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FREE Thursday, January 9, 2025 Volume 45, Issue 1



WELCOMING 2025 – Mayor Annette Groves and Council helped the community usher in the New Year on Sunday, January 5, at the 21st annual Winter Fest Celebration held at Mayfield Recreation Complex. Pictured here are Councillors Cosimo Napoli and David Sheen, Mayor Groves, and Councillors Christina Early, Mario Russo, and Doug Maskell.

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More than 1,000 sign petition to save skating on Palgrave Pond

Petition started after Town and TRCA announced skating on pond was no longer allowed

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Caledon residents are rallying to save

the tradition of skating on Palgrave Pond. An online petition has been started in support of skating on the pond and, so far, 1,500 people have signed it. The petition can be found at the following link: <https://chng.it/c5J9VnKj4q>

In December, members of the volunteer group Palgrave Pond Community Inc. (PPCI) were told by Town of Caledon staff that skating would no longer be allowed on the Palgrave Pond and that they could no longer maintain the pond for skating.

The Town of Caledon made the decision to ban skating alongside the Toronto and

Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), which owns the pond.

Under the leadership of Ken Hunt, a Palgrave resident known as the "Ice Angel", the Palgrave Pond has been diligently maintained for public use for the last 25 years. Each year, many Caledon residents come out to enjoy playing hockey on the pond or skating the skating trail.

The online petition to save skating on the pond was started by Nicole Wilkins, secretary of PPCI.

Continued on Page A15

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Community Road Safety Advocacy Group continues fight

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

A group of Caledon residents have taken their fight for safer roads to the provincial government.

The Caledon Community Road Safety Advocacy Group (CCRSA) recently brought a petition for safer roads, improvements to truck driver training, and more tools to deal with illegal trucking yards to the Ontario Legislature.

Continued on Page A13

Caledon set to implement Youth Advisory Committee

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Caledon youth will soon have a new way to make their voice heard.

At Caledon Council's January 7 General Committee meeting, Councillors approved terms of reference for a new Youth Advisory Committee (YAC).

As the terms of reference were approved, a YAC establishment bylaw will

come to Council's January 28 meeting for final approval.

If approved, Caledon will begin looking for youth to serve on the committee in February.

Caledon Council, through a motion from Mayor Annette Groves, first directed Town staff to look into creating a YAC at its May 21, 2024 meeting.

Continued on Page A14

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Caledon residents and Caledon Tim Hortons restaurants raised over \$15,000 for local non-profit Cassie's Place during the Holiday Smile Cookie campaign.

CASSIE'S PLACE PHOTO

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Holiday Smile Cookie campaign raises more than \$15,000 for Cassie's Place

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
 LOCAL JOURNALISM
 INITIATIVE REPORTER

Caledon residents and local Tim Hortons restaurants came together to raise money for a good cause this holiday season.

By purchasing Holiday Smile Cookies at one of four Caledon Tim Hortons locations (the two in Bolton, one in Caledon Village, and one at Airport and Mayfield Roads), residents contributed to Cassie's Place, a home away from home for individuals with differing abilities.

The local non-profit provides programs like swimming, dance, yoga and music for its participants, all free of charge.

Cassie's Place volunteer Joe Sassine said he was very happy with the success of this year's campaign and that Cassie's Place is becoming more and more well-known in the community.

"We all put our best foot forward and we got a great response from residents," said Sassine.

This latest campaign was the second to benefit Cassie's Place, and Sassine said the non-profit is looking forward to the next campaign already.

Sassine said the local Tim Hortons restaurant owners are impressed with what Cassie's Place does for the community and how it covers its expenses responsibly.

Deadline for 2024 charitable donations extended to end of February

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
 LOCAL JOURNALISM
 INITIATIVE REPORTER

Canadians can make a charitable donation and claim a tax credit for 2024 until the end of February.

The Federal Government announced this in an effort to mitigate the impact of last year's month-long Canada Post strike on the nation's non-profits during their busiest time of year.

For Caledon's Bethell Hospice, the extension will make a big difference in its Light & Love campaign, which usually runs from October to December 31. Now, it will run until February 28.

Nicole Hand, Executive Director of the Bethell Hospice Foundation, said the ex-

tension will have a huge impact.

"The four-week Canada Post stoppage has had a huge impact on our signature fundraiser as many donors typically send their cheques through the mail. The extension to February 28 will provide our charity with the time needed to receive and process additional donations and allow us to reach our goal of \$255,000," she said.

The Bethell Hospice Foundation has raised over \$200,000 through its Light & Love initiative so far, and hopes to raise the next \$50,000 by February 28.

Donations to the campaign can be made by calling 905-838-3534 ext. 2248; visiting bethellhospicelightandlove.ca; or visiting the Foundation's office at 15835 McLaughlin Road during regular business hours.

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Alyssia Fullington and Giovanni Altrui's son, Alessio, was the first baby born at Headwaters Health Care Centre this year. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

First baby born at Headwaters this year is a boy

Alyssia Fullington and Giovanni Altrui welcomed baby Alessio to the world at 5:37 a.m.

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Two Orangeville residents started off the new year in the best possible way.

Alyssia Fullington and Giovanni Altrui welcomed their son, Alessio, to the world at 5:37 a.m. on January 1 at the Headwaters Health Care Centre.

Alessio, born weighing 7 pounds and 11 ounces, was the first baby to be born in 2025 at the hospital.

Alessio's grandmother has worked in the emergency department at Headwaters Health Care Centre for nine years and Alyssia and Giovanni said this contributed to making Alessio's birth a memorable moment.

Alyssia and Giovanni said they were happy to choose Headwaters for the birth of their son and thanked the doctor that helped them, Dr. Umeh, for making them feel confident and at ease every step of the way.

In 2024, there were 847 babies born at the Headwaters Health Care Centre.

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29.97

5⁹⁹ SAVE \$1 **4⁹⁹ SAVE \$1**

Crinkle Cut Fries 600 g **California Style Mixed Vegetables** 500 g

9⁹⁹ SAVE \$2

Chicken Quesadillas
4 PIECES 500 g

27.97

5⁹⁹ SAVE \$1 **11⁹⁹ SAVE \$4**

Seasoned Potato Wedges 600 g **Extreme Caramel Cake** 470 g

WHILE QUANTITIES LAST

15⁹⁹ SAVE \$4

Bacon Wrapped Chicken
4 PIECES x 142 g/5 oz

29.97

8⁹⁹ SALE **4⁹⁹ SAVE \$1**

Grilled Mini Potatoes 500 g **Bistro-style Green Beans** 300 g

14⁹⁹ SAVE \$3

Sweet & Sour Chicken 975 g

24.98

9⁹⁹ SAVE \$2

Chicken Fried Rice 680 g

11⁹⁹ SAVE \$2

Stuffed Potatoes 560 g

28.97

4⁹⁹ SAVE \$1 **11⁹⁹ SAVE \$1**

Seasoned Sweet Peas 300 g **Maple Butter Pork Chops** 4 PIECES 500 g

7⁹⁹ SALE

Mushroom Medley 300 g

25.97

2⁹⁹ SALE

Demi Baguette 1 PIECE 200 g

14⁹⁹ SAVE \$3

Philly Beef Steak 4 PORTIONS 336 g

HOW SWEET IT IS!

