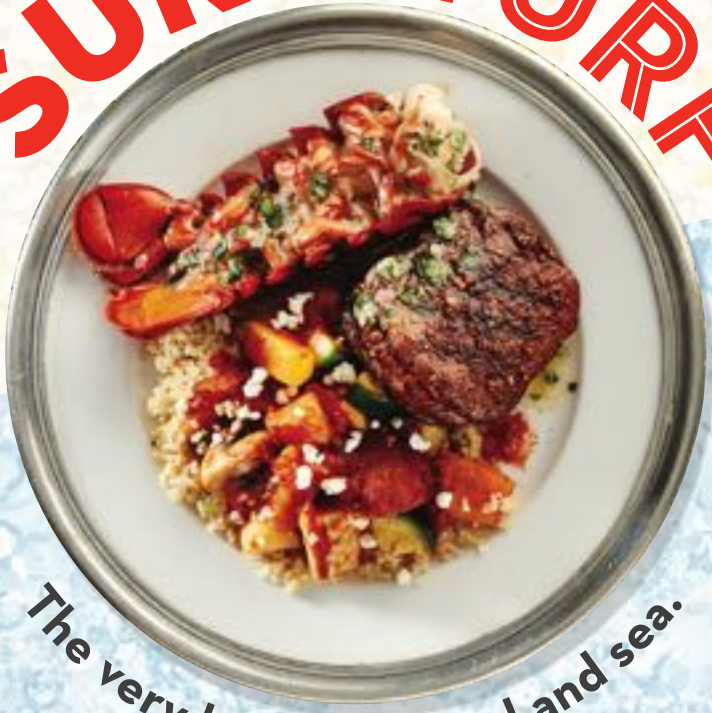


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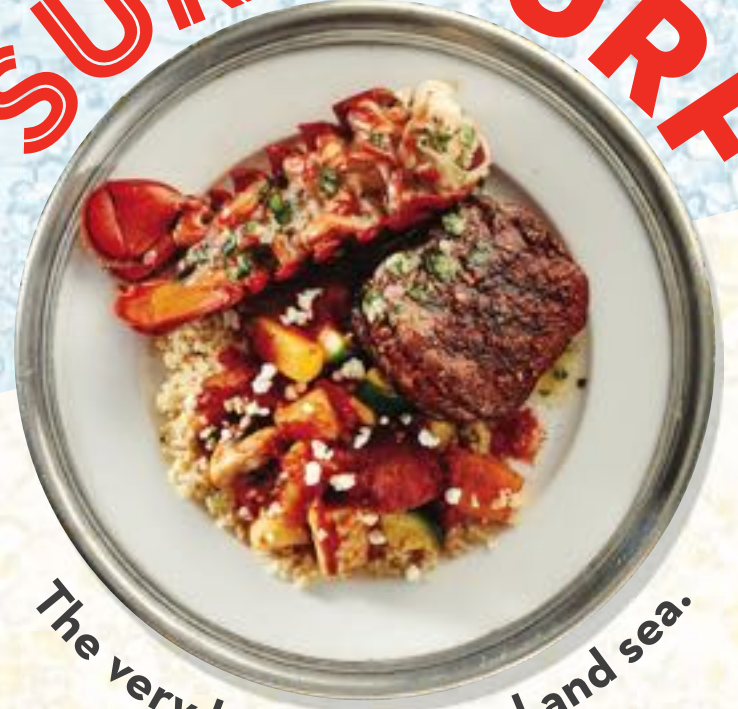
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FREE Thursday, December 26, 2024 Volume 44, Issue 52



A recent Milo Foundation event brought food donations and more to a school in Mississauga. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Milo Foundation poised to continue making a difference into future

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

A local charity is growing and continuing to help those in need, all in memory of an amazing Caledon teen.

The Milo Foundation is named after Milo Yekmalian, who was a rising basketball star with a passion for helping the less fortunate. He was killed in a May 2022 collision at age 18.

A Toronto man, Tomislav Roki, was charged with careless driving causing death due to the collision. However, charges were dropped due to a missing Caledon OPP signature on a document needed to prosecute him.

The Milo Foundation started out as "Hoops for Hunger", an initiative that began when Milo was 14 years old. In travelling around for Division 1 basketball games, Milo became acutely aware of those less fortunate.

Milo's father, Alen, explained Milo and his coach/mentor Clinton Cybulski began renting

a gym in Orangeville and offering free basketball training in exchange for things like food donations, monetary donations for food, Christmas gifts for kids, and winter jackets.

Milo would then personally get in touch with local schools that had kids in need attending them. He would then arrange a fun basketball event at the school and deliver all the donations alongside friends, teammates, and family.

"He would tell kids, they can do something

Continued on Page 2

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FROM ALL OF US AT
Caledon Citizen

New donation drop off location for Evolve Caledon Thrift Store

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Those looking to donate to Caledon's local charity thrift store can now do so on-site.

Caledon Community Services (CCS) recently announced donations to its Evolve Caledon Thrift Store can be made on-site at 4 Industrial Road in Bolton.

This is a change from its previous drop-off location of 109 Industrial Road.

CCS staff said the change was made to enhance convenience for supporters and streamline the donation process.

"This decision to relocate the donation drop-off site comes as part of our ongoing efforts to consolidate our store operations in one location, ensuring that all direct operating costs are covered while improving the overall donor experience," said CCS Director of Marketing and Communications Donna Cragg in a statement.

Continued on Page 3

Edward Jones



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When you form a new corporation with business partners or buy shares in an existing corporation, you should have a shareholder agreement (and hopefully you had it reviewed by a lawyer before signing it and/or purchasing shares). Generally, a shareholder has the ability to vote at shareholders' meetings, elect directors, and receive residual equity upon the sale or dissolution of the company, however, it is dependent on the types of shares you own. A shareholder is also entitled to review corporate records and financials. The directors of the company are responsible for the management of the company, and if they manage the company in a manner that is not in the best interests of the company and its shareholders, then it may make sense to ask the courts for help. Such issues may be considered "oppression claims". Keep in mind, that if you are a director and/or officer of the company, and you do nothing regarding the detrimental conduct, other individuals affected by the conduct may include you in a claim. Whether it affects you individually as a shareholder, or the corporation itself, will determine how you proceed.

If you have an existing interest in a business and have questions, or are looking at becoming a shareholder in a business, give us a call to set up a free 1/2 hour consultation. Enjoy the weekend.

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Nancy Early and Laurie Groe pose with explorer Adam Shoalts at Shoalts' recent author talk event hosted by the Caledon Public Library. **CPL PHOTO**

180 people attend author talk by explorer Adam Shoalts

Caledon Public Library hosted event at Caledon East Community Complex

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Caledon residents recently enjoyed tales of adventure from a man known as "Canada's Indiana Jones".

On December 5, the Caledon Public Library (CPL) hosted explorer Adam Shoalts for an author talk at the Caledon East Community Complex. Shoalts recently authored the book *Where the Falcon Flies*,

an account of his 3,400-kilometre solo journey from his doorstep to the Arctic.

Despite strong wind and flurries, 180 people attended the event and it was a great success.

CPL Manager of Communications and Cultural Development Jill Jambor was happy with how the event went.

"CPL creates opportunities for people of all ages to connect in person over shared interests, supporting mental health and lessening social isolation", said Jambor. "CPL also helps people express themselves creatively through storytelling and provides learning resources, tools and spaces for exploration, so they can live authentically in pursuit of their personal potential."

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

—★—

Warmest wishes for a wonderful holiday season with family and friends and all the best for the New Year!



Mayor Annette Groves and Members of Council



Milo Yekmalian was a basketball star with a passion for helping the less fortunate

Continued from FRONT

small, as little as giving a high-five or picking up a piece of garbage... that they can have a huge impact on their community," said Alen. "He'd tell them when they get older, they can do something like what he was doing... community helps community."

These basketball events continue to this day — one was held last week at a school in Mississauga. Alen said students always love the events, especially watching players face off against teachers and joining in on the games themselves. Students also help sort food donations at the events.

When Milo passed away, there was

a huge outpouring of support from the community for Hoops for Hunger, and not long after is when Alen decided to create an official non-profit, the Milo Foundation.

Alen said the Milo Foundation is currently seeking out business partnerships and is in the process of planning its first-ever black tie fundraising gala.

Another thing the Milo Foundation is planning is a memorial basketball tournament where a scholarship will be given out in Milo's honour.

To learn more about this Caledon charity, those interested can visit milo-foundation.ca.



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Caledon Community Services' thrift store now taking donations on-site

Continued from FRONT

"By moving to 4 Industrial Road, we can now accept donations of clothing, household goods, décor items, and more under one roof, offering greater accessibility and flexibility for drop-offs. This new location will also allow donors to shop with ease all in one place."

