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4⁴⁹

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FREE Thursday, April 4, 2024 Volume 44, Issue 15



EASTER IN ALTON – Brothers Walter and George Redman thoroughly enjoyed the bouncy castle at the Easter in Alton event on March 29, one of several ways the community marked Easter. For more, see Page A17.

PHOTO BY ZACHARY ROMAN

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Future Caledon is “now” as Council adopts new Official Plan

Policy document has been in the works since 2019

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Caledon has a new guiding policy document.

At a March 26 council meeting, Caledon

Councillors approved “Future Caledon”, the Town’s new official plan.

Town of Caledon staff describe the document as a “detailed roadmap” that will help shape the future of Caledon over the next 30 years. Staff said that over the course of the plan’s creation, there were 60 community engagement events held about it.

Caledon’s official plan will direct services and land use across the following five areas: natural resources and agriculture;

tourism, heritage, healthy communities and culture; transportation, technology, and infrastructure; growth, settlement, housing and employment; and climate change.

Caledon’s official plan will now be submitted to the Region of Peel for approval.

Town staff have been working on the plan, a massive 447-page document, for years now.

Continued on Page A7

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PDSB among boards suing social media companies for “disrupting student learning”

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Ontario’s largest school boards have sued the makers of Snapchat, TikTok, and Facebook and Instagram.

On March 28, the Peel District School Board (PDSB), Toronto District School Board (TDSB), Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) and Ottawa-Carleton District School Board began legal action against Meta Platforms Inc. (which owns Facebook and Instagram), Snap Inc. (which owns Snapchat), and ByteDance Ltd. (which owns TikTok).

Continued on Page A12

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Caledon Central Public School students collect 1,375 pairs of shoes for those in need

Soles 4 Souls helps people in developing countries launch and sustain shoe-selling businesses

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Students from a Caledon elementary school are taking steps to make the world a better place.

On March 18, Caledon Central Public School launched its Soles 4 Souls fundraising initiative in partnership with Bioped Orangeville. The drive ran for 10 days between March 18 and 28.

Caledon Central's principal, Lesley Kennedy, said Soles 4 Souls Canada turns unwanted shoes into opportunity.

"Through their microenterprise program, they help people in developing countries launch and sustain their own business selling donated shoes," said Kennedy.

She added that Caledon Central added a local component to its shoe drive by sharing some of the donated shoes with those in need in the Caledon community.

Kennedy said Caledon Central's goal was to collect 500 pairs of shoes — but the drive was a massive success, with 1,375 pairs collected.

"We shared every day with our students, our parent community and our local community over social media," said Kennedy. "We are beyond thrilled with this as we know that when we model for students the importance of giving back and the joy that comes from caring for others, their hearts are changed as they change lives of those locally and abroad."

On April 3, the team from Bioped Orangeville came to Caledon Central Public School to pick up all the shoes for donation, and share a warm thank you to the



Grade 4 students from Tammy Arcuri's class led a shoe drive at Caledon Central Public School that raised 1,375 pairs of shoes for those in need.

PHOTO BY ZACHARY ROMAN

students.

Kennedy said she was very proud of her student community for more than doubling their shoes-raised goal. She said there was tremendous support from the surrounding community as well, as local churches and residents contributed shoes too.

Kennedy said it's important to connect

the school to the community and the community to the school.

The shoe drive was a school-wide effort but was led by students from Tammy Arcuri's Grade 4 class. They went around the school collecting shoes each day, made announcements on the PA system, and promoted the drive through email and social

media.

Students from Arcuri's class shared their reasons for participating in the drive, and said helping others who are less fortunate is more than worth it. They said many shoes were just collecting dust and not doing anything so it makes sense to give them to people who do not have as much as them.



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Mayoral decision issued to advance zoning for 35,000 housing units

Strong Mayor Powers used to propose zoning bylaws for 12 development applications

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Caledon's Mayor has taken steps to speed up housing development in Town. On March 26, Mayor Annette Groves used Strong Mayor Powers to issue a decision to advance zoning bylaws for 12 development applications slated to bring 35,000 housing units to Caledon over time. Caledon is required by the Province to have 13,000 new residential units in town by 2031.

In an interview, Groves said her recent decision is about thinking forward to 2051, when Caledon is expected to grow to a population of 300,000.

"We want to get ahead of the growth... it's better if we take a more proactive approach because then it gives us an opportunity to say 'these are the things that we need to see within these communities,'" said Groves.

She spoke of creating complete communities, where libraries, parks, trails, fire halls, schools and community centres are considered before development occurs.

Phil Pothen, the land use and land development manager for Environmental Defence, a non-profit that works to advocate for clean water, a safe climate and healthy communities, said the organization is concerned the recent decision means Caledon is missing its chance to stray away from low-density, car-dependent development, and picked one of the 12 application locations as an example.

Pothen called the development slated for the intersection of Hurontario Street (Highway 10) and Highway 410 "wasteful cul-de-sac sprawl" that has no place in a new zoning bylaw in one of North Amer-

ica's fastest-growing metropolitan areas.

In a March 26 media release, Town of Caledon staff said Groves' decision will ensure an ample supply of development sites for all types of housing. Staff said Groves' decision will allow planning staff to advance development applications through the remaining municipal planning process, and that it's expected to "streamline procedures by approximately one to two years for the applications."

The sites selected for zoning amendments by Groves are generally in the areas of Mayfield West, Tullamore, Alloa, Wildfield and Bolton.

Groves said the 12 sites were already zoned for residential use under the expanded urban boundaries approved in the Region of Peel's official plan.

"Some of these properties already had applications on them," said Groves. "This is to streamline the process... having said that, this is not a final approval... there are holding provisions within the bylaws."

She said the development applications will still have to go through a secondary planning process.

"If you're going to put houses here we want to see the community benefits as well," said Groves.

Pothen said zoning in Caledon's new settlement areas appears to permit greater density and a larger mix of uses than existing Caledon subdivisions, but added it doesn't require higher densities or a pedestrian-friendly mix of uses.

He said it's disappointing to see that Caledon is expanding outwards before many of its existing neighbourhoods have expanded to be walkable and transit-supported.

"The retention of minimum parking requirements, and aspects of the Town's communications about the new zoning, are cause for concern that a walkable, transit supportive community is not actually planned," said Pothen.

Groves told the Citizen she had to move the zoning bylaws forward through strong mayor powers.

She said working with developers is better than not working with them and then

seeing developers fight Caledon at the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) where they often win. She said it's costly to taxpayers and that OLT decisions are often made by those who don't know what Caledon's needs are.

Groves said her approach will let Caledon tell the Province what it needs to make the Province's housing and growth targets in Caledon a reality.

Groves said Caledon needs true affordable housing, including rentals. She said through secondary planning, Caledon will work with developers on affordable housing.

A public meeting about the 12 applications will be held at 7 p.m. on April 25.

Residents can attend this meeting online at caledon.ca or in person at Caledon Town Hall (6311 Old Church Road). The

applications will be brought to Council for approval on April 30. If more than one-third of Caledon Council supports Groves' mayoral decision on that date, it will pass.

"I'm very hopeful and very confident that council will recognize the need to move things forward," said Groves.

Pothen said Environmental Defence will be seeking reassurance from Groves and Caledon Council that the zoning will be fleshed out in ways that ensure future Caledon residents won't need a car to comfortably live, work, and raise their children.

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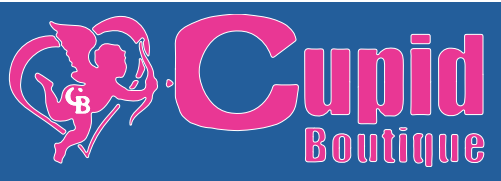
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HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION

Members of the Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have identified a deceased individual and deemed their death a homicide.

“On April 1, 2024, officers from the Caledon Detachment responded to a report of a deceased individual in the area of Chinguacousy Road and King Street in the Town of Caledon,” say Police. “A post-mortem examination was conducted on April 2, 2024, which determined the death was the result of a homicide. The deceased has been identified as 65-year-old David Robson, who was reported missing from the Township of Melancthon on March 25, 2024.”

Officers have not located the deceased’s vehicle, which is described as a 2017 black Kia Sportage, Ontario licence plate DAMZ 252.

The OPP does not believe there is a risk to public safety as investigators do not consider this to be a random incident. However, members of the public are reminded to be aware of their surroundings at all times.

The investigation is ongoing by the Dufferin Crime Unit, under the direction of the OPP Criminal Investigation Branch, with the assistance of OPP Forensic Identification

Services and in conjunction with the Office of the Chief Coroner and the Ontario Forensic Pathology Service.

Anyone with information regarding this vehicle, or witnessed suspicious activity on Chinguacousy Road between March 30, 2024, to April 1, 2024, is asked to contact the Dufferin OPP at 1-888-310-1122. You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Simcoe Muskoka Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at www.crimestoppersdm.com. When you contact Crime Stoppers, you stay anonymous, you never have to testify, and you could receive a cash reward of up to \$2,000 upon an arrest.

SEATBELT CAMPAIGN RESULTS

The Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have concluded the Easter long weekend seatbelt campaign, and the results are now available.

The traffic campaign was conducted from March 29 to April 1, 2024. During that time, officers conducted hundreds of traffic stops and laid a total of 545 charges.

“The Caledon OPP would like to remind

motorists to slow down, wear your seatbelt, pay attention, and never drive impaired,” say Police. “Together, we can make the roads a safer place.”

FAIL TO REMAIN

The Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is investigating a single vehicle fail to remain collision.

“On March 30, 2024, at approximately 5:00 a.m., Caledon OPP responded to a report of a single vehicle collision on Mississauga Road, near Olde Base Line Road, in the Town of Caledon,” say Police. “Officers arrived on scene and found the involved vehicle abandoned. The investigation revealed the occupants of the vehicle fled to a nearby residence.”

Mississauga Road between Olde Base Line Road and The Grange Sideroad was

closed for several hours while members the OPP Emergency Response Team (ERT), Tactics and Rescue Unit (TRU) and Canine Unit (K9) assisted with the investigation.

“As a result of the investigation, six individuals were taken into custody without incident or injury. The Caledon OPP considers this an isolated incident with no outstanding threat to public safety.”

The investigation is ongoing. Anyone who may have witnessed the collision or has further information is asked to contact Caledon OPP at (905) 584-2241 or 1-888-310-1122. You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at www.peelcrimestoppers.ca. When you contact Crime Stoppers, you stay anonymous, and you never have to testify.

Continued on Page A5



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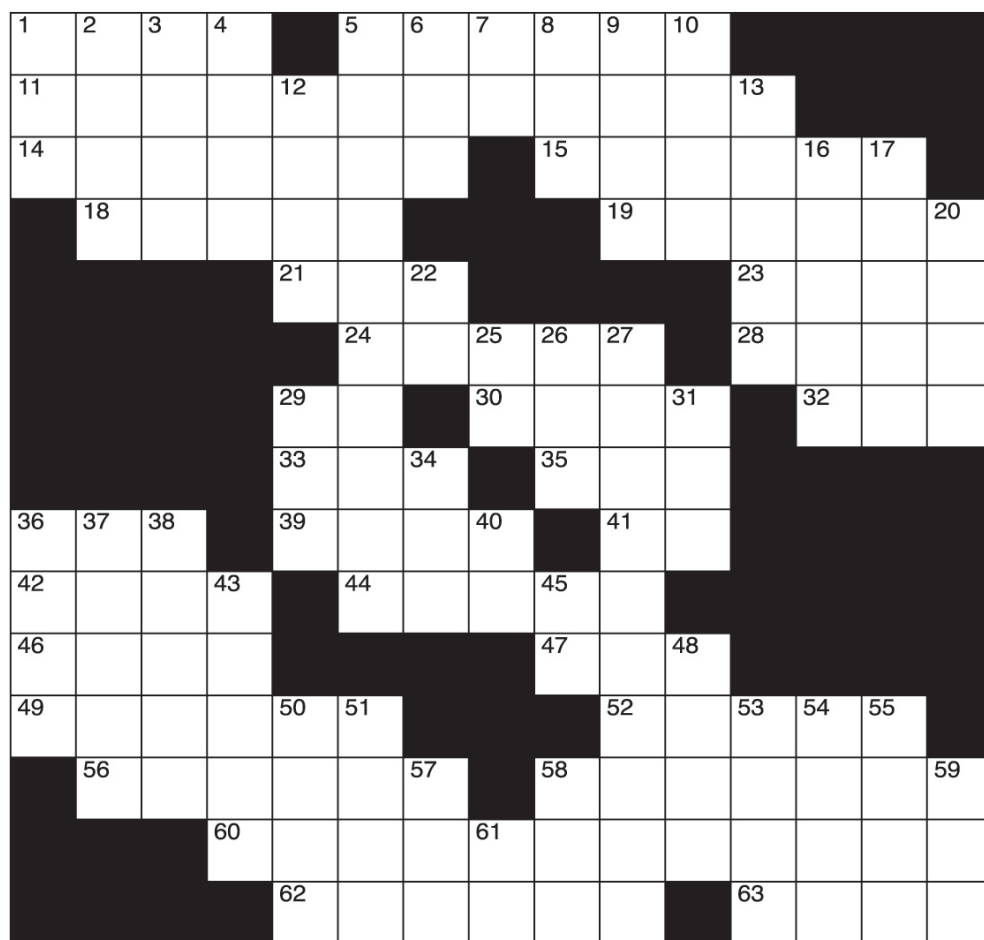


THEFT PREVENTION – Earlier this week, the Caledon OPP hosted an auto theft prevention event, in association with Peel Crime Stoppers, at Southfields Community Centre. For more information on what was discussed, visit opp.ca/autotheft.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Citizen CROSSWORD

Solution in CLASSIFIEDS



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. A minute amount (British)
- 5. Mystical or magical
- 11. Shortening
- 14. More satisfying
- 15. Other side
- 18. Philippine island
- 19. More unnatural
- 21. Mutual savings bank
- 23. Famed designer Chanel
- 24. Makes less wild
- 28. At some prior time
- 29. The cops who investigate the cops
- 30. Immune system response
- 32. Distress signal
- 33. Engine additive
- 35. “No Scrubs” trio
- 36. Very fast airplane

- 39. A reward (archaic)
 - 41. Commercial
 - 42. Spots where golfers start
 - 44. Polite form of address (Indian)
 - 46. French river
 - 47. Reduce the light
 - 49. Blood-sucking fly
 - 52. A way to categorize
 - 56. Procrastinates
 - 58. Tall slender tower
 - 60. Where researchers work
 - 62. Office of the Pope
 - 63. Office furnishing
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Possesses
 - 2. American Board of Orthopedic Surgery
 - 3. Ancient Syrian city
 - 4. Clip
 - 5. In a way, misleads

- 6. Human gene
- 7. The Golden State (abbr.)
- 8. Lizard genus
- 9. Parasites that invade the skin
- 10. Took apart
- 12. Mild yellow Dutch cheese
- 13. S. California town
- 16. Suffix plural
- 17. Painting technique
- 20. Small Eurasian deer
- 22. Mr. T character
- 25. Microsoft
- 26. Shock therapy
- 27. Able to be sold
- 29. A doctrine
- 31. These three follow A
- 34. Pulse
- 36. Quantitative fact
- 37. Doctor __:
- children’s book author
- 38. Hebrew calendar month
- 40. Designated hitter
- 43. Norther Poland village
- 45. A passport is one form
- 48. Hand (Spanish)
- 50. Hit with the open hand
- 51. Actor Idris
- 53. Shakespeare’s nickname “The __”
- 54. Northern U.S. lake
- 55. Marvin and Horsley are two
- 57. Soak
- 58. Partner to cheese
- 59. Expression of disappointment
- 61. College dorm employee

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Caledon OPP report increase in sexual assaults in 2023

Charges laid for Liquor License Act offences also on the rise

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Certain types of crime increased in Caledon between 2022 and 2023.