3⁹⁹

Blossoms 2 PORTIONS 230 g

SALE

Apple, Bumble, Caramel Apple

9⁹⁹ SAVE \$2

Ice Cream Cookie Sandwiches
6 SANDWICHES 600 mL 2 Varieties

SALE

Chocolate Chip

6⁹⁹ SALE

Cakes 2 PORTIONS 228 g - 280 g

Caramel Sea Salt, Lavaliicious Chocolate

6⁹⁹ SALE

Homestyle Key Lime Pies 2 PIECES 264 g

4⁹⁹ SALE

Apple Crisps 2 PORTIONS 228 g

MULTI-SERVE MEALS 907 g

12⁹⁹

SAVE \$2

Fettuccine Alfredo, Three Cheese Pasta Bake, Lasagna, Vegetable Lasagna, White Cheddar Mac & Cheese with Bacon

PREMIUM SINGLE SERVES 370 g - 400 g

7⁹⁹ each

Chicken Carbonara, Italian Sausage and Penne, Chicken Dumplings and Noodles, Chicken Burrito Bowl, Sweet & Sour Chicken, Mediterranean Chicken, General Tao Chicken, Korean Style Beef

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TWO CHARGED IN HOME INVASION INVESTIGATION

Officers from the Caledon OPP have laid charges against a second person in connection to last Thursday's home invasion investigation.

"On January 2, 2025, shortly after 5:00 a.m., officers were dispatched to a private residence on Ann McKee Street in Caledon East for a report of a home invasion in progress," say Police. "The suspect was operating a black Jeep Wrangler. Investigators are looking for surveillance or dashcam footage of the area on January 2, 2025, between the hours of 5:15 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. It is believed that this was a targeted incident and that there is no imminent threat to public safety.

"Later that same day, the black Jeep Wrangler was located, and a suspect was arrested. The Caledon Community Street Crime Unit, with the assistance of the Caledon Major Crime Unit and OPP Centre Region Canine, executed a search warrant on both the suspect vehicle and residence. A handgun, ammunition, and a stolen Porsche were among the seized property."

As a result of the ongoing investigation, Abhishek Shukhand, 26, of Caledon, was

charged with:

- Break, enter a dwelling house with intent to commit indictable offence;
- Unauthorized possession of a prohibited or restricted firearm;
- Criminal harassment - threatening conduct;
- Unlawfully in dwelling house;
- Possession of weapon for dangerous purpose;
- Possession property obtained by crime over \$5000;
- Possession of loaded prohibited or restricted firearm;
- Possession of a prohibited device or ammunition;
- Tampering with serial number of a firearms.

The charges have not been proven. As part of the investigation, a second suspect was identified.

On January 5, 2025, Abhinav Bhardwaj, 25, of Caledon, was arrested and charged with:

- Unauthorized possession of a prohibited or restricted firearm;
- Possession of loaded prohibited or restricted firearm;
- Possession of a prohibited device or ammunition;
- Tampering with serial number of a fire-

arms.

The charges have not been proven. Both accused were held for a Bail Hearing at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville.

The investigation is led by the Caledon OPP Major Crime Unit with the assistance from the Caledon Community Street Crime Unit. Anyone with information in relation to this incident is asked to please contact the Caledon Major Crime Unit at 1-888-310-1122. You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at <https://peelcrimestoppers.ca>. When you contact Crime Stoppers you stay anonymous, and you never have to testify.

BREAK & ENTER CHARGES

Officers from the Caledon OPP have laid charges in connection to a break and enter.

"On January 3, 2025, shortly after 6:00 a.m., officers were dispatched to a private residence in Bolton for a report of a break and enter in progress," say Police. "Officers responded promptly and arrested the lone suspect while they were fleeing the scene."

As a result of the investigation, Anmol Dhanoa, 29, of Brampton, was charged with:

- Break, enter a dwelling house with intent to commit indictable offence;
- Mischief under \$5000;
- Failure to comply with release order [x2];
- Failure to comply with probation order [x2].

The accused was held for a Bail Hearing at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville.

The charges have not been proven. Anyone with information in relation to this incident is asked to please contact the Caledon OPP at 1-888-310-1122.

You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at www.peelcrimestoppers.ca. When you contact Crime Stoppers you stay anonymous, and you never have to testify.

CHARGES FOLLOWING ALLEGED BOXING DAY SHOPLIFTING

Members of the Caledon OPP investigated a shoplifting incident and arrested a suspect and laid charges for multiple criminal code offences.

"On December 26, 2024, shortly after 4:30 p.m., officers responded to a report of a shop-

lifting incident that had just occurred at an LCBO store in Bolton," say Police. "A vehicle description was provided. Upon arrival, the vehicle was located, and the suspect was arrested. The investigation revealed that the accused was in possession of a stolen vehicle."

As a result of the investigation, Paramjit Sandhu, 39, of no fixed address, was charged with:

- Theft under \$5000 - shoplifting - two counts;
- Possession property obtained by crime over \$5000;
- Possession of an identify document;
- Possession of a credit card;
- Operation while prohibited under the criminal code;
- Having care or control of vehicle with cannabis in open original packaging;
- Fail to comply with probation order - three counts.

The accused was held for a Bail Hearing at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville.

The charges have not been proven. The Ontario Provincial Police is committed to public safety, delivering proactive and innovative policing in partnership with our communities. If you suspect illegal activity, report it by calling 1-888-310-1122 or 9-1-1 for emergencies. You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at www.peelcrimestoppers.ca. When you contact Crime Stoppers, you stay anonymous, and you never have to testify.

IMPAIRED DRIVING CHARGES

Officers from the Caledon OPP have charged a driver of a vehicle stopped on the side of the road with impaired operation.

"On January 3, 2025, shortly after 11:30 p.m., Caledon OPP attended to a report of a vehicle stopped on the shoulder on McLaughlin Road, near King Street," say Police. "Upon arrival, the investigation led officers to form grounds that the driver's ability to operate a motor vehicle was impaired by alcohol, and subsequently made an arrest."

As a result, Taranpreet Singh, 28, of Caledon, was charged with:

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

The charge has not been proven.

The accused is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on January 23, 2025, to answer to the charge. The driver's licence was also suspended for 90 days, and the vehicle impounded for seven.

Continued on Page A5

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CLUES ACROSS

- Hand (Spanish)
- Siskel and __, critics
- Seaman
- Chemical weapon
- One who eliminates
- They precede C
- Baseball stat
- Americans' "uncle"
- Cassia tree
- Surround
- Crisp and Pebbles are two
- A sudden very loud sound
- Affirmative
- Disadvantage
- Corpuscle count (abbr.)
- OJ trial judge
- New York art district
- Become more bleak
- Upstate NY city
- Clarified butters
- One who witnesses
- Condemn
- __ juris
- Natural
- Prohibit
- Swiss river
- Greek war god
- 5 iron
- New Zealand mountain parrot
- Scandinavian surname
- Follows sigma
- Doctor of Education
- Spanish be
- One that feeds on bugs
- Tooth issue
- Get into
- Lumps of clay
- Overly studious student
- CLUES DOWN**
- Variety of Chinese
- Boxing's GOAT
- Japanese classical
- theater
- Prayer
- Inspire with love
- Ballplayers' accessory
- Retailer payment system
- More raw
- Atomic #81
- Fencing sword
- Hostilities
- Sea dweller
- Resinlike substance secreted by certain insects
- Businessmen
- Rest here please (abbr.)
- Loud devices
- Make a soft murmuring sound
- One point west of due south
- Trout
- Type of grass
- South American
- plant
- Letter of the Greek alphabet
- Not secure
- Traveler
- Sweet potato
- Period after sunrise and before sunset
- Some are choppy
- Asian country
- Genus of mosquitoes
- Cool!
- Shrill, wailing sound
- A baglike structure in a plant or animal
- Within
- Unhappy
- Decorate a cake with frosting
- Videocassette recorder
- Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
- It cools a home

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

IMPAIRED DRIVING CHARGES

Continued from Page A4

“On December 30, 2024, just after 10:00 p.m., an officer on patrol located a vehicle with no front plate and no headlights on Airport Road, in the Town of Caledon,” say Police. “The vehicle was stopped and found to have significant front-end collision damage. It was later discovered that the driver was involved in a failed to remain collision in Brampton earlier that same day. During the interaction, the officer 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, Surjeet Singh, 30, of Cambridge, was charged with:

- Operation while impaired – alcohol;
- Failure or refusal to comply with demand;
- Driving motor vehicle with open container of liquor;
- Drive with improper headlights;

- Drive motor vehicle, fail to display two plates;
- Operate unsafe vehicle.