If you're wondering what you can donate to Evolve, visit the following link:

www.evolvecaledon.com/pages/donate

Cragg said CCS deeply appreciates the generosity of the Caledon community and the ongoing support from Caledon residents for Evolve.

"This move also strengthens our mission by allowing us to offer a local, affordable shopping alternative while supporting environmental sustainability and diverting goods from landfill," reads the release.

Cathy Perennec McLean, CCS' Director of Programs and Operations, said the change will ensure that Evolve Caledon remains a valuable resource for Caledon residents.

"We hope they will continue supporting it with high-quality donations and join us in shopping. Once someone shops at Evolve for the first time,



Evolve Caledon is a thrift store run by Caledon Community Services. All proceeds from the store support CCS' programs and services in the community. FILE PHOTO

they often become regular customers," she said. "Every item donated helps us further our mission of advancing community well-being by working creatively and responding to community needs."

For more information on Evolve, visit its website, evolvecaledon.com.

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BrightStart's new schedule implemented to streamline operations and enhance services

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

A Caledon non-profit serving children and families has new operating hours. On December 12, BrightStart Caledon Family Centre announced adjustments to its operating hours at five locations. The new hours will come into effect on January 6, 2025.

According to a BrightStart Caledon media release, the new schedule "aims to streamline operations and enhance service delivery, ensuring greater accessibility for families throughout the community. The revised hours reflect a commitment to meeting the diverse needs of families while providing flexible pro-

gramming options."

The new family time drop-in schedule for BrightStart Caledon is as follows:

Albion Bolton Community Centre: Monday to Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 to 3 p.m.; Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 to 7 p.m.; Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.; and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Caledon East Community Complex: Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 to 3 p.m.; Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 to 3 p.m.; Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.; and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Southfields Community Centre: Monday and Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.; Wednesday, 1 to 4 p.m.; Thursday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 to 4 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m.

to 12 p.m.; and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Alton: Wednesday, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Cheltenham: Wednesday, 1 to 3 p.m.

BrightStart Caledon has ongoing programs. "Let's Get Together" will continue twice a month on Tuesday evenings, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Bolton location.

"Families, Food and Fun" runs weekly on Wednesday evenings from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Those looking to learn more about BrightStart Caledon Family Centre are encouraged to call 905-857-0090 or email info@brightstartcaledon.com.

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A year in community safety initiatives

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Road in many parts of Caledon was top of mind for residents, with numerous initiatives, including demonstrations, designed to underscore the issue.

Road safety emergency

In January, Caledon joined neighbour municipality Mono in declaring a Road Safety Emergency. It also joined Mono in calling on the Province to launch an Ontario-wide road safety education campaign; review and increase Highway Traffic Act (HTA) fines; and permit municipalities to deploy Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) cameras without having to declare community safety zones or meet “onerous conditions”. Multiple Caledon Councillors shared that road safety is the number one concern they hear about from residents. Mayor

Annette Groves said municipalities need to come together to advocate to the Province, and get the Ministry of Transportation at the table to help.

Caledon votes to continue ban on retail cannabis stores

At Caledon Council’s April 9 General Committee meeting, Councillors nearly unanimously voted to continue to opt out of having legal cannabis retail stores in Town. Ward 3 Councillor Doug Maskell was the lone voice of support for allowing the stores. When cannabis was made legal by the Federal Government in 2018, it gave municipalities the option to opt in or out of allowing stores within their boundaries. In January of 2019, Caledon Councillors chose to opt out.

Since then, a new term of Council has begun. In October 2023, a motion from Maskell asking Town staff to review the feasibility of permitting cannabis retail stores in Caledon was passed by Council. The motion directed Town of Caledon staff to report back to Council in the first quarter of 2024, which they did at the April 9 meeting. The report from staff included data from a recent survey conducted by the Town on the topic. In 2024, 56 per cent of survey respondents were against allowing cannabis stores, while 41 per cent were in support and two per cent were undecided. 323 people participated in the survey. A similar survey conducted by the Town in 2019 found that 52 per cent of residents supported allowing cannabis stores, while 43 per cent were against them and three per cent were undecided. 602 people participated in that survey.

the March to Save the Next Life, said McCauley’s death was the last straw for people concerned about road safety in Caledon. She said she’s heard that “enough is enough” from so many people. The CCSRA has gotten tons of support in a very short time. “I have never seen a movement take off so quickly and grow like this has,” said Valeriani. “We’re all here for the same reason, we want to save the next life... we’re in it for the long haul because this isn’t going to happen overnight.”

Caledon declares road safety emergency... again

On October 8, Mayor Annette Groves brought forward a motion to declare a road safety emergency at a General Committee meeting.

“Safety is a priority for us... yesterday I believe there were four accidents across the Town, it really amplifies the need to declare a road safety emergency,” said Groves. “Our roads are getting overwhelmed with the volume and type of traffic... the community has been asking us to do this for quite some time.”

Groves said at Caledon’s October 3 traffic safety meeting in Bolton, residents made it clear Caledon needed to declare a road safety emergency.

“They need us to create our own road safety emergency program... there’s no dollar value we can place on a life,” said Groves. “We don’t want to continue to react, we want to be proactive... we need to show solidarity from our residents so they feel they are being heard... we can’t have any more fatalities on our roads.”

Prior to the October 3 meeting, the Caledon Community Road Safety Advocacy Group (CCRSA) held the “March to Save the Next Life” in honour of 23-year-old Bolton woman Adrianna Milena McCauley, who was killed in a September 10 collision at King and Coleraine.

Groves’ October 8 motion to declare a road safety emergency program was approved by Council.

Also approved was a motion from Groves to form a safe driving and truck operating advisory committee.

Caledon residents protest to advocate for safer roads

Just before 6 p.m. on October 3, residents gathered in Downtown Bolton for a peaceful protest demanding safer roads in Caledon.

The protest, titled “March to Save the Next Life”, was organized by the newly-formed Caledon Community Road Safety Advocacy Group (CCRSA).

The group was created after a September 10 collision at the intersection of Coleraine Drive and King Street West took the life of 23-year-old Bolton woman Adrianna Milena McCauley.

Joanna Valeriani, who helped organize

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	51									52		

CLUES ACROSS

- Central processing unit
- Taxi
- Body part
- Papal court
- Young women making their public debuts
- Metal shackles
- Joseph’s wife
- Licensed professional
- Partner to cheese
- Mild fruits
- File format
- Province of Indonesia
- Beloved grilled foods
- Bar bill
- Don’t know when yet

CLUES DOWN

- Whale ship captain
- Touches softly
- Mock
- Red-brown Pacific sea bream
- Summer
- entertainment options
- Protective crust
- Cool!
- Behave in a way that belittles
- Denial
- A place to sleep
- Electronic counter-countermeasures
- Intestinal pouches
- SE Asia family of languages
- Sound
- Select
- Give the impression of dishonesty
- Witness

CLUES ACROSS

- Of cadmium
- Deliver a sermon
- Inner regions of a riverboat shadow
- Aggressive dog
- Smells
- Twofold
- Former OSS
- Computer language
- Indian groom
- Automobile
- Hairstyle
- Atomic #76
- Guy (slang)
- Ladies’ undergarments
- Furniture with open shelves
- Back-arc basin
- Partner to flow
- A type of horse
- Possesses

CLUES DOWN

- Split pulses
- Small amount
- Flat-bottomed
- Not good
- Atomic #31
- Assist in committing a crime
- Chauvinists
- Get away
- One of a people who speaks a Semitic language
- Civil rights college organization
- Combustible dark rocks
- Grocery container
- Central nervous system

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

A look back at some of our top stories of 2024

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

A lot happened in Caledon this year.

From political decisions to amazing fundraisers to exciting community events, there was never a dull moment. As we begin our look back the year that was, we decided to look back at some of our most interesting and impactful stories.

January

Caledon marks its 50th anniversary

The coming of 2024 marked the Town of Caledon's 50th anniversary.

The milestone was celebrated at a number of events throughout the year, such as Caledon Day and Culture Days.

Mayor Annette Groves said Caledon's 50th anniversary is a momentous occasion for every resident, business and community member that's contributed to the growth and vibrancy of Caledon.

February

Reese's Rink officially opens to the public



On February 17, a ceremonial puck drop was held to mark the grand opening of Reese's Rink, an outdoor skating rink in Caledon East that's named after Reese Meyer, a beloved Caledon resident and hockey player who passed away from a cancerous brain tumour at the age of 14. On the ice for the puck drop were Meyer's family, Meyer's hockey team, Caledon Mayor Annette Groves, and Dufferin-Caledon MP Kyle Seeback.

PHOTO BY ZACHARY ROMAN

A Caledon teen that left an indelible mark on our community was immortalized with the opening of an outdoor ice rink bearing his name.

