

Garden foods

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1.99 /LB
 Fresh Cara Cara Oranges
 Product of U.S.A.
 4.39/kg

2.99 /LB
 Fresh Stem and Leaf Clementines
 Product of Spain
 6.59/kg

MINNEOLA ORANGES
 This beautiful deep orange fruit is a perfect balance of sweet and tangy flavour. These oranges feel heavy for their size because they are extraordinarily juicy!

1.99 /LB
 Fresh Minneola Oranges
 Product of U.S.A.
 4.39/kg

Fresh Organic Clementines
 Product of U.S.A.
 2lb bag

5.99

LEMONS
 The fragrance and tartness of lemons make them great combined with all manner of ingredients and dishes, from sweet to savoury. The bright yellow skin can be zested and used as well, making lemons a kitchen essential.

1.99 /LB
 Fresh Lemons
 Product of U.S.A.
 4.39/kg

sumo CITRUS

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 Named for the vivid red colour of their flesh, this exotic member of the citrus family offers a sweet and juicy rich orange taste with a hint of fresh raspberry.

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 4.39/kg

3.99 /LB
 Fresh Sumo Mandarins
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Garden foods

Yorkshire Valley Farms
Frozen Organic Boneless,
Skinless Chicken Breasts
1kg bag

24⁹⁹

NON-MEMBER
37⁹⁹



Nutella Chocolate
Hazelnut Spread
725g jar

5⁹⁹

NON-MEMBER
8⁹⁹

Longo's Frozen
Patagonian Scallops
80-120ct, 454g pkg

16⁹⁹

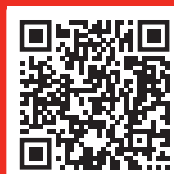
NON-MEMBER
21⁹⁹



Taylor Farms
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340g pkg
selected varieties

3⁴⁹

NON-MEMBER
6⁴⁹



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FREE Thursday, March 7, 2024 Volume 44, Issue 11



VICE-REGAL HONOURS FOR LOCAL STUDENT – Caledon student Mehak Dhaliwal was honoured by Ontario's Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism last week with the Ontario Medal for Young Volunteers. Dhaliwal was recognized for founding Caledon's first all-girls high-school robotics team and co-founding SPARK, a non-profit providing STEM-related opportunities. Dhaliwal, centre, is pictured here at Queen's Park with Lieutenant Governor Edith Dumont, the King's representative in Ontario, and Minister Michael Ford. For more, see Page A3

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Caledon to distribute \$62,000 in Climate Action Fund grants

11 recipients to get money for environmental projects

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Local schools, non-profits and community groups looking to better the environment will

be receiving a boost from the Town of Caledon.

Caledon Council approved disbursement of \$62,085.85 in Town of Caledon Climate Action Fund grants, to be split among 11 recipients, at its March 5 General Committee meeting.

The Climate Action Fund provides grants to eligible applicants who want to undertake environmental projects in Caledon that align with Caledon's "Resilient Caledon Community Climate Change Action Plan".

Of the 11 approved projects that will be receiving funding, four will be receiving full funding (up to a maximum of \$8,000) as they met all of the Town's requirements for full funding. The seven other projects will receive 75 per cent of their project costs, as they met the Town's requirements for partial funding.

Continued on Page A7

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Town moving forward on Mayfield turf field and dome project

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Caledon residents are one small step closer to having a turf field and dome for year-round sports at Mayfield Secondary School.

At Caledon Council's March 5 General Committee meeting, Council gave Mayor Annette Groves and Town staff approval to execute a funding agreement and joint-use agreement between the Town of Caledon and Peel District School Board (PDSB) for a turf field and dome.

Council also gave staff approval to explore third-party contracts with qualified private operators of such domes for the Town's portion of Mayfield turf and dome operations.

Continued on Page B14

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Palgrave United Community Kitchen to collaborate with Town of Caledon

Programs to be offered through new partnership

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

A local non-profit is teaming up with the Town of Caledon to offer some unique programs.

At Caledon Council's March 5 General Committee meeting, Caledon's Manager of Recreation and Culture Jason Schildroth submitted a memorandum to Council about the Town's partnership goals with the Palgrave United Community Kitchen (PUCK).

Schildroth explained Town staff met with representatives from PUCK on January 19 to identify mutual goals, such as general interest programs for Caledon residents.

"Through late January and early February 2024, the recreation and culture team has held

conversations with the Palgrave United Church kitchen program to develop strategic partnerships," reads the memorandum.

Programming for people of all ages was discussed, in areas like cooking, canning, and sustainable skill development.

Schildroth said partnership goals for PUCK and Caledon include offering a weekly program for children and youth this Fall; two workshops for adults this Fall; one workshop as part of Culture Days in September; and "exploration of entrepreneurship event alignment within Hum-



Palgrave United Community Kitchen volunteers ran a café at last week's Seedy Saturday event. PHOTO BY ZACHARY ROMAN

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!
For all your pastoral services:

647-891-9400 • caledoncoc@gmail.com
Location: 34 Nixon Rd., Bolton

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

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.

The Luck of the Irish Caledon Concert Band Come join us Caledon Hills Fellowship Baptist Church 16595 Airport Rd., Caledon East Sunday, March 17th, 2024 at 2pm Tickets available at the door. \$20 for adults, \$15 for high school students/seniors. Children are free. For more information – www.caledonconcertband.ca

ber River Centre programming showcasing commercial users of the Palgrave United Church Kitchen and its role in their business model."

These programs and workshops will be offered to Caledon residents as part of Caledon's recreation guide. Caledon has a community service agreement framework that allows it to collaborate with external agencies and community groups to support community-driven recreation services and programs.

Caledon Council first directed staff to hold discussions with PUCK last December. PUCK had reached out to the Town as the church it's located in is facing some financial challenges. PUCK wants to keep offering its many programs, such as the Dirt 2 Delicious summer camp and Nordic walking, in the community, so it made an appeal for support and collaboration.

At the March 5 meeting, PUCK volunteer Barb Imrie delegated to Council to share some information about PUCK.

She said the Palgrave United Church is a pillar in the local community and that it's an inclusive and accessible space.

"The kitchen offers a variety of skill-building and knowledge-sharing workshops and camps and is focused on supporting and growing the local food system," said Imrie.

She said the Palgrave United Community Kitchen offers age-friendly programs for seniors and is a vital place for social connection in an underserved area of Caledon.

Imrie shared some of the many different things PUCK has achieved over the years, such as providing hot lunches to local schools, working with individuals with special needs, supporting entrepreneurs with food businesses, and offering outdoor activities during the pandemic.

In 2023, 441 different Caledon residents participated in PUCK activities with over 3,200 visits.

As PUCK looks towards the future, it wants to be a community and culinary hub for Caledon.

"We're ready to move to the next level," said Imrie.

Caledon Mayor Annette Groves said it's amazing to see the community involvement from individuals of all ages at PUCK. She said PUCK is a great example of what community is all about.

Groves said she's glad to hear the new partnership between the Town and PUCK is going well.

Ward 4 Councillor Nick de Boer said he was happy to see Imrie's presentation showcasing all that PUCK does in the community.

"It's been an anchor within our community... bringing a lot of enlightening programs," said de Boer, adding that a partnership with the Town will take things to the next level. "I think this is a great partnership."

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100 Women Who Care Caledon donate \$5,500 to Headwaters Health Care Foundation



Karen McDonald, 100 Women Who Care Caledon; Anne Thompson, Headwaters Health Care Foundation; and Joel Porter, Headwaters Health Care Foundation celebrate a donation to the Headwaters Health Care Foundation. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Money raised by local residents will be put towards purchase of colposcope

which is used to detect precancerous lesions in the cervix and can be used to rule out cervical cancer or give health care providers the information they need for early detection and treatment.

100 Women Who Care Caledon is a group that raises money for charities by having each of its members donate \$100 to a charity at their meetings. Group members nominate local charities, and three charities are chosen at random for each meeting. The charities then present to the group and the group votes on which charity it would like to support that month.

100 Women Who Care Caledon is always welcoming new members, and more information about the group can be found at 100womenwhocarecaledon.com.

The Headwaters Health Care Foundation raises money to support the Headwaters Health Care Centre in Orangeville and make a difference in the lives of patients there.

In a media release, 100 Women Who Care Caledon member Karen McDonald said the group is looking forward to a new year of supporting local charities through group donations.

“The group has raised over \$160,000 for the Caledon community since their inception in 2017,” said McDonald. “They continue to be committed to community service and bringing together women who care about the Caledon community, its people and causes.”

The next meeting of 100 Women Who Care Caledon is taking place on May 30 at the Caledon Seniors Centre in Bolton.

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

has received a boost from a local charitable group.

At its first meeting of the year, 100 Women Who Care Caledon chose to do-

nate \$5,500 to the Headwaters Health Care Foundation.

The foundation is going to put the money towards the purchase of a colposcope,

The Headwaters Health Care Foundation

Caledon student among two dozen honours with Ontario Medal

BY MARK PAVILONS

A Caledon student was among 24 from across the province recognized for their volunteer efforts.

The Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism honoured them last week with the Ontario Medal for Young Volunteers for 2021 and 2022. The medal represents the highest honour bestowed by the province for young people between the ages of 15 and 24 in recognition of outstanding contributions through volunteering in their communities and throughout the province.

“I am excited to help present the Ontario Medal for Young Volunteers to such an inspiring group of recipients,” said the Honourable Edith Dumont, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. “As we recognize their achievements, we also shine a light on their tremendous potential, and the bright future for Ontario that these youth represent.”

The recipients of the 2021 and 2022 Ontario Medal for Young Volunteers include community organizers, gender equity advocates, creators in the areas of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), mental health advocates, and many more individuals who through their commitment and dedication have helped drive positive change and made a difference in their communities.

Mehak Dhaliwal established Caledon’s first all-girls high school robotics team and led Central Peel Secondary School to the “FIRST Robotics” International Championship in 2019. She also co-founded “SPARK,” a non-profit dedicated to giving everyone equal opportunities to science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) programs and computer coding. Mehak is helping thousands of youth discover what’s possible through science and technology.

As The Queen’s representative, the Lieutenant Governor presided over the medal presentation to the recipients during a ceremony at Queen’s Park.

“Congratulations to the 2021 and 2022 recipients of the Ontario Medal for Young Volunteers,” said Michael Ford, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism. “As champions of volunteerism, you are a reminder that Ontarians of any age have the power to drive positive change within their communities. We are proud to recognize your efforts and all you do to build a stronger Ontario.”

The Ontario Medal for Young Volunteers is the highest honour a young person between the ages of 15 and 24 can achieve for their outstanding volunteer contributions to our province.

Recipients are those youth who through their actions and dedication, improve the

quality of life in their communities, our province, our country, and even around the

world and who have inspired other young people to volunteer.

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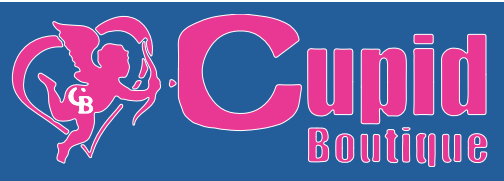


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MULTIPLE ALCOHOL-RELATED CHARGES

Officers from the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) charged two individuals with alcohol related charges on Friday.

“On March 1, 2024, Caledon OPP officers were conducting a RIDE (Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere) spot check on Ellwood Drive West near Station Road, in the Town of Caledon,” Police say. “Just prior to 11:30 p.m., a vehicle entered the area and officers formed grounds the driver’s ability to operate a motor vehicle was impaired by alcohol.”

Following the investigation, Luis Palacios-Ramos, 58, of Caledon, was charged with:

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

The charge has not been proven.

“Just moments later, on the same day, Caledon OPP officers received a report of a single vehicle collision on Heart Lake Road, near King Street, in the Town of Caledon. Shortly after 11:30 p.m., officers

arrived on scene and subsequently formed grounds the driver’s ability to operate a motor vehicle was impaired by alcohol.”

As a result of the investigation, Sunpreet Singh, 25, of Caledon, was charged with:

- Novice driver - B.A.C. above zero;
- Operation while impaired – alcohol;
- Dangerous operation of a motor vehicle;
- Failure or refusal to comply with demand.

The charges have not been proven.

Both accused are scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on March 21, 2024, to answer to their charge(s). The vehicles were also impounded for a period of seven days, and their driver’s licences were suspended for a period of 90 days.

“Drivers continue to take chances. It’s simply not worth the risk. Motorists are reminded that no amount of alcohol or drugs in your system is safe when driving. If you plan on drinking or consuming drugs, plan to not drive. Instead, arrange for a designated driver, take a taxi or public transit, or come up with another plan that takes impaired driving out of the picture. If you suspect that someone is driving while impaired by alcohol or drugs, it is important

to call 9-1-1 to report it.”

For more information about the penalties of driving impaired, visit: www.ontario.ca/page/impaired-driving.

FIREARM, DRUG SEIZURE

Members of the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have laid firearms and drug related charges after vehicle failed to stop for police.

“On February 29, 2024, just after 11:00 a.m., an officer conducting traffic enforcement on Highway 10, in the Town of Caledon, attempted to stop a vehicle but it failed to stop,” say Police. “The vehicle was later located after being involved in a collision, but the occupants had fled the scene. With the assistance of the Caledon Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU), OPP Emergency Response Team (ERT), and the Peel Regional Police Canine Unit, two parties were located and arrested. The investigation also resulted in the seizure of two loaded prohibited firearms, a large quantity of drugs, and cash.”

O’Neal Johnson-Shirley, 20, of Brampton was charged with:

- Possession of a Schedule I substance for the purpose of Trafficking – Cocaine;
 - Possession of a Schedule I substance for the purpose of Trafficking – Opioid;
 - Unauthorized Possession of a Firearm - two counts;
 - Possession of a prohibited device or ammunition - three counts;
 - Possession of a Firearm knowing Serial Number has been Tampered With - two counts;
 - Possession of loaded prohibited or restricted firearm - two counts;
 - Possession of Firearm or Ammunition contrary to Prohibition Order - two counts;
 - Possession of proceeds of property obtained by crime over \$5000.
- The charges have not been proven. Xander Cornelius-Miller, 20, of Welland was charged with:
- Dangerous operation;
 - Flight from peace officer;
 - Fail to Comply with Sentence;
 - Possession of a Schedule I substance for the purpose of Trafficking – Cocaine;
 - Possession of a Schedule I substance for the purpose of Trafficking - Opi-

- oid;
- Unauthorized Possession of a Firearm - two counts;
- Possession of a prohibited device or ammunition - three counts;
- Possession of a Firearm knowing Serial Number has been Tampered With - two counts;
- Possession of loaded prohibited or restricted firearm - two counts;
- Possession of Firearm or Ammunition contrary to Prohibition Order - two counts.

The charges have not been proven.

Both accused are scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on March 1, 2024, for a bail hearing.

If you suspect illegal activity in your neighbourhood, call 1-888-310-1122 or 911 for emergencies. You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at www.peelcrimestoppers.ca.

FRAUD PREVENTION MONTH


This year’s OPP Fraud Prevention Month (FPM) campaign will focus on “20 years of fighting fraud - where are we now?”.