The charges have not been proven. The accused is scheduled to attend the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on January 16, 2025, to answer to the charges. The driver’s licence was also suspended for 90 days, and the vehicle impounded for seven.

On December 29, 2024, shortly after 5:00 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle head-on collision on Highway 10 at Charleston Sideroad. Minor injuries were sustained. During the interaction with one of the drivers, grounds were formed that their ability to operate a motor vehicle was impaired by alcohol and was subsequently arrested.

As a result of the investigation, Maheswaran Ratnam, 47, of Caledon, 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 January 16, 2025, to answer to the charges. The driver’s licence was also suspended for 90 days, and the vehicle im-

pounded for seven.

TEXT MESSAGE SCAMS

Officers from the Dufferin OPP responded to reports of attempted Frauds in the area, and would like to notify the public of a newer trend.

“This month, Dufferin County OPP were contacted by individuals who were sent a text message from whom appeared to be the Ontario Government, in regards to traffic violations,” say Police. “With the increase in Photo Radar – Automated Speed Enforcement, some fraudsters are attempting to cash in on a common driving infraction. Please understand that if you are ticketed for speeding using these devices, you will not receive a text message. The ticket will be mailed out to the registered address of the vehicle’s owner, making them aware of the infraction and the corresponding penalty.

“As members of the public become more informed and educated about fraud, fraudsters are becoming more sophisticated. Police are strongly recommending that people slow the process down and verify

all information that they receive before proceeding.”

The Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre is Canada’s national, joint force anti-fraud repository whose mandate includes gathering intelligence on all types of frauds and analyzing the data that helps guide police investigations.

The Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre also provides education and awareness on fraud prevention, to become educated on the many different types of fraud that may affect you, please visit www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca.

When you buy from a **small business** you're not helping a C.E.O buy a 3rd holiday home, you are helping a little girl get **dance lessons**, a little boy get his **team jersey**, a mom or dad put **food on the table**, a family **pay a mortgage** or a student **pay for college**.

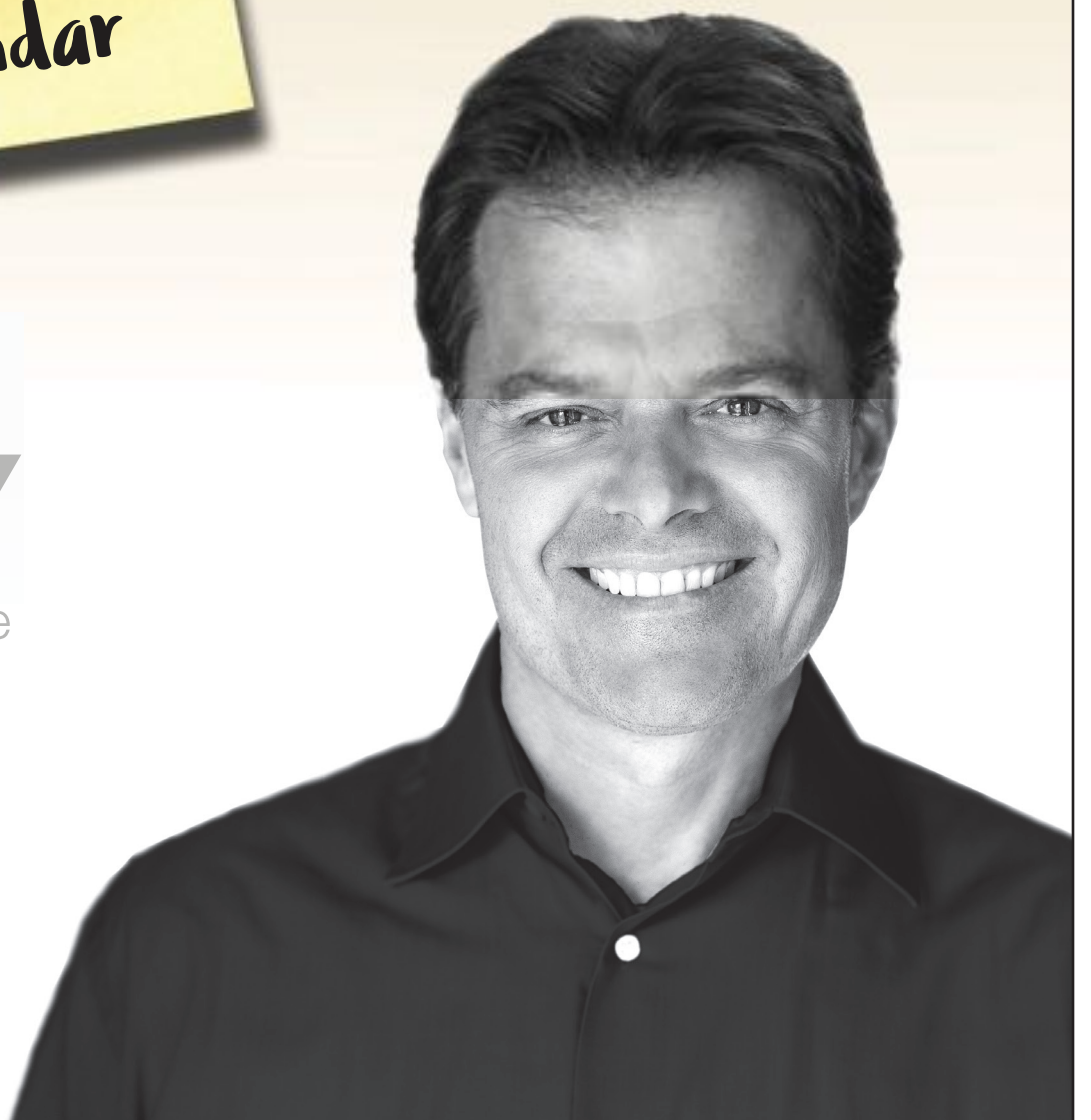
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Ground-breaking ceremony held for new Caledon East Public School

School will accommodate up to 650 students

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Caledon East will have a new public school in time for the 2026-2027 school year.

On December 19, a ground-breaking ceremony was held to mark the start of construction on a new public school in Caledon East.

The existing Caledon East Public School was built in 1971 and expanded in 1998 to accommodate 254 students. As Caledon East has grown, the school can no longer accommodate the area's growing population.

In response to Caledon East's growth, the Ministry of Education awarded the Peel District School Board (PDSB) with \$32.4 million to construct a new school that can accommodate up to 650 students.

The new school will have a four-room childcare centre, creating 73 licensed child care spaces for infants, toddlers and preschool-aged children. The school will also feature six dedicated kindergarten rooms to support early learners.

The new Caledon East Public School will be built by Quad Pro Construction based on designs from MG Architects. Construction is scheduled to be complete by June 2026.

The old Caledon East Public School will be demolished in July and August of 2026, and the new school will open its doors in September of that year.