On March 26, the Caledon OPP's Detachment Commander, Inspector Mary-Louise Kearns, presented crime statistics from 2023 to Caledon Council.

A footnote from Kearns' presentation specified that the data reported is fluid in nature and will change as the OPP continues to investigate and solve crime.

In 2023, Caledon OPP reported 42 sexual assaults, an over 30 per cent increase from the 32 reported in 2022.

There was an over 50 per cent increase in Liquor License Act charges laid in 2023, with 113 charges issued compared to just 74 in 2022.

Charges laid for Criminal Code non-traffic offences and other violations remained relatively similar year-over-year, with increases of 5.8 and 12 per cent respectively.

The number (289) of assaults reported by police in 2023 was nearly identical to the number (292) reported in 2022.

There were 13 abductions in Caledon in 2023, similar to the 14 that occurred in 2022. Other crimes against a person saw an increase of just over 11 per cent year-over-year, with 253 reported.

The number of murders in both 2022 and 2023 was one, though the number of attempted murders in 2023 was four compared to one in 2022.

"We saw a slight increase in attempted murder investigations... this involved two officers from the Caledon OPP. They were called to investigate a suspicious vehicle that ended up being a stolen vehicle. Officers arrived and the vehicle was occupied by two male occupants, who, upon wak-

ing, decided to reverse the vehicle to get away from police, driving directly at one of our officers... striking him and sending him into a parked car, causing him to break his leg as well as numerous other injuries," said Kearns. "The suspects then accelerated and fled the area... in the days following the incident, investigators... identified two male suspects, bringing this investigation to a successful conclusion with both suspects under arrest and the driver charged with attempted murder... any injuries like this also involve a special investigations unit and I'm happy to say that the officers were cleared of any wrongdoing in this."

In 2023, there was an increase in break and enters in Caledon, with 104 occurring compared to 91 in 2022.

At a total of 20, there were four more robberies in Caledon in 2023 than there were in 2022.

"Caledon has seen an uptick in home invasions and carjackings, which can contribute to this increase," said Kearns. "As Brampton grows into Caledon and the increase in population happens, we would expect to see such an increase."

Kearns said property crime rates are increasing across the GTA, and that she believes it's partially due to low penalties in the courts for property crime.

"Our court system does not always support the harsh penalties that it needs to in regards to crime such as this," she said.

In 2023, there were less instances of theft under \$5,000, fraud, and mischief in Caledon than in 2022. There were more instances of arson and theft over \$5,000, but only by a small margin.

Police reported 28 instances of possession of illegal drugs in Caledon in 2023, an increase of five from 2022.

Editor's note: For statistics on motor vehicle collisions and Highway Traffic Act offences, please see last week's Caledon Citizen.

WEAPONS CHARGES

Officers from the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have charged an individual with numerous weapons related offences.

"On March 27, 2024, at approximately 3:30 p.m., Caledon OPP responded to a weapons-related call for service in the area of Dominion Street and Forks of the Credit Road, in the Town of Caledon," say Police. "Officers received information regarding gunfire heard in the area. Officers attended the location promptly and the suspect was taken into custody without incident or injury."

As a result of the investigation, Simran Sidhu, 23, of Caledon, was charged with:

- Careless use of firearm;
- Reckless discharge of firearm.

The accused is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on April 25, 2024, to answer to the charges.

The charges have not been proven.

Nobody was harmed as a result of the call for service, and the Caledon OPP considers this an isolated incident with no outstanding threat to public safety.

IMPAIRED CHARGES

Officers from the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have charged a Brampton resident with operation while impaired after they registered over four times the legal limit.

"On March 25, 2024, just before 1:00 p.m., officers conducted a traffic stop while patrolling the area of Mayfield Road and Coleraine Drive, in the Town of Caledon," say Police. "Officers formed grounds that the driver's ability to operate a motor vehicle was impaired by alcohol and was subsequently arrested."

As a result, Angad Singh, 39, of Brampton, was charged with:

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

- Driving motor vehicle with open container of liquor.

The driver is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on April 11, 2024, to answer to the charges.

The charges have not been proven.

The driver's vehicle was impounded for a period of seven days, and their driver's licence suspended for a period of 90 days.

Additionally, on March 26, 2024, shortly after 12:30 a.m., officers responded to a report of a single motor vehicle collision on Highway 10, near King Street.

"No injuries were reported," say Police. "During the course of the investigation, officers formed grounds that the driver's ability to operate a motor vehicle was impaired by alcohol and was subsequently arrested."

As a result of the investigation, Vishvajeet Saggi, 31, of Brampton, was charged with:

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

The accused is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on April 11, 2024, to answer to the charges.

The charges have not been proven.

Additionally, the driver's vehicle was impounded for a period of seven days, and their driver's licence suspended for a period of 90 days.

"The OPP remains committed to keeping our communities safe through enforcement and public education. Drivers who are impaired by drugs or alcohol continue to pose a significant threat on Ontario roads. Whether a driver is impaired by alcohol or drugs, impaired is impaired, and impaired driving is dangerous regardless of the source of impairment. If you suspect that someone is driving while impaired, it is important to call 9-1-1 to report it."

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

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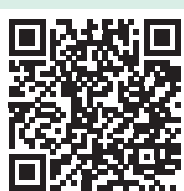


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PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Adoption of an Official Plan for the Town of Caledon (By-law 2024-014)

TAKE NOTICE that the Council for The Corporation of the Town of Caledon passed By-law No. BL-2024-014 on MARCH 26, 2024, to adopt Future Caledon – a new Official Plan for the Town of Caledon, under Sections 17 and 26 of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.P.13.

PURPOSE AND EFFECT

This Official Plan sets out a strategic and comprehensive approach to guiding growth and development throughout the Town of Caledon to the 2051 planning horizon. The Official Plan achieves this by providing goals, objectives and direction on matters such as: environmental protection, managing and directing growth, planning for employment and jobs, protecting agricultural and rural lands, facilitating intensification and a diverse housing supply, and establishing a Town structure that will facilitate the growth of walkable and transit-oriented communities. The 1978 Official Plan, as amended, remains in effect for lands identified as Rural Service Centres, Secondary Plans, mineral aggregate resources Town-wide, and other areas as noted in Section 1.2 of the new Official Plan. Part B and Part G of the new Official Plan are to apply to all lands within the Town of Caledon.

The basis for this By-law is contained in Staff Report 2024-0072 as received by the Planning and Development Committee on March 19, 2024 and Council on March 26, 2024. All oral and written submissions relating to the new Official Plan were considered before this decision was made. Comments and responses can be reviewed at haveyoursaycaledon.ca/official-plan-review.

FURTHER NOTICE OF APPEAL OF OFFICIAL PLAN

Under the provisions of Section 17(2) of the Planning Act, the Region of Peel being the upper-tier municipality is the approval authority for a new lower-tier Official Plan adopted under Section 17(22) of the Planning Act. As such, the Adopted Official Plan has been forwarded to the Region of Peel for review, as required by Section 17(31) of the Planning Act.

Any person or public body will be entitled to receive notice of the decision of the approval authority with respect to the new Official Plan, if a written request (including the person's or public body's address, fax number or email address) to be notified of the decision is made to the approval authority:

REGION OF PEEL

Office of the Regional Clerk
10 Peel Centre Drive, Suite A 5th Floor
Brampton, ON L6T 4B9
regional.clerk@peelregion.ca

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Additional information in respect of the new Official Plan is available for inspection at the Town of Caledon, Planning Department, weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., by contacting Steve Burke, Manager, Strategic Policy Planning, 905-584-2272 x. 4264 or steven.burke@caledon.ca. It can also be accessed at haveyoursaycaledon.ca.

DATED This 4th day of April, 2024
at the Town of Caledon
Kevin Klingenberg
Municipal Clerk



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

ecoCaledon launches online action in support of green development standards

Caledon Council will be voting on implementing green development standards this spring

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

A local non-profit is encouraging Caledon residents to show their support for implementing green development standards in town.

On April 1, ecoCaledon, in partnership with the David Suzuki Foundation, launched an online action inviting people to write letters supporting green development standards in Caledon.

The action is available at the following link: davidssuzuki.org/action/say-yes-to-green-development-in-caledon/

Caledon Council is set to vote on whether or not to implement green development standards this spring.

The Town of Caledon has been working on the standards for some time now, engaging community stakeholders — such as the development industry, local non-profits, and conservation authorities — in the process. Work began on the standards in January of 2022 and, last July, a draft of the standards was released for review.

Mandatory green development standards would aim to achieve net-zero emissions from all new buildings in Caledon by 2030.

Green development standards are sets of measures related to environmentally, socially, and economically-sustainable design created by municipalities that are required to be met in new developments.



The standards are meant to support energy-efficient buildings and renewable energy systems, create communities resilient to climate change; create complete and transit-oriented communities; provide a mix of housing options; create local jobs to reduce commuting; and protect local ecosystems.

Buildings account for 30 per cent of Caledon's greenhouse gas emissions. These emissions are likely to increase as Caledon is set to grow to a population of 300,000 by 2050.

According to ecoCaledon and the David Suzuki Foundation, Caledon's green development standards will ensure developers are held accountable so the Town grows in a sustainable manner that supports the community and the planet.

The two non-profits said supporting Caledon's green development standards can build more resilient communities; improve energy affordability for residents and communities; avoid costly retrofits; increase affordable housing supply, help Caledon meet its climate targets; and protect Caledon's natural heritage and agricultural land.

Lucrezia Chiappetta, co-chair of ecoCaledon, said she hopes the action launched by ecoCaledon and the David Suzuki Foundation will put a little bit of pressure on Caledon Council to pass the green development standards as soon as possible.

"We wanted to ensure that as many Caledon residents as possible were aware that the green development standards were going to be tabled at Council and understood the importance of these standards and the benefits... which are not just environmental — there are social benefits and economic benefits," she said. "The online action is a way for Caledon

residents to show support for the green development standards prior to Council voting on the standards."

The David Suzuki Foundation and ecoCaledon partnered a short while ago, when ecoCaledon started a subcommittee to focus on planning policy and advocacy. The David Suzuki Foundation then reached out to ecoCaledon as it has a lot of experience in the area.

"They were happy to review [the standards] alongside us and give us some feedback on the different metrics that the Town is proposing," said Chiappetta. "It was a welcome collaboration to be able to have people who could do a deeper dive and analysis."

Chiappetta said Town staff have been working hard to create a set of standards that reflect how Caledon wants to grow in the coming years.

"We know that growth is coming and we know (development) applications are coming in and we want to get these standards approved so that all of the developers coming to Caledon have to follow these metrics," she said.

According to Chiappetta, Caledon's green development standards are reasonable, yet ambitious.

She noted that ecoCaledon will be at the upcoming Caledon Home & Lifestyle Show which runs at the Albion Bolton Community Centre from April 12 to 14. Chiappetta said ecoCaledon welcomes questions from residents about the green development standards.

"We want to ensure that our community is growing in a way that benefits both the environment and the people," said Chiappetta. "We're not trying to stall development, we're just trying to ensure that it's done well."

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Future Caledon is “now” as Council adopts new Official Plan

Continued from FRONT

A first draft of the plan was released in spring 2022 for residents to share their opinions on, and that draft had been in the works since 2019.

The plan’s adoption was then pushed back, and a second draft of it was released in June 2023. After more community consultation and subsequent work from staff, a third draft was released in August 2023.

Work continued, and a fourth draft was released in February of this year. Finally, the official plan that Council approved came at the March 26 Council meeting.

According to Town staff, the Official Plan is divided into phases. Phase One is complete, and consists of a vision and guiding principles; Town structure; growth management policies; natural environment system and open space policies; rural sys-

tem policies; urban system policies; and implementation policies.

Phase Two of the plan is currently in progress according to staff, and this includes the following: major transit station area policy updates; mineral aggregate resources policies; truck parking and goods movement policies; the Bolton secondary plan; and the Bolton special policy area.

Phase Three of the plan has yet to begin, and it will include reviews of approved secondary plans and the creation of new secondary plans.

Caledon’s official plan is required to conform with the plans of higher tiers of government, such as the Region of Peel and Government of Ontario.


In the new official plan, there’s 4,000 hectares of new urban area in the south of Caledon that will be developed as new community and employment areas in the

next 30 years. Staff said the future secondary plans will provide detailed policies for those areas.