The 2024 campaign will showcase the way fraud has evolved over the past 20 years. The goal of the campaign is to empower Canadians with information, tools, and strategies to recognize, reject and report fraud.

Being able to recognize techniques used by cyber criminals will go a long way in helping Canadians combat cyber enabled frauds. In the past 20 years, technology has transformed the fraud landscape, which is more widespread and sophisticated than ever before. Information, tips, and strategies help Ontarians fight back against cyber-enabled fraud.

In 2023, the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre (CAFC) received fraud reports totalling a staggering \$554 million in victim losses, surpassing the 2022 historic loss amounts of \$530 million. With the evolution of fraud, 75 per cent of overall losses reported to the CAFC are from cyber-enabled fraud, and this is expected to increase year over year. It is estimated that only five to 10 per cent of victims report scams and frauds to the CAFC or law enforcement.



Continued on Page A5



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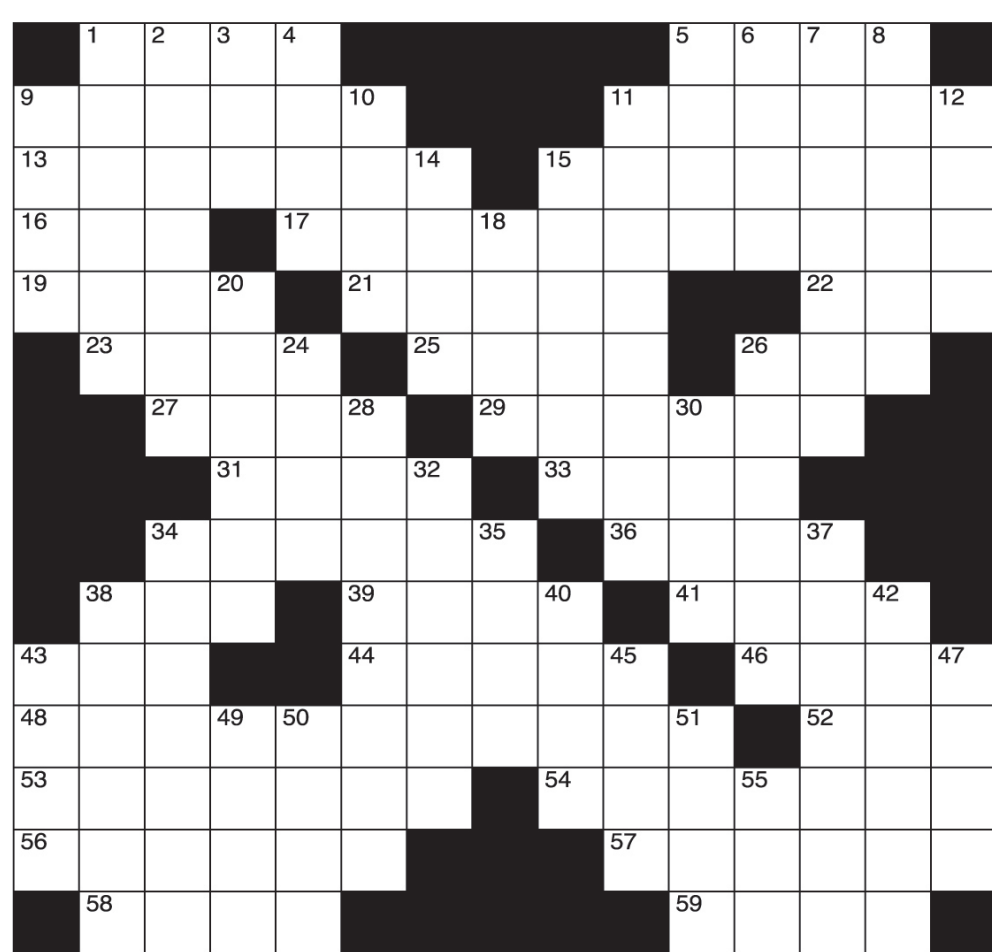



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- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Chaps
 - 5. Currently fashionable
 - 9. Collision
 - 11. More slim
 - 13. European city
 - 15. Implicitly
 - 16. The side of something that is sheltered from the wind
 - 17. The Mount Rushmore State
 - 19. Gold or silver wire cord
 - 21. Muscles along insects’ diaphragm
 - 22. Trent Reznor’s band
 - 23. Sweet juicy gritty-textured fruit
 - 25. Broken branch
 - 26. Indicates ten
 - 27. Expression of annoyance
 - 29. Brings together
 - 31. Ancient city in Thrace
 - 33. Sailors’ spirit
 - 34. Looked into
 - 36. Muckraking woman journalist Rheta
 - 38. A type of cast
 - 39. One’s responsibility
 - 41. Where golfers begin
 - 43. Make a mistake
 - 44. Semitic Sun god
 - 46. Ancient Italian-Greek colony
 - 48. Beheaded
 - 52. A place to stay
 - 53. Unwise
 - 54. Most supernatural
 - 56. “Dennis” is a famous one
 - 57. Ointments
 - 58. Exam
 - 59. Leaked blood
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Baseball managers assemble it
 - 2. Revised
 - 3. Mountain is a popular kind
 - 4. Takes to civil court
 - 5. Pouches
 - 6. A type of veil
 - 7. Chants
 - 8. Boston hoopster
 - 9. Elongated
 - 10. Sailboat
 - 11. 2017 Oscar-winning film
 - 12. Actor Gosling
 - 14. Monetary units
 - 15. Assembly
 - 18. Russian pop duo
 - 20. Embellished with expressions
 - 24. Infrequent
 - 26. Temperature unit
 - 28. Hydrophilic amino acid
 - 30. Honk
 - 32. Legislative body
 - 34. Swinish
 - 35. Russian assembly
 - 37. Take over for
 - 38. Put in advance
 - 40. Satisfy
 - 42. Felt
 - 43. Dutch cheese
 - 45. Witnesses
 - 47. Strong insects
 - 49. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
 - 50. Ancient people of Scotland
 - 51. Cheerless
 - 55. Sick

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

FRAUD PREVENTION MONTH

Continued from Page A4

According to the CAFC, in 2023, the top five frauds affecting Canadians daily were:

- Investment frauds represented \$309 million in reported losses in 2023. Ontario victims reported losing more than \$111.2 million;
- Spear phishing frauds (Business Email Compromise) represented \$58.2 million in reported losses in 2023. Ontario victims reported losing more than \$21.3 million;
- Romance frauds represented \$50.3 million in reported losses in 2023. Ontario victims reported losing more than \$21.3 million;
- Job scams represented \$27.7 million in reported losses in 2023. Ontario victims reported losing more than \$9.4 million;
- Service frauds represented \$22.2 million in reported losses in 2023. Ontario victims reported losing more than \$8.3 million.

How Modern Fraudsters Use Technology

Fraudsters will create spoofed websites, use spoofed telephone numbers using Voice over internet protocol (VoIP) to mimic legitimate numbers, will have victims download remote-entry software providing access to devices and computers or send out phishing texts with hyperlinks imitating legitimate businesses or governments offering refunds, rebates or requiring payments.

Take Action

On March 21, 2024, at 12:30 p.m. EST the OPP, CAFC, Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada, Canada Post, and the Canadian Money Services Business Association, will be hosting a live chat to discuss tools fraudsters use to victimize Ontario residents. You can view this live chat on the OPP's X and Facebook channels.

"Fraud losses within Ontario and throughout Canada continue to rise to unprecedented levels, which devastates the lives of our friends, colleagues, family members and businesses," says Mike Bickerton, Detective Superintendent, Di-

rector of Financial Crime Services, Anti-Rackets Branch & Serious Fraud Office, Ontario Provincial Police. "One of the strongest and most effect methods we have to combat fraud is through enhanced public knowledge and cyber awareness. Throughout this year's 20th edition of Fraud Prevention Month, the OPP, CAFC and our partners will provide fraud prevention information that will allow you to gain the knowledge you require to understand the tools and methods fraudsters use in attempts to try to take away your hard-earned money."

Added Stephen Buchanan, Acting Detective Inspector, Anti-Rackets Branch, Financial Crime Services, Ontario Provincial Police: "The incidents of fraud in Ontario are among the highest in the country. Throughout the month of March, the OPP along with the CAFC hope to raise awareness to the growing need for deterrence and reporting of fraud against the people of Ontario and in particular those in our vulnerable populations. Please take the time to spread the word on fraud awareness, educate your loved ones and those around you on how to identify indicators of fraud. Together, we can help reduce the harm fraud can cause."

Remember, if you become a victim of a fraud or know someone who has, contact your local police service to report the crime and report it to the CAFC at 1-888-495-8501 or online on the Fraud Reporting System (FRS), even if a financial loss did not occur.

SEARCH WARRANT RESULTS IN CHARGES

Officers from the Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) seized a quantity of drugs and charged two individuals as a result of an ongoing drug trafficking investigation in the Town of Shelburne.

"On March 1, 2024, members of the Dufferin Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU), along with Dufferin uniform members and Offender Management and Apprehension Program (OMAP) executed a search warrant at a home on Third Line in Melancthon," say Police. "The search warrant resulted in the arrest of two individuals who are facing multiple charges. In addition, the officers seized a quantity of drugs."

Brayden Lavieille, 28-years-old from Dundalk has been charged with:

- Possession of a Schedule I substance for the purpose of Trafficking - Opioid
- Joshua Retes, 19-years-old of no fixed address has been charged with:
- Possession of a Schedule I substance for the purpose of Trafficking - Opioid;
 - Possession of a Schedule I substance for the purpose of Trafficking - Cocaine;
 - Possession of Weapon for Dangerous Purpose;
 - Possession of proceeds of property obtained by crime - under \$5000.

The charges have not been proven. The following property was seized:

- Cocaine - 96 Grams;
- Dilaudid pills;
- Drug paraphernalia;
- Cash - \$2855 Canadian;
- Air Soft Guns;
- 22 Calibre ammunition;
- 12 Gauge shot gun shells;
- Cellular phones - (two).

Anyone with information regarding this investigation of any other criminal activity is asked to contact Dufferin OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers to remain anonymous at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). You can also submit your information online at ontariocrimestoppers.ca/.

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Municipal staff face “persistent challenges” enforcing fireworks ban

Caledon banned personal use of fireworks in April 2022

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Caledon’s fireworks ban hasn’t started with a bang, according to staff.

At Caledon Council’s March 5 General Committee meeting, Town of Caledon municipal law enforcement analyst Joel Assaly submitted a memorandum to update Councillors on the impact of Caledon’s fireworks ban thus far.

Caledon Councillors voted to adopt a new fireworks bylaw at an April 26, 2022 meeting. The bylaw bans the personal use of fireworks in Caledon, as well as the sale of fireworks.

Assaly said in 2022, municipal law enforcement staff used Victoria Day and Canada Day as a grace period where they warned people that fireworks were no longer allowed but did not issue tickets. He said the grace period gave staff a chance to educate residents.

When the grace period was over, he said staff responded proactively and reactively to conduct enforcement on and around holidays that typically result in the discharge of fireworks.

Since Caledon’s fireworks ban was implemented, Assaly said 124 complaints have been received by municipal law enforcement staff: 67 in 2022 and 57 in 2023.

These complaints have resulted in 42 issued charges and four investigations into the sale of fireworks.

Assaly said despite allocation of resources to deal with the fireworks ban and a phased approach to its implementation, there’s been enforcement difficulties and safety concerns. He called the decrease of complaints from 67 to 57 marginal, and said “persistent challenges” have emerged.

One such challenge is resistance and non-compliance from the public.

“Despite education and awareness efforts during the grace period, there continues to be a

persistent portion of the population which continues to discharge fireworks,” reads the memorandum.

Another challenge is difficulty enforcing the fireworks bylaw at large gatherings, which has also led to safety concerns for bylaw officers.

“The safety of municipal law enforcement officers is a paramount concern, especially in instances where large groups are involved in the unauthorized discharge of fireworks,” reads the memorandum. “Officers have expressed credible safety concerns when intervening in situations involving significant numbers of people engaging in prohibited activities.”

Assaly said significant resources are needed to enforce the fireworks ban on major holidays like Canada Day and Diwali.

Due to the challenges outlined in his memorandum, Assaly said there’s a need for ongoing public education about the fireworks ban. He said Caledon needs to implement a targeted communications strategy with awareness campaigns running both online and in-person at community events.

He said the communications strategy needs to provide accessible information that stresses the importance of safety.

“Regular updates on enforcement progress and continuous evaluation of the communication strategy will contribute to building a culture of compliance and safety within the community,” reads the memorandum.

Assaly said Caledon’s municipal law enforcement staff will continue to enforce the fireworks ban.

He said in addition to the communications strategy, Caledon needs to optimize resources for key events and develop a strategic plan for managing large events where managing illegal fireworks discharge is challenging.

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Town to distribute \$62,000 in Climate Action Fund grants

Continued from FRONT

Ontario Streams will be receiving \$8,000 for restoration and enhancement of stream habitats in Caledon. It will do this by planting native trees and shrubs, cleaning up litter, removing invasive species, and coordinating Atlantic Salmon releases. The non-profit plans to engage community groups and schools in their work.

The Credit Valley Conservation Foundation will receive \$8,000 to lead a bus tour for residents to showcase three Caledon properties where stewardship projects have been completed and demonstrate climate resilience.

Services and Housing in the Province will be the recipient of \$8,000 for the purposes of establishing a pollinator garden at Peace Ranch, a transitional housing complex in Caledon dedicated to mental health recovery for individuals with schizophrenia. The garden will be incorporated into Peace Ranch's programming to provide educational opportunities for its clients and community members.

St. Michael Secondary School will also be the recipient of \$6,964 and it will establish a community garden. Its goals with the garden are to have students contribute to environmental stewardship through education on sustainable farming practices, regenerative agriculture, composting, and practices that reduce ecological footprints.

Mayfield Secondary School will receive \$6,000 to undertake a number of green initiatives. The school will install solar and wind energy systems to reduce energy usage and associated greenhouse gas emissions. It will also be installing new gardens and a greenhouse to bolster curriculum and future green initiatives.

The Albion Hills Community Farm will receive \$6,000 in funding to develop educational programming for students about climate change through a food and agriculture lens. There will

be virtual and in-person workshops held by the Albion Hills Community Farm team.

James Grieve Public School will be getting \$2480.25 to expand on its existing pollinator garden and add trees to its outdoor learning space. The school will use its outdoor learning spaces to educate students on climate resilience and adaptation.

St. John Paul II School will be the recipient of \$1,190.74 for a project that involves using terracycle bins. The bins will allow for the recycling of hard-to-process materials like plastics, e-waste and textiles. It said the program will divert waste from landfills and act as an educational opportunity for students, staff and the community at large.

James Bolton Public School will create a pollinator garden and plant propagation garden. It will be receiving \$3,976.81 for this project. The propagation garden will teach students to propagate vegetables from food scraps to reduce food waste. The money will also help the school install an indoor space with a succulent wall and hydroponic and aqua-sprout garden.

Next on the list of schools receiving funding is Alloa Public School, which will be getting \$6,000 for the expansion of its community garden with raised garden beds. It plans to donate a portion of its harvest to community food programs to help students understand social responsibility and the importance of caring for communities. The permanent outdoor classroom the school is planning for will be able to be used year-round.

Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy will receive \$5,471.25 to bolster the health of a 52-acre forest in the Simmons Nature Preserve by removing invasive species and replacing them with native trees and shrubs. It will also be implementing trail maps and signage to raise awareness on the importance of conservation.

\$25,000 fundraising goal set for second annual Meaghan's Music Room gala

Gala will be held April 26 at Caesar's in Bolton

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER



An upcoming gala will raise money to subsidize music and dance classes for individuals with physical and neurological challenges.

On April 26, local non-profit Meaghan's Music Room will host its second annual gala dinner and dance at Caesar's in Bolton.

The gala will be one of the first to be held at the newly-renovated Caesar's building at 12495 Highway 50.

The gala will feature silent and live auctions, a 50/50 draw, an open bar, dinner and dancing.

Tickets for the event are \$135 and can be purchased by emailing meaghansmusicroom@gmail.com or texting 416-509-0321.

Mary Balinov operates Tisho's Music Academy with her family in Bolton. In the Academy is Meaghan's Music room, where classes are held for individuals with physical and neurological challenges.

Balinov said the newly-renovated Caesar's Centre building looks absolutely stunning and she's excited to be hosting the gala there.

"It's the perfect venue for us," she said.

Balinov said with this being the second gala, she hopes to see increased attendance and sponsorship to build off the first one. Sponsorship opportunities are available for the gala and more information about them can be found online at meaghansmusicroom.ca.

Balinov said she's incredibly grateful

for any sponsorship and said sponsors will have their logos displayed at the gala and online.

Something new at this year's gala is the fact that participants in Meaghan's Music Room dance and music classes will perform on stage.

"People will see not only what they're learning, but what they're capable of," said Balinov. "It will display the benefits."

Balinov said she's looking forward to having a successful event.

"Anything that surpasses our results from last year... that gets us close to our \$25,000 goal would be very inspirational for us," she said. "We hate to turn anyone down and people are asking for more classes... we need to find the funds to make it work."

Having demand to grow is a good problem to have, said Balinov, adding the success of this year's gala is crucial.

"We have seen a substantial demand for growth," said Balinov.



NEWS

Subscribe: caledon.ca/enews

Call for Artists Celebrate Caledon's 50th



CALEDON DAY 50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMUNITY MURAL

The Town of Caledon is looking to commission an artist to design and illustrate the outline of a mural for a community painting event taking place at Caledon Day on Saturday, June 15, 2024. The theme of the mural should incorporate Caledon's 50th anniversary and be designed as a paint-by-numbers mural so that anyone can participate in the painting event.

Applications are due by Sunday, March 31, 2024. For full details, including information on how to apply please visit Caledon.ca/Art.

ART IN THE HALLS – 50 YEARS OF CALEDON

We are looking for artists to participate in our new Art in the Halls program, a program designed to showcase original artwork from Caledon artists to the public at three Town facilities over a 12-week period. The theme for the artwork is 50 years of Caledon.

Applications for the summer exhibition period (May 1 – August 31) are due by Sunday, March 31, 2024.

For full details and to apply, please visit Caledon.ca/Art

Join the Caledon Community Leadership Team!

The Town of Caledon is currently seeking experienced and dedicated citizens interested in bringing their knowledge and passion to serve the Caledon community. The Town promotes and encourages civic engagement. Committees and task forces play an important role in guiding community improvements and making recommendations to Council.

We are currently recruiting for the following opportunities:

GOVERNANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Town of Caledon's Governance Review Committee is looking to recruit community members with an interest in enhancing local governance, accountability, and transparency measures. The Committee acts to advise on governance related matters with input from the community to further develop policies, aide in government relations, and increase public information.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

March 20, 2024, by 4:30 p.m.

Don't miss the chance to be a part of something meaningful! Visit Caledon.ca/committees to learn more about the Governance Review Committee and submit your application before the deadline.

Worried about frauds and scams targeting older adults?



Learn how to protect yourself or loved ones at the free Power of Aging workshop on March 26, 2024.

Visit Caledon.ca/adult55 to secure your spot. Registration closes March 22.

Interim Property Taxes are Due

Property tax due dates are **March 7, 2024 and May 2, 2024.**

Regular late payment fees apply.

Taxes can be paid online, by telephone or in-person by cheque, cash or debt. Mortgage company and pre-authorized payment plans are also available. For more information, visit caledon.ca/tax



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BROCK WEIR
BROCK'S BANTER

But can they sell soap?

When Norman Jewison died this past January at the grand old age of 97, he was remembered as a titan of the film industry – and rightly so.

His impressive filmography, boasting such ground-breaking and beloved titles as *In the Heat of the Night*, *The Thomas Crown Affair*, *Moonstruck*, *Agnes of God*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and *Fiddler on the Roof*, is a testament to a filmmaker who was not afraid to challenge norms, cross over between genres, and tackle tough topics.

One of my favourite Norman Jewison pictures, however, was one that barely made a ripple in the countless tributes paid to the director in the aftermath of his passing. It's not particularly surprising as easy, breezy comedies aren't put on quite the same pedestal as a film like *In the Heat of the Night*, which is still held up as an exemplar of the time, place and politics in which it was created.

Nevertheless, it has a special place in my heart.

The Thrill of It All is a 1963 comedy starring Doris Day and James Garner as an "average" American couple with two young children – well, as "average" as one can be with a live-in maid. Garner is Gerald Boyer, a successful obstetrician while Day is Beverly, his homemaker wife, who, by her own admission, has few outlets for fulfilment outside of her children, the PTA, and ketchup-making.

Their calm, cool and collected world, however, is turned upside down when a chance encounter at a dinner party with an industrialist lands Beverly a role as the television pitchwoman for Happy Soap. Her accessible delivery of the sponsor's message each week on television is wildly successful, due largely to her everywoman approach: simply telling viewers how she used the Happy family of products.

Eventually, her meteoric rise causes tension in the household and insecurity with her husband, as she's not only bringing home the bacon but becoming a household name – to the detriment of her "wifely duties." (I know, I know, but it was 1963 after all)

As much as the film was a product of its time, it was, in many ways, somewhat prescient. Written satirically by Carl Reiner, the story shows how pervasive getting "the message" just right was in practically every facet of Beverly's life, as the company gives her just about every product to try out and, therefore, pitch to the masses.

In many ways, Day's Beverly Boyer could be seen as a forerunner to today's influencers. Although she lucked into the role, it very quickly overran her life and, unavoidably, almost came to define her.

I've watched with fascination over the years as friends and acquaintances have, as social media has continued its unceasing reach, chased the influencer dream and hit many similar pitfalls. For some, it's a matter of gaining more online clout for the greater goal of boosting their own business or their own brand of whatever. For others, it's been a matter of chasing some sort of ephemeral fame. For others still, it's been a matter of simply trying to get free stuff from companies, brands and businesses that are looking for cheap and easy promos and piggy-backing off existing online followers.

(In the interest of full disclosure, an Instagram site I co-curate with two friends in the United States, has garnered me advance copies of two books related to our subject matter, but two books do not an influencer make)

One acquaintance, for instance, seems rather keen on getting those highly lucrative "mi-

cro-sponsorships" no matter what the product is, within reason. They have spent the last couple of years documenting just about every product they've purchased by posting said products on social media, tagging the company, hoping for a bit of that brand magic to rain down.

Another recently went on vacation to several countries in South Asia. While I enjoyed their Instagram photo-logue immensely, and it did indeed whet my appetite to visit many of these places, their quest to land a product endorsement and create videos with just the right ingredients to go "viral" appeared to take an inordinate amount of time and effort out of that trip that was just supposed to be about rest and relaxation.

Waterfalls were indeed being chased, but dancing under the spray to an appropriately chosen Rihanna track plugging their camera, the brand of swimwear they're sporting, and anything but an umbrella, seems rather laborious when on holiday.

Maybe I'm old fashioned, but the trip appeared to be more work than play and that was a shame – but I wish them every success.

Another still went "viral" recently when a TikTok video they created scratched a particular comedy itch. After that initial success and investing what appeared to be a not-insubstantial amount of cash on taking whatever they created to the next level, their meteoric rise appears to have plateaued and now it's a matter of begging existing followers to share their videos to all in sundry in the hope of catching lightning in a bottle once again – and presumably getting a return on their A/V investment.

This type of chase has never really appealed to me, but I do understand it. It sells, its lucrative and, even if it's not especially lucrative, it could help make ends meet.

Yet, for many of us, talking about ourselves and, by extension, promoting ourselves, is a somewhat uncomfortable experience. We know who we are, we know what we do well, and we know what we need to get into the next level.

Maybe it's a generational thing. While I suspect some members of the generations that have grown up with social media as inextricable part of their lives would still prefer to talk about anything but themselves, they have, by contrast, come up in a time where self-promotion and this quest for something as elusive as influence is a part of their everyday life. Perhaps it's perceived as one of the primary ways to get ahead in this world.

Don't get me wrong, there is absolutely nothing wrong with it, but when it veers close to becoming the defining part of your identity, that's where things can get a little bit dicey – and, in an arena as highly polarized and anonymous as social media, it can also lead to your followers seeing you as public property rather than private individuals, beholden to them for clicks in exchange for giving away more and more of yourself.

Beverly Boyer got out of the Happy Soap game after becoming public property, unable to go out for a quiet dinner with her husband without being hounded for autographs and "talking shop" and having more and more of her life owned and operated by the conglomerate.

I do wonder if the influencers of today will reach the point of wanting to claw themselves back or, in the quest for influence, they will continue to fill the insatiable beast, themselves become the product, without turning back.



Do record bank profits translate to service?

by Mark Pavilons



I am old, so I remember a lot of changes in the past half-century.

I opened a Scotiabank hockey club bank account when I was 11-years-old. I remember going to the bank and having the nice teller open my account and give me my first pass book. I was excited.

That joy waned quickly and considerably over the years as I aged and became a tax-paying adult.

I then encountered overdraft, banking fees, late fees, penalties, credit card interest charges, NSF cheques, and of course, mortgages.

My wife nudged me into online banking, so I seldom head into the RBC branch in Bolton anymore. I miss those encounters, but have heard that tellers are now few and far between.

Correspondence tends to be done over email and we never even visited the bank during our last mortgage renewal. If we need help, we can always connect with that friendly bot, who's not always the brightest. I have been cut off more times than I can count by these AI critters.

I beg to talk to a customer service agent with a pulse!

All in the name of efficiency? I'm not sure.

Money is a really weird commodity these days and some argue that it really doesn't exist. Sure, some people carry cash, but most of our transactions are by the push of a button, where data is transmitted here and there, changing numbers on some imaginary balance sheet. Digits, decimals, dollars and cents whiz around every second of every day.

But at the root of all this evil money are people. We are supposed to make the world go 'round.

And yet, we are at the mercy of wifi, data, internet connection and imaginary money from all sorts of colourful plastic cards, and intangible accounts.

And with this great power comes plenty of irresponsibility. And we're also inundated by scammers, cheats, thieves, hackers and deals too good to be true.

Fraudulent charges, hidden in small, rather inconspicuous ways, suck thousands from unaware consumers. Sure, credit card companies are on the hook for some of these, but given the aforementioned profits, I think they can afford these losses.

Canadians are worried. Recent surveys find almost 50% living paycheck to paycheck.

Uncertainty in the economy and job security fuel the fire. When mortgages are renewed in the next year or so, many of us are worried about new rules, new limits.

This dream we are a living is quickly becoming a nightmare.

TV commercials encourage us to consider reverse mortgages, home equity loans and debt consolidation.

We are told people are there to "help." Make no mistake, someone is making money on all of this, and it's not us.

I really feel for my fellow average citizens who see the pinpad message "declined" more often than they should.

I am saddened that hard-working Canadians are struggling to make ends meet and put something other than KD on the table.

If you are counting nickels instead of sheep as your head hits the pillow, I bid you peace and tranquility.

Submit your **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

Caledon Citizen
www.caledoncitizen.com

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Caledon Citizen

Richer than you think?

One of the major banks has a slogan that says, “You’re richer than you think,” meaning they have the financial knowledge to help you invest and grow your money.

It does make good sense to have a qualified person at your bank to help you make sound financial decisions.

The truth is, many people think they are financial wizards, yet really have little concept about how it all really works.

In our increasingly cashless society, financial wealth is something that is becoming less tangible every day.

Quite often when going into a store, the clerk no long even asks how you would like to pay. They simply hit the debit or credit button on the cash register, assuming you will be paying with either a debit or credit card.

There’s a lot of good in this way of paying for things. You can keep your card in your wallet and pay as you go. It eliminates the need to go to the bank for cash, and it eliminates driving to the local office of the utility companies to pay your bills.

But in our nearly cashless society, what is

your money really now worth?

The concept of paper money started because carrying around coins or pieces of silver or gold just wasn’t practical, and you may not have a chicken handy to trade for that piece of lumber you need.

Paper money was issued as a way of representing a tangible commodity – notably gold. The government issued a dollar bill, which represented gold stashed in a vault somewhere, that backed up the value of the note.

But where is the Canadian gold that backs the paper money you carry in your wallet and the numbers that fill your bank account? In the mid 60s, Canada had a gold reserve of around 1,000 tons.

The government started selling that gold, and currently the country has zero gold reserves.

In comparison, Germany currently has 3,352 tons, Switzerland – 1,040 tons, U.S. - 8,133, UK – 310 tons of gold reserves.

So, what does that \$50 bill in your wallet or the numbers you read on screen at the instant teller really represent?

Fiat currency is money which is not backed by

a commodity, and that is what we now have. It is backed solely by the government that issued it.

And where is that cash?

If you have a bank account with \$50,000 in it, and you decide to withdraw \$10,000 to pay cash for something, your bank won’t have it to give you when you present a withdrawal slip.

They will get it for you, but the bank will have to request the cash be shipped to them and likely ask you to come back another day to get your money.

If you finally decide to buy that new car you have been saving up for, and arrive at the dealership with a suitcase full of money, most likely they will not accept cash as payment. The dealership will assume that much cash is the proceeds of some kind of crime or a money laundering scheme and they won’t want to be involved with it.

However, if you take out your debit card, you just got yourself a new car.

Most of the wealth you have in terms of money, is now nothing more than numbers on a computer screen.

You probably get paid electronically, pay your

bills online, pay for vacations by credit card, and buy your groceries with a debit card.

All those transactions simply move numbers around in your bank account.

If you own a home, you can see your wealth. It’s there and it’s real. That’s why it’s called real estate.

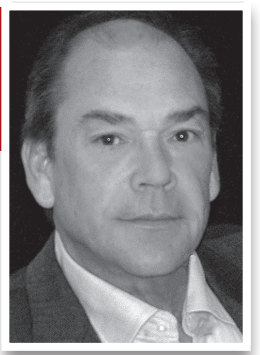
If you own gold or silver bullion, it is a real commodity.

Your car or truck is a tangible symbol of wealth. Even though it is a depreciating asset, it is real, and there is probably someone willing to buy it or trade you something valuable for it.

However, with current electronic banking, if the power goes out, your wealth no longer exists as long as there is an interruption in the power supply.

In a worst-case scenario, the power is out and doesn’t come back on. You will be broke with no way to pay for anything you need and your wealth will no longer exist.