PDSB Chair David Green said he's deeply grateful to the Ministry of Education for the funding for a new school in Caledon East.

"Education is the cornerstone of progress and this new school will be an environment where students, teachers, support staff and community will be inspired every day," said Green.

Caledon's PDSB Trustee Stan Camer-



A ground-breaking ceremony for the new Caledon East Public School was held on December 19.

PDSB PHOTO

on said the new school is a tremendous investment and marks a pivotal moment for Caledon East.

"It's not just about classrooms; it's about creating a space where families can connect, children can thrive, and the entire community can feel supported," said Cameron. "The replacement building not only addresses the needs of our growing community but also sets the standard for modern, sustainable educational spaces — a win for students, families, and staff alike."

Rashmi Swarup, the PDSB's Director of Education, said the school will nurture the

future of the Caledon East community.

"With modern learning spaces and a dedicated childcare centre, the new Caledon East Public School will be a first-rate learning environment that will inspire both students and families," said Swarup.

Ontario Minister of Education Jill Dunlop said families in growing parts of Ontario need to have access to modern schools close to home.

"Our government is proud to deliver the largest one-year investment in new schools in Ontario history and I'm excited to work with all our partners in education to sup-

port these vital infrastructure projects," said Dunlop.

Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones echoed Dunlop's sentiment.

"Our government is investing over \$32 million to get shovels in the ground on the new Caledon East Public School to meet the needs of local families in this growing community. By increasing the number of students accommodated from 254 to up to 650, we are ensuring students and staff can thrive in a new, state-of-the-art school for years to come," said Jones.



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From left: Fire Chief Dave Pelayo; Mayor Annette Groves; Solicitor General Michael Kerzner; MPP Sylvia Jones; Deputy Chief Rob Grimwood (President, Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs); and Acting Ontario Fire Marshal John McBeth. TOWN OF CALEDON PHOTO

Caledon Fire receives \$74,000 grant

Grant will support purchase of coveralls for career and volunteer firefighters

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Caledon firefighters will get new coveralls with help from a Provincial grant.

On December 19, the Town of Caledon announced Caledon Fire and Emergency Services had received a \$74,000 grant from the Fire Protection Grant Program, an initiative of the Province of Ontario and Solicitor General's Office.

With the grant money, Caledon Fire will purchase new polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)-free coveralls to use for non-fire suppression activities.

Firefighters are often exposed to carcinogens that can lead to cancer, and studies have shown firefighters are up to four times more likely to develop cancer than the general population.

According to the Town, the new cover-

alls, which comply with NFPA 1977 standards for protective clothing, will reduce exposure to PFAS from contaminated bunker gear to firefighters.

Caledon's Fire Chief Dave Pelayo said the grant supports one of Caledon Fire's most critical missions: ensuring the health and safety of its firefighters.

"By reducing exposure to hazardous substances, we are investing in their long-term wellbeing and demonstrating our unwavering commitment to operational excellence," said Pelayo.

Michael Kerzner, Ontario's Solicitor General, said firefighters put service over self every day.

"Our government has been a leader in protecting them, while they're protecting us. Today's announcement is another concrete step to make sure these heroes get the care, resources and support they deserve," said Kerzner.

Caledon Mayor Annette Groves said the grant is a significant step forward.

"As our community continues to grow rapidly, it's critical that we invest in the wellbeing of our firefighters, who play a vital role in protecting our residents," she said.



2025 Caledon Sport Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

The induction ceremony for 2025 will take place on **January 29, 2025, from 7 – 9 p.m.** at the banquet hall at the Caledon East Community Complex (CECC).

Get your tickets today and come celebrate our 2025 inductees!

ATHLETES

- Lisa Bentley – Triathlete
- Beverly (McKnight) Holden – Synchronized Swimmer
- Zoe MacKinnon – Field Hockey
- Keith McCreary – Ice Hockey
- Douglas Wood – Pole Vaulter

BUILDERS

- Angus Doughty – Nordic Skiing Coach/High School sports coach
- Barrie Shepley – Triathlon Coach
- Douglas Wood – Pole Vaulting Coach

TEAM

- 1967 Bolton Kinsmen Juvenile 'C' Hockey Team

To purchase tickets please visit caledon.ca/cshof. If you have any issues or questions, please contact events@caledon.ca.



NEWS

Subscribe to the Town's email newsletter at:
caledon.ca/enews

ARTISTS WANTED!

Help celebrate 100 years of firefighting in Caledon



The Town is seeking a talented artist or artist team to design a mural celebrating a century of service, dedication, and community spirit. Applications are open now until January 31. Visit caledon.ca/art for more details and to apply.

NEW!

Outdoor Maintenance Assistance Program



We've expanded the Snow Removal Financial Assistance Program and renamed it the Outdoor Maintenance Assistance Program.

Low-income older adults (65+), Older Adults 75+, and low-income persons with disabilities in Caledon can receive up to \$500 towards service costs for snow removal, grass cutting, garden maintenance and leaf raking.

If you're a Windrow Removal Assistance Pilot Program recipient, you cannot apply to the Outdoor Maintenance Assistance Program.

Apply today at: caledon.ca/adult55.

Nominations for the Civic Awards Program are now open



Nominate someone for our Volunteer Service Awards and our Citizen Achievement Awards between now and January 31, 2025! For full details on eligibility criteria visit caledon.ca/civicawardsprogram.

Playground improvements



The Town has launched surveys to guide 2025 Playground Improvements for several neighbourhood parks throughout Caledon.



Visit haveyoursaycaledon.ca/design-our-parks and share your feedback.



Help our Operations team keep the streets cleared of ice and snow so that we can all travel safely this winter!

Remove your vehicles from the road and from blocking sidewalks during winter operations (salting, sanding, plowing) and avoid being ticketed or towed!

These winter parking restrictions are in effect from November 1 until April 30.

Visit caledon.ca/winterparking for details.



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BROCK WEIR
BROCK'S BANTER

Tall orders in power vacuums

As the dawn of a new year approaches, a particular tradition in my family is to pause during the Christmas hubbub and tune into the King's Christmas Message as both a time for calm and a source of inspiration for the year ahead.

These messages are one of the rare instances where the Monarch speaks from their heart in a speech that is not drafted by any of the 14 governments that share the same King, giving us a unique insight as to what makes them tick, and what's inspired them over the previous 12 months, through a non-partisan lens.

Given this lack of politics, there are usually pearls of wisdom that set the tone for – and remind us of where we might want to be – in the year ahead.

This year was no exception. The King spoke of his pride of being with Commonwealth veterans this past spring to mark the 80th anniversary of D-Day.

"Their example of service and selflessness continues to inspire, across the generations," said the King. "During previous commemorations, we were able to console ourselves with the thought that these tragic events seldom happen in the modern era. But, on this Christmas Day, we cannot help but think of those for whom the devastating effects of conflict – in the Middle East, in Central Europe, in Africa, and elsewhere – pose a daily threat to so many people's lives and livelihoods. We also think of the humanitarian organizations working tirelessly to bring vital relief.

"All of us go through some form of suffering at some stage in our life, be it mental or physical. The degree to which we help one another – and draw support from each other, be we people of faith or of none – is a measure of our civilization as Nations. That is what continually impresses me, as my family and I meet with, and listen to, those who dedicate their lives to helping others...

"On our recent visit to the South Pacific to attend the Commonwealth Summit, I was reminded constantly of the strength which institutions, as well as individuals, can draw from one another. And how diversity of culture, ethnicity, and Faith provides strength, not weakness. Across the Commonwealth, we are held together by a willingness to listen to each other, to learn from one another, and to find just how much we have in common. Because, through listening, we learn to respect our differences, to defeat prejudice, and to open up new possibilities."