According to Town staff, there were 1,833 residents who participated in public

events about the official plan. The “Future Caledon” web page on haveyoursay-caledon.ca has received over 46,000 visits so far. Caledon’s new official plan can be viewed in its entirety on the site.





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CALEDON HOME & LIFESTYLE SHOW IS COMING SOON

Show runs from April 12 to 14 at the Albion Bolton Community Centre

The countdown is on to Caledon's 2024 Home & Lifestyle Show, set for April 12 - 14 at the Albion Bolton Community Centre.

Built around the traditional themes of Renovate, Decorate, and Landscape, this year's event will feature everything you've come to love about the annual spring mainstay, but with a new and growing emphasis on sustainable and green living.

Among the features this year will be a Green Living section presented by EcoCaledon, a chance to get up close and personal with electric vehicles through Electric Vehicle Evolution, presented by Fines Ford Lincoln, and the opportunity to explore an all-season resort cottage right there in the Community Centre, hosted by Caledon's Resort HQ.

Show producer Liz Shaughnessy is especially excited for this year's show as the cottage is the largest display ever on the showroom floor.

"It's so well-executed internally," said Shaughnessy. "I visited them before accepting them as a feature at the show and I was blown away."

She said the all-season resort cottages appeal to a wide variety of people, including those looking to retire, those looking to downsize and even first-time buyers.

"I think having this as a feature at the show is probably the biggest attraction and biggest step this show has taken since its inception," said Shaughnessy.

Shaughnessy has worked on some of Canada's biggest home shows and likened the cottage feature to when home shows feature an entire "dream home" that people can explore.

She said the show's renewed focus on green and sustainable living was inspired by "huge feedback" from the public.

"People often ask me what our objective is in producing the show," she says. "The one rule of thumb you learn when you have done this many shows for this many decades is quality exhibitors attract quality visitors. People who come to the Home & Lifestyle Show are coming because they have the intention to do something with their home, inside or out... visitors want to know more about home maintenance, certainly today more so than ever."

"The home is a huge asset that needs to be protected. Home maintenance updates with eco-friendly options and energy savings is on everybody's minds and we have found exhibitors who speak to that directly. A lot of people are saying, 'Okay, my home is now worth more than 300 per cent what I paid for it ten years ago; I'm prepared to do the interior facelift it needs.' Whether it is taking the basement and making it into a home theatre, taking one of the bedrooms you don't need and making it into a remote office, people are willing to invest in their homes now because it is such an important financial asset and probably increasing more in value than their stock portfolio."

With that in mind, Shaughnessy says keeping an eye on things like energy efficiency - whether through the installation of new windows and doors, and heat pumps - is a win-win for all.

Your vehicle is also a lifestyle consideration, she adds, and it's important to consider all the options, including electric vehicles (EVs).

"Your car is part of your lifestyle and if you choose to go EV, you have some considerations to make," she says of the presentation, which will include EV expert and podcaster

Kenneth Bokor on the evolution of EVs.

"I'm also excited about the Green Living component. I'm excited about having exhibitors at this show who support that [element] because half the exhibitors of the show are the solution to green living. It wasn't deliberate, it just happened - it all comes down to windows, doors, roof, insulation, geothermal heating, heat pumps - and all those exhibitors are on the show floor, which can make each household decrease their carbon footprint, and if they choose to sell, it makes their home more valuable."

"We, as residents and homeowners, can take responsibility (in sustainability) by making changes in our homes inside and out. As consumers, we're not aware enough on what we can do to minimize our own carbon footprint and support Canada's Climate Action Plan."

The 2024 Home & Lifestyle Show will fill the Albion Bolton Community Centre (150 Queen Street South, Bolton) the weekend of April 12 - 14 and will feature an array of events throughout the run, including the popular Ask the Experts stage, which will take place April 13 and April 14 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

All, notes Shaughnessy, has been organized with a keen focus on local business.

"The quality and diversity of the exhibitors on the show floor is more exceptional than it has ever been. We work very adamantly to support local businesses - that's the first objective. We vigorously sought out quality exhibitors within a local market. That doesn't mean every exhibitor is from Caledon, because that wouldn't be possible, but we go when there is no exhibitor that fits roofing, for example, we'll go to King, Vaughan and Orangeville. We heavily source local, buy local."

This year's event will once again support Caledon Meals on Wheels.

Caledon Meals on Wheels Executive Director Kim Rodrigues says the last seven years of support from the Home & Lifestyle Show has allowed the organization to raise funds, awareness, build their volunteer base, all in "aid of our mission of providing nutritious meals to those most in need in our community."

"The platform offered by the Home and Lifestyle Show has not only allowed us to spotlight the essential services we provide but has also facilitated meaningful connections with attendees who have transformed into vital supporters - be it as donors, volunteers or advocates. Moreover, the generosity of providing us with complimentary space at the event holds immense significance for our small non-profit, alleviating the financial burden associated with participation and enabling us to allocate more resources toward our cause."

Shaughnessy said the Caledon crowd that comes out to the home & lifestyle show is amazing and that it results in the exhibitors being happy too.

"People are coming to the show to educate themselves, to pick up tips and tricks from professionals, (and) to get inspired by design ideas," said Shaughnessy.

More information about the 2024 Caledon Home & Lifestyle show is available online at homeandlifestyleshow.ca.

Residents can subscribe to the mailing list on the aforementioned website to receive free admission to this year's show. Otherwise, tickets are \$5 per person, cash only, at the door of the show. Admission for children ages 12 and under is free, as is parking. The show is pet friendly.



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Centennial contributions

Growing up as a kid with comparatively weird and varied interests, I often felt my peers looking at me somewhat sideways.

Shuttling back and forth between my parents' homes in elementary school, I'd shoulder no shortage of ribbing, both good and bad, for some of the stuff that travelled with me, such as a selection of favourite VHS tapes of movies my peers had never heard, or t-shirts reflecting the same.

My taste when it came to the Valentine's Day cards we were forced to deliver to all and sundry in our homeroom classes for reasons which are still unclear ran pretty conventional, but my Halloween costumes reflected a bit more variety.

Among my costume hits and flops were an inflatable pumpkin number; a scraggly witch with green face paint, a tribute to Margaret Hamilton, of course; Uncle Fester of Addams Family fame; Count Dracula, a doctor, and Beetlejuice. Aside from the pumpkin and doctor, pop cultural touchstones all – but one "costume" in which I took particular pride was a course-textured blue jacket with evocative gold-coloured buttons.

In this, my Grade 3 year, I decided to dig through the mothballs and don my grandfather's Royal Canadian Air Force Uniform, one which he proudly wore from the start of the Second World War through to his capture as a Prisoner of War in 1941, and back again after V.E. Day.

It had laid in mothballs all but forgotten until a year or two beforehand when I happened upon it at my grandmother's house, inspiring all sorts of questions. Some the answers were bits of information I'd already picked up here and there. They were fragments of a full story I'd never be able to flesh out myself due to his death several years before I was born, but having this tangible piece of history in my hand made everything seem more immediate and powerful.

In retrospect, it probably wasn't the best idea to wear something this fragile to school, especially during recess, and indeed a couple of those gold winged buttons needed to be re-affixed when I got home that day, but the pride I had in wearing it amid a sea of ghouls, ghosts, and goblins was very real.

Age, of course, brings new perspective and this was very much the case as I came to see – as we all do – the realities of war as shared by the people who lived through it, but that pride was still there on Monday as I observed commemorations marking the centennial anniversary of the founding of the Royal Canadian Air Force.

"Today, as we commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Air Force, I join Canadians to pay tribute to generations of Air Force members who have dedicated their lives to defending our peace, freedom and prosperity," said the Prime Minister in a statement to start the week. "In times of war and peace, members of the RCAF have shown unwavering courage. The Second World War marked the first significant challenge for the RCAF, with over 200,000 Canadians joining the Air Force to fight against tyranny and fascism. Since then, generation after generation of Canadians have served – from Afghanistan to the Arctic. The RCAF's contributions to the North American Aerospace Defence Command (NORAD), NATO, the Canadian Space Program, and the United Nations peacekeeping operations demonstrate its enduring commitment to service. Here at home, the RCAF has supported Canadians by delivering disaster relief, including during last year's devastating wildfire season.

"In February 2023, the RCAF launched the Royal Canadian Air Force Strategy to help build a more agile, integrated, and inclusive air and space force that can face tomorrow's challenges. By investing in the professional and personal growth of RCAF members, we are giving them the tools they need to achieve excellence at home and abroad. Our people are our number-one priority and are the foundation upon which we build the RCAF. On this centennial occasion, I invite Canadians to learn more about the RCAF's many achievements and to take part in activities celebrating this milestone anniversary. My heartfelt gratitude goes out to the families who have stood behind RCAF members over the last century, sharing in their sacrifices and triumphs. To all Royal Canadian Air Force personnel, past and present: thank you for your service. Your dedication, courage and selflessness have kept – and continue to keep – our country safe."

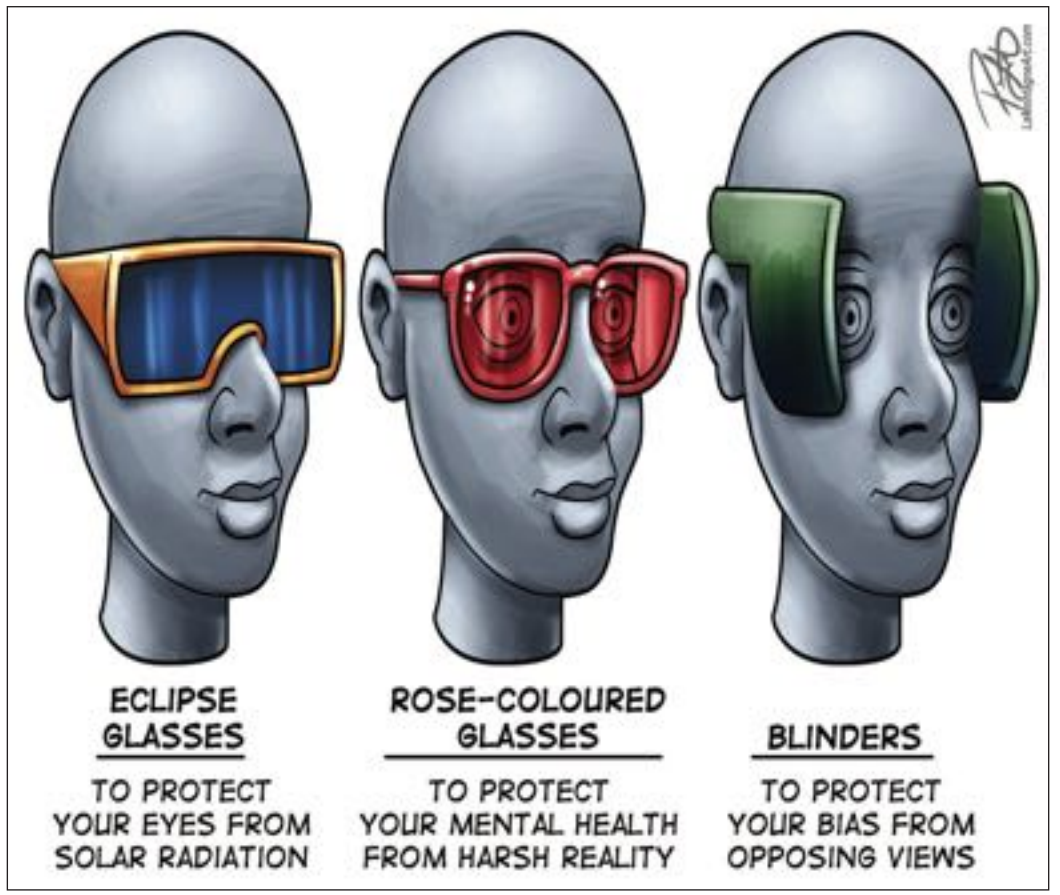
Learning about the RCAF's achievements is essential, as branches of our Canadian Armed Forces often fly under the radar until they are needed – as is learning about the RCAF's present and what the future might have in store for it.

But, if you want to look back at achievements that are firmly in the books, there's no easier time to do it.

It was nearly a decade after I first dusted off the uniform before the internet was in a place where it could help me fill in some of those aforementioned blanks in my grandfather, Bill Parr's war story.

Enter the Flight Safety Foundation, which proved to be an invaluable resource in fleshing out the stories that were part and parcel of my oral tradition, including his last flight – over Scandinavia before being captured by the Germans and sent to a Prisoner of War camp. "The aircraft was in the German smoke screen and was being fired at by what seemed to be every single weapon in the immediate vicinity," they shared. "Reg Williams shouted that Tirpitz had been swung round 90 degrees. The Canadian Pilot, Johnny Roe, calmly told his crew that they would go round again and have another go. Almost immediately there were sounds that indicated the aircraft had been badly hit in several places. Bill Parr, the Tail Gunner, shouted to Johnny the Pilot to try and make it to Sweden. However, Roe must have been aware that his aircraft would not make it that far and ordered the crew to make for the 'rest' positions and prepare for a crash landing. At this, Reg Williams immediately jettisoned the mines that they were carrying. "The aircraft crash-landed in flames near the small farms, Elverum and Sørmo, just east of Lake Movatnet coming to rest in a small wood. The Canadian Pilot, Johnny Roe had escaped from the front of the aircraft, and had met up with Parr on the Starboard side of the aircraft. Both men were relatively unscathed after the crash and they set off together in an eastward direction hoping to reach Sweden. Two brothers, Gudmund and Petter Trætli from Trætli Farm recall assisting two airmen that night who had badly burnt hands. They helped to bandage the wounds and also gave the airmen food before giving them directions for the Swedish border. It's most likely that the airmen assisted by the Trætli brothers were the Canadians, Johnny Roe and Bill Parr."

Pride, indeed. To him, his crew, his peers, the generations that took wing since and those waiting for their chance to take to our skies, thank you. Here's to another century!



Using the internet is all about balance

by Mark Pavilons



Famous author J.K. Rowling said the internet has been both a boon and a curse for teenagers.