BRIAN LOCKHART FROM THE SECOND ROW



International Women’s Day

Tomorrow is a significant day for over 50% of the population of Canada. Why? Because it is a day focussed exclusively on the importance of recognizing women’s rights, and women’s issues, not just here at home, but around the world. It is a day for us to raise awareness of the plight of women who are not recognized as equal partners in their own homes, or in their countries of origin. A day for us to mourn those lost to intimate partner and gender-based violence and a day for us to advocate for those who don’t have dominion over their own bodies when it comes to reproductive rights. This latter truth hits a little too close to home when we consider what is happening just to the south of us. However, International Women’s Day (IWD) is also a day for us to celebrate.

IWD is an opportunity to celebrate and honour the achievements of the women in our local communities and more broadly, in the world around us, while also recommitting to keeping up the pressure on our social, political, economic and health care systems to continue to focus on equity. It’s not just about ensuring there are women at the table, but about also ensuring systems are in place that ensure belonging and inclusion – and, therefore, success. IWD is

a chance for women to lift each other up and to ensure a continued lens is laser focussed on future progress. In fact, this year’s IWD theme is: “Invest in women, Accelerate Progress.” The UN has set a lofty goal of achieving gender equality by 2030. It really shouldn’t be seen as “lofty” and in a perfect world it wouldn’t be a goal at all because we’d already have it. What’s so alarming is that also according to the UN, we are nowhere near achieving it.

Our current economic systems disproportionately impact women and children. We are more likely to live below the poverty line, to lack access to social services, to suffer from harmful or dismissive health care practices and gender-based violence. The pandemic exacerbated every single one of these issues, holding a magnifying glass up for the whole world to see what most women already know: that many of us are struggling, even in “enlightened” economic and political systems where some legal and constitutional protections exist. If we’re struggling here, how do we accelerate progress elsewhere when even the UN says: “Gender equality remains the greatest human rights challenge.”

As already stated, we do it by celebrating IWD. We highlight and bring attention to the

issues that directly impact women with a view to continuing the relentless push forward for equality. We do it by celebrating the army of women who fight the systems put in place to hold us down. We do it by lifting each other up, every day and celebrating not only the big wins like when Trudeau was the first Canadian Prime Minister to create a cabinet composed equally of both men and women, but also by celebrating the little wins like when your daughter playing little league hockey can see herself represented in the big leagues as she watches members of the PWHL take to the ice. We do it by celebrating the courage, strength and resilience of young adults like Greta Thunberg who single-handedly led a revolution of sorts, finally calling the world’s attention to the climate crisis, or when Autumn Peltier, Anishinaabe water-rights advocate, fights on in the quest for clean drinking water for Indigenous communities.

We celebrate because the world my grandmother and mother were raised in wasn’t as progressive as the one my mother raised me in. At least the world I’m raising my daughter in is a little more progressive than when I was a young adult. So, more than anything, we celebrate IWD because the world we want our

daughters to inherit HAS to be better than the one we did, and to make that a reality WE must continue to fight, to advocate for change, to be fearless leaders, to tackle aggression whether micro or macro, to face down sexual harassment and to continue to call out men who continue to refuse us a seat at the table. We celebrate because if we don’t, those who would deny us our basic human rights will not only continue to do so, but feel emboldened by our silence. There are still enough people and systems in place attempting to silence our voices. Therefore, it’s incumbent upon each and every one of us to make some noise. To assume the collective mantle of responsibility bestowed upon us by previous generations, like those earliest suffragettes who fought for women to be recognized as persons and for the right to vote. There is still much work to be done but by also celebrating International Women’s Day together, we’ll continue to have an impact on creating a world that our daughters and granddaughters deserve to live in.

SHERALYN ROMAN TALK CALEDON



Red tape to blame for economic paralysis

The federal government turned on the spending tap last week in Thunder Bay, ON, as part of its Housing Accelerator Fund, a \$4-billion initiative to fast-track the construction of new affordable housing.

It’s part of Ottawa’s action plan to deal with the housing crisis that’s hit most of Canada’s big cities.

Record-high immigration to Canada is one of the major factors that has led to the current housing shortage. But it’s not the only reason for the lack of housing.

One of the biggest culprits is red tape, which has grown like algae over the past several decades and is choking off new economic activity across a wide range of sectors. In terms of the housing industry, excessive red tape has led to restrictive zoning by-laws, an overly complex approval process, and municipal foot-dragging when it comes to green-lighting projects.

An Ontario Housing Affordability Task Force report, published two years ago, blamed “needless bureaucracy” for contributing to the housing shortage.

But have we made any real progress in cutting red tape? It sure doesn’t look that way to most small business owners I talk to, regardless of which industry they operate in.

I’ve been waiting nearly three years now for a permit to open a little business selling organic vegetables grown at my farm. It’s mind boggling that I still have not been able to open its doors and start selling organic vegetables to local residents.

Municipal governments, in particular, have made life exceedingly difficult for many small business owners through the need to obtain countless permits and pass inspections.

When it comes to small business, governments at all levels have actively obstructed and stifled business growth. They’ve gone from laying the ground rules for businesses to smothering businesses with a blanket of red tape and regulations.

I believe we’re at a crossroads. If we don’t start thinning out the regulations paralyzing economic activity, we’re going to do irreversible damage to Canada’s small businesses.

We need to establish a task force comprised mainly of small business owners from a wide variety of sectors together with some industry experts. The task force should be charged with creating a blueprint for the elimination of thousands of needless regulations. Every regulation on the books would be on the chopping block with the exception of those relating to workplace safety and the protection of our environment.

But the task force should only be convened on one condition – that its recommendations must be enacted into law.

Our small business sector does most of the heavy lifting when it comes to creating jobs and contributing to our economy, but they routinely get shoved to the back of the line by wealthier, more influential special interest lobbies like big business when it comes to government policies and regulations.

That’s why it’s crucial that small businesses band together as part of a grassroots movement to bring about change.

One way to do that is to join the “Regenerate Canada” movement, a non-political organiza-

tion created by small business owners and entrepreneurs to give small business a voice and to help them fight for a level playing field when it comes to government regulations.

Canada’s small businesses are facing record-high levels of bankruptcy and closure. Those numbers will continue climbing if we don’t act.

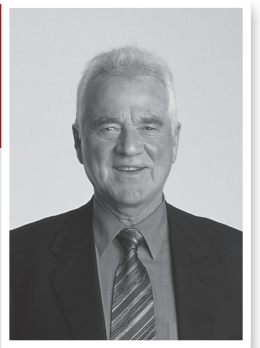
Small businesses need to fight back. We’re at the point where this is no longer a fight to cut costs and reduce red tape – for a growing number of small businesses, it’s become a fight for survival.

To learn more about how we can “Regenerate Canada”, email me at info@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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Former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney dies, Seeback remembers long time leader

BY SAM ODROWSKI

Brian Mulroney, who served as Canada's 18th Prime Minister for nine years under the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada, passed away late last month.

In recognition of his passing, flags have been flying at half-mast, since Thursday, February 29, when he died at the age of 84.

The flags will remain at half-mast until sunset on the day of Mulroney's funeral, March 23, in accordance with national protocol.

Mulroney passed away peacefully and surrounded by his family, according to a social media post made by his daughter Caroline Mulroney.

From 1984 to 1993, Mulroney served as Prime Minister of Canada. He resigned as PC Party leader ahead of the 1993 federal

election.

Dufferin-Caledon MP Kyle Seeback, a member of the Conservative Party of Canada, said Mulroney was one of Canada's greatest Prime Ministers when reflecting on his time in office.

"When you look at all the things that he did to lay the groundwork for the modern Canadian economy – free trade with the United States, bringing in the GST – all of these things that were difficult and controversial have turned out to be an incredible benefit to the Canadian economy."

He added, "But he was big on so many other issues as well. He got the Acid Rain Treaty signed with the United States, he brought in the first environmental protection legislation in Canada, and he was a leading voice to end the apartheid regime in South Africa."



PHOTO BY PAUL COUVRETTE/
GOVERNMENT OF CANADA IMAGE

At a time when fellow conservative leaders around the world failed to take a stand against apartheid, such as U.S. President Ronald Reagan and U.K. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Mulroney spoke out against it vehemently.

"When you think about it, he was the guy that had Canada really punching above our weight internationally," said Seeback.

After Mulroney was elected in 1984, he worked to encourage sanctions on the South African government that would apply pressure for the country to eliminate its caste system and release Nelson Mandela from prison. Mandela was an anti-apartheid activist at the forefront of advocating for an end to the discriminatory policy.

To tackle the manufacturers' sales tax, which Mulroney felt put Canadian exporters at a disadvantage, he negotiated the first free-trade agreement with the United States. This agreement would eventually expand into the creation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

"I remember the free trade debates, those happened when I was in high school," Seeback recalled. "I remember those things being fiercely contested with the Liberal Party on whether or not we should have free trade with the United States, which we know has been an incredible boon to our economy."

He added, "But he was more than that... he tried to bring Quebec into the Constitution, both with the Meech Lake Accord and Charlottetown Accord. Now, both of them failed, but he was always willing to take on massive political projects, despite the risk and opposition. To me, that's his true greatness."

Seeback said he admires the fact that Mulroney would work hard at things that may have been difficult for him politically but laid the groundwork for a better Canada in the future.

"That's a true politician, that is a true leader," he remarked.

In 2006, Mulroney was said to be the greenest prime minister in Canadian history and is remembered for his work on the Canada-U.S. acid rain treaty, and the introduction of the Environmental Protection Act. He also created eight new national parks.

"I don't think we're going to see another [Brian Mulroney], he's a tough act to follow," Seeback said.

He offered his sympathies to those impacted by Mulroney's passing.

"I just want to express my deep condolences to of course his family and his friends, and so many people who knew him and loved him," Seeback said. "We've lost a really good one."

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Ramadan Food Drive to return in support of Orangeville Food Bank

BY SAM ODROWSKI

The Holy Month of Ramadan runs from March 10 to April 9, and in keeping with her faith, a local Muslim woman is running a food drive to help those who are less fortunate.

Orangeville resident Tricia Celik, who was raised Christian but converted to Islam in 2017, held her first Ramadan Food Drive last year with the Orangeville Food Bank.

Muslims fast from before the first light of dawn until the setting of the sun on each day of Ramadan. And since the food bank does not receive many halal-specific donations that Muslims can eat before fasting or to break their fast, Celik decided to address the need.

There are two donation bins currently set up in the community, one at Orangeville Town Hall and one at the Alder Recreation Centre.

Celik runs Mrs. C's Private Home Day Care and will be collecting donations there as well as through her teaching role with Parkinon Centennial Public School (PCPS).

A Ramadan display is being set up at the Orangeville Food Bank, featuring halal food donations, decorations, books, and colouring activities for kids.

"When there's Muslims accessing the food bank, I want them to feel included too," said Celik.

The table was also set up last year and it was well received by Muslims who access the Orangeville Food Bank.

"Apparently it was a great hit last year," Celik said. "Other people [non-Muslims] seem to appreciate it too because it's a learning experience."

She added, "It just creates more awareness."

In addition to collecting Halal items, Celik is also encouraging members of the public to donate some of the Orangeville Food Bank's most needed items. They include canned pasta, apple sauce, canned vegetables, jugs of juice, juice boxes, cereal, large soup, peanut butter, dish soap and laundry soap.

Some halal foods include vegan candies with no gelatin like marshmallows and dried fruits, such as dates and apricots.

"It's important to give to those in need, and as Muslims, it's actually a requirement to feed the needy, and give back what we can," Celik said, of her motivation behind the food drive.

At PCPS, Celik does Ramadan-themed crafts each year with her class and said it's a great way to help Muslim students feel represented and teach other kids a bit about the religion.

"There [were] quite a few students in the school that teachers didn't even know were Muslim, and some students didn't know each other was Muslim. So, it was great for them to connect and then also bringing some understanding to why people fast."

As a woman who converted to Islam later in life, Celik there can sometimes be a lack of understanding from people about her faith. Through the food drive and raising awareness about Ramadan, she hopes to combat ignorance in the community and change people's perceptions of Islam.

"Even as a white, blue-eyed Muslim, you still get reservations from people. So, I've always tried to counteract that with an act of kindness," Celik said.

She told the Citizen, "I have faced hate discrimination and people being very standoffish after I converted and started wearing my hijab. If I can soften anyone's heart and bring light to the fact that Muslims are just like anybody else or a Christian so that they see us as humans and not what they necessarily read or hear in the media, then I feel like I'm doing a good job as a Muslim."

If anybody isn't available during the business hours of the Alder Recreation Centre, Town Hall or Orangeville Food Bank but would like to donate to the Ramadan Food Drive, Celik can accept donations.

Email theplace2biswithmrs.c@outlook.com to make arrangements.



Karen Hutchinson of the Albion Hills Community Farm, Caledon's Peel District School Board trustee Stan Cameron, Caledon's Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board trustee Paula Dametto-Giovanozzi, and ecoCaledon volunteer/Turtle Green Refillery owner Betty de Groot showcase some of the products and information available at Seedy Saturday.

PHOTO BY ZACHARY ROMAN

Great turnout for "Seedy Saturday" at Albion Bolton Community Centre

Annual gardening event successfully brings together community

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Caledon's gardening community came together in the spirit of collaboration last weekend.

On March 2, the Caledon Public Library (CPL), Albion Hills Community Farm (AHCF), and Palgrave United Community Kitchen (PUCK) hosted "Seedy Saturday" at the Albion Bolton Community Centre.

The event featured a seed exchange, garden-themed book sale, a café, gardening presentations, community group stations, a potting station, and numerous environmentally-conscious vendors.

Karen Hutchinson, who leads the AHCF, said she was impressed with the steady flow of people coming in and out of Seedy Saturday. Halfway through the event, she estimated at least 100 people had already attended.

Hutchinson said the AHCF is always trying to support people in their learning journeys in gardening.

"This year, we'll have a bigger focus on teaching," she said. "We're supporting learning at all levels, from kids and youth in the school system, to community groups, to our allotment gardeners."

Hutchinson said Seedy Saturday is a feel-good event that gets one's mind in gear and thinking about the gardening season.

"It's celebrating seeds, celebrating gardening," she said. "Lots of community people came out today... it's great to see everybody and get some enthusiasm about the upcoming season."

Lucrezia Chiappetta, co-chair of ecoCaledon, said Seedy Saturday was a great opportunity to chat with people about environmental issues that impact the Caledon community.

She said ecoCaledon talked a lot about food-related climate solutions as it's a theme that's very much linked to what Seedy Saturday represents. Chiappetta said some of these solutions include reducing food waste, moving toward a plant-rich diet, and supporting or implementing regenerative agricultural practices.

Maureen Ramsay, a volunteer with PUCK, said Seedy Saturday was a great chance to show off some of the cooking and fitness activities the group runs.

She said the event aligns with PUCK's local food and sustainability mission, and that the Albion Bolton Community Centre was a great place to host Seedy Saturday as there was lots of room.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

14 AGNES STREET, TOWN OF CALEDON (ALTON)

You are invited to attend a public information meeting to discuss the preliminary draft Plan of Subdivision (DART 21T-23001C) and preliminary Zoning By-Law Amendment (DART RZ 2023-0002) applications, which are applicable to 14 Agnes Street in the Town of Caledon (Alton).