On February 17, hundreds of people gathered outside the Caledon East Community Complex to celebrate the grand opening of Reese's Rink, a new outdoor ice rink dedicated to the memory of Reese Meyer.

Meyer was a beloved Caledon resident and hockey player who sadly passed away from a cancerous brain tumour at the age of 14.

Meyer's dad Glenn, mom Jen, and sister Avalon, were joined by Caledon Mayor Annette Groves, Caledon Council, and Dufferin-Caledon MP Kyle Seeback at the grand opening ceremony.

Among the crowd at the ceremony were members of Meyer's Caledon Hawks hockey team and their families, and tremendous support from the Caledon community at large.

Glenn said Meyer would have loved to have an outdoor rink in Caledon East. He said there's nothing more welcoming to a parent who's lost a child than to hear their name spoken.

"Knowing that others think of him as we do, hearing of this rink's popularity already and hearing his name spoken in relation to it... I can say it's like music to us... it's the most beautiful song we've ever heard," said Glenn. "His legacy is an important lesson and reminder about unconditional love, loving yourself so that you can love others, (and) caring for your family and friends, teammates, and community. Learn to win and lose with grace, courage and strength while being humble. Don't sweat the little things, be present every day, appreciate the good, be kind and set goals. Have fun, laugh, make memories..."

A special video message from NHL superstar Connor McDavid was played at the ceremony.

"I just want to send my deepest and most sincere condolences... I'm tremendously honoured to be asked to share a few words on the big occasion," said McDavid. "I congratulate the Town of Caledon on the completion of Reese's Rink, what an accomplishment... I hope it brings peace, joy and love to the community in Reese's honour. What a great way to celebrate such a warrior like he was and keep his memory alive."

Coldest Night of the Year walk raises more than \$92,000 for Caledon Community Services

An annual charity walk raised a significant sum for a local charity.

On February 24, Caledon Community Services (CCS) hosted its annual Coldest Night of the Year (CONY) walk. The walk's goal is to raise money for CCS programs and services that help people who are in need of food and/or shelter.

CCS CEO Geraldine Aguiar thanked all of the sponsors, walkers, and volunteers that participated in the event. She said there were 258-plus walkers, 40 teams, and 76 volunteers at the event.

Over \$92,000 was raised from this year's CNOY walk.

March

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

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

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

An example of one of the recipients is Ontario Streams. Ontario Streams received \$8,000 for restoration and enhancement of stream habitats in Caledon. It did this by planting native trees and shrubs, cleaning up litter, removing invasive species, and coordinating Atlantic Salmon releases. It engaged community groups and schools in its work.

Ontario Vocal Jazz/Contemporary Festival held at Mayfield Secondary School

On March 21 and 22, the Ontario Vocal Jazz/Contemporary Festival was held at Mayfield Secondary School. It featured student vocal groups from over 25 different schools, and at the festival students got to perform in a professional environment and learn in workshops with professional vocalists.

Jennifer Moon, a music teacher at Mayfield Secondary School, helped run the festival, in which several vocal groups from Mayfield Secondary School performed. For example, Mayfield showcased a 200-voice choir, an 80-voice gospel choir, and performance from the Magnetics, a vocal group from a music class Moon teaches.

Moon said hosting the festival is a way that Mayfield can give back to the greater music community. She said the workshops held at the festival are a great way for music students to learn about music and the music industry.

One of the best parts of hosting the festival is seeing students get inspired, said Moon. To any students thinking of getting involved in music, Moon said it's an amazing experience. She said students get to explore so many different genres of music in school and can become very well-rounded musicians.

Continued on Page A6

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Continued from Page A5

Local school collects 1,375 pairs of shoes for those in need

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.

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 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.

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.

May

Caledon adopts green development standards

At Caledon Council's May 14 Planning and Development Committee Meeting, Councillors unanimously supported adopting Green Development Standards (GDS) created by Town of Caledon staff.

A staff report created by Alexandra Service, a climate change specialist in Caledon's Energy and Environment Division, notes implementing GDS is a key action in Caledon's climate change action plan.

The new GDS will apply to all new residential, commercial, and industrial developments in Caledon.

"Caledon's GDS involve a streamlined, single set of mandatory standards, with flexibility in how targets can be achieved," reads Service's report. "They will be rolled out within a one-year pilot phase to assess implementation and make adjustments if needed."

Caledon's GDS implement requirements to create complete, connected communities that enable active and sustainable modes of transportation; improve stormwater management, reduce urban heat islands, and enhance habitat through urban green space; and support low carbon, energy efficient and resilient buildings and renewable energy systems.

Caledon golf course announced as host of 2025 RBC Canadian Open

On May 21, Golf Canada and the PGA Tour announced the 2025 RBC Canadian Open will be held at TPC Toronto at Osprey Valley's North Course.

TPC Toronto at Osprey Valley will be the 38th golf course to host the Canadian Open, and just the eighth since 1977.

TPC Toronto's 7,445-yard North Course has recently been renovated for the express purpose of hosting global championship-level golf tournaments. The course, which was designed by Doug Carrick, was renovated with help from architect Ian Andrew and consultation from the PGA Tour.

The North Course at TPC Toronto is publicly accessible, though the general public might have a harder time scoring well on it now. Renovations to the course enhanced its already-challenging green complexes and positioned bunkers and other hazards strategically to test skilled players.

Caledon Mayor Annette Groves said the Town of Caledon is delighted TPC Toronto at Osprey Valley will be hosting the RBC Canadian Open in 2025.

"Caledon is the perfect setting for this national tournament that brings many visitors... we are excited people will experience our Town's beautiful landscapes, local businesses and venues," said Groves.

June

Residents rally against proposed blasting quarry

On June 8, the Forks of the Credit Preservation Group (FCPG) held a protest against a proposed blasting quarry it says will have devastating impacts on the environment and local residents.

The protest began in the hamlet of Cataract, where people gathered to listen to speeches and get signs and t-shirts. Demonstrators then marched to the intersection of Main Street and Charleston Sideroad to make their message known to passing traffic.

CBM Aggregates (a division of St. Marys Cement Canada), whose parent company is Brazilian conglomerate Votorantim Cimentos, wants to build an approximately 800-acre below-water table blasting quarry south of Alton.

FCPG president David Sylvester said the fight against the quarry has been going on for over three years and it will likely continue for another three years.

"For CBM aggregates, to some extent, it's a battle of attrition and that's their style, they're hoping that we will give up and go home," said Sylvester. "But I can assure you folks, we are not going to be doing that."

Green Party of Ontario leader Mike Schreiner attended the June 8 protest.

"It's vitally important to stand up to protect water, people and communities," said Schreiner. "This mega quarry is absolutely unnecessary, we have plenty of aggregate right now in Ontario... I'm opposed to new and expanded quarry applications until we have a transparent study of how much aggregate we actually need in Ontario."

Schreiner said seeing so many people out at the protest was great, and that it showed just how much people care about their community and the environment.

"We have to fix the Aggregate Resources Act to put people, communities and the environment first," said Schreiner. "... I'm absolutely committed to working across party lines to strengthen the rules to protect farmland and protect the health and wellbeing of communities and our water."

July

Joe Tersigni recognized as Caledon's Senior of the Year

Joe Tersigni said his parents always told him how important it was to help others.

It's a lesson he's put into action for his entire life. Now 75, in July Tersigni received Caledon's Senior of the Year award for his role in helping secure Caledon's Sister City agreement with Isola del Liri in Italy, and his years of volunteerism in the Caledon community.

"When someone calls me for something, I'm always there to listen," said Tersigni. "Sometimes I cut myself too thin, but I do what I have to and I do it without thinking... it's natural."

When Tersigni found out he won Caledon's Senior of the Year award, he felt appreciative and humbled. He said it's a reminder that people appreciate all the work that volunteers do.