Ever since we were given access to the internet and well, everything on earth, it has been viewed with trepidation.

Sure, getting stuff online is like taking a drink from a fire hydrant – everything all at once. It can be overwhelming.

Our internet prowess has been fine-tuned over the years, to the point where many of us, of all ages, are quite proficient at navigating the web.

Kent Conrad once said access to computers and the internet has become a basic need for education in our society.

Well, the Peel District School Board, Toronto District and Catholic Boards, and the Ottawa District Board have all filed lawsuits, claiming platforms like Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and TikTok are negligent. They're designed for "compulsive use" and have actually "rewired" the way children think and learn.

This, they claim, is leaving educators holding the bag and cleaning up after this social networking mess.

Being addicted to these outlets, the boards say, negatively impacts students' learning and mental health. That puts a strain on the boards' resources, taking away the focus on actual instruction.

Ok, people, while the boards may have valid points on the impacts of social media today, just whose responsibility is it?

Many boards have introduced smart boards and tablets to aid in instruction. Opening the internet to students is like opening Pandora's Box and the boards would have likely studied the pros and cons before choosing this route.

As well, almost every teenager, even some pre-teens, have smart phones. This is their connection to the world and each other.

You can ban cell phones from classrooms, but once the bell rings, all bets are off. The kids likely dash madly to their lockers to grab their phones and begin the cycle again.

Yes, the internet can contain darkness, but it can also be a source of light. For youngsters, especially during the pandemic, it was their only source of human contact. It was their lifeline.

Sure, it is also a source of maliciousness, and a breeding ground for hatred, racism and sexism. But these things have always been part of our world. And it has been our responsibility to protect ourselves from it and expose it for others to see.

Using social media is our society's self-imposed Catch-22. We want everything at our fingertips and damn the consequences. It's typical of our species to create some new marvel without proper instruction into its long-term use.

The internet, according to Eric Schmidt, "is the first thing that humanity has built that humanity doesn't understand, the largest experiment in anarchy that we have ever had."

It's been a little over a decade since the iPhone has set the standard. And boy has it altered almost every aspect of our behaviour.

I was reluctant to join the iPhone club, being well served with a small-screen Nokia, Star Tac and Razr. My wife and kids jumped on the smart phone band wagon immediately, and urged me to join with my latest gizmo.

Previously, I used my phone in emergencies, connecting with loved ones and for work-related purposes.

I used my iPad for emails and surfing the net. Now, I can do everything, even online banking and renewing my mortgage, from this nifty device. I can take and send photos.

"Be careful what you wish for," is a sentiment that has plagued mankind since the beginning. But this is no fairy tale, it's real-world domination!

Jon Stewart observed the internet is "just a world passing around notes in a classroom." How fitting.

Yes, it can be a huge distraction in the school setting, if not monitored. But if it's used as intended – as a tool to further instruction and provide access to information – it can do wonders.

When we Boomers were kids, some were brains, others average and some were not "book learners."

There's no question that the internet can help those who are not academic aces.

And the social network platforms the boards single out are a cornucopia for opinion, humour and current affairs. If you want to know what young people are talking about, these are the very places to go.

Sure, they tend to be filled with mindless drivel and outrageous images. But if a young person can successfully navigate through the debris and filter out the negativity, it will definitely give them some useful skills.

There's no turning the clock back on the internet – it's here to stay. And it continues to evolve. Most of the online platforms have implemented some sort of code of conduct, to reduce the worst of the worst. The jury is out on its current effectiveness.

But it presents a whole new subject matter for discussion, debate and analysis, at all levels of education. I'm sure there are some very interesting university studies and papers being done on the subject.

I agree that it can be very distracting and I'm guilty of it. When I get home after work and sink into the sofa, I'm often drawn to my phone, playing games, checking Facebook and shopping on eBay. I admit that it has impacted our family's communication.

But it's also a source of comfort at times and allows us to get things done efficiently when needed.

Like everything in our lives, it's all about balance. It's about pros and cons.

Has the internet made human existence better? In many ways, yes. Is it something to be feared? No. Is it something to take with a grain of salt? Definitely.

Unplugging from time to time may ease our dependency.

But I think we're well past "breaking free" of the most important technological innovation of all time.

To not teach it to our young is wrong.

What the internet will be is what society makes it. That's all of us. We can shape our future.

Our Readers Write

Congratulations are in order!

I just want to congratulate you guys at London Publishing for carrying on the publishing of the New Tecumseth Times along with the numerous other newspapers you publish.

Thanks go out to the present owner of London Publishing, whom purchased Simcoe-York Printing & Publishing Ltd. from me in 2009.

You continue to do a great job in keeping our area up to date on local happenings. Your reporter, Brian Lockhart, does a terrific job in news,

sports, and his weekly column. I also enjoy, and totally agree, with all the writings of Frank Stronach. He should be our next Prime Minister.

Great job guys and keep up the good work. Congratulations to all of you.

Hard to believe it is 50 years since Bruce Haire and I launched this group of newspapers.

JOHN H. ARCHIBALD
ALLISTON

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Caledon Citizen

Situational awareness

The town Facebook page where I live routinely has complaints about bad drivers on local streets.

There are a few people with a lead foot driving around, but I find, for the most part, people here are courteous drivers. If you're trying to make a left turn through a line of traffic, someone always stops and lets you through.

A "thank you" wave is usually acknowledged with a return wave.

Everyone thinks they are the best driver on the road. You have probably never heard anyone, ever, admit they are not a very good driver, or that they routinely drive recklessly and dangerously.

Even with only these terrific drivers on the road, sooner or later, everyone makes a mistake.

I drive a lot - I'm always on the road going somewhere.

I've had a few experiences where someone made a move that caused me to swerve, or to lay on the horn to avoid being hit.

However, that was the end of it. I figure most of these occurrences are simple driver errors, and that most likely the person who was driving

realized their mistake and didn't feel too good about.

Why make a big deal out of it and get into some kind of road rage incident?

The worst is grown adults who like to flip the finger. Grow up. That gesture should be left to 12-year-old boys in the school yard.

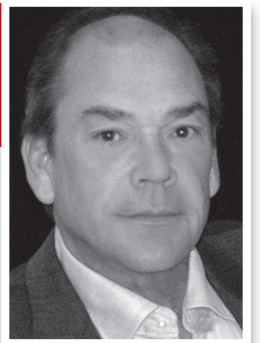
Several years ago, I went to a community meeting about road safety in a small town. Many residents said they were fed up with fast driving on their idyllic country roads, and that it was dangerous for children, people out walking, and for pets. They decided to hold this meeting with the town to see what could be done about it.

I went a little early, and parked down the road from the meeting hall on the route I knew from where most of the residents would be arriving.

There is an intersection and a stop sign. Of all the cars I saw arrive at the meeting, less than half came to a full stop at the stop sign. A "Hollywood stop" on a rural road isn't that big of a deal, but they were still committing an offence.

I also watched the speed of the cars. More than half of those vehicles came down that road faster than the posted speed limit.

BRIAN LOCKHART FROM THE SECOND ROW



To be fair, it is one of those roads where the limit is probably lower than it should be, but they were still speeding.

My plan was to get up and speak to the group when the time came to receive input from the audience. I was going to casually mention that most of the people there had themselves committed driving offences while driving to a meeting to complain about bad drivers.

However, once the meeting was under way, I looked around the room and saw everyone had genuine intentions. I figured it would be better to stay quiet and let them sort it out themselves.

Situational awareness is a big part of being on a road or street.

Listening to the daily news, it seems bowling for people is a sport in Toronto where it apparently someone gets hit by a car almost every day.

I would bet that a majority of those accidents could have been prevented by the people who were hit, if they were aware of their surroundings.

One of the best lessons I was given when learning to drive was don't start driving just because the light is green. Just because you

have the right of way, doesn't mean the guy coming the other way is going to stop.

You should always look first, before proceeding.

I see this all the time at intersections. Pedestrians are waiting for the light to change, then start walking when it turns green without looking for on-coming traffic.

They are oblivious to their surroundings.

This happens all the time at the end of my street by parents pushing baby strollers. Yes, they have the right of way, but they don't look for oncoming traffic.

If most of those people on Toronto streets had bothered to look for oncoming traffic, they probably wouldn't have been hit.

Yes, you can blame the driver for blowing a red light, but you can avoid the pain, or worse, just by taking a second to be aware of where you are and what is going on around you.

A little of "this," and a little of "that"

With so many things to talk about these days, and this being my last article for at least the next few weeks, I felt the need to speak on several topics rather than confine myself to just one. Pits, dangerous highways, strong mayoral powers, growth in Caledon, housing and a looming environmental disaster are all on my radar and should be on yours as well. Here's just a little of "this" and a little of "that;" a glimpse if you will, into what sometimes keeps me up at night.

Recently, I attended a meeting about a proposed new housing development. Utilizing infill space in an existing Caledon neighbourhood, developers met with area residents to outline their proposal and to "seek feedback." One of the first questions asked was whether the proposal would include affordable housing, given that young adults are priced out of the market and seniors have nowhere to downsize to. Their answer? The proposed development would be "attainable." Apparently, according to the developers "attainable doesn't necessarily mean achievable by everyone." Talk about semantics! What does it all mean? Read on.

With more than 35,000 new homes proposed for Caledon; across 12 communities, and seemingly endorsed by Mayor Groves' use of Strong Mayor powers to ensure they get built, under-

standing the difference between affordable and attainable housing seems important. Particularly when combined with her frighteningly Ford-like use of this sentence, "We are demonstrating that Caledon is open for business." What types of homes are we welcoming and will we also build the infrastructure to support them? Single lane roads like Mayfield, west of Highway 10 and one way in/out subdivisions like Valleywood or Southfields certainly won't cut it.

Back to the semantics. Affordable homes, according to the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation, cost "30% or less of a household's before-tax income." A dictionary would define them as "inexpensive, reasonably priced." On the other hand, the term "attainable" is increasingly being used as an adjective meaning "achievable." According to a June 2022 article, housing costs have tripled in the last ten years while the average household income has only increased by one third. Combined with what the article refers to as an "economic growth model" that relies on the "financialization" of the housing market (housing not as a human right but as a financial investment tool - in other words, a commodity) it means housing developments are increasingly built with a focus on investment and property speculation goals rather than home

ownership. By default, it also suggests affordable homes are considered a term "for households with very low incomes, which is of little or no interest to for-profit developers." What's coming to Caledon, now that we're open for business? I don't like the odds for young adults and families looking for their first new home.

In other news, the federal government seems to have now made it easier for Mr. Ford's building of his highway to nowhere. Removing the requirement at the federal level for any type of environmental assessment of the lands on which the 413 is destined, probably means we should prepare to be steam-rolled. I'm sure that at the local level it also means the justification for its existence will be that we need the highway to accommodate all those new homes we're about to build.

Still on the topic of new home builds - whether affordable or attainable - at least one type of new home construction is now off the table altogether. It seems that Ford's on again, off again, love/hate relationship with fourplexes is OFF. While fourplex buildings alone would not solve a housing crisis, they are the kinds of homes we should at least consider as part of a plan that offers alternatives to the suburban sprawl of single homes, townhomes or Caledon castles. Ford

seems to have backed away from a previous commitment to consider all options when it comes to housing and remains intent instead on providing opportunities for developers to continue gobbling up any and all available land on which to build single family dwellings. So, it's a "No" to fourplexes but a bed in a long-term care facility CAN be a home. Make this make sense for me....please.

Finally, I'll be taking a break from this space for a few weeks. It seems I may have become a statistic, one of the "2 in 5 Canadians diagnosed with cancer each year." Like many of you I'm sure, I certainly didn't have cancer on my BINGO card for 2024. I have significant milestone events for both of my kids happening this summer so I have lots to look forward to, but looks like first I'll have to take care of myself. I'm hoping to be back in this space soon enough (portable laptops being great for opining from a bed or the couch) after a successful surgery and fully restored to my usual cynical self, calling out this, or that, in Caledon and in general.

SHERALYN ROMAN TALK CALEDON



Are Canadian children worth the cost?

When the federal government table the budget two weeks from now, one of the items that may end up in the mix is funding for a new national school food program.

Many Canadian parents would support a program to provide meals to Canadian school kids.

But if these school programs are simply going to be feeding our children fatty, sugary foods filled with industrial pesticides, fungicides and other chemicals, we're setting them up for numerous health problems later in life.

I believe it's the number one reason why we're seeing alarmingly high levels of chronic disease in children under the age of 18, including asthma, Type II diabetes and a range of other developmental disabilities.

That's why I started a nonprofit organization several years ago with the mission of lobbying governments to provide nutritious organic food to all Canadian children at

school and educating young Canadians about the lifelong benefits that come with eating healthy, all-natural foods.

Study after study has shown that improved nutrition can influence student learning potential and educational outcomes. Learning and diet are inseparably linked.

The UN's World Food Programme conducted a large-scale, multinational cost-benefit analysis in conjunction with Boston Consulting Group a number of years ago and found that schools enrolled in school meal programs had better attendance, lower drop-out rates, and better test results than schools that did not participate in food programs.

Most Canadians would agree that the health and welfare of our children is a top priority. The fact is, if children grow up healthy and happy, there is a greater chance they will reach their full potential. And one of the best ways of ensuring that is childhood nutrition.

The UN's World Food Programme conducted a large-scale, multinational cost-benefit analysis in conjunction with Boston Consulting Group a number of years ago and found that schools enrolled in school meal programs had better attendance, lower drop-out rates, and better test results than schools that did not participate in food programs.

Providing breakfast and lunch meals consisting of natural organic food will not only improve the mental and physical well-being of our children, it will also boost their intellectual capacity. It's a win-win scenario.

Our children's health plays a critical role in building a sustainable and prosperous future. But if the next generation is sick and unhealthy, our future is on shaky ground.

Ultimately, the question is not: who's going to pay for organic meals in our schools?

The real question is: if we don't find funding to create an organic meal program, are we

prepared to pay the heavy costs that will come in the form of increased health care spending and social assistance?