MEETING DETAILS

AGNES STREET INFILL DEVELOPMENT PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING		Meeting Date March 27 th , 2024
Organized By	Paul Tobia on behalf of Weston Consulting Inc. Jeremy and Jordan Grant on behalf of Normaple Development Limited and The Alton Development Inc.	Meeting Time 6:30 P.M.
		Meeting Location Alton Mill Arts Centre, Alton 1402 Queen St W, Alton, ON L7K 0C4

There will be an open house from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m followed by a meeting that will be chaired by the applicant and will include a detailed explanation of the proposed development and will conclude with a question-and-answer period. Key project team members will be present.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the Draft Plan of Subdivision (DART 21T-23001C) and Zoning By-Law Amendment (DART RZ 2023-0002) applications.

Accompanying the Draft Plan of Subdivision and Rezoning applications, the applicant has submitted a concept plan to illustrate the intended form of development. The concept plan consists of 67 dwelling units fronting onto a common element condominium road on private individual on-site sewage services, shared by up to five units each, and includes:

- 65 townhouse dwelling units
- 2 semi-detached units
- 1,031 square metres of common amenity area
- 2.001 hectares of green space
- 49.4% of natural landscape area (yards, absorption beds, common amenity areas)
- 230 total parking spaces provided:
 - 216 within garages / in driveways
 - 14 visitor parking
- Internal sidewalks and new sidewalk connections to Queen Street
- Heritage-inspired and environmental-based design guidelines will govern detailed design

The applicant is holding this meeting to discuss these applications in further detail and to seek your feedback.

Please note that no Council decisions have been made with respect to these applications and a subsequent public statutory meeting will be scheduled for a future date.



DRAFT CONCEPT PLAN 14 AGNES STREET, TOWN OF CALEDON (ALTON)



QUESTIONS ABOUT THE MEETING? PLEASE CONTACT

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ARTS & CULTURE



Inglewood Schoolhouse Performers bringing "RSVP" to the stage

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Caledon residents may want to "RSVP" to the Inglewood Schoolhouse Performers' latest production.

Beginning with a performance at 8 p.m. on March 22 and a dinner theatre at 6 p.m. on March 23, the community theatre group is bringing the show "RSVP" to the stage at the Inglewood Community Centre (15825 McLaughlin Road).

Other performances of the show will be held at the following dates and times: 8 p.m. on April 6, 2 p.m. on April 7, and 8 p.m. on April 12 and 13.

The March 22 dinner and show has dinner being catered by and served at Knox United Church at 6 p.m. — the show will follow, beginning at 7:30

p.m. at the Inglewood Community Centre. Tickets for this experience are \$50 and can only be purchased by emailing inglewoodperformers@hotmail.com.

Tickets for any of the other performances are \$25 and can also be purchased by email.

Additionally, they can be purchased in-person at Lost Bear Market and the Riverdale Fitness Mill or online at this link: inglewoodperformers.com/tickets.

Without giving too much away, RSVP is about an annual neighbourhood garden party where each neighbour has their own story to tell or eccentricity to reveal. When an uninvited guest threatens to disrupt the harmony of the party, the partygoers learn that "a problem shared is a problem halved."

Richard Prazmowski is directing the production of RSVP alongside co-director Barb Jensen.

An Inglewood resident, Prazmowski was first involved with the Inglewood Schoolhouse Performers from 1991 to 1997. In 1997 he moved to Meaford and became involved with many local theatre groups in that area. A little over two years ago, Prazmowski returned to Inglewood to be closer to family and soon became involved with the Inglewood Schoolhouse Performers once again.

Prazmowski said it's great to be back with old friends and to see all the new people involved with the Inglewood Schoolhouse Performers.

"When you have fun and it's something you want to do, you stick with it," he said.

Prazmowski said it's been great co-directing RSVP with Jensen. He said they chose the play because they especially enjoyed the way its story is told.

There are 12 actors in the play and rehearsals have been happening once per week since late September. Now that the performances are getting close, there's two rehearsals per week.

"Things are coming along, things are going well," said Prazmowski. "I like the whole process of trying to get it all together and get it all looking and sounding right."

It takes a big team to make a production a success, and Prazmowski was quick to credit everyone involved. Everything from set design, to music and lighting, to promoting the upcoming shows is done by dedicated volunteers.



Emily Maloney, Kat Powell and Marion Bell are pictured rehearsing for the Inglewood Schoolhouse Performers' production of "RSVP". CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Intention to Designate

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

1420 CHARLESTON SIDEROAD

The property is located on the north side of Charleston Sideroad, west of Main Street/Cataract Road, being Part of Lot 16, Concession 4 WHS, within the former geographic Township of Caledon.

Built between 1891 and 1901 for George Cameron, the red brick farmhouse on the property is representative of the Italianate architectural style with its two-storey massing, hipped roof with wide overhanging eaves and decorative brackets, dichromatic stone accents including segmental stone eyebrow arches and carved lug sills on window and door openings, wood frames with arched head accents on window and door openings and decorated wooden arched side porch. The farmhouse is setback from the road, accessed by a long driveway lined with mature trees. Mature trees are located throughout the property. At the rear of the farmhouse are the fieldstone foundation ruins of the original barn, likely constructed at the same time as the main block of the house, and a low fieldstone wall extends from Charleston Sideroad to the rear of the property, on the southwest side of the driveway and house.

The property is historically linked with the Cameron family, who farmed Lot 16 from the early 19th century. A direct relative of the subject Cameron family is believed to be James Francis Cameron, an internationally celebrated Canadian filmmaker.

As a 19th century farmstead, the spatial organization and mix of structural elements on the property maintains and supports the rural agricultural character of the wider area.

18722 MAIN STREET

The property is located on the west side of Main Street, north of Charleston Sideroad, being Part of Lots 17 and 18, Concession 4 WHS, within the former geographic Township of Caledon.

Built between 1899 and 1905 for James Cameron, the red brick farmhouse on the property is representative of the Italianate architectural style with its two-storey massing, hipped roof with wide overhanging eaves and decorative brackets, dichromatic stone accents including segmental stone eyebrow arches and carved lug sills on window and door openings, and wood frames with carved arched head accents on window and door openings. The farmhouse is set back from the road, accessed by a driveway lined with mature trees. At the rear of the driveway, to the south of farmhouse is a three-bay timber-framed barn built in the gable-roof Central Ontario style, likely constructed at the same time as the house.

The grouping of contemporary elements such as the farmhouse, barn, and tree-lined drive supports the contextual value of the property. This complex is closely tied, both physically and historically, to similar properties in the surrounding area. As a turn of the century farmstead, the spatial organization and mix of structural elements on the property maintain and supports the rural agricultural character of the wider area.

18501 MISSISSAUGA ROAD

The property is located on the east side of Mississauga Road, north of Charleston Sideroad, being Part of Lot 16, Concession 4 WHS, within the former geographic Township of Caledon.

The property has design value for its representative and rare example of an early 19th century farmhouse in the Town of Caledon. Built between 1836 and 1848 for John Cameron, the one-and-a-half storey, vernacular style residence is a rare surviving example of an early 19th century farmhouse in the community. A late 19th century barn with fieldstone foundations and a gable roof is located to the northwest of the farmhouse and an early 20th century barn with concrete foundations and a gambrel roof is located to the east.

As a 19th century farm complex, the spatial organization and mix of structural elements on the property maintain and supports the rural agricultural character of the wider area. The house, barn complex, and mature vegetation on the property are both physically and historically linked to each other and physically and historically linked to their surroundings.

18667 MISSISSAUGA ROAD

The property is located on the east side of Mississauga Road, north of Charleston Sideroad, being Part of Lot 17, Concession 4 WHS, within the former geographic Township of Caledon.

Built between 1846 and 1858 for Duncan Cameron Sr., the farmhouse on the property features elements of various styles which were popular as the house evolved over the middle of the 19th century. Constructed as a single storey timber frame house, the house was subsequently expanded and reclad in brick between 1861 and 1891. The use of hand-hewn timbers as floor joists in the main block and the use of hand-hewn timbers and mortise and tenon joinery in the summer kitchen was a common construction method during the early to mid-19th century. The single storey, symmetrical, rectangular form and center-hall floorplan were popular during the early to mid-19th century. When the side addition was constructed between 1861 and 1891 architectural styles had shifted to embrace elements such as larger individual windowpanes, dichromatic brick patterns and accents, and wide porches or verandahs.

The farmhouse is setback from the road, accessed by a long driveway lined with mature trees and low fieldstone walls. A late 19th century barn complex is located to the northwest of the farmhouse, featuring two Central Ontario style barns linked by a connecting shed, and a late 19th or early 20th century drive shed is located to the north of the farmhouse.

As a 19th century farmstead, the spatial organization and mix of evolved structural elements on the property maintain and supports the rural/agricultural character of the wider area. The house, barn complex, fieldstone walls, and mature vegetation on the property are both physically and historically linked to each other and physically and historically linked to their surroundings.

16054 AIRPORT ROAD

The property is located on the west side of Airport Road, south of Walker Road West, being Lot 7 on Plan CAL-4, in the village of Caledon East.

The property's design value or physical value is linked to its one storey dwelling known locally as the Pettigrew House, a rare and early example of Neoclassical architecture in Caledon East. Built c.1857, the dwelling is believed to be the oldest surviving structure on the village's main street. Architectural elements that are characteristic of the Neoclassical style of the early to mid-19th century period include its: rectangular form; one-storey massing; medium pitch gable roof; symmetrical three-bay front façade with a centre entrance and large window openings on each side; fluted door and window surrounds; and one-storey rectangular rear addition with gable roof centred on the main house block.

The property has historical value and associative value for its ownership/occupancy by a series of prominent local families who contributed to the early growth and development of Caledon East. It is directly associated with Henry and Catherine Pettigrew for whom the dwelling was likely constructed between 1857 and 1861. Henry Pettigrew ran a saddlery business in the village and served as Peel County Division Court clerk for over 10 years. The subsequent use of this village residence by retired area farmers and their families and by local tradesmen such as the village blacksmith reflects themes that are significant to rural village life. The survival of this modest structure in near original condition, with 19th and early/mid 20th century additions, contributes to an understanding of the early mid-19th century residential character and fabric of the main street of Caledon East and the evolution of the village as a rural agricultural service centre.

The property has contextual value for its contribution in defining, maintaining and visually supporting the rural main street character and fabric of Airport Road and Caledon East with its mix of commercial and residential buildings with varied setbacks. The property is physically, visually and historically linked to its surroundings as an original lot within the village's first plan of subdivision (1855) and containing its original c.1857 dwelling set close to the street edge. The mature trees and landscaping on the property are consistent with the rural village character.

16060 AIRPORT ROAD

The property is located on the west side of Airport Road, south of Walker Road West, being Lot 8 on Plan CAL-4, in the village of Caledon East.

The property's design value or physical value is linked to its two-storey dwelling, known locally as the Donaldson House. Built in 1907, as attested by a datestone on its upper front (east) façade, the Donaldson House is a representative and early example of a local vernacular adaptation of the American Four-Square style popular in the early 20th century. It is the first rusticated concrete block house known to have been constructed in Caledon East by the local construction firm of White & Proctor following its purchase of a concrete block making machine in 1906. A locally unique feature of the house design, rare in the broader district, is its two-storey side porch incorporated under the southeast corner of the dwelling square roof, creating an L-shaped floor plan. The Donaldson House displays a high level of integrity.

The property has historical value and associative value for its direct association with James Alexander and Jennie Donaldson, for whom the Donaldson House was constructed. James Donaldson operated an undertaking and furniture business in Caledon East for forty-three years, playing a key service role in the community and broader district, including the establishment of the Caledon East Public Cemetery in 1906. The property has additional historical value and associative value as it reflects the work of prominent Caledon East builders Joseph O. Proctor and Samuel W. White, owners of the White & Proctor planing mill and cement works, who played a significant role in the community's development in the late 19th and early 20th century.

The property has contextual value for its contribution in defining, maintaining and supporting the rural main street fabric and character of Airport Road in the core of Caledon East with its mix of commercial and residential buildings with varying setbacks and construction dates. The setback and scale of the Donaldson House make it a prominent structure in Caledon East's core. It is visually and historically linked to other rusticated concrete block buildings constructed by White & Proctor in Caledon East.

CONTACT

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

RIGHT TO OBJECT

Any person may, within thirty days after publication of this notice, dated March 7, 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@caledon.ca
By mail, courier or personal delivery attention:
Kevin Klingenberg, Corporate Services/Town Clerk
6311 Old Church Road Caledon ON L7C 1J6



6311 Old Church Road
Caledon, ON L7C 1J6
caledon.ca
T. 905.584.2272 | 1.888.225.3366 | F. 905.584.4325

Volunteers needed for 2024 Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival

BY CONSTANCE SCRAFIELD

Norm Trudeau is ready and welcoming to new and returning volunteers for the upcoming 20th Annual Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival, set for the weekend of May 31 to June 2.

“A person could come up to me early on the Friday morning of the festival and ask if they could help and I would find them a place,” he said.

As the Festival’s volunteer coordinator, Trudeau told the Citizen in a recent interview, “I’ve been a volunteer for 18 years. This is my second year as coordinator of the festival. We did really well last year. Our head count was more than 40,000 coming in... it was the best festival ever.”

The headcount is not the only measure of success, he explained. It is also the feedback from patrons, team leaders and the bands that matter, taking the lessons learned.

A registered not-for-profit, the Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival does have a financial process. There are three primary avenues of gathering funds: sponsorship, donations and grants but the reckoning is these arts grants will be less this year. There is less funding for arts programs generally, citing not enough government money. This may be a sign of the times, he speculates, perhaps due to high government debt.

As with all such events, this festival took a two-year hiatus through the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The good thing about music is,” Trudeau commented, “it can be spread through social media.”

He was happy to report that their regulars are coming back already. The festival has a database for constant contact and Trudeau uses that platform to get the word out. Already a meeting has been held of most of the team leaders. This year, for the core of volunteers, they are hoping for 200 to 250, up from under 200 last year.

Volunteers have so many ways to contribute to such a large event, with security, sound for the bands, vendors,

set up and tear down of all the platforms and more.

“Sixty percent of our volunteers are returning,” he said. “This year, we’re reaching out to the two [schools] in town, Georgian College, Robert F. Hall [Catholic Secondary School] and Mayfair [Secondary School] for students to do their volunteer hours.”

He encourages families to “come with the kids!”

In reaction to some remarks that the large number of attendees last year resulted in the pressure of crowds, considering that Broadway is the main alley in the centre of Orangeville, Trudeau did say that last year was really different. They have taken steps to alleviate the crowding, making some changes to open the Hub corner at Second Street and Broadway. That is the ceremonial apex of the festival and the main stage was set up there, so, they are moving the stage closer to Wellington Street this year.

“I do ask volunteers to commit to some set hours,” Trudeau said. “Right now, the drive has started. We accept all volunteers right up to and including on the day. But our schedules are family friendly and with chances to see the festival.”

Two more meetings for volunteers are scheduled. One is on April 17 at 7 p.m. at the Orangeville Seniors Centre at 25 Bythia Street and the second is on May 19, to sort out schedules, meet the leaders and go over the Festival’s policies.