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Joe Tersigni (second from left) with delegates from Isola del Liri and Ward 5 Councillor Tony Rosa in Caledon. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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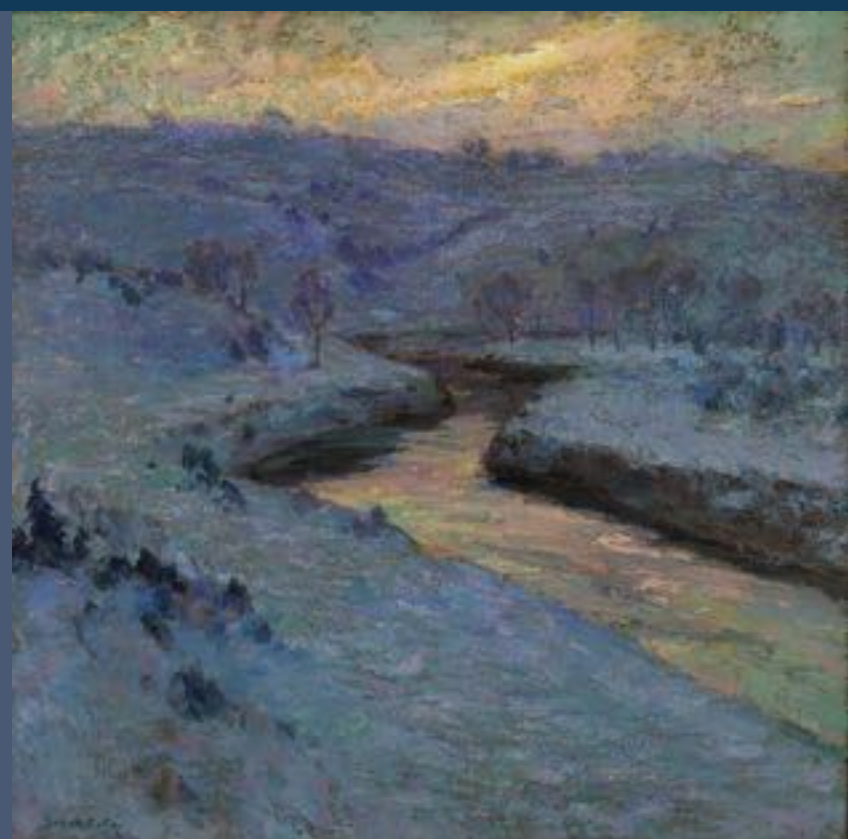
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Countering Complaint Culture: Revisited

This week, as we take time off to enjoy the holidays with our families and loved ones, I wanted to take the time to revisit a column that generated a great deal of feedback in my inbox – perhaps, unsurprisingly, they were the antithesis of the concerns expressed below.

That being said, however, complaint culture still appears to reign supreme and as we look ahead to the New Year on Wednesday, and potentially returning a gift or two that may have missed the mark, there is still a bit of time to forge some resolutions!

(As originally printed January 18, 2024)

The following statement might come as something of a surprise for regular readers of this column, but, believe it or not, I am not a natural-born complainer.

Don't get me wrong – I'm not a doormat, nor am I complacent. If I see a wrong that needs to be righted, I have no qualms speaking my mind or doing my utmost to spur action towards a solution, but not all perceived wrongs are created equal.

Yet, in this highly polarized world we now find ourselves living in, our collective sense of proportionality appears to be crumbling in favour of unfettered grumbling.

Case in point, for instance, Brampton Mayor Patrick Brown put forward a motion to Region of Peel Council to look at imposing fines on area residents who misuse 9-1-1.

Bolstering Mayor Brown's motion was data put forward by police departments over the last little while citing people calling the emergency line to report everything from being temporarily unable to access some of their favourite cable channels to kvetching about a snafu with a Tim Horton's order.

If fines or any other deterrents are ultimately effective in curtailing such nonsense, I think that is something to be applauded but, as far as complaints go, I feel it's going to be pretty difficult to get this foul-tasting tooth-paste back into its proverbial tube.

In a world that is, again, as highly polarized as ours, we've also found ourselves living in a world where "complaint culture" has taken a firm foothold.

It's not hard to identify at least one factor that has helped complaint culture gain its foothold, and that is the anonymity that our online world has fostered.

When you don't have to show your face or state your name, it is much easier to put your worst on display because said anonymity can blunt any backlash. Likewise, if you're complaining to a company's social media feed, there is a similar anonymity as far as to whom or what (thanks, bots) you're venting your spleen.

At a micro level, I'm not one to really complain if there is a minor (yes, minor) discrepancy between the order I shouted through the wind into an oh-so-inviting drive-thru speaker box versus what I get at the next window in an equally oh-so-appetizing brown paper bag. With the exception of unexpected mayonnaise or melted cheese appearing on what I ordered, two toppings I've weirdly loathed since childhood, I can usually muscle through it. I'm fully conscious that companies that operate in structures that offer drive-thru windows have streamlined their workforce in the interests of greater profit margins, despite absurdly claiming that people don't want to work anymore, and are thus placing more expectations and a greater burden on people doing the heavy lifting. Here, mistakes are bound to happen, but am I going to raise a

stink if they put just a regular amount of onions on my burger instead of the extra I requested? Come on. Just don't get me started on self-checkouts!

Now that winter has belatedly arrived, the annual sport of complaining about snow and ice maintenance, or lack thereof, has finally had its season opener – with, as one would expect, the usual complaints from people who take umbrage at their streets not being cleared first among hundreds. This, despite more ways than ever before to track the whereabouts of local snowplows to give you a bit of insight on when your turn will come.

Experiencing a delay? Again, not a reason to call 9-1-1. The appropriate municipal department? Sure. It's not at the top of my own list, but you do you!

On a personal note, my small nuclear family is experiencing something of a significant upheaval right now – not to worry, everyone is healthy and well – but there is nothing we can do about it. We might complain amongst ourselves, but no manner of complaining is going to change the outcome. Instead of dwelling upon it, I'm trying, with varying levels of success, to accentuate whatever positives that might be had – and, admittedly, there are few to be found – if only for my own peace of mind.

As complaint culture marches on seemingly unabated, it's doing so, in my view, at the expense of "doing culture" – that is, people who are content just to complain about what's bothering them rather than taking action to do something about it.

For the "small stuff," such as those who complain about their fast-food order, action can be as simple as putting themselves in the shoes, even for a moment, of those who tasked with putting the meal together.

For the big stuff, such as political action, it often feels people are more content to simply sound off on the performance of their leaders at all levels of government without (a) offering solutions to whatever has raised their ire or, (b), putting themselves forward to foster the change they want to see in the world.

And, I believe, we're all the poorer for it.

As I write this, I can't help but think of an airline snafu I had this past summer when, due to weather in Toronto, my flight back from New York City was cancelled.

The airline in question, in just about as many words, texted to say they were working hard to re-book all those impacted on the next available flight – but, when that subsequent confirmation came thorough about an hour later, the "next available flight" was literally a full week later.

An extra week in a "foreign" clime, with all the expenses that would incur, was obviously unacceptable and a call to their customer service was in order.

The delay and the re-booking was, again, obviously, not the fault of whoever was going to pick up the phone at the other end and I governed myself accordingly.

"Thank you for not yelling at me," said the clerk, almost sheepishly and exhausted by the time I got through at 2 a.m., with an audible crack in her voice and relief in the air.

"Yelling" at her was the furthest thing from my mind; all I wanted was to work with her for a practical solution – and, working together, a much more reasonable option was found.

I'd wager the people who did, in fact, bel-low down the phone might have had a full seven days ahead of them.



Kicking 2024 to the curb

by Mark Pavilons



It's been said that time flies.

Well, for yours truly, 2024 couldn't have flown by fast enough.

In my 61-plus years on the planet, I've enjoyed roughly 22,385 days. That's a lot of sunrises and sunsets, let me tell you.

Most of our days are gobbled up by routine, mundane tasks, chores and work-related duties.

We spend the good part of our 16-hour waking days "tending to things." Just think about it – we spent roughly 1/3 of our lives sleeping; another few years stuck in traffic and a year or three waiting in line. To have just one of those years back.

Sure, there are a few hours each evening to enjoy a meal, exchange small talk with the family and watching the latest reality TV show. And, if you're a blessed dog-owner, there's always time to wrestle and cuddle with the pooches.

A few times of the year we get to just chill and relax, soaking up the atmosphere of just doing nothing. If we're lucky, we get to leave our comfy homes and spend a week or so to enjoy the great outdoors, or sandy beaches.

But our summers are too short. Despite the fact the weather in 2024 was quite decent – with an extended fall – didn't get to enjoy it much.

My wife and I had a new gazebo installed in our back yard, complete with propane fire pit, and yet we only enjoyed it once or twice. It was meant to bring us joy and share the outdoors, but my summer schedule messed things up.

There was the odd barbecue, but that was it. We added some nice outdoor lights around the back yard and had fun using the new power washer on the patio. If those were entries in my journal, it would be pretty boring.

If someone were to ask me what things, events or even small objects reflected 2024, I'd have to say chemo and my plastic hospital bracelets.

My six-session, four-and-a-half-months-long chemo regime sucked up my weeks from July through November. While I could have dashed off here and there to soak up the sun, it just wasn't in the cards.

I also wasted a lot of time feeling sorry for myself, having my own lonely pity parties. They didn't even include beverages! Frosty, tasty beverages were off the table.

Treks to Southlake became my routine and I got to know the hospital very well. While I tolerated the chemo treatments very well, they came around every three weeks, preceded by blood work. When chemo ended in November, I enjoyed CT and bone scans, which revealed no progression.