We are lucky to come from communities where the tireless work of so many to improve the lives of their neighbours and to better their streets, neighbourhoods, and the towns they call home better places to live, work and play, are routinely underscored, recognized, and celebrated. The best part is that these people rarely do any of their good deeds for the kudos, but they are bestowed nonetheless.

Yet, at the same time, when we look beyond our local communities to the province and the country, the principles of learning from one another, finding our commonalities, and listening to what others have to say – so long as there is no harm intended or done – to gain perspective are often left by the wayside due to partisan games. And there is certainly little effort to build something special from a foundational common ground.

Monday's announcement by Justin Trudeau of his intention to resign as Prime Minister

and leader of the Liberal Party as soon as his successor is chosen by party faithful was timely in underscoring this as well.

Given the pre-Christmas resignation of Finance Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland, Monday's announcement really comes as no surprise as pressure mounted on Trudeau from all parts of this country to step aside and make way for either a leadership contest, a Federal election, or an unwieldy combination of both.

The timing, however, had something of the surprise element as the writing has been on the wall for Trudeau ever since the party lost the June 24 by-election in the riding of Toronto-St. Paul's, a win which should have been a slam-dunk for the governing Liberals in almost any other circumstance.

Many pundits described the race, not inaccurately, as a review of Trudeau's leadership as much as it was a bout between the Liberals' Leslie Church, the NDP's Amrit Parhar, and ultimate Conservative victor Don Stewart.

The results being what they were, and polls being what they were and continue to be, it was confounding that Trudeau chose to stay in place for a further six months and counting until the resignation of his long-time Deputy and one of his most staunch defenders called it a day on her cabinet points, sending a pointed message to the leader while doing so, shaking the party to its core.

Now, with Monday's decision to prorogue parliament, kick off a Liberal leadership contest, and resign, we're left with a power vacuum as the first pages of an extremely challenging chapter of our political history start to be written.

Having a leadership vacuum as a new U.S. administration takes place is best avoided under the best of circumstance, but these circumstances are nothing to write home about – and could have been avoided had common sense – in the broadest of terms, not how any one party defines it – prevailed.

Now, here we are – not only facing tariff threats that will be nothing short of crippling for Canada should they transpire as proposed, but also facing increasingly audacious, unthinkable and downright ridiculous suggestions and taunts from the incoming President that our nation become the 51st state of the union. Statements from the new Finance Minister Dominic LeBlanc, who was present with Trudeau at the Mar-a-Lago event where the suggestion was first made, stating that it was merely a joke from the once-and-future leader certainly don't inspire confidence and suggest he's learned nothing about how this man operates from his first go-round.

So, where does that leave us? Well, one inevitability that seems to be coming out of this mess is there will need to be a lot of soul-searching in Canada this year on what constitutes the kind of country we are, the kind of country we want to be, and, essentially, who we are as people in order to make that happen.

As the King suggested, a "willingness to listen to each other, to learn from one another, and to find out just how much we have in common...[to] learn to respect our differences, to defeat prejudice, and to open up new possibilities" is a good start.

It might be a tall order, it might be a very basic blueprint, but taking the advice of our Head of State certainly couldn't hurt!



Knowledge isn't enough to advance our species

by Mark Pavilons



Knowledge itself is power, and it's also not free – you have to pay attention!

Adam Grove, Canadian comedian and host of the TV quiz show Cash Cab, is my companion on quiet Sunday mornings.

I cheer for the contestants and celebrate my own knowledge of general trivia.

For some reason, we humans relish in facts and factoids, even if they're elusive. We are glued to the set for shows such as Jeopardy, Who Wants to be a Millionaire and Weakest Link. Along with the brain teasers, the show hosts and contestants provide us armchair trivia buffs with endless entertainment.

Our magical brains can access, interpret, process and store limitless amounts of data. We are walking super computers, capable of millions of computations per second.

All of our brain is constantly in use and consumes a tremendous amount of energy. Despite making up only two percent of our body weight, it devours 20 per cent of our calories.

Our brains boast some 100 billion nerve cells and many more contact points between them provide our brain with capabilities that no supercomputer can match. One of its most important characteristics is its ability to learn.

It's estimated that our brains transmit 200 million bits of information every second! Most of us can't even visualize a number that big.

While we have yet to unlock the hidden secrets of the human mind, there's no doubt we are waking, talking creative bipeds, unlike anything else in the expanses of the universe.

That makes us pretty special. And no two of us are alike. That makes us rare.

Special, rare, capable of complex thoughts – boy, you would think we are the ultimate mammal. But alas, despite our unfathomable potential, most of us are under-utilized, not unlike our robo vacuums or smart doorbells.

As the amino acids (proteins) race around our bodies, we go through life rather easily, doing most tasks without really thinking about them. A simple thought sets in motion everything from skipping and scoring goals to calculating pi or the trajectory of Mars.

Our brains, unfortunately, are limited in that we have to learn and retain knowledge. That takes a willingness on our part, and, as most coaches will tell you, practice, practice and more practice.

The very first time our ancestors drew on the walls of a cave was the first time we used mind-expanding technology. Drawing was not only a way to communicate, it was a way to remember and unload our memories onto a vessel much more durable and

reliable than our brain. Every time you write down a quick note on your smart phone, you are using mind-expanding technology that multiplies the ability of your brain to remember information, and give it some sort of context and priority.

Our vast human knowledge is not the product of specific stream of information. Knowledge and ideas are gained and shared by some, then enriched by others, and finally passed on.

We have overcome historic limits and with the handy, dandy, Internet to connect all our minds, we can share knowledge without any limits or hesitation.

The "Knowledge Doubling Curve" shows that until 1900 human knowledge doubled approximately every 400 years. By the end of World War II knowledge was doubling every 25 years. Today, human knowledge is thought to double every 12 hours.

That's a lot for our noodles to handle. And more than enough to fill encyclopaedias daily.

As an armchair fan of history and ancient civilizations, I'm fascinated by what our ancestors knew and accomplished. And, it's also a mystery how some of this knowledge was lost. How did they build the pyramids? Why did the Mayans create pyramid-shaped temples? How did humans survive several extinction-level events and ice ages?

There are so many bucket-list worthy sites to visit, it boggles my mind. Some of my favourites include Machu Picchu, Petra (Rose City), Pompeii, Stonehenge, Angkor Wat, Mesa Verde, Derinkuyu, Göbekli Tepe – this list goes on and on.

Our ancestors were a remarkable bunch who were survivors. But they were engineers, clerics, mathematicians, astronomers and builders. Not only did they create the great wonders of the world, they left plenty of mysteries behind for us to figure out.

Strange, that given our propensity for knowledge retention, we didn't hang on to the tidbits our ancestors possessed. It would definitely come in handy these days, let me tell you.

I think the worst comment on humankind is that while we are the smartest creatures in our solar system, we don't always put our brilliance to the best use. We pervert scientific discoveries into weapons. We use new communication methods to relay TV reality shows. We build cars, smart phones, music apps and beauty products, instead of solving homelessness, sickness, world hunger, human conflict and aggression.

It seems our collective IQs do not reflect the greater good, and our memories are quite selective. We have not learned from history. We have not taken notes on human compassion. We have not pursued luminosity.

We hopelessly search for the fountain of youth, instead of finding ways to produce better food and saving our environment. We look to politicians instead of toward the skies, for answers.

Aristotle once said that educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.

I agree. Alas, there are no courses on self-esteem, compassion or emotional health in any curriculum. Maybe there should be.