Naturally, the 2022 Festival was greeted with relief felt everywhere on the part of people happy to have the freedom to be out and enjoy live music again. Thus, the crowds filled the town in 2023, ready to participate in the jubilation the Blues and Jazz Festival creates. Yet such crowds can see problems or disruptions and Trudeau’s assurance was that there is always police in attendance.

“We have a licensed area,” he said. “And part of our budget is for the OPP. They’ll be cruising throughout the

weekend. The bands are paid and they are coming from all over. Josh [Leitch, President of the Festival] and Peter [Ross, Marketing] handle a budget of \$275,000 for operations and artists.”

The Town of Orangeville and the BIA are helpful, telling us that the Town is on board with the Festival. The festival and the Town have partnered, as has the BIA. Both are also sponsors.

It is all happening everywhere. Restaurants are hosting bands; some of them come and are artist vendors. Ray’s Bakery from Alton is making a first stand here, where restaurants register and become vendors for the program. Local businesses are invited to come on board.

This year will see more use of the main stage in the Opera House with a Friday evening concert.

Volunteers are not expected to deliver first aid and none are trained but St. John’s Ambulance will be on site.

There is one main licensed area serving beer and wine. No spirits are sold except in coolers. Security is handled by paid duty officers, a security group and events staff who man the exits, meaning contingencies are in place.

The Citizen asked what kind of learning curve has been negotiated since the Festival began.

“Year One,” he reminisced, “was a one-day affair with six bands and 20 people. Over the years, it grew. The Board and staff are constantly learning. Our mission is to provide the best service that welcomes people from ages two to 92 and up, constantly looking for ways to do better.”

Last year, there was very good feedback from the vendors, parking and visitors.

As to what keeps Trudeau involved: “I love the music,” he said. “I’ve lived in Orangeville for 55 years. It’s my hometown!”

For details about volunteering for the Blues and Jazz Festival 2024, please contact: norm@orangevillebluesandjazz.ca.

Here’s what’s happening in Caledon over March Break

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Schools will be closed from March 11 to 15 this year for March break.

There’s a variety of things going on in Caledon for families to do over the holiday.

The Caledon Public Library (CPL) has a number of activities planned, such as a Scientists in School presentation on science in sports. It’s geared towards children ages six to 12 and is taking place at 11 a.m. at the Southfields Village branch of the CPL. Attendees will participate in activities such as engineering a better hockey puck and building a mini golf course.

At 1 p.m. on March 14, Jeff Salem will host a drumming workshop at the CPL’s Caledon East branch. The workshop is called “A Little Drumming in Everyone” and will teach children basic hand-drumming skills in an interactive setting. Salem is an internationally-recognized drummer and there will be a number of percussion instruments available to try, such as: djembes, ashikos and bongos, shakers, cowbells, tambourines, and claves.

For a full list of the CPL’s March break events, or to register for them, those interested can visit events.caledonlibrary.com.

Also on March break is Credit Valley Conservation’s (CVC) Maple Syrup in the Park (beginning March 14).

It takes place at the Terra Cotta Conservation area and features educational stations with historical and modern demonstrations of how sap is turned into syrup; cedar tea and chances to learn about Indigenous culture; blacksmith demonstrations; a scavenger hunt; and a pancake breakfast with real maple syrup.

For more information about this and other CVC maple-themed events, visit cvc.ca/maplesyrup.

The Peel Art Gallery, Museum and Archives (PAMA) has a number of family-friendly activities planned for the spring holiday.

At 1 p.m. on March 9 there’s a cartoon design workshop with local artist Sean L. Moore. At 10 a.m. on March 16, there’s a corn husk doll workshop followed by a sharing circle and lunch.

All throughout the week, there’s family studio time at PAMA with themes like space art, bubble art, and toy-making.

At 7 p.m. on March 11 the Brampton Folk Club is hosting a music night. For more information about PAMA events, and to buy tickets or register for them, one can visit pama.peelregion.ca.

The Town of Caledon is once again offering its March break camps, with one taking place at the Caledon Centre for Recreation and Wellness and one at the Southfields Community Centre. The camps run from 8:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. and will feature active games, creative crafts, and weather-dependent outdoor play.

Registration for the March break camps can be done on the Town of Caledon’s website, caledon.ca.



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12⁹⁹

SAVE \$1.50

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Fresh fish is subject to availability.

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3⁹⁹

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8⁹⁹

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Tre Stelle Mozzarella Ball 340g pkg selected varieties

5⁹⁹

SAVE UP TO \$3.98 ON 2

Dempster's Whole Grains Bread 600g pkg, Dempster's Bagels 375-450g pkg or Dempster's 7" Tortillas 248-336g pkg Individual \$3.49 selected varieties

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9⁹⁹

Longo's Chocolate Chip Cookies 20 pack 750g pkg

7⁹⁹

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givingyouthekey@gmail.com / angelabrazeau.remax.com

How to automate your business so you can focus on the creative side



(NC) Many creative types have successfully launched their own businesses, such as a boutique marketing agency or copywriting company.

BUT RUNNING A BUSINESS can pull you away from doing the things you're best at. Here are four tasks you can automate so you can stay focused on being creative.

SCHEDULE SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media platforms are an important marketing and engagement tool for many businesses. But posting consistently across various platforms can be time consuming. There are programs you can use that allow you to schedule posts and have them appear on all your accounts at optimal times. This not only saves time but ensures your social media presence is consistent.

MARKET RESEARCH

Stay on top of industry trends and changes, as well as any time your business appears in the news, by setting up alerts in your search browser to look for relevant keywords.

You can also set up automated reports on your website traffic to better understand who is using the site and how. These tools can also suggest the best days and times to post your content to capture more people's attention.

REVIEW YOUR REVIEWS

Staying on top of your customer reviews – positive or negative – is an important but cumbersome task, particularly if your business appears on multiple sites. If you sign up for a review-monitoring program you can track the reviews that appear, create automated responses, set up alerts for negative or glowing feedback and request additional reviews through simple surveys and other prompts.

AUTOMATE YOUR ACCOUNTING

Many creative types would admit that they don't have "a math brain." But, as a small business, it's important to track all work-related expenses and invoices. It usually makes sense to use a cloud-based accounting software program, such as FreshBooks, to keep your books organized. And, as with any cloud-based system, everything is automatically backed up.

Find more information about automated, cloud-based accounting at freshbooks.com.

www.newscanada.com



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In recent years and more than ever, we have all come to understand how important quality, accessible childcare is for working families and especially working women.

Operating in Caledon/Vaughan, Sandra Christidis who runs the agency at Wee Watch Licensed Home Childcare has partnered with 1000s of independent contractors working as home childcare providers to care for thousands of children. Sandra and her daycare team contract self-employed women running daycare businesses from their own homes. Childcare providers are screened and trained to ensure that they are meeting all standards for care, programming, and safety in the homes. Wee Watch also provides an educational curriculum for children and many other benefits to providers including daycare equipment, access to government grants and so much more. Sandra is extremely proud of the home childcare providers in her agency, including her longest tenure providers Lulu (serving 23 years of care) and Mary Lou (serving 26 years of care). Sandra and her providers are true leaders in the community – providing a rewarding career that enables women to work from home and earn an income, while also enabling women that work outside of the home have peace of mind knowing their children are cared for in a quality environment.



647-933-1153 • sandra@weewatchvaughan.com • www.weewatch.com

Palgrave business leader writes book on AI

Katharine Loucaidou is a realtor, coach and former professor

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

A Palgrave woman is aiming to improve people's lives with her new book. Katharine Loucaidou's book, "AI Secrets for Unstoppable Business Success & Life Hacks" is all about understanding Artificial Intelligence (AI) and using it to better one's life. Loucaidou is a realtor and coach working in Caledon and surrounding areas. She has a Master's Degree in educational technology and is a former professor. She's been living and working in the Caledon area for 16 years, and before that was in Europe for 15 years working at a university. Loucaidou has always been fascinated with technology and her dissertation was on the subject of if students learned better from computers than textbooks. "Technology can help us work smarter and get better results," said Loucaidou. She said people don't realize that AI is already all around them and that they use it in their everyday lives, for example on their smartphone. "There's a gap in understanding... that's why I was inspired to write this book," said Loucaidou. "My goal for this book was to make it intriguing... people understand AI is this buzzword, but they don't know where to start." She said many people don't realize what an amazing organizational and analytical tool AI can be. "I'm going to break down the AI concepts to their very core and explain to you what AI is, how you can apply it to your work, to your life, to your health," said Loucaidou. "I'm going to show you how other small businesses and people have applied it to help enhance their lives." Loucaidou said her background in education was a great help when writing her book. She's used to designing her own courses and programs and researching and conveying information in a way that's easy for people to understand. Loucaidou has included QR codes in her book that people can scan to get work pages that teach them what they can do with AI. An interesting and simple example is how one can use ChatGPT to generate a recipe using whatever ingredients are already in one's fridge. AI is great at predictive analysis, said Loucaidou, and it can be used to predict future outcomes in areas such as business, health and wellness. She said it's the biggest revolution in technology since the telephone. "My commitment is that I want everyone to be able to understand it and to navigate it so it will improve their lives," said Loucaidou. "People get burnt out from working so hard, but what if we make life easier for you? What if we could make your life run smoother... this is what AI does, it can automate so much in people's lives." Loucaidou's book is available online through Amazon.

Caledon WOMEN in BUSINESS



On behalf of Caledon Council I would like to recognize all women on International Women's Day for what they do to make our communities strong.

Women have many roles as leaders, mothers, business owners, workers, caregivers, teachers and scholars.

This year, International Women's Day is focusing on inclusion of women for belonging and empowerment.

Worldwide, women must be included in all aspects of society, industry, commerce and life for communities to succeed.

Mayor Annette Groves

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#InspireInclusion

Mayor Annette Groves and Members of Town Council honour International Women's Day





Caledon WOMEN *in*



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SHIRLEY HOPPLER, SALES REPRESENTATIVE

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33 MASSAGE & WELLNESS

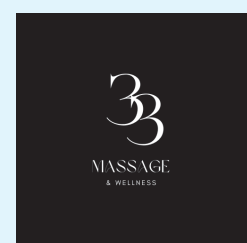


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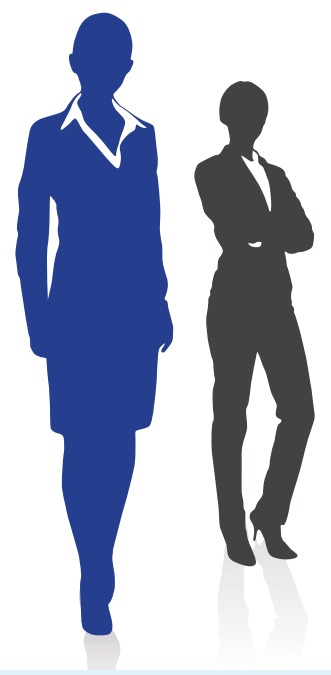
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BUSINESS



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Christine Samuel, with over 25 years in the jewellery industry, is a respected jeweller and graduate from the Canadian Gemmological Association and the Gemological Institute of America (GIA). As a Registered Master Valuer, she offers professional appraisal services. Fulfilling her lifelong dream, Christine opened her boutique in Bolton, showcasing a meticulously curated collection ranging from stainless steel and sterling silver to exquisite gold, diamond and gemstone pieces.

Her boutique specializes in custom-designed jewellery, utilizing techniques like hand fabrication, lost wax casting, and computer-aided design. With extensive expertise in engagement rings, wedding bands, watch & jewellery repair, Christine ensures every piece is perfect.

Christine's commitment extends beyond her boutique; Caledon is not just her home but also a community she actively engages with through events and charity functions, giving back with joy and dedication.

Her boutique is a beacon of warmth and welcome, where Christine's passion for jewellery and her community shines brightly. She is devoted to offering high-quality, skillfully crafted jewellery. Visit Christine's boutique for an unparalleled experience that marries expertise and excellent customer service with community spirit.



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STEPHANIE PULIS, SALES REPRESENTATIVE

STEPHANIE, A REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONAL SINCE 2011, IS WELL KNOWN FOR HER INTEGRITY DIPLOMACY AND SINCERITY. She has always strived to be someone whom her clients can put their trust and faith in. With an extensive background in marketing and accounting she uses her unique negotiating insights to timelessly advocate for all her clients. Stephanie along with her husband, son and two fur babies have made Caledon their home for over 15yrs allowing her to have an extensive knowledge of the area and all it has to offer. She listens to her clients wants and needs in order to achieve the best outcome in every transaction. She also strives to ensure that the buying and selling process is fun, easy and stress free and that her clients can depend on her every step of the way!



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Caledon WOMEN *in* BUSINESS

Quilt raffle fundraising for personal care items at Family Transition Place

BY PAULA BROWN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Family Transition Place (FTP) is hoping to give one individual the comfort of a warm quilt, as they hold a raffle fundraiser to collect donations to support the personal-care needs of the women and children accessing their services.

The quilt, called 'From Tradition to Non-Tradition', was designed and created by Dufferin County resident Sandy Small Proudfoot, a graduate of Design from the Ontario College of Art (AOCA '89). The machine quilting was done by Mary Light of Temiskaming Shores.

"I wanted to bring the history of quilting together in one piece," explained Sandy Small Proudfoot. "When you think about quilts, they've got a long history of necessity, quilts were made for warmth. Now, they can reflect a feeling of love both in the making of it and the giving of it. This was some way that I could try to support Family Transition Place by raising funds directly for the victims coming into the shelter."

Speaking with the Citizen about why she wanted to make the quilt for Family Transition Place, Small Proudfoot said, "Domestic violence is not a subject a lot of people want to hear about. It makes people uncomfortable, but there are so many victims of domestic violence today that it is an epidemic."

Last year, Small-Proudfoot donated a quilt called "Travelling the Silk Road", which referred to a network of routes used by traders from Asia to various countries in Europe and eventually the New World.

"Sandy has used a medium that she is brilliantly talented in, coupled with her passion to raise awareness about domestic violence and coercive control. She is doing what she can to support the work we do in a really meaningful way," said Brennan Solecky, FTP director of development and community engagement.

"It is very special, aside from it being a beautiful piece of art, it can also be that source of warmth. They tell a story and they're beautiful and really healing. I think through anyone's journey that is accessing services or supports at FTP, it's very much the same. Everyone's got a story and while it may not be woven into the tapestry of a quilt, it's certainly something that can be carried with you for a lifetime, much like a quilt," added Solecky. All of the proceeds raised from the raffle will go towards supporting the personal-care needs of the women and children served by Family Transition Place.

Some of the items the proceeds will be used to purchase include shampoo, conditioner, feminine hygiene products, deodorant, toothpaste, and lip balm.

According to Solecky, Family Transition Place housed 74 women and 40 children in their shelter last year. The organization also saw a 23 per cent increase in all to their crisis line, which is equivalent to 4,768 calls.

"We are definitely seeing those calls go up, which is surprising. We're now seeing individuals that potentially really couldn't seek support before, who are seeking support now," said Solecky.