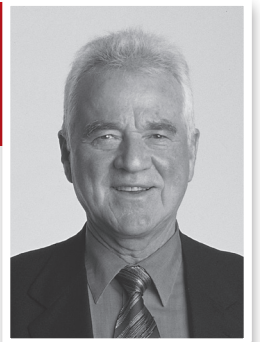
Governments invest in a lot of different programs, causes and initiatives. Very few of them are as important as the health and happiness of our children.

To learn more about how we can improve Canadian health and increase living standards, 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 the Stronach Foundation for Economic Rights (www.economiccharter.ca).

FRANK STRONACH PRINCIPLES OF AN ECONOMIC CHARTER OF RIGHTS



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Boards allege social media has rewired the way children think, behave and learn

Continued from FRONT

The school boards claim the social media platforms are negligently designed to inspire compulsive use, and that the platforms have rewired the way children think, behave and learn.

The claims have yet to be tested in court. Due to compulsive use of social media products, the school boards say students are experiencing an attention, learning and mental health crisis. The school boards claim there's been a rise in costs associated with this, such as the need for additional mental health programming and personnel and increased IT costs.

The school boards are seeking more than \$4 billion through the lawsuit and have retained Toronto-based firm Neinstein LLP to represent them.

A media release from Schools For Social Media Change, a "group of school boards, Canadian leaders and organizations working together to strengthen our students' fundamental right to education" said the goal of the lawsuit is to provide school boards with the required resources to respond to school-based problems caused by social media.

The school boards also want to see the social media companies "redesign their products to keep students safe."

According to the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health's 2021 Student Drug Use and Health Survey, 91 per cent of Ontario students in Grades 7 to 12 use social media daily. Of those students, 31 per cent use social media for five hours or more per day.

Data from that same survey shows 38 per cent of students report poor or fair mental health, and 26 per cent report they feel like they're in serious psychological distress.

The school boards said educators and administrators are spending time and resources to address issues caused by compulsive social media use. They said administrators are having to adjust curriculum to respond to an unfocused and inattentive student population, and that additional costs are being incurred to provide mental

health support for students.

The school boards said there's been an increased need for digital literacy and on-line safety programming, and additional resources needed to investigate threats made against schools, staff and students on social media.

Additionally, the boards said there's been property damage and vandalism caused to schools by social media challenges, among other issues.

Rashmi Swarup, the PDSB's Director of Education, said there's been concern for years about the effect of social media on students' development, mental health, safety and emotional well-being.

"Urgent action is needed to protect students from further harm. That is why we have come together in bringing action against social media giants to make their products safer while addressing the disruptions they are causing to our educational mandate," said Swarup.

Colleen Russell-Rawlins, the TDSB's Director of Education, said the influence of social media on today's youth can't be denied.

"It leads to pervasive problems such as distraction, social withdrawal, cyberbullying, a rapid escalation of aggression, and mental health challenges," said Russell-Rawlins. "Therefore, it is imperative that we take steps to ensure the well-being of our youth. We are calling for measures to be implemented to mitigate these harms and prioritize the mental health and academic success of our future generation."

TCDSB Director of Education Brendan Browne said the "intricately crafted and inherently addictive" nature of social media platforms can be a detriment to a student's ability to absorb knowledge.

"Social media has an undeniable toll on student mental health which cannot be overlooked. In the absence of effective measures from the architects of these digital platforms, our educators find themselves increasingly involved in mitigating social media-induced matters, diverting precious time away from academic instruction," said Browne.



Ontario's largest school boards are suing the creators of these popular social media apps, claiming they disrupt student learning. The claims have yet to be tested in court.

PHOTO BY ZACHARY ROMAN

Duncan Embury, a partner and the head of litigation at Neinstein LLP, said the firm is proud to support the school boards in their goal of holding social media companies accountable.

"A strong education system is the foun-

ation of our society and our community. Social media products and the changes in behaviour, judgement and attention that they cause pose a threat to that system and to the student population our schools serve," said Embury.



Final Release

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Application and Public Meeting Proposed Zoning By-law Amendments

Pursuant to the direction of the Mayor delivered at the regular meeting of Council on March 26, 2024, a Public Meeting will be held to consider twelve (12) proposed Zoning By-law Amendments that, in the opinion of the Mayor, would advance the provincial housing priority of building 1.5 million new residential units by December 2031, and Caledon's Housing Pledge to meet the target of 13,000 new homes by 2031.

FILE NUMBERS:

RZ 2024-0008 (A1 on the map)	RZ 2024-0007 (A7 on the map)
RZ 2024-0013 (A2 on the map)	RZ 2024-0006 (A8 on the map)
RZ 2024-0010 (A3 on the map)	RZ 2024-0004 (A9 on the map)
RZ 2024-0015 (A4 on the map)	RZ 2024-0014 (A10 on the map)
RZ 2024-0009 (A5 on the map)	RZ 2024-0005 (A11 on the map)
RZ 2024-0012 (A6 on the map)	RZ 2024-0011 (A12 on the map)

Meeting Date: April 25, 2024

Public Meeting Start Time: 7 p.m.

Meeting Location: Council Chamber, Town Hall, 6311 Old Church Road, Caledon.

The Town of Caledon offers a Hybrid Committee and Council Meeting model with options for you to engage with Council, including in-person or virtual opportunities.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

- Attend In-Person: Members of the public may register to delegate in-person and speak to an item listed on the agenda or sit in the gallery to watch the meeting.
- Submit a Written Comment: Members of the public may submit a written comment regarding the proposed application(s) by completing the Participation Request Form, available at www.caledon.ca/speak-at-council
- Virtually: Members of the public are welcome to participate via phone or WebEx Meeting upon request. For more information on how to participate, please visit www.caledon.ca/notice or contact the Planning Department. Please note that there are deadlines by which the request to participate need to be made.

YOU CAN PROVIDE COMMENTS BY:

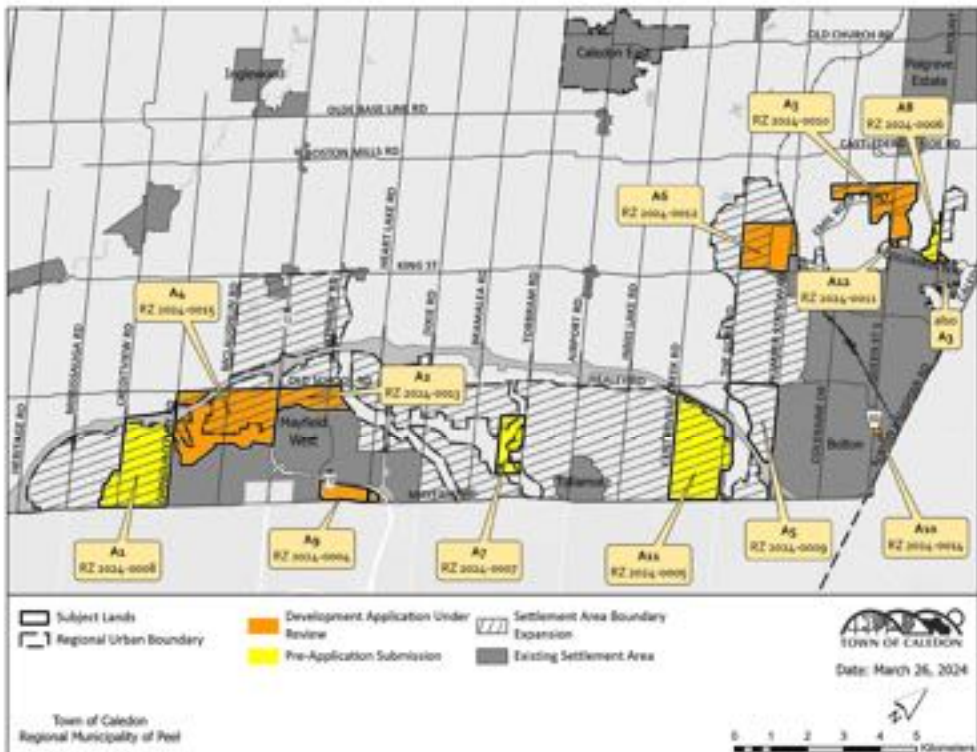
- Submitting written correspondence as soon as possible to agenda@caledon.ca and planning@caledon.ca for consideration during the Public Meeting. Please note that all other written comments are due no later than 12:00pm on Friday April 26, 2024 and will form part of the public record.
- Booking an appointment to visit Town Hall to speak with Planning staff. Visit caledon.ca/development for more information.

LOCATION:

There are twelve (12) sites that are the subject of proposed Zoning By-law Amendments, illustrated on the map below and numbered A1 to A12 (the "Subject Lands"). The Subject Lands are either within the existing Town of Caledon settlement area or in the settlement area boundary expansion in the Council adopted Future Caledon Official Plan.

PROPOSED CHANGES:

The purpose of the proposed Zoning By-law Amendments is to rezone the Subject Lands into appropriate residential mixed use zone categories to facilitate the future development of residential lots, residential mixed-use buildings and commercial uses together with the protection of environmental policy areas. While each of the proposed Zoning By-law Amendments has its own specific range of zone categories, in general terms the purpose and intent of the amendments is to re-zone the Subject Lands from the existing uses, which includes Agricultural, Small Agricultural Holdings, Environmental Policy Area 2, Rural Residential, Institutional, Bolton Highway Commercial and General Commercial to appropriate zone categories to facilitate future development, including Mixed Density Residential, Environmental Policy Area 1, Urban Corridor, Neighbourhood Centre, Multiple Residential, and General Commercial.



*The illustration is a conceptual plan for information purposes and it is subject to change. The proposed Zoning By-laws are currently under review by the Town of Caledon and its consultants.

FOR GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENTS:

The Town of Caledon has retained the services of outside legal and planning consultants to assist with the Zoning By-law Amendments being proposed. If you have questions about the proposed zoning, please contact either:

Sally Campbell, MCIP, RPP
In-house Planner
Loopstra Nixon LLP
Tel: 289-724-9929
Email: scampbell@LN.Law

Elizabeth Howson, MCIP, RPP
Principal
Macaulay Shiomi Howson Ltd
Tel: 416.487.4101
Email: howson@mshplan.ca

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Zoning By-law (O.Reg. 545/06)

If a person or public body would otherwise have an ability to appeal the decision of the Town of Caledon to the Ontario Land Tribunal but the person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Town of Caledon before the by-law is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Town of Caledon before the by-law is passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Land Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to do so. For more information about this matter, including information about appeal rights, a copy of the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment and additional information and material, please visit www.caledon.ca/notices or contact the Town Clerk via Email: info@caledon.ca or Tel: 905-584-2272 ext. 2366 from Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

ACCESSIBILITY:

If you require an accessibility accommodation to access any materials related to this item in an alternate format please contact Records and Information Services by phone at 905-584-2272 x.2366 or via email at accessibility@caledon.ca.

Multi-Tenant Landowners: Please post this notice in visible location to all residents of the land.

Notice Date: April 4, 2024

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:

12542 AIRPORT ROAD

The property is located on the west side of Airport Road mid-way between Mayfield Road and Old School Road, being part of Lot 20, Concession 6 EHS, within the former geographic Township of Chinguacousy.

The property's design value or physical value relates to the Robinson Farmhouse, a rare and early example of a pre-1851 brick dwelling, representative of a vernacular farmhouse with Neoclassical influences. The farmhouse is one-and-a-half storeys in height, rectangular in plan, with a medium pitched, side gable roof with pediment and end chimneys. It has a symmetrical three-bay front façade with a centre doorway flanked by two windows. The centre doorway is embellished with a molded wood jamb, a rectangular transom with extant tracery, and sidelights. Although other vernacular examples of similarly styled buildings are present along Airport Road and elsewhere in Chinguacousy Township, the Robinson Farmhouse appears to be the earliest known brick example of this type. The use of Flemish bond brick patterning on the front and side façades displays a high degree of craftsmanship.

The property has historical value and associative value for the longevity of its association with the Townrow and Robinson families, who settled in Chinguacousy Township in the 1830s-40s. The property represents one of the earliest farmsteads in the area and remained in the ownership of these two related families from 1833 to 1920. The Robinson Farmhouse was built for James and Mary Robinson sometime in the 1840s. The dwelling's unique, south-facing orientation and intact landscape setting demarcated by Salt Creek contributes to the understanding of early farmsteads that were arranged to take advantage of natural landscape features.

The property has contextual value for its contribution in defining, maintaining and visually supporting the rural character Chinguacousy Township. The setting of the Robinson Farmhouse at the east end of the property, buffered by mature vegetation and the natural features of Salt Creek, continues to reflect the rural character that once predominated the area. The property is also physically, functionally, visually, and historically linked to its immediate surroundings and other nearby historic properties. The Robinson Farmhouse faces south towards Salt Creek, a unique orientation reactive to the natural landscape rather than the more common placement facing the road. The contextual landscape of the Property is intact, including large, mature coniferous trees, mature vegetation along the Salt Creek watercourse, and the remnant historic orchard, still extant to the south and northeast of the house.

13940 AIRPORT ROAD

The property is located on the west side Airport Road, approximately 170 metres south of King Street at the southern limit of the historic settlement of Sandhill. It is within the northeast part of Lot 27, Concession 6, EHS, former geographic Township of Chinguacousy.

The design value or physical value of the property relates to the Thompson-Scott House, a representative example of a vernacular dwelling with Neoclassical and Gothic Revival influences. Constructed c.1861, the rectangular, one-and-a-half storey brick dwelling is capped by a medium pitched, side gable roof with returned eaves. While its builder is unknown, the Thompson-Scott House demonstrates a high degree of craftsmanship in its substantial, three wythe red brick construction and extensive decorative buff brick detailing, including a patterned band beneath the front fascia, buff brick quoins on the corners and around the front entrance and windows, and projecting brick courses.

The property has historical value and associative value for its early and long-standing association with John Thompson and Thomas Scott, blacksmiths and wagon and carriage makers in the crossroads village of Sandhill. Thomas Scott, especially, was known to have lived in the house from 1894-1933, and his family retained ownership of the property into the 1970s. Thompson and Scott's blacksmith shop/carriage works was located on the adjacent property to the north. The property is associated with the theme of Sandhill's prosperity in the mid-19th century and the Scott family, who played an important role in the Sandhill community through the 19th and 20th centuries.

