Cam and we hope to introduce a live Nesting Cam soon. We hope that through these experiences people can connect further to the birds and get an up-close view of their sometimes secretive lives while being non-intrusive to the birds. It's been so much fun we just had our 33rd species make an

appearance on our live cam and we anticipate many more new species this spring. We've gotten such great feedback from people on the live cams, it's been such an exciting new experience for us. Our sponsored cameras can all be viewed by visiting www.youtube.com/kristenmartyn.

Caledon Citizen: What is the process by which Peel Region residents can participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count?

Kristen Martyn: Participation is easy and free. All you need to do is identify and count the birds you see in your yard (or any other location you wish) for at least 15 mins February 16-19, 2024. You can participate on all days or whichever day(s) you are available to do so. After your count is complete you upload your results on eBird.org (registration is free). If you are new to bird identification, the Merlin Bird ID app is a great tool. If you have participated in the count before you can upload your results on the eBird Mobile app or on eBird.org. For more information on how to participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count visit birdcount.org

Caledon Citizen: How does Wild Birds Unlimited contribute to bird conservation initiatives?

Kristen Martyn: Wild Birds Unlimited sponsors a number of nature and conservation organizations including larger nationwide organizations (Bird Studies Canada, Lab of Ornithology etc.) and at the local level (Shades of Hope, Ducks Unlimited, York Simcoe Nature Club etc.). We are proud to be the founding sponsor of the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC). Our sponsorships and donations fund a wide variety of projects, everything from sending young people to nature camps to helping local rehabbers continue the important work that they do.

At our core, we are bird and nature lovers who are passionate about the birds and are committed to assisting a wide variety of educational and conservation initiatives.

Caledon Citizen: How do events like the Great Backyard Bird Count raise awareness about the urgency to protect birds and their habitat?

Kristen Martyn: I believe that the GBBC helps to bring awareness to the birds and wildlife in our own backyards or natural places we cherish (local parks, conservation areas etc.). At its core the GBBC gets people involved in grassroots conservation via citizen science. People are participating and contributing to an important data set that will ultimately help researchers and the public understand bird population trends over time. The results of this data will help us to understand what's happening with our bird populations and how important it is to not only protect existing habitat but contribute to creating habitat in our yards for wildlife. I believe that the act of participating in citizen science projects such as the GBBC creates a special interest which fosters long term stewardship of our birds and establishes the connection to help with their conservation.

As noted in a recent statement by Cornell University, a world without birds would be “catastrophic.”

Bird populations have declined precipitously since 1970 largely due to loss of habitat.

Protecting the Green Belt—particularly the Oak Ridges Moraine from Caledon to Uxbridge – and planting trees and native plants are crucial acts to help bird populations in Peel, York, and Durham Region.

Creating a sanctuary of feeders and bird baths in your backyard is a complementary form of sustenance for the birds affected by urban sprawl.

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We want to take this time to thank everyone who came out to celebrate with us on February 10th. Our parents were beyond words with amount of love that filled the room as they danced the night away.

On behalf of all of us, David, Dale, Cindy, Laura-Lee & family
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It is with great sadness that we announce the sudden passing of Steve Hunter of East Garafraxa. Steve spent his early years in Erindale where he was raised by his mother Doris Hunter (Hendry) (1996), and his Uncle, Ralph Hendry (2006). Steve was predeceased by his wife, Jan Grice (2023). They happily worked side by side on their farm for many years and raced their quarter horses at Ajax Downs Racetrack. Every day was a struggle since her passing in September.



Steve was the proud father of Todd (Michelle), Dave (2017) (Holle), and brother to Randy (Sue). He was grandfather to Raeanne, Noah, Asha, Conner, Ethan, & Hailee and uncle to Eric (Victoria) & Devan.

He will be remembered by is many nieces, nephews, and cousins. Steve leaves behind many friends from the horse racing community. Both he and Jan were so passionate about the care and training of their horses.

A Celebration of Steve's Life will be held at the Erin Legion, 12 Dundas St. E. on April 6, from 1 to 4 pm. In Lieu of flowers, kindly consider donating to The Upper Credit Humane Society (uppercredit.com) to reflect Steve's love of animals. There will be a donation box available at the celebration.

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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.aanorthaltonerin.org.

DRUG PROBLEM? We've been there, we can help! Please refer to georgianheartlandna.org for a complete list of Narcotics Anonymous meetings. Call anytime 519-215-0761.

ARE YOU A WOMAN living with abuse? For safety, emergency shelter, and counselling call Family Transition Place, (519)941-HELP or 1-800-265-9178.

FOR INFORMATION regarding **HEART and STROKE,** call Dori Ebel (519)941-1865 or 1-800-360-1557.

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.

ALZHEIMER SUPPORT GROUPS meet monthly for spousal & family support. Call (519) 941-1221.

LA LECHE LEAGUE Orangeville offers breastfeeding support. For more info call Erin at 519-943-0703.

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Annual General Meeting
March 9, 2024
10:00 a.m.

Guest Speaker: Charlton Carscallen
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Cost is \$10 for non members; free for members
2024 memberships are due. Family membership \$20

Refreshments to follow – everyone welcome

JOYCE MARY BOONE

APRIL 17, 1949 – FEBRUARY 10, 2024

It is with great sadness and bittersweet gratitude that we announce the passing of Joyce Mary Boone, 74, of Oakville, Ontario on February 10, 2024. Joyce was born on April 17, 1949 in Milltown, Newfoundland. She was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister and friend. Joyce is predeceased by her loving husband Terry Boone and siblings Roy (Isabel), Don, Lloyd (Jackie) and Joan. Joyce will be missed greatly by her brother Ray (Laura) and her children Lisa (Steve), Jennifer (Ray), Kathleen (Julian) and Paul. She was a cherished Nana to Karissa, Jayden, Josiah, Kianna, Nevaeh, Megan and Sarah.

A memorial service for Joyce will be held on Wednesday, February, 21 at 1:00 PM at Chartwell Church, 228 Chartwell Road, Oakville ON. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Heart and Stroke Foundation would be greatly appreciated.

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Town seeking feedback on draft Official Plan

Open house, public meeting on Official Plan to be held March 5

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

A draft of Caledon's new official plan is available for viewing.

On February 13, the Town of Caledon announced a draft of its new "Future Caledon

Official Plan" would be available for viewing on February 14 at haveyoursaycaledon.ca.

In a media release, Town communications staff said the official plan is an overarching policy document that consists of goals, objectives, policies and maps that will guide Caledon's growth and development until the year 2051.

"It strives to maintain a high quality of life for residents and sets out the expectations for future community and employment areas, transportation and municipal services, and use of land," said staff.

Areas such as development, housing, transportation, employment, and community facilities are all covered in the official plan.

An open house where residents can learn more about the official plan will be held on March 5.

It will take place from 6 to 7 p.m. in the atrium at Town Hall (6311 Old Church Road).

A public meeting about the Official Plan will be happening at 7 p.m. on the same day, also at Town Hall. Residents can attend the meeting in-person or online on the Town of

Caledon's website. To submit written comments, or to speak at the meeting, residents must complete the Town's participation form which is available at caledon.ca.

Residents may also submit written comments about the official plan to the Town by emailing opreview@caledon.ca by March 7.

At present, the new Official Plan is scheduled to be brought to Caledon Council's March 19 planning and development committee meeting for consideration.

This means it could be considered for adoption at Council's March 26 meeting.

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