Tickets for the quilt raffle can be purchased at various locations including:

- Booklore, 121 First St., Orangeville (until March 19 at 12 p.m.)
- Harmony Whole Foods Market, 163 First St., Orangeville (until March 19 at 12 p.m.)
- Family Transition Place, 20 Bredin Parkway, Orangeville (until March 20 at 10 a.m.)
- FTP's International Women's Day Celebration Event on March 8 at Hockley Valley Resort

The price for raffle tickets is \$10 each or \$20 for three.

The draw for the quilt winner will take place on March 20 at 11 p.m. at Family Transition Place, located at 20 Bredin Parkway in Orangeville. Ticket holders do not need to be in attendance to win.

For more information visit, www.familytransitionplace.ca.

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Government of Canada announces funding for women entrepreneurs to create a more equitable digital economy

The full and equal participation of women in the economy is essential to Canada's competitiveness and prosperity.

Dismantling the systemic barriers that hold women entrepreneurs back from reaching their full potential leads to more economic independence, while helping to build more resilient communities.

Last month, the Honourable Marci Ien, Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth attended an event hosted by Information and Communications Technology Council (ICTC) in Toronto and announced \$960,000 in funding for the organization to create a more inclusive and equitable digital economy.

The funding will support the project Changing the Narrative - Unleashing the Full Potential of Women-owned Enterprises, which aims to foster innovation, enhance workforce diversity, and tackle systemic barriers experienced by women entrepreneurs, with a focus on Black and official language minority communities.

Supporting equal opportunities for women in the workplace could add \$150 billion to Canada's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 2026. The Government of Canada will continue to collaborate with women's organizations and experts to advance intersectional approaches and build an inclusive economy that works for everyone.

February was Black History Month in Canada and throughout the year, the Government of Canada prioritizes initiatives that combat systemic racism and advance economic opportunities for Black communities.

"Everyday women entrepreneurs are taking risks, bringing new ideas to life, and making contributions to our country," said Ien. "Yet they continue to receive less financing and opportunities than their male counterparts. Today's investment in the Information and Communications Technology Council is about creating a more inclusive social entrepreneurial landscape, particularly for women from Black and official language minority communities."

Added Namir Anani, President & CEO, Information and Communications Technology Council: "In the digital age, the success of our economy is intertwined with the success of women-led businesses. We are thrilled the Government of Canada is investing in this program to unlock the full potential of women entrepreneurs. By supporting social enterprises led by women, particularly from marginalized communities, we're not just creating businesses - we're building bridges to economic empowerment, job creation, and a better standard of living for all."

Quick facts

- Budget 2023 allocated \$160 million over three years, starting in 2023-24, for the Women's Program to provide funding to organizations in Canada that serve women.
- Racialized women hold only about 10% of senior leadership and pipeline positions in Canada, with Indigenous women, women with disabilities and 2SLGBTQIA+ women each holding less than 2% of senior leadership and pipeline positions.
- In 2020, 89% of 48 of Canada's largest organizations reported that they had zero Black women in the pipeline to executive officer roles.
- In December 2022, about two-thirds (66.6%) of Black Canadians aged 15 and older were employed.
- Globally, women-led start-ups received just 2.3% of venture capital funding in 2020.
- Based on 2020 data, only 16.8 percent of Canadian SMEs (small and medium-sized enterprises) are majority owned by women and are more likely to operate in young, small, low-growth and underfinanced sectors such as retail trade, and other service sectors. These factors make it harder to access and secure financing.
- Women are under-represented among equity investors, representing only 15.2% of Canadian venture capital partners and 16.7% of Canadian angel investors.

Caledon WOMEN in BUSINESS

"To be able to create opportunities where women are telling their stories in their own words, you're just getting a better perspective of the human experience."

- Reese Witherspoon

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HAPPY International WOMEN'S DAY

March 8

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INTERIOR DESIGNER & SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Jacqui is an avid nature-lover, mom, yoga instructor, interior designer, Realtor and all-around helpful human who loves other helpful humans and dogs, oh and babies too.

With a passion for assisting clients with various real estate needs, she is a trusted and well-trained professional who strives to provide you with the best solution for any given situation.

Clients are impressed by the dedication, insight and compassion Jacqui puts into making sure that they receive top quality service and amazing results. With guidance over and above the typical transaction, Jacqui will transform your home for sale OR even help you find the perfect home. Love it and List it has become her motto. With extensive restoration and renovation experience, Jacqui can even find you a home and help you transform it to suit your needs. No project is too big or too small. Explore our website to find detailed listing information, buying guides, selling guides and other features that suit any of your real estate needs.



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Allie Imrie

"My name is Allie Imrie and His N' Hers Hair Design has been my home for the last 11+ years! I am a licensed hairstylist, a certified makeup artist & a hair extension advocate. I also run a mobile bridal business specializing in bridal hair and makeup. I believe that each individual has a unique beauty to them, and I am honoured to be able to enhance that beauty with each appointment!"

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Laura Ricci

"Hi my name is Laura Ricci I am a 24 year old licensed hairstylist and I've been a part of the His N' Hers family for 6 years! Being able to come to the salon each day and make my clients feel beautiful is truly a dream. I am grateful for the relationships I've created with my clients. To be able to laugh, cry, and celebrate lifes moments with them, makes my job so incredibly special!"

@lauras.hair.design



Alyssa Varone

"My name is Alyssa Varone and I have been a part of the His N' Hers family for 3 and a half years! Ever since I was young I loved all things beauty, so it was only fitting I made my passion into a career! As a hair colour specialist I am dedicated to creating beautiful and customized hair colours to enhance your natural beauty! From vibrant hues to subtle changes, I can do it all! I am constantly learning and growing to provide the best experience for my clients. Let's create a beautiful new look together!"

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Caledon WOMEN *in* BUSINESS

Norah Kennedy to retire from executive director role at Family Transition Place

BY PAULA BROWN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

When Family Transition Place is brought up in conversation, the name of their executive director, Norah Kennedy, doesn't typically fall far behind. The two have been tightly intertwined for nearly two decades. But soon the local women and children's shelter will find themselves in the hands of a new leader, as Kennedy lays out her plans to retire by the end of the year.

The Board of Directors for Family Transition Place announced in a press release at the end of last month that Kennedy would be retiring from the position but would be staying on for the remainder of the year to help through the transition period.

"If I'm being honest, it feels surreal and more than a little overwhelming. I've received so many lovely, kind words from people," Kennedy told the Citizen after announcing her plans to retire.

Kennedy has served as Family Transition Place's executive director for 17 years, having joined the shelter and the violence against women (VAW) sector in 2007.

Reflecting on joining Family Transition Place, Kennedy describes it as a full circle moment. Originally from Dufferin County, Kennedy grew up in Mulmur Township and attended high school at Centre Dufferin District High School in Shelburne. Like many youths from rural communities, Kennedy left the area to pursue various career paths after graduating from high school. First a professional actor for 10 years, Kennedy later became a language interpreter with the Canadian Hearing Society in Kitchener/Waterloo from 1993 to 2007. In 2007, Kennedy left the Canadian Hearing Society to become executive director of FTP.

"I took the job at Family Transition Place, which brought me back home to Dufferin County. We moved back onto the very same property that I grew up on," said Kennedy. "I have pretty deep roots in this community." Speaking about why she chose to join the violence against women sector and Family Transition Place, Kennedy explained.

"I've always had a really strong drive to make a difference, to do something that I feel is important, and at that point, I'd been working in the not-for-profit sector for about 15 years," explained Kennedy. "When the job at FTP came about, I recognized an opportunity for me to take the skills that I had learned and bring them into a sector that I really believed in and believed in the work."

Spending such a significant amount of time with a single organization, Kennedy has been a front-seat witness to the changing landscape of gender-based violence services within Dufferin County.

Ever the beacon of leadership, Kennedy tends to skirt past discussing her own accomplishments with the local shelter, rather she eases the conversation to focus on her team that works day-to-day with clients.

"One of my biggest sources of pride is the people that I work with, who are just so good at what they do and who make my work life so rich; honestly, it will be the hardest thing for me to leave," said Kennedy.

At the forefront of Family Transition Place for 17 years, Kennedy has guided the shelter through its highest of highs, in contrast, as a result of the nature of working in gender-based violence, she has also seen them through the toughest of experiences.

Kennedy has been on hand as the shelter faced the death of clients, cases of femicide and gender-based violence, and navigating the difficult landscape of aiding clients in need during a global pandemic.

"You can't work in our sector without experiencing some of those very profound pieces; we've had tragedies. As a leader of an organization, I may not work as closely with the women or clients that my frontline staff do, but there is a sense of overarching responsibility," said Kennedy. "When something goes wrong on your watch, as the leader of the organization, it rests heavily on your shoulders for sure."

Making the decision to step back from Family Transition Place was not a quick or easy process for Kennedy after being at the helm for so many years. But, she admits now feels like the time for the "natural conclusion" of her career.

"It really took a while to come to the decision of when the right time was going to be. The time comes, I think when every leader realizes that it's time for somebody who is younger and fresher, to come in and take the organization to its next level. The job of running an organization like FTP is pretty all-consuming and I absolutely love my job, but I also want to make sure that I'm leaving at a point where I am still quite honestly on top of my game."

The Board of Directors for Family Transition Place has started the early process of hiring a new executive director to fill Kennedy's shoes in the upcoming months.

"I'm grateful that I've had the privilege of working for such an organization in the community. It's my home, it's where my heart is, and I mean that for both FTP and Dufferin County. I'm very proud for the opportunity to serve it," said Kennedy in her final message for the community.

Canada nowhere near gender parity, says Prosperity Project

As International Women's Day approaches, there is scant good news around workplace advancement for Canadian women – especially those in minority demographics. While The Prosperity Project's Annual Report Card on Gender Equity and Leadership (ARC) identifies some positive movement toward gender parity for Canadian women in general, it finds a continued dearth of representation for women in corporate leadership positions. This is compounded by troubling statistics related to Black women, Indigenous women, women who identify as having a disability and 2SLGBTQIA+ women.

"Long-standing barriers and biases are still in the way of women's careers – costing our economy billions of dollars and untold talent," said Julie Savard-Shaw, Executive Director of The Prosperity Project, a registered charity that works for women's economic advancement.

Conducted annually since 2021, the ground-breaking ARC research analyzes data voluntarily submitted by Canada's largest public companies, private companies, federal and provincial crown corporations, co-operatives, and Canadian subsidiaries of foreign-owned corporations.

Highlights of the 2024 Annual Report Card:

Canada is nowhere near achieving gender parity. In the past year there has been some moderate movement toward gender parity, as overall representation of women increased by 2.9% in Corporate Director roles, 5.5% in Executive Officer roles, 1% in Senior Management roles, and 1.2% in the Pipeline to Senior Management roles.

However, the slight gain in the pipeline barely made a dent in the 11.8% drop of women in these roles reported in 2023. There also continues to be a wide chasm between men's and women's representation in Corporate Director and Executive Officer roles.

No industry can claim victory in the quest for gender parity. The Finance and Insurance industry makes the strongest showing within the Pipeline to Senior Management role (45.4%) but few other industries surpass 40% representation of women at any level of leadership.

In all industries, women have the lowest representation in leadership at the Executive Officer level, an indication of the obstacles facing women that prevent them from moving into the highest levels of corporate leadership.

Private companies are catching up to crown corporations in achieving gender parity. The most significant indication of this is in women's representation at the Executive Officer level, which was its highest (55%) in private corporations. In fact, this was the only group in which women leaders outnumbered men.

While women in general are beginning to have a more substantial presence at leadership tables, Black women, Indigenous women, Women of Colour, women with disabilities, and women who belong to the 2SLGBTQIA+ community are all but entirely

excluded.

The miniscule representation of Indigenous women (0.4%), 2SLGBTQIA+ women (0.7%), and Black women (0.8%) at the Corporate Director level portrays a corporate world that remains accessible only to white, cisgender men and women.

Among the very minor gains for women from underrepresented groups, the most significant increase was in the representation of Women of Colour in the Executive Officer role (3.5%) and the Corporate Director role (1.6%). There was a minute increase in the representation of Black women in the Executive Officer role (0.7%). However, these tiny increases are overshadowed by deeper concern about decreases in representation of Black Women and Women of Colour in Senior Management roles and Pipeline to Senior Management roles.

Improvement in leadership representation of women with disabilities was negligible, with a 0.7% increase in Senior Management, and 0.8% increase in Pipeline to Senior Management roles compared to 2023.

Representation of women who belong to the 2SLGBTQIA+ community has decreased within Corporate Director and Pipeline to Senior Management roles. Women who belong to the 2SLGBTQIA+ community express frustration at the lack of sponsorship by the companies they work for.

Of particular note in the 2024 ARC is the impact of negativity around diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) initiatives.

"The anti-DEI narrative is misguided. Unfortunately, it's also growing," Savard-Shaw said. "DEI initiatives do work – we are seeing the evidence – but they can't simply be box-checking exercises. DEI requires a commitment to systemic, cultural change, or the old, destructive biases will persist." Specific challenges identified in the report include:

Tokenization, with DEI initiatives designed as face-saving measures rather than genuine changes in culture and decision-making. This has the opposite effect, creating isolation and "otherism."

The phenomenon of the "glass cliff" – a variation on the "glass ceiling" metaphor, but in this case seeing women promoted during a crisis without the necessary support, leading to impossible expectations and eventually to burnout.

Hiring being prioritized over promotion, resulting in diverse women being pooled in mid-level management, which in turn causes a "leaky pipeline" to senior management and executive roles. Underrepresented women are not getting the support they need to advance. The report notes that men, as well as white women, still vastly outnumber women of intersecting identities in these roles.

The 2024 ARC includes recommended corporate policies to give DEI initiatives a chance to take hold and make a discernable difference, including moving beyond performative actions to implementing organizational cultural shifts, and integrating DEI into retention practices.

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Rita is the Founder since 2014 of CIC. As a Registered Massage Therapist, Rita has experience working cooperatively and collaboratively with other health care professionals in the community to support families in order to live a sustainable quality of life. Since Rita had her 2 children, she was able to experience birthing at home alongside the support of her midwife as well as a hospital birth with an obstetrician. She began to understand how critical mother's and families need support in this aspect of their lives. Rita strives to continue growing professionally as a birthing support person and doula to advocate for women's and family perinatal health. Her goal is to help facilitate an understanding for moms-to-be by providing emotional support giving the right tools to families for a smooth transition into parenthood.

Rita is a graduate from York University in 2008 with a Specialized Honours Bachelor Degree in Kinesiology and Health Science. She then completed a Diploma in Massage Therapy from Sutherland-Chan in 2009. Rita further advanced her studies by completing her continuing education courses at McMaster University in Medical Acupuncture and Pediatric Massage Therapy from Liddlekidz.

When Rita isn't busy in centre or outside managing the centre, she enjoys the simple pleasures of life such as a hike or walk by the water, taking new exercise classes and finding a good read. You can often find her exploring new recipes in the kitchen or discovering artisan shops in the surrounding area. She loves her 2 boys, Giacomo and Angelo and her supportive husband Giuseppe. Family is everything to Rita and she ensures that her life is complete with them by her side.