Hopefully, one day our planet will unite and every country and its people will share the world's knowledge.

If we combine our talents – intellect, compassion, curiosity and desire to improve humankind – there's no stopping us.

Submit your **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

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Caledon Citizen

New Year, New You?

Many use the early part of a new year to make resolutions. Resolving to “do better,” “eat better,” to stop one thing, or to start another. Often, these so-called resolutions are doomed to fail, not because we aren’t earnest enough, but rather, because we put too much pressure on ourselves not only to change, but to do so with a strict deadline in mind, often one that’s not particularly realistic. Disillusionment and sometimes depression follows, as unmet goals come face to face with excuses. We see the new year as an opportunity for a “do over.” To create a “new” version of ourselves,” but I’ve always had a problem with that. What’s wrong with the old you? Are we all so bad at being ourselves that every January 1st a new and improved version is required? I don’t think so.

Think about it. Perhaps it’s never occurred to you to do anything other than jump on the new year bandwagon, resolving to lose a few pounds, get outside more often, to exercise, get more organized or learn a new skill. Objectively, of course, these are not bad things. Subjectively, however, it’s an important distinction to make when you think about WHY you are resolving to make changes. If it’s truly about self-improvement, for your own personal health and well-being, that’s one thing, but don’t forget big business (and so too, all those social media “influencers”) each have

a lot to gain by pushing the narrative that we are not quite “right” in some way, and you can bet they have a product to sell that will make us “right,” “better, faster, stronger,” in no time at all. I don’t recall seeing too many ads for treadmills before the holidays, but like magic they pop up every year in January. You can’t visit a big box store without tripping over boxes; the kind designed to make us want to store more stuff, more efficiently, in more spaces around our homes, and no doubt it was all stuff that was purchased in a big box store in the first place. I’m pretty certain all the self-storage places popping up all over town also have a vested interest in your “desire” to get more organized.

On the other hand, more positively, if your goal is to learn something new (after all, self-improvement for the brain certainly isn’t a bad thing) we were excited to learn recently that the Caledon Library has your back with Udemy, providing free access to educational tools across a wide spectrum of topics, all available through your library card. Udemy offers everything from a wide-range of personal development courses, to a series of hard skills content including certification courses that might help build not just your personal, but also your workplace credentials too.

If one of your goals before the holidays was to do some good for the community, and

you were unable to make that happen, here’s a way to do good, while getting something good in return.

Charitable organizations, due in part to the recent postal strike, have been granted the opportunity to continue collecting donations through February 28 of 2025, while still issuing tax receipts for 2024. According to The Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Finance and Intergovernmental Affairs, “Charities are at the heart of communities across Canada, lending a helping hand to those in need. This extension recognizes the impact that the Canada Post service disruption had on their fundraising campaigns, and will give charities additional time to receive and process donations so that they can continue their vital work.” It might not be a “typical” new year’s resolution, but it is a chance to help others without having to “give up” anything in return.

Perhaps it’s a little confusing that I’m kind of downplaying the importance of making resolutions then pointing out opportunities to resolve to do something! That’s me, a typical Libra seeing both sides of every possible scenario. What it really boils down to is an exhortation to do what feels right for you, not because you “should,” or because of the time of year, or because you think others might be watching or judging. Instead of vowing

to make significant change, maybe just apply the principle of learning to live in moderation. We all still deserve “good things,” even in January. Just maybe not a whole box of chocolates, or an entire bottle of wine all in one sitting. That was never a good idea, no matter the time of year.

Remember, we are each of us a compilation of every, single, life experience we have ever had – the good, the bad and the ugly. Each experience contributed to who and what we are today and that’s no small thing! Perhaps you might be familiar with that old expression “don’t throw the baby out with the bath water?”

I think it applies here. The world doesn’t need a whole new you. I’m sure there are plenty of people who love you, admire your great qualities or see you as a role model for any number of your personal attributes, whether at work, at home or in the community. So, if you resolve to do any kind of self-improvement, remember it’s called self-improvement for a reason – because it matters to you, not to anyone else. Many of us already think you are perfect just the way you are.

SHERALYN ROMAN
TALK CALEDON



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HARVEY KALLES



Pictured are examples of some of the art on display in Headwaters Arts' latest exhibition, Dreamscape.

HEADWATERS ARTS IMAGE

"Dreamscape" is first Headwaters Arts show of the new year

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Show running from
January 8 to February 9

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

A local arts non-profit is kicking off the New Year with a new members' show.

On January 8, "Dreamscape" began showing in the Headwaters Arts Gallery at the Alton Mill Arts Centre.

The show features art from 21 different artists, each depicting their interpretations of dreams.

Iris Ranieri is one of the local artists featured in the show.

"Places we visit that are etched in our memories can come to us in dreams," said Ranieri. "My pieces are always based on landscapes and cityscapes that have affect-

ed me, stayed with me and follow me in my daydreams with the hopes of returning someday. My paintings start with colour, and then progress into scenes that intuitively are released through my energy while I work."

Angela Burdon is another artist that's showing in Dreamscape. Headwaters Arts Marketing Lead Sue Powell said Burdon's fascination with the freedom of the spirit is seen in the luminous beauty of her portraits.

"She explores her passion for nature and emotion with an adventurous mix of materials and mediums," said Powell.

From 1 to 3 p.m. on January 11, an opening reception for Dreamscape will be held at the Alton Mill Arts Centre.

The Headwaters Arts Gallery is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday to Sunday and is located at 1402 Queen Street West in Alton.

Fire and Ice Festival coming to Alton Mill Arts Centre

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

A local arts centre's largest event of the year is coming soon.

From 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on January 25, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on January 26, the Alton Mill Arts Centre will host its annual Fire and Ice Festival.

With the recent cold weather, things are looking good for weather-permitting activities like the super snow slide for kids and snölykta (snow lantern) building.

The event will also feature ice carving, a photo competition, a "Lumberjack Lounge" with live author readings and music, an Ice Lounge with a view of Mill

Pond, hot chocolate and smores, crafts, food trucks and more.

At 6 p.m. on Saturday the festival's main event will go down: the burning of a fantastic fire sculpture.

The Fire and Ice Festival is a pay-what-you-can event with all proceeds going to the local arts non-profit Headwaters Arts.

There will also be a ticketed comedy event and concert held at the festival, and tickets and more information can be found online at altonmill.ca.

Those interested in volunteering at the event, sponsoring it, or being a part of the artisan vendor marketplace can also visit the aforementioned link to learn more.

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Dufferin Community Foundation names 2024 fall grant recipients



DUFFERIN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Caledon Meals on Wheels to receive funding

BY PAULA BROWN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Dufferin Community Foundation (DCF) has awarded its 2024 fall grants to five recipients.

The local community foundation announced in a press release at the end of 2024 that five charities have been awarded their first-ever Arts and Culture Fund and Environment Fund grants.

“We are so pleased to be funding these projects, some of which would not be taking place without these grants,” said Michele Fisher, Executive Director of Dufferin Community Foundation.

The Arts and Culture Fund was awarded to four local charities – Dufferin Children and Family Services, Streams Community Hub, Caledon Meals on Wheels and The Brave Canoe.

The Arts and Culture Fund provides grants to organizations that advance the public’s appreciation and awareness of the arts, community heritage and cultural traditions taking place within Dufferin County. Each charity receives a grant of \$2,000 to be used for programs, projects, public performances, forums and events.

“Arts and culture bring so many benefits to our lives. Thanks to these grants, local non-profits are engaging seniors through the arts, amplifying young voices, and facilitating our understanding of Indigenous teachings. The sheer diversity of the programs is fantastic,” said Fisher.