Many said that was good news. Well, the ideal news would be a reduction in cancer cells, but alas, my type of cancer is something I will likely have to live alongside forever. Daily meds are currently

keeping my PSA levels in check.

I'm currently trying to exercise a bit, drinking plenty of water and taking a handful of supplements aimed at keeping me well. My handy Vibe unit and tuning fork keep me company.

I only missed a handful of days, and went into the office daily.

I keep myself distracted because I have to. It's the only way to keep my demons at bay. They're really good at constantly nagging me, pulling at the tiny hairs on the back of my neck.

So, I spend my idle time playing video games on my phone and watching TV game shows (I'm still not sure what to make of Ryan on Wheel of Fortune). I do have a hobby of painting tiny model aircraft, but I put it on the back-burner lately. Just not "feeling it" even though it brought me a small amount of joy.

I will endeavor to get at it as soon as I can.

In 2024, I had a lot of time to reflect. While this is supposed to be a good thing, I'm not sure.

Yes, I counted my blessings, over and over. I saw the beauty in some marvellous summer mornings. I enjoyed some great BBQ meals, a summer staple for our family.

I was open about my cancer with my children and had regular chats. Unfortunately, they did see me at my worst, something I just couldn't hide.

I cried a lot this year.

Someone once said that in our darkest moments, we don't need solutions or advice, but a human connection, a quiet presence and gentle touch.

For some of us, quiet can be dangerous. The gremlins mostly come out at this time, mostly.

Being inside my own head proved problematic so this is one place I have to renovate, update and renew.

When I "gave my head a shake," and came around, I did laugh a bit more. I found the humour in life at almost every turn. I enjoyed seeing my kids laugh, poke fun and exchange banter. They event sent some barb in my direction, commenting on my bald head. Shrek, indeed! I'd say more like Telly Savalas.

There were many late-night conversations on my head, thoughts rolling around like a ball in a pinball machine. I had a few deep chats with the Almighty, in search of strength and guidance.

In 2024, I did learn more about myself. I realized just how frail we humans are and that we can be hit with something major any time. Often there are no explanations or "whys," so there's no use spending a lot of time pondering "what ifs."

In taking stock of my life, I realized a few gaps – missed opportunities, regrets, lost connections, and a host of bad attitudes. I was overwhelmed with guilt from time to time, thinking about how I could have done better as a husband and a father.

Water under the bridge perhaps, but a current that brought me to where I am today.

I was quite preoccupied this past year, and I only hope that I helped more than I hindered. I wish that I encouraged more smiles than frowns.

Within my family, I really hope I fostered more love, less conflict and further open conversation. Really, there's no value in looking backward and reliving past events and mistakes. I say if you must look back, keep one foot on the gas!

Let's hope 2025 brings us all some clarity, peace of mind and inner strength!

Submit your **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

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August

Caledon shares illegal land use struggles with Province

On August 13, Mayor Annette Groves, Ward 3 Councillor Doug Maskell, Ward 5 Councillor Tony Rosa, and Caledon's Commissioner of Community and Human services Catherine McLean presented to the Province's Standing Committee on Heritage, Infrastructure and Cultural Policy on the issue of illegal land use.

The Committee was meeting at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum and Community Centre that day for public hearings on a study related to land use for unlicensed event venues.

Groves said there's a lot of illegal land use in Caledon and that while it's not a new problem, there's certainly been an increase in the amount of illegal land use in recent years.

"We've got some great people, but we also have a lot of bad actors, and we've seen an increase in the number of bad actors popping up in different areas... it's very disruptive to our residents," said Groves.

McLean said the two main types of illegal land use in Caledon are illegal event centres and illegal trucking yards. She said the two types of illegal land use create similar negative impacts like long-term environmental and infrastructure damage, risks to public safety, and disruption to residential communities.

McLean said Caledon residents are dealing with massive illegal truck yards operating 24/7. She said people are dealing with traffic safety issues caused by these truck yards, and that Caledon's roads themselves — in areas not designed to support large volumes of truck traffic — are becoming damaged.

"They're full of deep potholes and grooves, another safety hazard," she said.

Illegal event centres are causing residents to lose sleep, said McLean, as many event centres have loud music playing all night and even have fireworks shooting off.

"Despite our efforts, illegal truck depots are expanding with defiance... many operators consider legal fees and municipal fines a cost of doing business, and they're finding ways to circumvent violation notices by converting property ownership to delay prosecution," said McLean. "Just last week, I was reviewing a file that we're moving ahead with in the courts. The file dates back to 2007 — 17 years. One of (our) officers' affidavits was 514 pages in length: 514 pages of notes, pictures, complaints, orders to comply, more pictures, more complaints — it just goes on and on."

McLean said the business in question has not been deterred by numerous prosecutions and has even grown over the years.

"This perception of impunity for illegal land use has important consequences. People who depend on us see this and believe we're not doing enough, and they're not wrong. Current municipal powers under Provincial law are not adequate to address this issue, so our ask of you today is that you add illegal parking and storage of commercial vehicles to the scope of your study, going beyond unlicensed event venues," said McLean. "We ask that you consider amending the Planning Act and Municipal Act to strengthen municipal enforcement powers, including enabling municipalities to physically bar entry to properties; increase maximum penalty amounts for individuals and corporations; and include all charges, orders, notices, prohibitions, injunctions and imposed fines on the title of a property. We need to do more together. Our residents are counting on us."

Bethell Hospice and Hospice Dufferin join forces

On August 14, Bethell Hospice and Hospice Dufferin announced Hospice Dufferin's services will be hosted under the Bethell Hospice banner as of October 1.

"Working with Ontario Health on the next steps, the integration of services will include a seamless transition of care for all current Hospice Dufferin clients to the well-established services at Bethell Hospice," read a media release from Bethell Hospice Senior Manager of Marketing and Communications Kelly Stronach. "This change will allow for a more cohesive care delivery model across the Dufferin/Caledon community, ultimately improving client care for those who require palliative and community care services in the area."

Hospice Dufferin Executive Director Maureen Riedler said Hospice Dufferin and Bethell Hospice are united by shared values and a common vision.

"We are confident that our integration of services with Bethell Hospice will enhance the quality of palliative care services in our region," said Riedler. "Hospice Dufferin proudly celebrates a 40-year legacy of delivering exceptional palliative and bereavement care. This milestone is a testament to the unwavering dedication of our volunteers, staff, and donors."

Bethell Hospice Executive Director Margaret Paan said Bethell Hospice is honoured to provide palliative care services for the Dufferin community.

"We look forward to partnering with the existing volunteers and donors to ensure critical hospice services and community programs con-

tinue to be available close to home," said Paan.

September

Community celebrates two years of the Caledon school vegetable garden project

On September 26, a large group gathered at Ellwood Memorial Public School to celebrate two years of the Caledon school vegetable garden project.

There were students, teachers, principals, school board staff, trustees, politicians, community partners and more at the celebration.

Students from Ellwood Memorial Public School prepared an amazing presentation to share with attendees. They shared a land acknowledgement, read poetry, talked about how their garden worked, and shared thanks to the earth and the people who made the garden project possible.

The Caledon school vegetable garden project was started two years ago by Caledon's Peel District School Board (PDSB) trustee Stan Cameron. The vision was to have a vegetable garden at every public school in Caledon, and that vision has now been realized.

Across Caledon, the gardens have engaged students in curriculum-based learning and brought school communities together with a common goal of learning about gardening together and managing a successful vegetable garden.

Many local businesses, like garden centres and hardware stores, have contributed supplies to the project. Countless volunteers have contributed countless hours maintaining the gardens. PDSB staff have gone above and beyond to help keep the gardens in great shape. It was thanks to these reasons and more that Cameron wanted to have a celebration to thank everyone involved.

November

Residents protest Province's Bill 212

On November 22, around 60 people rallied outside Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones' office in Orangeville to voice their opposition to the legislation and the highway it paves the way for.

Sharon Sommerville, a member of citizens' group Headwaters Stops the 413, helped organize the protest. She said she was quite happy

with the number of people who came out, especially considering the poor weather. Sommerville also was pleased with the amount of cars and trucks passing by the protest that honked in support of it.

"I think it speaks to broad support," said Sommerville.

Bill 212 is the Reducing Gridlock, Saving You Time Act, and includes the Building Highways Faster and Highway 413 acts.

Among other things, Bill 212 exempts Highway 413 from the Environmental Assessment Act and removes certain rights of landowners whose properties would be expropriated to build the highway — such as their ability to apply for an adjustment to the day their property would be expropriated.

Sommerville said at the protest, attendees talked about how unneeded the 413 is and how there's better options, like opening the 407 toll-free to transport trucks. Attendees also talked about keeping pressure on the Province, and advocating to the Federal Government to designate the 413 project for a full environmental impact assessment.