The property has contextual value as it is one of the last extant 19th century dwellings in the village of Sandhill and an important link to this once dynamic rural service centre. The Thompson-Scott House stands proud on the landscape and is an identifiable landmark at the south entrance to the village of Sandhill.

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 April 4, 2024, serve the Clerk notice of their objection to the proposed designation in accordance with the Ontario Heritage Act, setting out the reason for the objection and all relevant facts.

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

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



May 7, 2024
Mayor's Spring Business Breakfast

Meet, greet, and get to know Caledon businesses and partners with Mayor Annette Groves in celebration of Economic Development Week. Learn from inspiring guest speaker and innovator Kulbir Colin Singh Dhillon. Enjoy networking with businesses, professionals, and Caledon's network of business support service providers. For tickets and information: caledon.ca/mayor



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Are you a musical artist or band in the Region of Peel looking for exposure? The Town of Caledon is recruiting local talent to perform in our Music in the Park series. Performers will be compensated \$300 for their performance. Visit caledon.ca/music to learn more and to apply. Applications close April 19.



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BBQ fundraiser coming to Orangeville for woman who lost family and home in tragic fire

BY SAM ODROWSKI

The community is coming together to support a woman who lost her three children and both parents in a house fire earlier in the year.

A fundraising BBQ is coming to the shopping plaza at 47 Broadway on Saturday, April 13 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., to help Kristyne (Woodcock) Klassen deal with costs related to the tragedy.

She grew up in East Garafraxa and lived

in Orangeville for several years.

The fire took place on February 18, while Kristyne and her husband were away and her parents Pauline and Michael Woodcock were babysitting her three kids, Andrew, William and George.

Jennifer Pratt, who's been close friends with Kristyne since elementary school, is helping to organize the community BBQ.

"We're trying to help just with the financial burden of it all because she's had to bury five people," Pratt said. "Kristyne grew up in East Gary, so we all knew her family very well, growing up in that small community. It's just one way we can give back."

Kristyne currently lives in Davidson, Sask., as she moved there with her family a few years ago.

It's been a difficult couple of months for Kristyne, losing five members of her immediate family and her home.

But support has been coming in to help Kristyne and her husband with the funeral costs and overall recovery from the

blaze. A GoFundMe Page generated nearly \$60,000 in the weeks following the fire.

The children's funeral costs have been covered, so Pratt is hoping the community BBQ will generate a few extra dollars to help with the funeral costs for Kristyne's parents.

The event is being catered by Smoke on the Water BBQ, with all the food generously donated by M&M Food Market in Barrie and Orangeville.

All of the money raised will support the Klassen Family Fund.

Pratt said she'd encourage everyone to stop by the BBQ next Saturday and show their support.

"Nothing's going to bring these people back, but we can help alleviate some of the financial burden by raising money," she said.

(Editor's note: While the Woodcocks raised Kristyne, and she would like them remembered as her parents, they are technically her grandparents)

COMMUNITY events

This column is provided as a free public service to non-profit organizations to announce up-coming events. Please contact the Caledon Citizen by calling (905) 857-6626 or emailing admin@caledoncitizen.com if you wish to have an announcement published.

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) ON 1344 Bolton – Real People, Real Weight Loss is a non-profit group. We meet weekly on Wed. evenings in the basement of Bolton United Church. Weigh-ins are 6:00-6:30 followed by a meeting. The initial annual fee incl. a bi-monthly magazine and starter kit is \$59, and monthly dues are \$20. Today is the best day to make changes to your lifestyle! If you have weight to lose and/or want to improve your health, we can help! We promote healthy eating and support the efforts of all our members, and your first meeting is free. Come join us. For more information call Marion at 905-857-5191 or see www.tops.org. Online memberships are also available.

The Bolton Al-Anon Group has recently moved the regular meeting location to the Bolton United Church at 8 Nancy Street (across from Bolton Post Office). We still meet every Thursday at 8:30 pm. We welcome anyone who is/has been affected by someone who has problem with alcohol. If you have any questions please come any Thursday evening or email: boltonalanon@gmail.com.

Caledon Church of Canada. Every Sunday morning @ 10 am. Monday prayer meeting @ 7 pm. Resources: Prayer counselling, Baby/child dedication, Visit the sick, Wedding Services, Food bank and more! For all your pastoral services: 647-891-9400 • caledoncoc@gmail.com Location: 34 Nixon Rd., Bolton

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

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.

FREE COMMUNITY BREAKFAST
Saturday, April 6, 2024
8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
Caledon East United Church
Pancakes, Eggs, Sausages, Fruit, juice & coffee
All are Welcome

VENUTI STRING QUARTET
SATURDAY, APRIL 13 at 7:30 PM.
Presented to you by CALEDON CHAMBER CONCERTS
St. James Anglican Church - The Great Hall
6025 Old Church Road
Caledon East
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Need help? call 906-880-2445
For tickets, please go to www.CaledonChamberConcerts.com or e-transfer to gordonkmorton@gmail.com or please call us at 906-880-2445

The Albion Bolton Historical Society is hosting a meeting on Monday, April 15th at 7:30 PM at the Albion Bolton Community Centre, meeting room C. Titled 'An evening with Archivists' Alesha and Jacob, two Region of Peel archivists will discuss archival work and highlight collections tied to the Albion area. Together we will explore new donations showcasing records that provide a glimpse into the area's history. A night of thrills! The evening will also include an activity of sharing images in the hopes of identifying individuals.
Guests welcome \$5.00
Questions, contact Nathan at 905-584-2801 or nhillerphoto@bell.net

"SCHEHERAZADE" in the Sanctuary at St. James Anglican Church! WOW!
Friday April 19, 2024 at 7:30pm
St James Anglican Church
6025 Old Church Road
Caledon East, Ontario, L7C 1H8
Performed in the beautiful historic sanctuary of St James Anglican Church in Caledon East, Ontario, with limited seating capacity. Guaranteed seating tickets are available in advance by e-transfer to gordonkmorton@gmail.com and space permitting, by cash payment at the door. All tickets are general admission at \$40 each.

Please stay after the concert and talk with the musicians and enjoy cookies and treats!

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me: Janice Reed 905-838-0888

Tuesday, April 9 – Men's Brunch Meeting

The Caledon Seniors Centre at Rotary Place in Bolton is hosting a Men's Brunch & Dairy Farm Tour on Tuesday, April 9th. Meet at the Centre at 12:00 pm. The menu is 4-meatball sub, Caesar salad and chocolate éclair dessert. Cost is \$11. Then off to 15915 Mt. Hope Road to the Big Red Barn for the 1:00 pm dairy farm tour with robotic milkers. The tour length is 1-1/2 to 2 hours. Please call the Centre at 905-951-6114 to purchase your tickets.

Thursday, April 11 – Lunch & Learn

The Caledon Seniors Centre at Rotary Place in Bolton is hosting a Lunch & Learn on Thursday, April 9th. Join us for a free lunch & learn session, presented by: Sandra Scavone, Rock Capital Mortgage Brokerage and Sean Russell, Home Equity Bank. Learn how the CHIP Reverse Mortgage works and the many ways it can benefit you as a homeowner. Bring your questions and they will provide you with all the answers! For catering purposes, please call the Centre at 905-951-6114 to register by Tuesday, April 9th.

Saturday, April 13 – Luncheon & Euchre Tournament

Join us at the Caledon Seniors Centre at Rotary Place on Saturday, April 13 for a Luncheon & Euchre Tournament
Lunch menu: Mild Italian Sausage on a Bun, Fried Onions, Garden Salad, Pineapple Sunshine Cake for dessert.
Cost: Lunch & Tourn. - \$20, Lunch Only - \$16, Tourn Only - \$15
Door Prizes, 50/50 Raffle
Check-in starts at 11:15 AM
P/U Lunch: 11:30 am
Lunch Dine-in served at 12:00 pm
Tournament Play starts at 1:00 pm
Pre-registration is required by Thursday, April 11 at 3:30 PM. Call the Centre at 905-951-6114 to purchase your tickets.

Saturday, April 20 – Income Tax Clinic

The Caledon Seniors Centre at Rotary Place will be hosting a Income Tax Clinic on Saturday, April 20 from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm. Volunteers will prepare your income tax and e-file the return for you if you have modest income and a simple tax situation. Single income up to \$45,000, couple income up to \$55,000, 3 people up to \$57,500. This is a free service for seniors! These are by appointment only!!! Call the Centre at 905-951-6114 to book your time!

Friday, April 26 – Monthly Dinner & Entertainment

The Caledon Seniors Centre at Rotary Place in Bolton is hosting their Monthly Dinner on Friday, April 26th. This month there will be entertainment by the Sentimental Journey Band.
Menu: Baked Pasta, Sausage, Caesar Salad, Garlic Bread, Bread Pudding for dessert
Cost: \$25
P/U at 5:15 pm
Dine-in served at 5:30 pm
Local delivery available for \$2
Pre-register by Wed. April 24. Call the Centre at 905-951-6114 to purchase your tickets!

Saturday, April 27 – Antique Appraisal Event

The Caledon Seniors Centre at Rotary Place in Bolton is hosting an Antique Appraisal Event on Saturday, April 27th from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Come out, have some fun and find out if your items are valuable treasures! Appraisals will be done by Treasure Antique & Appraisals of Burlington from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. Tickets are \$25 and include two items appraised as well as an enjoyable boxed lunch and refreshments. Additional items appraised at \$5.00 each. Limited number of tickets are available. Call the Centre at 905-951-6114 to purchase your tickets!

County of Dufferin to host information booth at Home and Garden show this weekend

BY SAM ODROWSKI

Anybody who's looking to learn more about contractors, landscapers, businesses, and not-for-profit organizations in Dufferin County can find it all at the Orangeville Lions Home and Garden Show this weekend.

The annual event, celebrating the arrival of spring and the various home improvement projects that come with it, kicks off at 5 p.m. on Friday, April 5 and runs until Sunday, April 7.

All the action takes place at the Orangeville Agricultural Society's Event Centre (Fairgrounds) and the event is free to attend. Although, the event acts as a fundraiser for the Orangeville Lions Club, which helps them support various charitable organizations and projects within the community.

There will be nearly 200 booths, featuring a variety of businesses and non-profit organizations in the community, such as the County of Dufferin.

Stop by the county's booth from A21 to A26 to learn more about the programs and services they offer year-round.

Some of the services that the County of Dufferin will highlight at their booth include:

Waste Services

- Get information on programs and services offered by Waste Services.
- Learn about waste reduction in Dufferin County with tips on how to reduce food waste, use the Green Bin and where to donate unwanted textiles.
- Also learn about upcoming Household Hazardous Waste Events and Compost Giveaway Days.
- Enter a draw for a chance to win one of 10 Zero Waste kits.

Climate

- See how Dufferin County is taking action on climate change and how you can get involved.
- Discover what steps you can take to protect your home and belongings from flood damage with any budget. A changing

climate could increase your risk of home flooding over the next several years.

- Participate in a trivia game for your chance to win prizes related to emergency preparedness prizes

Forest

- Learn about your local forest resource: where it is, how it's sustainably managed and what recreational uses are permitted in which areas.
- Learn about forest invasive species present in Dufferin County and on the horizon.
- Learn about what people get from the forest and tell us what you think the forest gets from people.

Emergency Management

- Get emergency preparedness tips to protect yourself, your family and small businesses.
- Pick up eclipse glasses while supplies last to prepare for the Solar Eclipse on April 8!
- Take an emergency management survey for a chance to win great prizes.

Museum of Dufferin (MoD)

- Learn what your community museum and archives are all about and how the MoD is collecting and sharing our community stories.
- Hear about upcoming MoD programs and exhibits for all ages.
- Chat with a staff member to learn more about research, artifact donations and the history of Dufferin County.

Development and Tourism

- Take the Dufferin County Tourism Survey and share your experiences on tourism in the county. Participants will receive an Explore Dufferin tote bag.

Learn more about Dufferin County at www.dufferincounty.ca and learn more about the Orangeville Lions Home and Garden Show at orangevillelions.org/homegardenshow.

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Kate Martin, Community Paramedic during a visit with client, Joan Meehan, who lives in Dufferin County.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dufferin County Community Paramedic Program Secures Additional \$1.8M in Funding to Extend Vital Services to 2026

More funding for paramedicine in Dufferin County has been allocated by the Province of Ontario.

A \$1.8 million two-year investment of funding from the Ministry of Long-Term Care will ensure continued support for seniors, individuals with disabilities, and those managing chronic illnesses through the Dufferin County Community Paramedic Program. The program is an innovative initiative focused on non-emergency, community-based healthcare.

“Community Paramedics have given me the confidence that I need to continue living independently with the assurance that care is only a call away. Their team is made up of knowledgeable, kind and compassionate professionals that have made my at-home healthcare experience truly positive,” said Joan Meehan, a client of the community paramedicine program who lives in Dufferin County.

The program launched a decade ago and has changed healthcare delivery across the region.

“By providing comprehensive services aimed at health promotion, system navigation, and injury prevention, the program facilitates easier access to care for vulnerable populations within the comfort of their homes,” reads a joint press release from the County of Dufferin and Headwaters Health Care Centre (HHCC).

Community paramedics play a vital role in conducting a wide range of services, including wellness checks, safe home assessments, remote patient monitoring, and administering medications. These efforts not only reduce emergency department visits and inpatient hospital stays but also enhance patient satisfaction by alleviating stress and promoting a healthier community.

“Our team is so pleased for this Community Paramedic funding announcement; it will ensure that we will be able to support the most vulnerable members and families

in our community. Through this funding will continue to work with our Patient’s primary care physicians and community service partners to ensure they receive excellent care and support in the safety of their own homes,” said Dufferin County Paramedic Service Chief Tom Reid.

Community paramedics are an extension of a person’s primary care provider, offering care to patients without access. They do not replace the specialized services available in a health care setting or a physician’s office.

Some of the highlights from the program include tailored care for high-risk individuals with complex medical needs, a focus on preventive measures to reduce emergency incidents and hospital visits, enhanced mental health support and additional education on healthy living.