Dufferin Children and Family Services (DCAFS) will be allocating the funds toward

GLOW, a 2SLGBTQ+ drop-in support group, to self-publish “Glowetry: The Word Book”, a collection of art and poetry created by the GLOW youth aged 14-18. The grant will allow the youth to make physical copies of the book and distribute free copies to libraries, schools and community organizations county-wide.

Caledon Meals on Wheels will use the grant to fund an interactive program for seniors in Dufferin County that highlights different art forms and cultural experiences while fostering social connection, mental stimulation, and appreciation for the arts. The program features four sessions with a focus on visual arts and painting workshops, dance and movements, and cultural storytelling.

The Brave Canoe, a community-based not-for-profit focused on bringing Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities of Dufferin County together, is looking to offer a three-session series in the new year which will feature interactive and foundational Indigenous teachings. The goal of the program, which will be open to all at low or no cost, is to strengthen community connections and cultural understanding and to provide insights into Indigenous worldviews.

Streams Community Hub will utilize the grant funding to help amplify the voices of local youth by purchasing upgraded microphones and audio equipment, which will be used by their Sing Song Club and Centre Stage programs. The new equipment will enhance the quality of recording sessions and live performances including concerts, recitals and theatre shows.

“This year, one of our goals is to increase the capacity for our theater program. We want develop the programming around drama on the stage a little bit more for young people,” said Juli-Anne James, Executive Director of Streams Commu-

nity Hub. “This grant is going to help us to get some really significant equipment that is going to quite literally amplify the voices of our youth.”

Dufferin Community Foundation also awarded the National Wildlife Foundation with an Environmental Fund grant, valued at \$2,500.

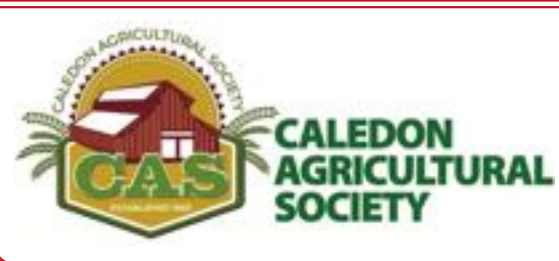
The Environmental Fund grant is aimed at

organizations taking innovative approaches to community-based environmental management, including technological advances, environmental education and stewardship of land and natural resources.

“In the past, it has been tough to know who to call when you see an injured animal. Now the National Wildlife Centre is opening a facility to serve wildlife in Dufferin County. We’re proud to be supporting this with our second annual Environment Fund grant,” said Fisher.

The grant money will be used at the new National Wildlife Centre, which is scheduled to open in January, to help provide critical medical care to over 200 injured, sick and orphaned wildlife in Ontario. The grant money will also be used to train student interns in wildlife medicine and inform communities about protecting wildlife.

To learn more about the grants and funding available to local organizations through Dufferin Community Foundation, visit www.dufferincommunityfoundation.ca.



Caledon Agricultural Society AGM is January 11, 2025 at 12 noon at Caledon Village Place, 18313 Hurontario St., Caledon Village.

Members of the public may join the Society at the meeting.



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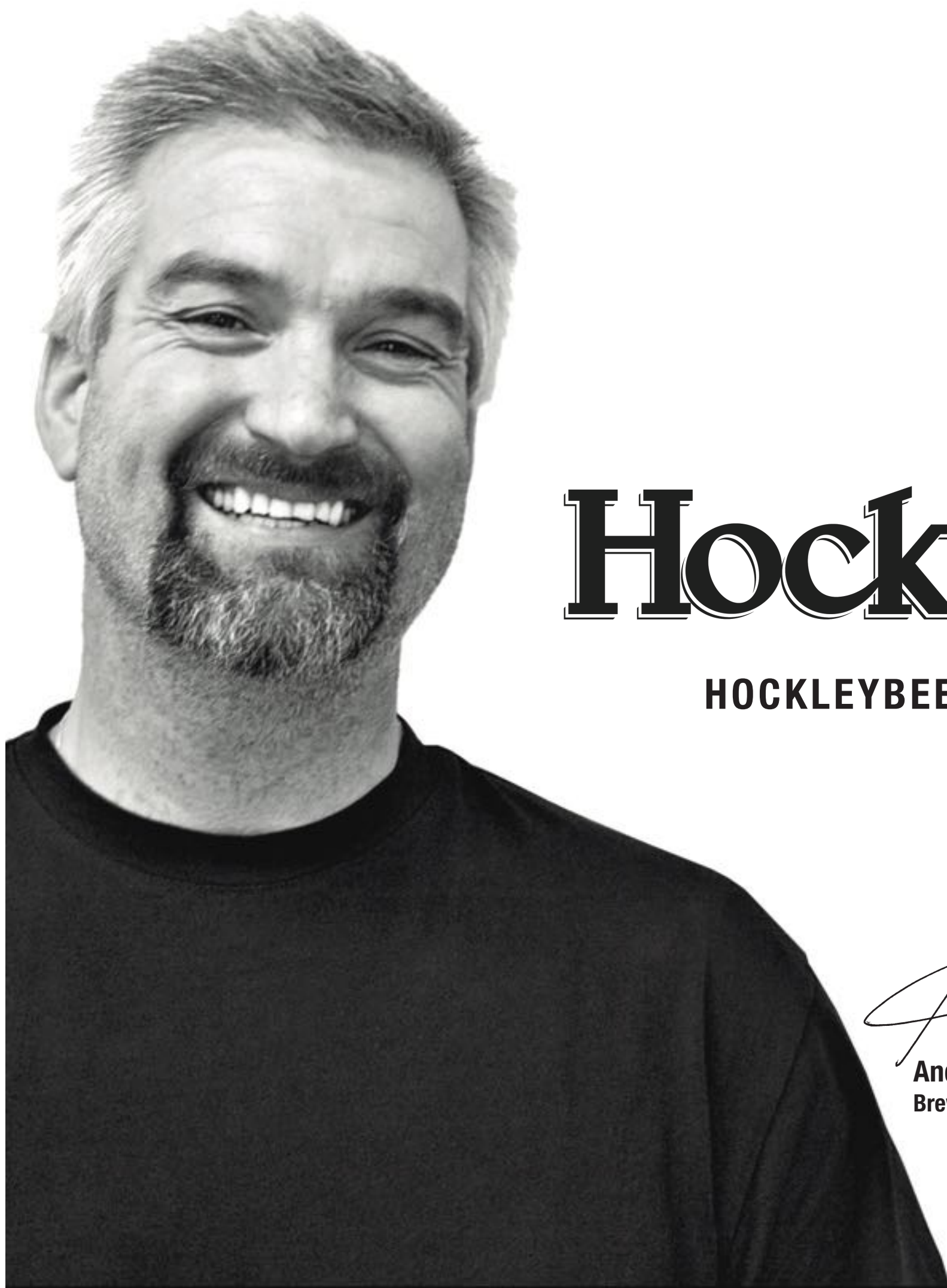
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Kohnen', written in a cursive style.

**Andrew Kohnen
Brewmaster**

Advocates petition province for safer roads, action on illegal truck yards

Continued from FRONT

They did so through Oshawa MPP and Opposition Critic for Infrastructure, Transportation and Highways Jennifer French.

French tabled the petition on December 12, and the province must respond to it by April.

Carmela Anzelmo, a volunteer with CCRSA, said it was great to work with French to bring the petition forward. In less than a week, the CCRSA was able to gather 16 pages of signatures in support of its petition.