"We are still pressuring the government, doing public education, getting people to sign our petition and giving out lawn signs... we gave out about 30 signs at the event," said Sommerville. "There might yet be a Charter challenge to Bill 212 because it does really breach citizens' rights... there are really serious issues with government overreach for Bill 212."

Sommerville said the 413 is a corridor for big box stores, truck depots, warehousing, and housing developments. She said it will not meaningfully reduce congestion.

"It's not going to do the job the Province is telling us it's going to," she said.

Caledon Mayor Annette Groves recently sent a letter to the Province voicing Caledon Council's opposition to "significant elements" of Bill 212.

"More than 45 per cent of Highway 413's length spans Caledon. Residents with properties in the 413's Focused Analysis Area have ostensibly had their land uses frozen since the project's initiation in 2007. Family farms could not expand knowing they would never recover their capital investments before expropriation. Several homeowners could not sell due to market rate suppression due to speculation of future expropriations," wrote Groves. "Now, Bill 212's expedited timelines to take possession of residents' lands needed for this priority highway will leave those residents vulnerable and potentially unhoused. Resident rights during the construction of Highway 413 must be upheld."




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A look back at a year of Arts & Culture in Caledon

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
 LOCAL JOURNALISM
 INITIATIVE REPORTER

Peel District School Board hosts first-ever Powwow

On May 31, the Peel District School Board (PDSB) held its first ever powwow at the Maawnjiding Wiingushkeng Centre for Indigenous Excellence and Land Based Learning, which is located at the intersection of King Street and Mississauga Road.

Indigenous students from the PDSB and Upper Grand, Wellington Catholic, Dufferin-Peel Catholic, and Halton district school boards all attended the powwow. Non-Indigenous students from various PDSB high schools who are in First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Studies courses also attended the event to learn about Indigenous cultures.

Nicole Reynolds, PDSB's Coordinating Vice Principal of Indigenous Education, explained the theme for the powwow was "Honouring our Youth."

"Everything that we do here is for the youth because we recognize their right to reclaim who they are as Indigenous peoples... this powwow is a space for them to be able to share their songs and their teachings — or learn their songs and their teachings. It's a place where they're able to connect with community," said Reynolds. "It's something that the education system originally took away from them, so the fact that the education system is creating space for them to reclaim who they are is pretty significant."

At 11 a.m. on May 31, there was a grand entry held at the powwow. During this time, Indigenous students and staff, dancers, community partners, and senior PDSB staff all walked in. Reynolds said this was her favourite part of the day. She explained having members of senior PDSB staff there was important as it shows the importance of the partnership required to provide opportunities for Indigenous students. It's a partnership she hopes to see continue.

Caledon Pit Run returns

On July 6, Lafarge and Aecon hosted the Caledon Pit Run, a fundraising event for the Headwaters Health Care Foundation.

K.C. Carruthers, CEO of the Headwaters Health Care Foundation, which raises funds for almost every piece of equipment the Headwaters Health Care Centre, noted the impact of the initiative.

"Whether it's a bed or a new CT scanner it's all funded by donations from the community," said Carruthers. "Events like this are a big help."

Carruthers explained that getting an MRI machine at the Headwaters Health Care Centre would be amazing as each year around 4,000 patients have to be sent elsewhere to get an MRI done.

"We really need that in our own community to keep people close to home," said Carruthers.

Carruthers said he was honoured that the Headwaters Health Care Foundation was the charity chosen to be supported by this year's Caledon Pit Run.

"This will help every patient that walks through the doors of the hospital," said Carruthers.

Amazing turnout for 166th-annual Bolton Fall Fair

From September 19 to 22, the 166th Annual Bolton Fall Fair was held at the Albin-Bolton Fairgrounds.

Thursday saw the midway open for toonie ride night, and Friday drew huge crowds for the Rawhide Rodeo performance and barn dance featuring band Hillbilly Martini.

There was another rodeo performance on Saturday and a number of SuperDogs shows. Corn and pie-eating contests were held, and contestants duked it out in arm-wrestling and lip sync competitions. In the evening, fairgoers enjoyed the demolition derby and music from bands Ramblin Soul and Van Hillert.

Sunday featured a car show and antique tractor and farm equipment display. There was a pet show, baby show, and community church service.

In addition to the events listed here there were many, many more things for people to see and do at the fair. There was great food from many food trucks, and a beer garden featuring local brewery Caledon Hills.

The fair is made possible each year thanks to the hard work of volunteers from the Albin & Bolton Agricultural Society, and sponsorships from businesses in the community.

A food drive was held at the fair this year, and as a result nearly 2,000 pounds of food was able to be donated to Caledon Community Services for those in need.

Inaugural Fall for Caledon Meals on Wheels gala a success

On November 7, Caledon Meals on Wheels (CMOW) hosted its inaugural Fall for Caledon Meals on Wheels event,



(TOP) Crowds enjoyed watching demonstrations of different Indigenous dance styles at the PDSB's powwow on May 31. (BELOW) Runners had the chance to race around the Lafarge Caledon Pit on July 6.

PHOTOS BY ZACHARY ROMAN



a gala-style fundraising dinner at the Royal Ambassador Event Centre in Caledon East.

It was well attended by residents, volunteers, dignitaries, and business owners. Kim Rodrigues, the executive director of CMOW, estimated there were over 100 people in attendance.

Caledon Mayor Annette Groves was one of the attendees at the event and delivered a speech.

Rodrigues said Groves is a wonderful supporter of CMOW — it comes from experience, as Groves was a volunteer for the charity for about 10 years.

"She really recognizes the needs of seniors in our community and continues to support us," said Rodrigues.

Fall for Caledon Meals on Wheels featured gourmet food, live music, live and silent auctions, and 50/50 and wine basket raffles.

Rodrigues said she wanted to thank all of the dedicated volunteers that made the event possible, especially the subcommittee of CMOW's volunteer board of directors that led the event's planning. She also thanked the many generous sponsors and donors involved.

"Our volunteers put in countless hours to make sure all the details were perfect, we really wanted to leverage the fall theme and the Ambassador is such a beautiful location," said Rodrigues.

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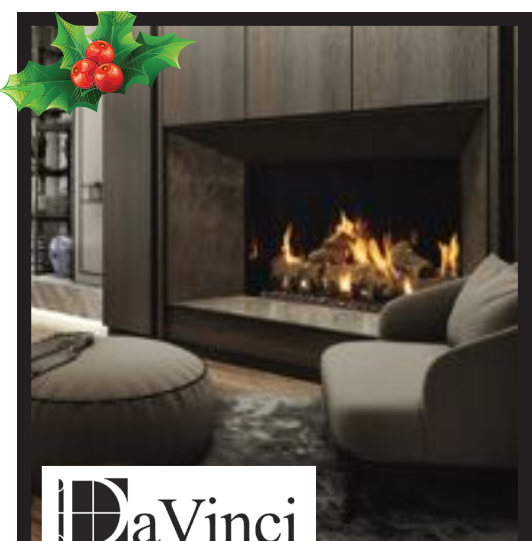
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Highlights from a memorable sports year at home and abroad

BY JIM STEWART

January

Polaczek leads Golden Hawks to 4-1 win over Midland Flyers

The Caledon Golden Hawks ushered in 2024 with an emphatic 4-1 win against their North Carruthers Division rival Midland Flyers. Caledon leading scorer Patrick Polaczek tallied a pair of goals—his sixteenth and seventeenth of the PJHL campaign—and Tyler Von Dehn and Liam Noonan scored one goal each to lead the Golden Hawks to their tenth victory in front of 150 fans at the North Simcoe Sports and Recreation Complex.

February

4 Athletes, 3 Builders, and 1 Team Enshrined at 1st Annual Caledon Sports Hall of Fame Ceremony

180 attendees enjoyed the anecdotes provided by inductees and their families at the First Annual Caledon Sports Hall of Fame induction ceremony. Four athletes, three builders, and one team were enshrined: Bert McCaffrey played seven seasons in the NHL and won a Stanley Cup in 1930 with the Montreal Canadiens. He scored a remarkable twenty goals in five games to lead Team Canada to a Gold Medal in the 1924 Winter Olympics in Chamonix, France. Laurie Graham was Canada's top female downhill skier in the 1980's and a three-time Olympian in 1980, 1984, and 1988. Graham captured a bronze medal in the 1982 World Championships, procured six World Cup victories, three national titles, and was the first Canadian to win on home snow at the first World Cup downhill event held at Mont Tremblant, Quebec. Bob Knuckey—an elite triathlete—won the Toronto Marathon in 1976 with a finishing time of 2:28 and has won dozens of national and international masters titles in his running career. As a 58-year-old, Knuckey started competing in the triathlon and has captured four Ironman World Championships. Robin Platts is one of the three jockeys to win the King's Plate a record four times. Platts accrued over 3,200 victories on horseback and competed in over 20,400 races during his 35-year career. Bill Whitbread was a long-time editor and reporter of The Caledon Enterprise. The legendary sports reporter was a tireless community sports advocate and promoted local athletes in his newspaper articles for decades. Conn Smythe bought land for a farm in Caledon in 1951 to breed race horses. Smythe's stable won the King's Plate twice and hosted the 1963 World Plowing Championships on his farm in 1963. Gord Everett was a dedicated and remarkable basketball coach who was the Bench Boss of Team Ontario from 2012 to 2019. Everett was recognized as the Ontario Basketball Elite Coach of the Year in 2012. Everett pioneered the Elite OSBA program at Humberview SS. The 2004 Mayfield Secondary School Girls Nordic Ski team captured the Provincial Championship and a host of other honors twenty years ago. The quintet featured Brittany Webster, Julie Porter, Gillian Montgomery, Brittany Barclay, and Robyn Kemp.