Motherhood has been a stage of life that she admired and embraced fully as her heart and soul is with her children and husband. She comes from a family of two older brothers and supportive parents that raised their children in a household with rooted family traditions and morals. Rita has maintained a balance between being a mother, wife and entrepreneur, bringing her family qualities and strong work ethic to her business. She thrives to educate, enrich and inspire her patients and is a respectable person for that.

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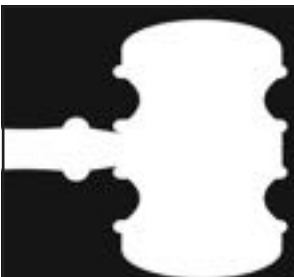


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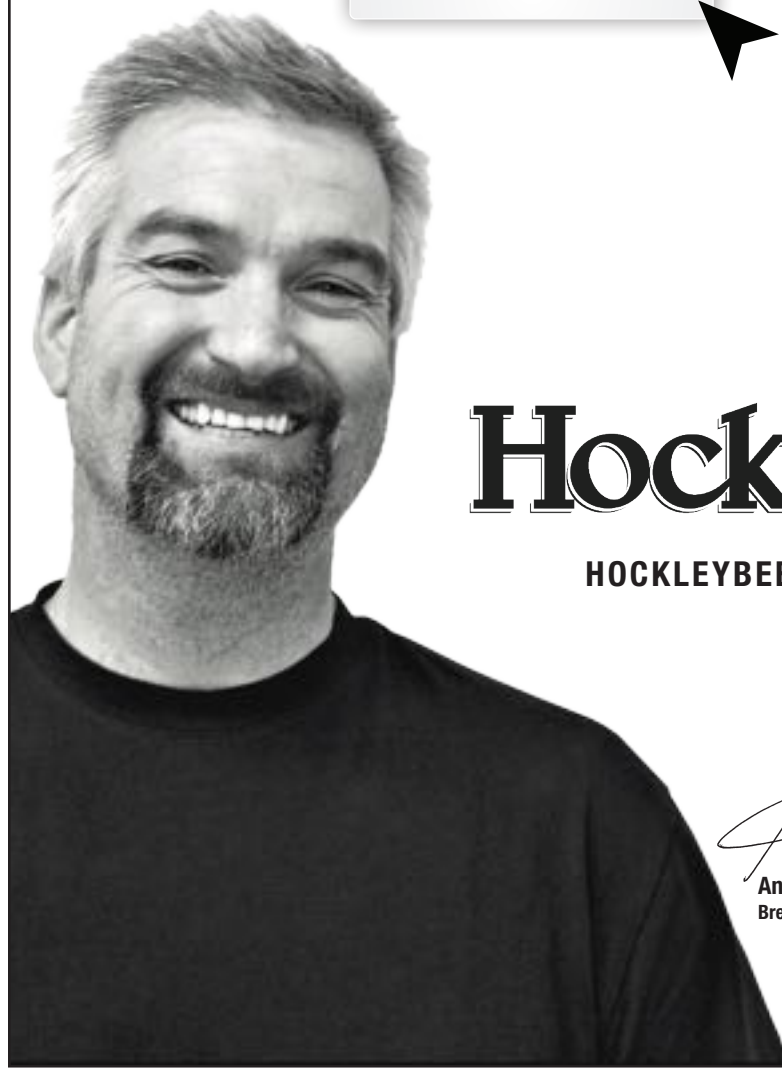
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Council gives staff approval to explore contract with third-party operator for dome

Continued from FRONT

The Mayfield turf and dome project was first approved by Council in 2022 and has seen delays due to wet weather and a late start from a contractor.

A Town of Caledon staff report said staff saw the value in the project with Caledon's proposed growth and a number of local sports groups already in need of a local place to play in the winter months.

"The construction of this dome means sport groups may reduce their travel outside of the Caledon border to train and play year-round and will not be subjected to non-resident rates which can be significantly more than the average hourly rental rate," reads the report.

Construction of the turf and dome has been paused this winter. The turf and dome is expected to be complete by late fall of this year, unless the manufacturing of the dome is delayed.

The staff report said the grade beam structure that supports the dome is near completion; sport field lighting has been installed; and that the artificial turf and rubberized track will be installed in the fall.

The dome itself has yet to be manufactured, and the staff report said there's a very real possibility it won't be complete and ready for installation until 2025.

In the report, staff said they're looking into a third-party operator for the dome as it would have cost the town about \$536,000 annually to operate it themselves, compared to the \$60,000 it would bring in. Staff said companies that specialize in the domes can provide the service at a better rate.

Staff said they'd work with the PDSB on an agreement to support the third-party model.

"The benefits of this recommendation include significant reductions in operating and capital

costs, prioritized affiliated groups, reduced potential risk with having experienced operators of this specialized type of facility and delivering indoor turf service level while considering future permanent opportunities for related facilities," reads the report.

Staff said making sure Caledon sports groups have priority access to the facility is top of mind.



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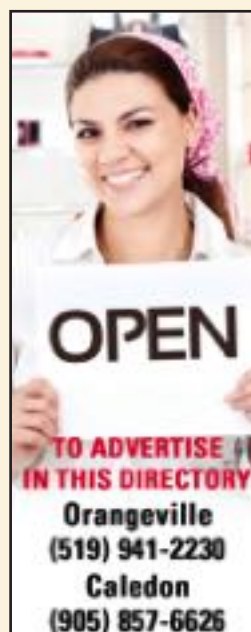
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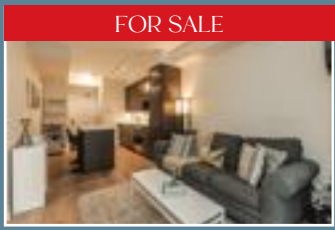
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Orangeville high school's ski team performs well at OFSAA

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Orangeville District Secondary School Scarlett Bears ski team competed at the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations (OFSAA) Nordic ski meet on Feb. 22-23 and had good results.

The event was held at Lakefield College School in Lakefield. ODSS sent 22 student-athletes to compete, and they were up against teams from across the province.

OFSAA competition featured junior and senior boys and girls divisions

The juniors raced a 5km course, with seniors competing at a 7km distance in the distance races.

There were also 4 x 900m metre team sprints. Notable results from ODSS competitors include Ailsa Bogan, who finished second in the Junior Girls High School Division 5km race, with a time of 17:24.8.

Adam Whiting placed 7th in the Senior Boy's High School Division, with a time of 22:04:7 over 7km.

Tenzen Kipps place 18th in the Senior Boys Open division, covering the 7km, with a time of 21:15.3.

The Senior boys team placed 2nd in the 7km distance race and 3rd in the sprint relay.

The Junior girls team placed 6th in the 5km distance race and 8th in the sprint relay.

The Junior boys team placed 15th in the distance race.

ODSS Junior competitor Ailsa Bogan currently in her second year of the sport, was up against over 100 other racers in her division.

"You don't know the competition because you've never raced against them," Ailsa said. "I was very last starting. It's a timed start and someone starts every 15 seconds. Starting last, no one could pass me, but I could pass others. You have to go as hard as you can the whole time. I got a time of 17:25 in my race so I knew I did well."

Ailsa plans to continue training and competing for the rest of her high school career.

Tenzen Kipps competed in the Senior Boys Open division. Competition is divided between the High School division for students who participate only through high school and the Open division for students who train and compete in the sport outside of high school.

Tenzen skis with the Mono Nordic Ski Club.

"I like being out in nature and being able to explore different trails," Tenzen said of why he likes the sport. "When we go to races, we get to go to all these different places. On my high school team, my favourite thing is all the amazing people I meet."

Tenzen was up against 155 competitors in the Open division from around the province.

"It was a lot of fun, but also really tough," Tenzen said. "It was 10 degrees, so we were skiing in slush. Snow conditions will change everything in skiing. It was slow compared to when it's frozen over and kind of icy - that's when it's really fast. For me, I'm better in the slower conditions and the slushy conditions because I feel I can power through it because I've had so much experience and training."

Tenzen has been a competitive Nordic skier for eight years.

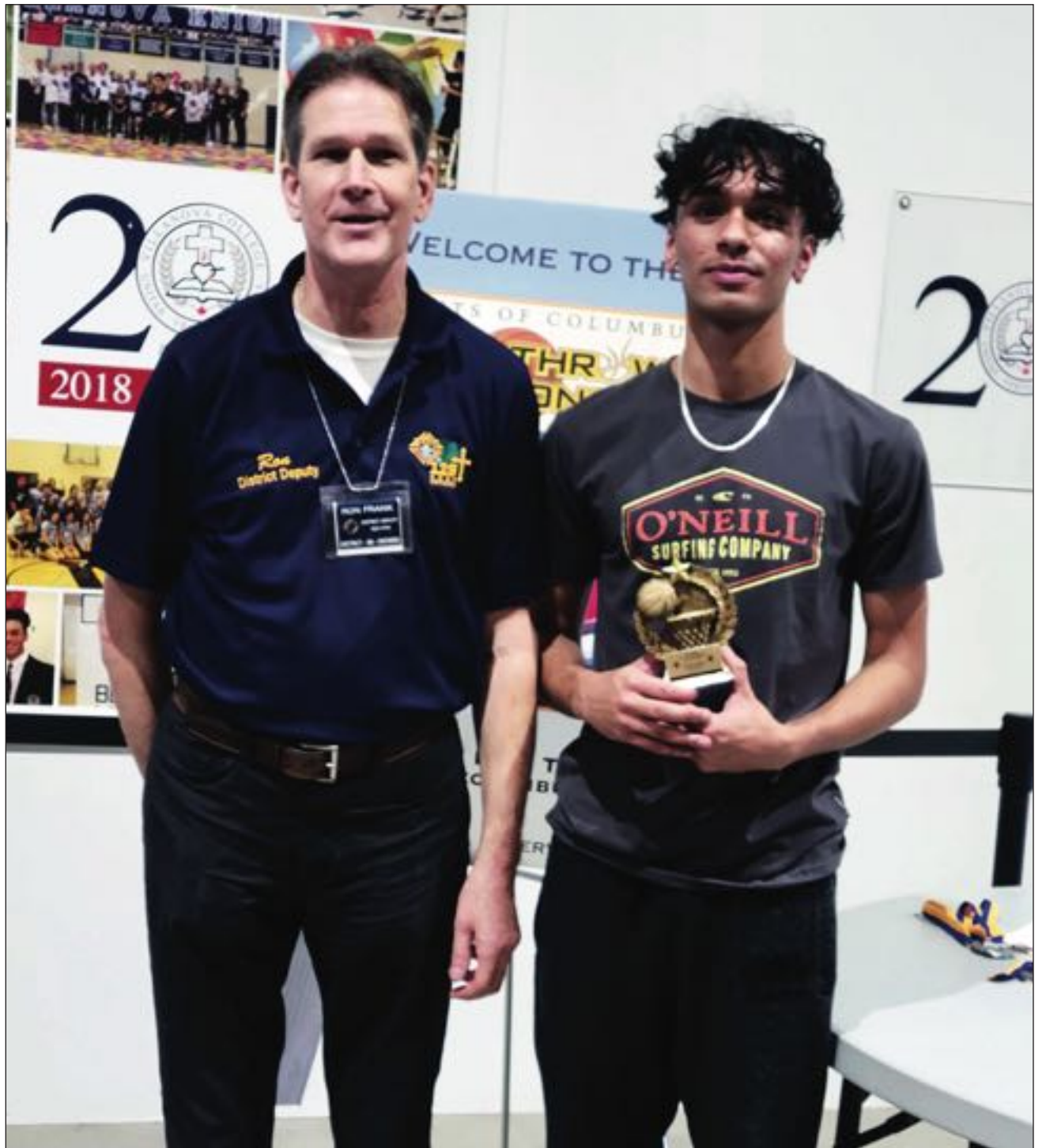
The ODSS team was fortunate to have some sponsors this year who helped with transportation costs.

Their sponsors include MacLeod Veterinary, the Optimist and Rotary Clubs, Teenage Tutors Inc., Grit Inc., and Stephanie Groves.



The Orangeville District Secondary School Nordic Ski Team had good results when they competed at OFSAA on Feb. 22-23. The meeting was held at Lakefield College School in Lakefield. The conditions were warm and skiers had to adjust for softer snow.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



The Knights of Columbus Regional Free Throw Chairman presents a trophy to 16 Division Champ Harisan Naguleswan, who led all competitors with 23 of the 25 free throws made.

PHOTO BY JIM STEWART

Four Local Basketball Players win Gold Medals at Knights of Columbus Regional Free Throw Contest

BY JIM STEWART

Alliston's Posi Ididapo, Silas Tesseris, and Harisan Naguleswan, as well as Tottenham's Michael Murad, captured gold medals at the 52nd annual Knights of Columbus Regional Free Throw Contest on Saturday morning in King City.

Over 100 participants from Port Credit to Orillia competed in the Region 4 contest—the last stage prior to the Provincial championships in mid-March.

The competition's top score of 23/25 was earned by Alliston resident Harisan Naguleswan who was a shining example of the adage "Practice makes perfect."

"Winning this Regional shows that hard work pays off."

The Banting Memorial SS Grade 11 student—who was the Provincial Free Throw champion in 2023 and a favorite to repeat later this month—delineated his secret to success at the charity stripe.

"Our coach tells us to follow our routine. My routine is two dribbles, spin the ball, two dribbles, set

my feet, and shoot."

Naguleswan, a Barrie Royal shooting guard, captured the Boys 16 Division.

Ron Frank, Regional Basketball Free Throw Chairman, discussed the process that Naguleswan and his fellow competitors navigated on their way to the Provincial championships.

"This is Harisan's fourth competition: school, council, district, and regional. The provincial champions will be declared by the data submitted by the eight regions across Ontario after today's competition."

Chairman Frank—who presented hardware to the Top 3 contestants from each division—discussed the satisfying aspects of coordinating these contests.

"It's about getting kids more involved in sports. It's also about giving them a place to show their skills in a structured competition. We had 66,000 children aged 9-17 compete in this year's Free Throw competition across Ontario."

First Place trophies and framed

certificates were earned by the following divisional winners: Girls 9—Kenny Hill (Orillia)—12/25; Girls 10—Kristina Manego (Mississauga) 18/25; Girls 11—Lauren Donatucci (Woodbridge)—16/25; Girls 12—Julliane Frugal (Barrie) 18/25; Girls 13—Posi Ididapo (Alliston) – 19/25; Girls 14—Alexis Manego (Mississauga) 16/25; Boys 9—Silas Tesseris (Alliston)—20/25; Boys 10—Emmanuel Murillo (Vaughan)—18/25; Boys 11—Sebastian Spray (Barrie)—21/25; Boys 12—Jaewan Hillary (Woodbridge)—22/25; Boys 13—Quentin Falloon (Toronto)—20/25; Boys 14—Allen Awdi (Toronto)—15/25; Boys 15—Michael Murad (Tottenham)— 10/25; Boys 16—Harisan Naguleswan of Alliston (23/25).

Since 1972, local councils of the Knight of Columbus have sponsored the Free Throw Championships to provide "an athletic outlet and encourage the values of sportsmanship and healthy competition."

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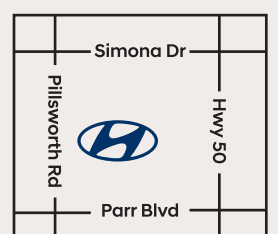
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