“The Dufferin County Community Paramedic Program represents a ground-breaking approach to healthcare delivery. It empowers paramedics to use their expertise in non-emergency care roles, ultimately improving the quality of life for those individuals enrolled and helps them remain in their homes safely for longer periods and avoids unnecessary hospital visits,” said Kim Delahunt, President and CEO of Headwaters Health Care Centre.

In 2023, there were 2,042 in-home visits, 1,687 virtual visits and 27 patients enrolled in the remote patient monitoring program.

“The Dufferin County Community Paramedic Program continues to be a beacon of compassionate care, providing essential services to those who need it most,” reads the press release.

Anyone interested in the Community Paramedic Program can connect with the program directly by phone 1-844-791-1182 or by email, communityparamedic@dufferincounty.ca by completing a referral form.

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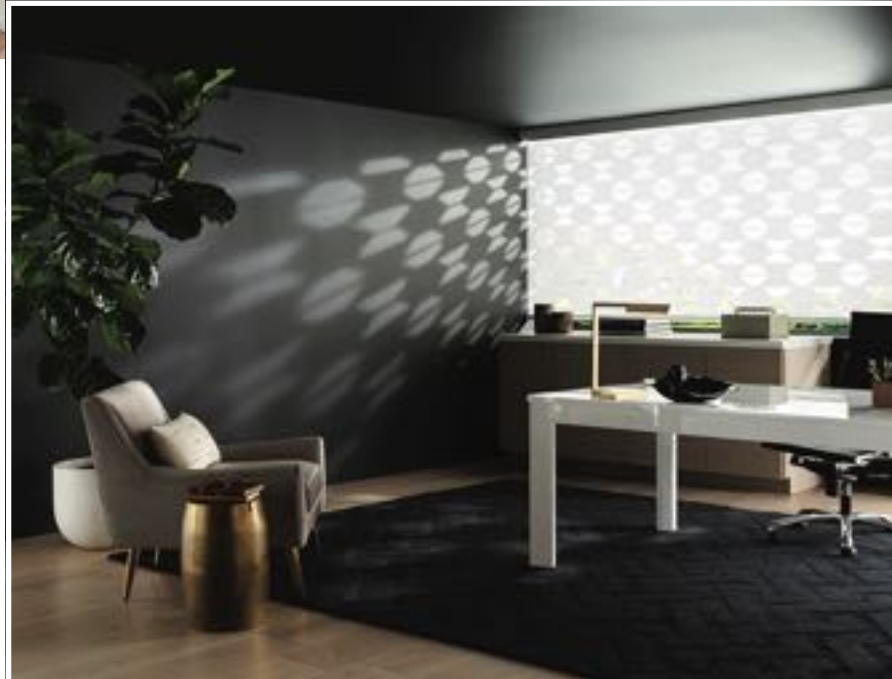
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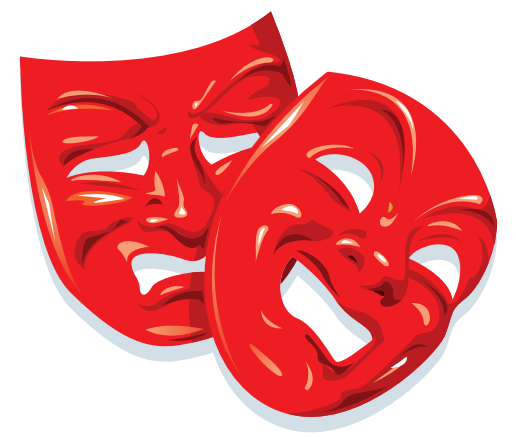
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ARTS & CULTURE



Families enjoy Easter fun in Alton: “Easter in Alton” event thrown by Sparkle & Sass Handcrafted

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

It was a happy Easter in Alton last weekend. On March 29 and 30, local small business Sparkle & Sass Handcrafted hosted “Easter in Alton” at the Alton Legion for the first time.

The event featured a bouncy castle, face painting, Easter egg hunts, pony rides, crafts, games, a food truck, a vendor market, and a very special guest: the Easter Bunny.

Heather Asling, a tutor and music teacher, is the owner of Sparkle & Sass Handcrafted. The company specializes in selling drinkware, and it’s also an event management company that runs family-friendly events and markets.

Asling held an Easter event last year, but decided to expand this year by coming to the Alton Legion.

“To have some outdoor space... the Alton Legion is a great location,” she said.

On each day the event was held, Asling held

three different Easter egg hunts. Tickets to the event were sold in blocks, so no one egg hunt would be too busy — this way, every child was guaranteed to have a good time.

“We had a lot of really good feedback... we had a really good turnout. Thankfully, the weather cooperated,” said Asling.

Over the course of the weekend, several hundred people came to celebrate Easter in Alton.

“I wanted to do something local for families that was affordable, fun and entertaining,” she said. “My goal really was to exhaust the children, to which I had a lot of feedback that the kids were really tired and naptime came and things were good — and the older ones that don’t nap conked out early.”

Asling said there was a lot of great participation from the community at the event.

“It was a really positive experience, exhausting but rewarding,” she said. “It was an amazing group of people coming together.”



Sophia Peca, with children Davion and Selene, hunted for Easter eggs at the Easter in Alton event on March 29.
PHOTO BY ZACHARY ROMAN

Area residents compete in 95 km long Vasaloppet cross-country ski race in Sweden

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

Two area residents travelled to Sweden in early March to participate in the 100th edition of the Vasaloppet cross-country ski race.

John and Rebecca Macdonald took the challenge of competing in the Vasaloppet on March 3 and did very well in the competition.

The race covers a course of 95 km or 56 miles, from the Village of Berga to the Town of Mora.

It is the oldest running cross-country ski race in the world and has the highest number of participants.

The race has its roots in the year 1520 when a young nobleman had to race for his life during a rebellion. The modern version of the race started in 1922 with 119 participants. There have been three cancellations since the event was created.

As many as 40,000 participants now take part in shorter races prior to the main event. Well over 15,000 skiers compete in the long-distance race which always takes place on the first Sunday in March.

Although they competed in this long-distance race, both John and Rebecca were primarily recreational skiers before taking up this challenge.

“Like a lot of people, we grew up doing recreational skiing,” John explained. “We did it as kids and a family, but Rebecca and I got back into it three or four years ago. We realized it is a great winter activity.”

They are members of the Mono Nordic ski club but had to find other venues this year due to a lack of snow.

When he learned about the Vasaloppet, John, the president of an IT company, decided to try it as a company event. The idea was to promote fitness among employees, and those who wanted to give it a try had the opportunity for

training and a trip to Sweden to compete.

Preparing for a 95 km race requires a lot of training and commitment. John and Rebecca skied around 1,000 km, and another 1,000 km during the summer months on roller skis.

They had two coaches, Jordan Cascagnette of Collingwood/Highlands Nordic, and Glenn Bond, of bondxcski.com. Dominic Lonuzzo of Mono Nordic was a Nordic ski equipment advisor.

On race day, they were placed in a group of almost 16,000 skiers.

“It’s a mass start, as opposed to being a timed start — that’s one of the things that is unique about it,” John explained. “They put people in different groups. They put the top 200 elite athletes at the front. These are the top skiers in the world. For us, we’re doing it more for the experience. You just want to try and finish.”

The start of the race is the most difficult as the trail goes directly up a large hill. The skiing style is traditional Nordic on trails in the snow, as opposed to skate-style skiing.

Of the 15,800 skiers who started, over 2,300 competitors failed to complete the gruelling race, but both John and Rebecca made it all the way to the end of the 95 km.

This year, 20.5 per cent of the skiers were women, the highest percentage the race has ever seen.

For slower skiers, the course is gated at certain points and if they do not complete that area of the course in the required time, the course is closed. This is to avoid having people left behind in a wooded area after dark, potentially creating a dangerous situation.

At 54 years of age, John and Rebecca were in the ‘masters’ division and finished with some impressive times.

It took them over 11 hours to complete, averaging just over ten mph for the entire race.



COMMUNITY NOTICE

ANNUAL VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Each year, CN is required to manage vegetation on its right-of-way. Managing this vegetation contributes to mitigating fire risks and enhances the efficiency of inspection of track infrastructure. The spray program is not being done for aesthetic reasons.

To ensure safe railway operations, CN will conduct its annual spray program on its rail lines in the province of Ontario. A certified professional (Davey Tree Expert Company Ltd., 1-800-465-6367) will apply herbicides on and around the railway tracks (primarily along the 24-foot graveled area/ballast). Product requirements for setbacks in the vicinity of dwellings, aquatic environments and municipal water supplies will be met.

CN may use the following herbicides and active ingredients: Credit Xtreme (Nufarm), Esplanade (Bayer), Detail (BASF), Arsenal Powerline (BASF), Navius Flex (Bayer), Gateway (Corteva), Hasten NT (Norac), Round Up Weather Pro (Bayer), Torpedo (Valent), Telar (Envu/Bayer), Clearview (Corteva), Aspect (Corteva), Garlon XRT (Corteva), Milestone NXT (Corteva), Glyphosate (540 g/L), Indaziflam (200 g/L), Saflufenacil (29.74%), Imazapyr (26.7%), Metsulfuron-methyl (12.6%), Aminocyclopyrachlor (39.5%), Paraffinic Oil (586 g/L), Alkoxylated alcohol non-ionic surfactants (242 g/L), Methyl and Ethyl oleate (esterified vegetable oil 75.20%), Flumioxazin (33.5%), Pyroxasulfone (42.5%), Chlorsulfuron (75%), Aminopyralid (52.5%-60%), Metsulfuron-methyl (94.5%), Picloram (97.5 g/L), 2, 4-D (360 g/L), Triclopyr (755 g/L), Florpyrauxifen (4.77%)

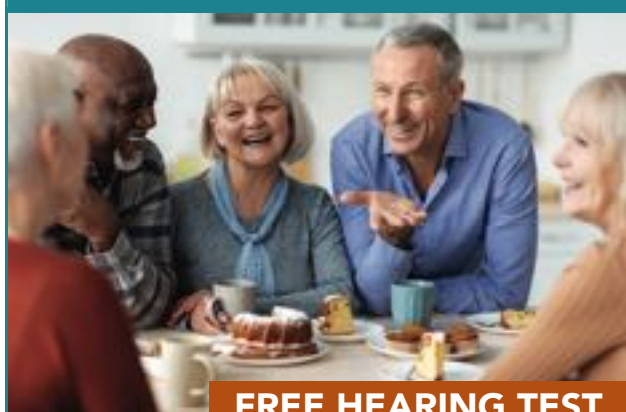
CN only uses herbicides that have been approved for use in Canada and in the province within which they are applied.

The program is expected to take place from May to October 2024.

Visit www.cn.ca/vegetation for more information or to make an inquiry, contact the CN Public Inquiry Line at contact@cn.ca or 1-888-888-5909.

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Bolton Rotary gearing up for 30th Annual Charity Golf Tournament

Club has raised over \$2 million for local causes throughout tournament's history

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

An annual charity golf tournament held in Caledon is reaching a major milestone this year.

On May 23, the Rotary Club of Bolton will be hosting its 30th Annual Charity Golf Tournament at Caledon Woods Golf Club.

Bolton Rotary member Karen Fast said it's amazing to have a tournament run for so many years in the community. She explained this year's tournament is an exciting one as Caledon Woods Golf Club is a great course that many people may not ever have had a chance to play.

Fast said she has to give credit to many long-time sponsors and players in Bolton Rotary's annual golf tournament for its success. In addition to returning players and sponsors, Fast said she's seeing many new names getting excited for the tournament too.

"It will broaden the awareness of Rotary and what we do, I'm happy with that," she said.

In the 30 years the tournament has run, over \$2 million has been raised by the Rotary Club of Bolton for initiatives like Bethell Hospice, Brampton-Caledon Community Living, Rotary Peace Park, Humberview Robotics, Scouts Canada, Girl Guides of



The Rotary Club of Bolton is preparing to host its 30th Annual Charity Golf Tournament on May 23.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ROTARY CLUB OF BOLTON

Canada, YMCA/Cedar Glen Camp, TRCA/Bolton Camp, the Caledon Parent Child Centre, and Remembrance Day Services Bolton. Fast said the 144 spaces available for golfers at this year's tournament are rapidly filling up. She encouraged anyone interested in playing in the tournament to register soon.

"People are chomping at the bit to get out

on those greens," said Fast.

Anyone interested in registering for this year's tournament, or sponsoring it, can visit boltonrotarygolf.ca.

Tickets for this year's tournament are \$200 per person and include 18 holes of golf with a cart, a barbeque lunch, on-course food and beverage sampling, a prime rib dinner, and

chances at prizes.

On May 23, the fun will begin at 10 a.m. when the putting contest and registration open.

At 11 a.m. there will be a barbeque lunch on the deck before the tournament's 12:30 p.m. shotgun start. Dinner starts at 5 p.m. where there will be a cash bar and prizes.

The Rites of Spring and its Seasonal Sports

BY JIM STEWART

The Rites of Spring are all around us in the festivals of rebirth being observed by tens of millions across Canada.

This past weekend, the solemnity of Good Friday dissolved into the celebration of Easter. The croci, daffodils, and tulips emerge from the cold earth providing the promise of vibrant color against the rainy skies of April. We experience the good feeling of opened windows, letting the fresh Spring air into our homes. Gatherings around the Easter table with friends and family rouse the spirit—long subdued by the muck and slush of what seemed like five Novembers in a row for folks in Central Ontario.

The sports world synchronizes quite nicely with these moments of rebirth as we transition from March to April.

Paramount among these sporting events is Major League Baseball's Opening Day.

Local fans reveled in the Blue Jays' stirring 8-2 win over Tampa Bay in a venue that has not been kind to the SkyDome Nine. For 24 hours, fans' insecurities about Bo and Vladdy's as core players, the left-handed power issues, and pitching injuries are laid to rest by the events of Game 1: Bichette's 2-RBI double and his sterling play at short-stop; Vladdy's 450-foot bomb to deep centre and his highlight reel catches at first base; Biggio's home run and Keirmaier's RBI from the left side of the dish; and Berrios's six-innings of work exorcise the demons connected to his premature exit from last

Fall's crucial playoff game due to the Jays' metrics-based over-managing.