March

Bolton's Matteo Castoro captures silver at the 52nd Annual Knights of Columbus Regional Free Throw Contest

Bolton's Matteo Castoro came agonizingly close to capturing a gold medal at the 52nd annual Knights of Columbus Regional Free Throw Contest at the Villanova College Athletic Centre in King City. The Grade Five student at St. John Paul II Catholic Elementary School in Bolton was edged in a double tiebreaker by Emmanuel Murillo of St. Clement in Vaughan. Castoro and Murillo were deadlocked after the first round when both made 18 of their 25 foul shot attempts. The Boys 10 Division competitors both made 4 of 5 shots in Tiebreaker #1, but Murillo ran the table in Tiebreaker #2, going 5 for 5 and edging Castoro who went 3/5. The Castoro-Murillo showdown was by far the closest of the fourteen division competitions.

NCAA Stars Zoe Boyd and Kristin Della Rovere enjoying PWWHL Rookie Experience in Ottawa

Zoe Boyd and Kristin Della Rovere—childhood best friends who are now professional hockey players for PWWHL Ottawa—have travelled together through many of the most significant stages of their young lives. Born and raised in Caledon East, Della Rovere and Boyd played their formative years for the Caledon Hawks. After their

afternoon practice at TD Place in Ottawa, the dynamic duo reflected on the fond memories connected to playing rep hockey in Caledon.

May

Banting Marauders dominate opponents to capture the first annual Caledon Cavaliers High School Girls Rugby Tournament at Humberview

The Banting Marauders defeated Nottawasaga Pines Timberwolves 22-5 to capture the First Annual Caledon Cavaliers High School Girls Rugby Tournament in drizzly conditions at Humberview Secondary School. The hometown Humberview Huskies secured the Consolation Championship with a tidy 19-7 victory over the Heart Lake Hurricanes. To secure their berth in the Championship Final, the Marauders steamrolled their opponents with opening round wins of 39-0 over Humberview and 42-0 shutout of Heart Lake. The Timberwolves earned their spot into the Championship in a similar fashion by shutting out Heart Lake and Humberview.

Bolton Brewers open 2024 NDBL season with 16-1 rout of Orillia Majors

The Bolton Brewers opened their 2024 North Dufferin Baseball League regular season with an emphatic 16-1 win over the Orillia Majors. The Brewers erupted for nine runs in the third inning at North Hill Park to create an insurmountable lead versus the visitors. Brett Chater, Ben Sterrit, Josh Hickey, and Aaron Dzib paced the Brewers' well-balanced offensive attack with 2 hits each. Sterrit and Hickey scored 2 runs each for Bolton as the Brewers belted out 13 hits and drew 7 walks.

June

Caledon Senior Hockey League celebrates fiftieth season of competition and camaraderie

Mike Gasparini, Bill Moyer, and Dave Shoalts are gathered for a hot beverage and chinwag at Tim Hortons in Bolton—just down the hill from the arena that holds most of the Caledon Senior Hockey League's best on-ice memories. After celebrating Season #50 with over 135 guests at its Annual Banquet at Caesar's Centre in early May, it's apparent these CSHL stalwarts are experiencing the lingering effects of a good party and a gathering of kindred souls. Shoalts—the retired, award-winning Globe and Mail sports reporter and author of Hockey Fight in Canada—served as Emcee of the gala event. Gasparini—a CSHL legend who has skated in all fifty of the league's seasons—offered an ironic, good-natured dig at Shoalts: "Other than the Emcee, it was a great night and it was nicely done. Each guest received a gift, each female guest received a rose, and we had a great prize table." Moyer, a CHSL regular for thirty-six years and the organization's Vice President, also praised Shoalts's mic work on May 3 as well as the joys of league membership: "It was a professional event."

Hall Wolfpack wins second consecutive ROPSSAA Varsity Baseball championship

A high school baseball dynasty could be on the horizon for the Hall Wolfpack. The Varsity Boys Baseball team cruised to an 11-1 win over St. Paul's (Mississauga) to capture their second consecutive ROPSSAA championship. With only three graduating players and a returning core rich in talent heading into their Grade 12 year in 2024-25, the prospect of a three-peat is a possibility for the East Caledon powerhouse. Although the Wolfpack trounced St. Paul's in the title game by ten runs, it was a pair of narrow victories—6-5 over Humberview in the semifinals and 12-9 over Loyola in the quarterfinals—which created their pathway to the championship final.

July

35 teams compete in Caledon FC's First Annual "Heart of Caledon" Soccer Tournament

Caledon FC's Executive Director Gabe Borges was busy fielding calls while convening a seven-division, two-day soccer tournament. The amiable administrator took a break, scanned the five verdant fields of the Caledon East Community Complex, and, with a sense of accomplishment, observed that "It's beautiful to see the park filled with games all day." Thirty-five soccer teams from across Ontario—Niagara Falls, Aurora, Muskoka, Acton, Collingwood, Burlington, Ottawa, Windsor, Simcoe, Erin Mills, Toronto, Puslinch, and Milton—vied for the host club's tournament hardware. Borges also noted

that six Caledon United FC rep teams competed in the 1st Annual "Heart of Caledon": "We've got a wide range of divisions for our first tournament: U13 Boys and U13 Girls; U14 Boys; U15 Boys and U15 Girls; U16 Boys; and Men's.

Bolton Brewers capture NDBL pennant with dramatic 12-11 win over Owen Sound Baysox

The Bolton Brewers' recipe for success has been a simple one this season: use big innings to bludgeon and subdue their opponents. This game in Owen Sound was no exception as the powerhouse Brewers exploded for eight runs in the sixth inning during their regular season finale. Home runs by Chris Fafalios and Jack Larmer, a game-winning hit by player-coach Mike Wallace, and a 156-pitch CG performance by Matteo Struthers helped Bolton secure a 12-11 win over the second-place Baysox and the NDBL pennant.

August

Caledon's Alysha Newman captures bronze in Paris--Canada's first Olympic medal in Women's Pole Vault

Caledon resident Alysha Newman made history in France at the 33rd Olympiad. Newman cleared 4.85 meters to win Canada's first Olympic medal in the Women's Pole Vault. The 30-year-old three-time Olympian improved her own national record en-route to a bronze medal in Paris. The veteran Athletics team member—who has donned the Team Canada singlet in Rio (2016), Tokyo (2021), and Paris (2024)—is Canada's first pole vaulter to win an Olympic medal in the sport in 112 years.

U13AA Caledon Hawks capture Summer League Championship at Scotiabank Pond with 8-1 drubbing of Pacific Mall Patriots

The Dark Knights Hockey Team—in essence, the U13AA Caledon Hawks—won the Carnevale Hockey Group Summer League championship in Toronto. The team defeated the Pacific Mall Patriots 8-1 to hoist the championship hardware. As Head Coach Jim Schutz explained, "From late-May to August 12th, right from the get go, we outskated teams over the 14-game regular schedule. Our guys were really coachable, we adjusted forechecking strategies, and the players responded well to instruction. Their commitment level was excellent for the entire summer season." They seized the summer league opportunity to build team spirit and take advantage of extra ice time in Toronto before their Fall season.

September

Caledon's Roenik Mahal fires two goals to cue 4-3 comeback victory over the Port Perry

Lumberjacks in PJHL action

The Caledon Golden Hawks bounced back from a narrow 4-2 loss in Schomberg by defeating the Lumberjacks 4-3 in Port Perry. Roenik Mahal paced the Golden Hawks' offence versus Port Perry with two goals. Josiah Dunkley opened the scoring against the Lumberjacks and Anton Smirov closed the scoring by firing the game winner with 62 seconds left to complete Caledon's comeback victory. In the subsequent game, the Golden Hawks came out flying in Schomberg. Liam Noonan took a pass from Josiah Dunkley and beat Cougars netminder Anthony Paolini 31 seconds into the game to send a shock wave through the Trisan Centre. Dunkley, hot off a pre-season hat trick against Midland, put Caledon up 2-0 before five minutes had elapsed.