Not only did MLB fans fall in love again with the most charming of North American sports, but running simultaneously with the pastoral pastime is March Madness.

Of particular interest for Canadian basketball fans is the Sweet Sixteen matchup featuring two of our finest homegrown collegiate basketball players in a Good Friday showdown: Gonzaga Bulldogs' Point Guard Ryan Nembhard of Aurora versus the Purdue Boilermakers' Centre and NCAA Player of the Year Zach Edey of Toronto.

It is perfect prime time entertainment after a Friday afternoon of observances.

Edey's #1-ranked Boilermakers advance to the Elite Eight with an 80-68 victory over Nembhard's Bulldogs. Edey scores 27 points and collects 14 rebounds while Nembhard fires 14 points and dishes out 7 assists in a showcase of Canadian hardcourt talent.

Aligning quite nicely with Opening Day and March Madness is the Masters Golf Championship—an event perfectly-constructed for television. The race for the Green Jacket is always compelling.

CBS commentators present Augusta National as an Edenic place. Even the calls of local song birds are used to cheer on the birdies and eagles made by the best golfers in the world. Amid the pine straw, white sand, azaleas, and rolling emerald green surfaces is Amen Corner. It's a prayerful place, indeed.

In addition to the regenerative feelings created by Opening Day, March Madness, and The Masters is the excitement generated

by the final playoff pushes in the NBA and NHL.

Continued on Page B6



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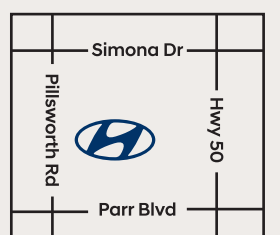
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OBITUARIES

JOANNE ETHEL PEW (NEE ELSON)



It is with heavy hearts that the family announces the passing of Joanne Ethel Pew (nee Elson). She was born on November 2, 1934, and passed away on Saturday, February 17, 2024, in her 90th year. Her parents were Henrietta Elson (nee Baxter) and George Elson who served in both World War I and World War II.

For the past few months, she has lived at the IOOF home in Barrie with her devoted husband of 71 years Ross Pew. She will be dearly missed by her four children Brenda Elias (Joe McReynolds), David Pew (Wendy Pew), Laurie Morin (Michael Morin) and Carole Pew (Tom Harrington) and grandchildren Mark (Sarena), Adam, Simon (Jessica) and Erin, Landon (Kat), Cale, Daniel and William and great grandchildren Noah, Jonah, Georgia, Rebecca, and Moriah Grace.

Born in Toronto, she lived most of her early life with her parents in the rural setting of Janetville and in her married life followed Ross in the road construction industry around southern Ontario. Later settling in Lindsay to raise her family and in retirement moved to Norland, and then in her final years moved back to Lindsay, Ontario.

Many great adventures were spent camping and traveling across Canada and the USA in the RV. Joanne drove a school bus for over 40 years and enjoyed watching over the safety of children. She is now resting peacefully and will be remembered for her love of gardening and all kinds of crafts. A sincere vote of thanks to all the staff at IOOF home in Barrie for the wonderful care our mother received.

A celebration of her life will be hosted by her family at the Caledon Senior Centre, 9 Rotarian Way (905 951 6114) from 2-4pm on Sunday April 14th, 2024. Ross and Joanne were instrumental in forming the Foster Parents Society of Ontario. The family would appreciate expressions of sympathy in lieu of flowers made to the Foster Parents Society of Ontario, website: www.fosterparentsociety.org.

IN MEMORIAM

Memoriam for SANDRA MARY BRAGG



Passed away on April 8, 2023.

Sandra was a woman of many talents.

She was ambitious, conscientious and faithful to her family and friends.

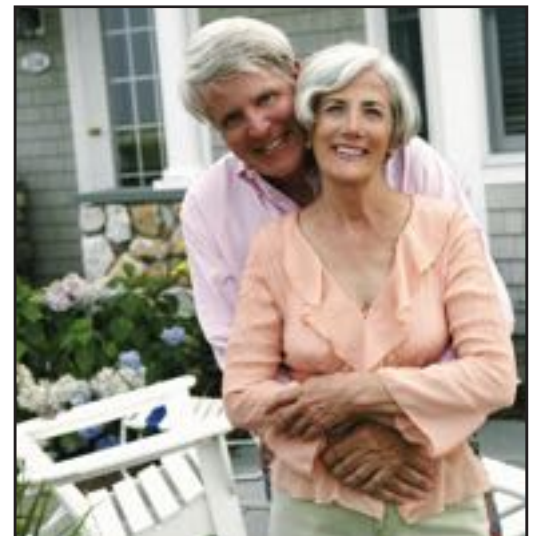
She was a dedicated wife to her husband Bill and loving Mother to her family in addition to having a full and rewarding career.

Her determination is illustrated by the fact that she went back to university to complete her degree later in life. She started work with the City of Toronto and through her tenacity and hard work, she excelled in her career. After she retired, Sandra did volunteer work and made many friends.

Sandra and Bill loved travelling and enjoyed visiting many different countries.

Her family; Christopher and Cathy, Mark and Shari, and Andrea were loved by Sandra and her grandchildren; Sienna, Ethan, Liam, Jordan and Kendra, were the apple of her eye.

Sandra is forever missed and forever in our hearts.



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Junior C Divisions finals finish this week: 16 teams battling for championships

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

Junior C divisional playoffs will wrap up this week with eight teams winning across the province.

Sixteen teams are currently battling it out for the Division titles in the Provincial Junior Hockey League.

In seven of those final series, the two teams that made it to the final were teams that finished first and second in the regular season.

The only division that doesn't have top finishers playing, is the East Tod Division. In that Division, the third-place Port Hope Panthers are up against the fourth-place Napanee Raiders.

Napanee is leading that series 3-0.

The first-place Frankford Huskies and second-place Amherstview Jets of the Tod Division were eliminated in an under-dog-winning semi-final series.

The finals are scheduled to be over on April 8 if the series go the full seven games.

In the Carruthers Division, the Alliston Hornets are leading the Stayner Siskins 3-0 after Alliston won game three 3-2 in overtime on Monday, April 1. That game took place in front of a full house at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre.

The Hanover Barons are currently ahead 2-1 in their Pollock Division series against the Mount Forest Patriots. The winner of the Pollock Division will face the winner of the North Carruthers Division for the Conference championship.

In the Orr Division, the Clarington Eagles are leading the Georgina Ice 3-0.

In Niagara, the Grimsby Peach Kings are ahead 2-1 over the Dundas Blues. That series is a tough one and is expected to go the full seven games.

The New Hamburg Firebirds are winning 2-1 in their series with the Woodstock Navy Vets in the Doherty Division.

The Yeck Division has the Thamesford Trojans leading that series 3-1, over the Mt. Brydges Bulldogs after a 4-3 win in game four on Monday night.

In the Stobbs Division final, the series is tied with the Lakeshore Canadiens and Essex 73s both winning two games.

That is another series that will likely go the distance.

The Division champions will move on to compete for the Conference championships. The Conference championships will be four best-of-seven series, that will get underway as soon as the Division finals and the league can arrange a suitable schedule.

The Rites of Spring and its Seasonal Sports

Continued from Page B1

While the "tanking" Raptors are more than likely to lose their final fifteen games of their star-crossed season, Canadian basketball fans can take solace in the adventures of twenty-five Canadian-born players currently employed by NBA teams. It's a star-studded cast of characters including MVP-candidate Gilgous-Alexander, NBA champion Murray, Brooks, Dort, Powell, Alexander-Walker, Joseph, Olynyk, and Barrett—all of whom are committed not only to their professional squads, but to Team Canada this Summer in the Paris Olympics.

Alas, the regenerative Rites of Spring won't likely apply to long-suffering Leafs fans whose team this Winter has been up and down like a toilet seat. Perhaps these loyal folks will be rewarded for their steadfast faith in a team that has excoriated them in shocking and agonizing ways since 1967. Sadly, there's much more Good Friday than Easter Sunday in the experiences of Leafs fans since their last trip to the Stanley Cup finals 57 years ago.

A stunning contrast to the agony of the Leafs is the comparative success of the Toronto Rock, a lacrosse juggernaut hurtling toward the playoffs with a stellar 12-3 record.

The six-time champions find themselves perched atop the fifteen-team NLL. The Rock have assembled a championship-calibre team that is worthy of attention when they appear on TSN.

This squad of superior athletes is by far the most successful professional sports franchise in Toronto over the last quarter-century with titles won in 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2005, and 2011.

Our nation's official summer sport is played by a terrific team competing just down the QEW in Hamilton and the Rock offers the prospect of playoff suc-

cess this Spring.

In addition to the hope that springs eternal in the local professional teams, there are the high school teams that are moving full speed into their Spring seasons.

April, May, and June are busy months for our highly-skilled secondary school high athletes who compete in a cornucopia of sports including Baseball, Rugby, Slo-Pitch, Track and Field, Ultimate Frisbee, Lacrosse, Badminton, Flag Football, and Co-Ed Volleyball. Local residents can enjoy the spirited tournaments and meets running outdoors as our high school student-athletes break out of their winter confines to enjoy the fields, tracks, and pitches in quest of Regional Championships.

Our local rep teams are also preparing for a season of Elite competition after months of indoor training and will be vying for provincial league championships in baseball, softball, rugby, soccer, lacrosse, and track and field with an eye to USports and NCAA scholarships as post-secondary goals.

Spring has sprung and with it the promise of entertainment for sports fans at so many levels of competition. Enjoy the sunny skies and the evenings of amazing television sports that will be beaming into living rooms and sports bars across the region for the next few weeks.

I will be enjoying a Rite of Spring next week when I fly with seven other crazy Canucks to Phoenix to enjoy the warm air of Arizona, the beauty of the cacti, and hospitality at the Rancho Manana, Coyote Lakes, and Palmbrook golf clubs. My travelogue about this "Adventure in Arizona" (subtitled "Cursing Amid the Cacti") will appear in this newspaper in the coming weeks as a preview to the Central Ontario golf season.

Until then, enjoy the Rites of Spring all around us.

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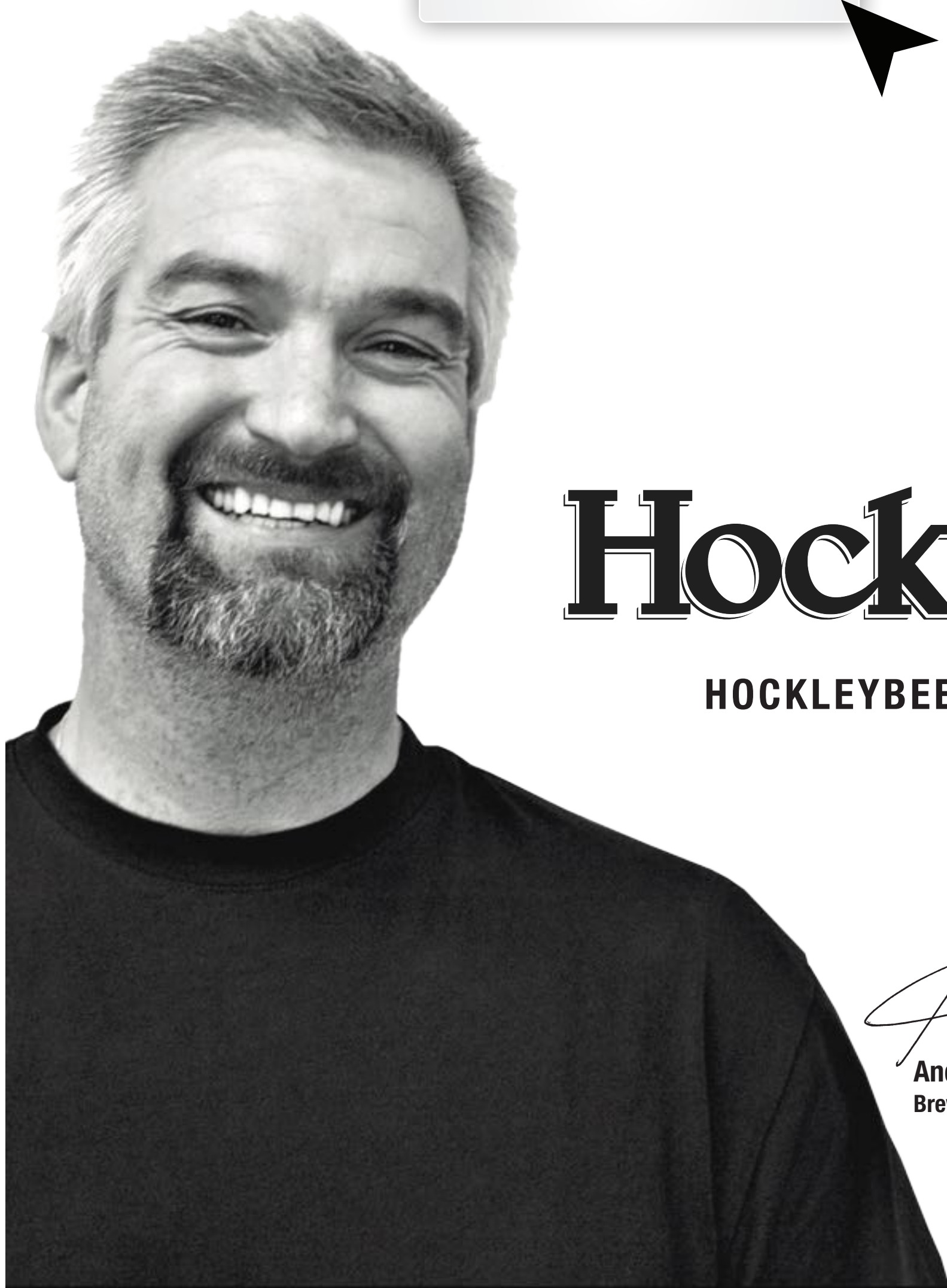


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