October

5 athletes, 3 builders, and 1 team slated for Induction into Caledon Sports Hall of Fame

The Town of Caledon announced that five athletes, three builders, and one team will comprise the Caledon Sports Hall of Fame's Class of 2025. The Induction Ceremony will take place on Wednesday, January 29, 2025 from 7 – 9 p.m. at the Caledon East Community Complex banquet hall. This year's list of honorees: Athlete Category: Lisa Bentley – Triathlete; Beverly (McKnight) Holden – Synchronized Swimmer; Zoe MacKinnon – Field Hockey; Keith McCreary – Ice Hockey; Douglas Wood – Pole Vaulter. Builder Category: Angus Doughty – Nordic Skiing Coach/High School Sports Coach; Barrie Shepley – Triathlon Coach; Douglas Wood – Pole Vaulting Coach. Team Category: 1967 Bolton Kinsmen Juvenile 'C' Team – Don Casey, Jim Casey, Bill Clements, John Deachman, Jim Farquharson, Eugene Fewster, Perry Ford, Wayne Kirby, Karl Koper, Dale Lemon, John Lostchuck (manager), Chris Markey, Peter Markle (trainer), Bruce Matson, Roy McKay (coach), Harvey Newlove, Ted Praught, and Rob Salvian.

December

'Tis the Season for giving and, for the second consecutive year, the U15BB Caledon Hawks have exceeded their laudable Food Drive goal. In keeping with the spirit of Christmas, this remarkable rep hockey team raised 1,110 lbs. of non-perishable food donations for Caledon Community Services/The Exchange in Bolton. According to team spokesperson and sponsor coordinator Silvana Robinson, "the team's goal this year was 1,000 pounds. but they were able to exceed it through hard work and teamwork. Last year, their goal was 500 pounds and they exceeded that by 51 pounds. The team once again came together for the community and set the bar higher because they believed in themselves that they could do better and they did."

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ARTICLES FOR SALE

Original Arathoon canvas for sale



For sale is "Pine on the Ridge" (Small Study) by Canadian artist David Arathoon. It was created in the 1990s and sold at a Caledon-based charity auction. Frame measures 20" by 17.25" and canvas is 11.5" by 8.5". Valued at \$450. David Arathoon has achieved national success with numerous solo and group exhibitions in many private and public galleries, such as the Hummingbird Center for the Performing Arts, Toronto. Arathoon has been instrumental in successful fundraising efforts with his original art and limited edition prints. His prints have raised over \$100,000 for various charities. Asking \$300 obo. Email mpavilons@rogers.com

ARTICLES FOR SALE

Helen Lucas original for sale - "The Holy Spirit"



For sale is a unique original painting by renowned floral artist, the late Helen Lucas. "Holy Spirit," is an original acrylic on wood frame piece that captures spirituality in a simple way, through a dove. Created in 2017. The small set of originals was meant to be printed as art cards for a church fundraiser. Only 5-6 of these doves exist (in different poses) so they are truly rare. This is the only one of its kind. Measures 19.5" by 23.5". Lucas originals are quite valuable and sought after. This is unlike anything else in her collection. "... the Holy Spirit descended in a bodily form, as a dove, upon him, and a voice came out of heaven, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased." Asking \$500. Email mpavilons@rogers.com for more.

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The more things change...

**SHERALYN ROMAN
TALK CALEDON**



Perhaps you've heard the expression, "the more things change, the more they stay the same?"

With this quick little year "in review" column, having scanned previous columns written as far back as January 4, 2024, it has become glaringly obvious to me that very little has changed in Caledon over the past year.

The only thing good I can say about that is at least construction hasn't started on the proposed Highway 413 yet! Otherwise, the exercise of reading past columns has simply highlighted that not much has changed at all.

We started January with a look at the carnage on Caledon roads and sadly it's continued unabated. There continue to be far too many accidents resulting in life-ending or life-altering injuries on all of our major roads. It's a topic that has come up over and over again, aided by the enormous increase in illegal trucking yards here (and in neighbouring Vaughan and Brampton) and when combined with allegations of truck and/or driver training schools selling licenses or providing poor training, it's looking like the mayhem on our roads will continue for the foreseeable future. An increase in aggregate trucking caused by the potential of a new mega-quarry and the expansion of an existing one will only add to the carnage.

As we close out the year there is one bright spot and that's the tour de force that is the Caledon Community Road Safety Advocacy Group. In a very short time this group has galvanized the community, reached the ears of Caledon Council, the Region of Peel and most recently, those of the provincial government when MPP Jennifer French, Critic for Highways, Infrastructure & Transportation, met with, listened and then agreed, to present a CCRSA petition on the floor of the legislature. Sure, it might have been nice if it was our own MPP Sylvia Jones who stood up on our behalf, but thank you to Jennifer French and the hard-working team behind CCRSA for making this happen.

Maybe change is possible? According to the CCRSA, "This is only the beginning - we will be continuing to advocate for Caledon on all our road safety and illegal truck yard issues. We will keep going until some meaningful change is made." Let's hope next year's "in review" column will focus more on change and less of the same old thing making headlines.

In other news, early in 2024, citizens lambasted the Mayor for 12 MZOs related to land development in our community, to accommodate upwards of 35,000 homes being foisted upon us by the provincial government. Acknowledging that growth will happen is one thing, but people continue to raise questions about the process behind that growth, and whether any of it will be for affordable housing? Well, it appears that not much has changed since that first column, at least until now.

Recently, a group known as Democracy Caledon, whose mission it is "to champion an open, democratic, public-inclusive process for municipal decision making which affects Caledon's residents" weighed in. The prospect of using Ministerial Zoning Orders to assume control over 5,000 acres of land by using strong mayor powers has, according to area resident and President of Democracy Caledon Debbe Crandall, left this group with no choice but to bring legal action against the Town. Saying, "There's too much at risk for us to do nothing," the Town was served notice by the group, expressing concerns about the illegality of "fast-tracking" the housing develop-

ments approvals process. These concerns include a significant increase to resident taxes; the rezoning of agricultural lands and the greenbelt, and that water, sewage, roads and other public services cannot be appropriately planned nor paid for under the current plan.

While the Mayor has contended in the past that development charges will pay for development, actions taken at the provincial level suggesting development fees be waived (also discussed previously in a past column) and the use of MZOs in the first place, each suggest that such a massive building and infrastructure project will leave Caledon residents on the hook for costs and that these costs will be paid for through a massive tax increase. MZOs keep coming up and despite this legal tactic, I've a feeling that they will continue to do so for as long as this current Council is sitting, and the voting patterns of individual councillors stay the same.

Health and wellness also came up a few times this year, certainly personally for me and at least one other regular contributor to this paper, and in terms of the health and well-being of our community. We are blessed with a multitude of social service agencies and non-profits that support area residents, but the number of those who require support, whether due to food insecurity, rising mortgage and rental pricing, lack of employment opportunities or other factors, also continues to rise. Those who do have a steady income, a roof over their heads and stability are often just one diagnosis away from having that stability swept out from underneath them. The "hamster wheel" continues to be in full effect as we relentlessly pursue "wealth," (or at least a living wage) all the while forgetting that health is where true wealth lies. Without health, nothing else matters. Yet, as humans, even as we fall off the hamster wheel, perhaps even taking a bit of time to recharge after a health scare, we clamber back on – running in circles – as we literally start the cycle all over again. Lessons learned? Not so much it would seem.

Finally, we also addressed the role of our local Integrity Commissioner in this space back in July of this year, with specific reference to ongoing concerns raised by area residents, noting that Caledon's Commissioner seemed to be quite busy. Integrity matters, we commented at the time, and "in the more things stay the same," here the issue has resurfaced once again as the Ford government introduced new legislation recently, called the Municipal Accountability Act, 2024. It's meant to "strengthen the municipal code of conduct and integrity commissioner framework in order to allow for the creation of a standard code of conduct for all municipalities and require mandatory code of conduct training for members of Council and certain local boards." While it's never a bad idea to have an integrity commissioner in place or to offer training to anyone serving in a public role, perhaps if things ACTUALLY changed, we'd have less need for the work of an integrity commissioner in the first place.

Let's hope we don't have continued carnage on Caledon roads, MZOs, unnecessary highways, aggregate truck traffic, health and welfare issues, illegal truck yards and property tax hikes to write about next year. Sadly, I'm a tad pessimistic this will come to pass. After all, the more things change, the more they seem to stay the same.

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