Recently, the CCRSA has also begun advocating to neighbouring municipalities like Orangeville, Vaughan and Brampton to join in the fight for safer roads.

"It's not just a Caledon situation, it's happening everywhere," said Anzelmo.

Anzelmo said the current fines for those operating illegal truck yards are not

enough, and that the owners of these yards just regard them as a cost of doing business. She said if the province implements stricter fines and penalties, it will make a big difference.

"You can't just take farmland and convert it to whatever you feel like," she said. "We have to say 'this is enough, we can't have any more'."

Anzelmo said the CCRSA is organized and ready to fight for safer roads for as long as it takes. She invites anyone interested in joining the fight to join the CCRSA's Facebook group, which it uses to organize and communicate.

The CCRSA was started in September last year after Bolton woman Adriana Milena McCauley, 23, was killed in a four-vehicle collision at the intersection of Coleraine Drive and King Street West in Bolton.

Residents encouraged to participate in CMHA's push-up challenge



BY SAM ODROWSKI

Staying physically fit is a common aspiration among people who set New Year's resolutions.

But exercising doesn't only improve people's physical health, it supports their mental health as well.

To assist people in their efforts to get physically and mentally healthier, Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Peel Dufferin is encouraging participation in The Push-Up Challenge.

During this fitness-based mental health initiative, running from February 11 to 28, participants are encouraged to do 2,000 push-ups, representing the 2,000 lives lost to suicide each day, worldwide.

Canadians from all ages and walks of life can participate in the event, which engages people in mental health through connection, physical activity and education.

"The Push-Up Challenge is a great way for the people of Orangeville to get fit, connect with their community, do something positive for their mental health, and support the Canadians who experience ill mental health each year," said David Smith, CEO of CMHA Peel Dufferin said.

"Everyone has mental health and it's likely we all will experience a mental health issue at some point in our lives. By pushing up and learning about mental

health, we hope to break down the stigma so that Canadians don't think twice about reaching out for help."

The Push-Up Challenge is free to participate in and fundraising is optional. However, participants can choose to fundraise and support the Canadian Mental Health Association through the challenge.

"Participants of all ages and abilities will push-up while learning about mental health, with the number of daily push-ups changing to reflect a vital mental health fact," said CMHA Peel Dufferin in a press release. "Alternatives to push-ups are also encouraged, such as sit-ups, squats or other alternative exercises. Progress can be tracked through a dedicated app which also allows you to easily fundraise and see how your friends are going with the event."

The Push-Up Challenge has been taking place in Australia for the past eight years, with over 700,000 participants completing 1.2 billion push-ups and raising over \$50 million for mental health.

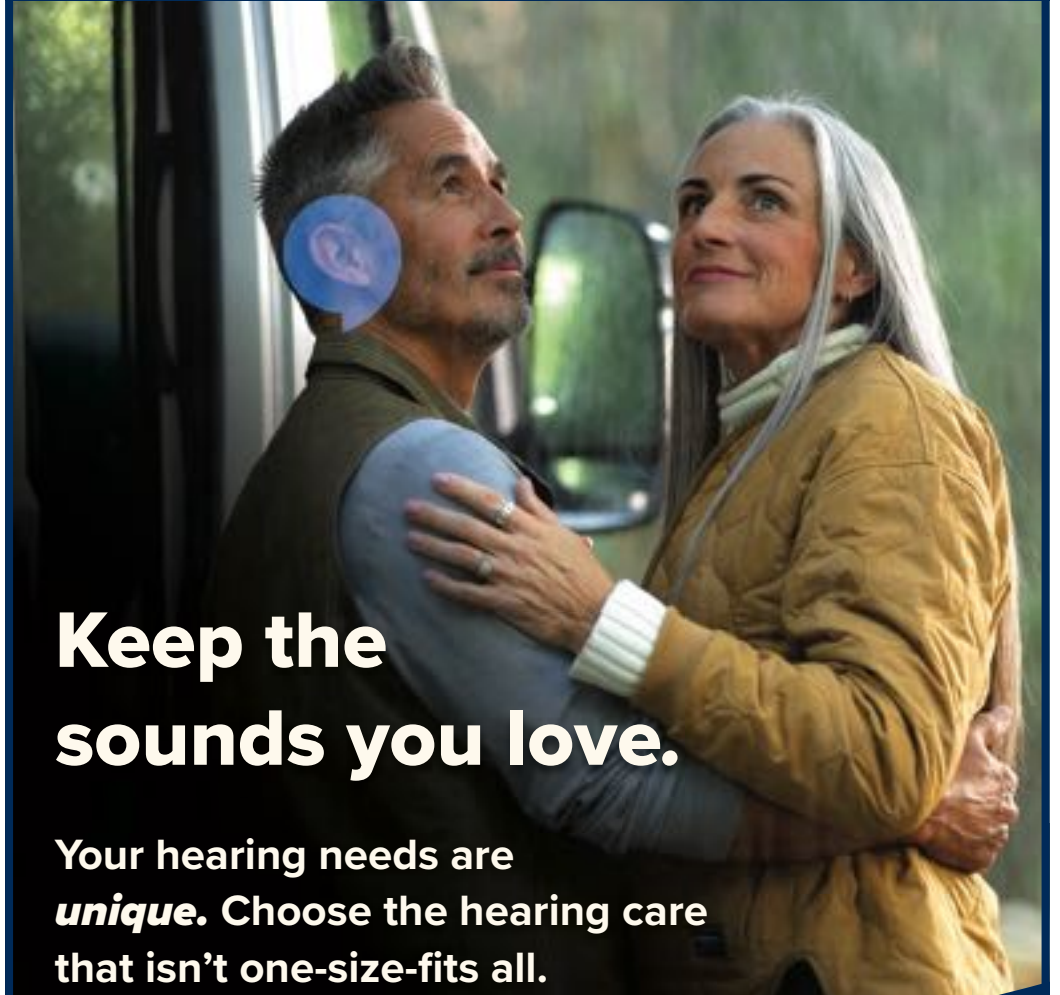
This year marks the second time the event will take place in Canada, run by CMHA.

Last year saw over 49,000 Canadians challenge themselves to complete 2,000 push-ups and raise an incredible \$2.4 million dollars.

To register for The Push-Up Challenge, visit bit.ly/3Dolxi4.

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Committee will provide recommendations to Council about issues that impact Caledon youth

Continued from FRONT

After initial consultation with Groves, Town staff began doing research on other YACs in Southern Ontario and their terms of reference. Staff also consulted with Ward 3 Councillor Doug Maskell and Ward 5 Councillor Tony Rosa, both of whom have extensive experience working with youth in the education system.

Caledon's YAC mandate is proposed as follows: "provide a voice for the youth of Caledon, while advising Council of important professional, recreational, and social issues concerning the Town's younger population."

"The purpose of applying this broadened perspective is to maintain long-term flexibility in topics that currently affect and may in-future affect the youth population in the Town of Caledon," said Town of Caledon staff in a report. "The Youth Advisory Committee could advise which types of initiatives or events could effectively address the issues they advise on without the need for the Terms of Reference to mandate a specific youth-based event or activity be held."

The YAC will consist of between four and eight community representatives (youth), two members of Caledon Council, and three community liaisons.

Community representatives will be between the ages of 14 and 24, and representatives in high school can earn volunteer hours for serving on the committee.

The YAC will work to enhance quality of life for Caledon youth by representing their perspective on municipal projects, issues and trends; identify opportunities to improve the quality of life for local youth, inform budgets, and promote programs, resources, initiatives, and policies that impact youth in Caledon; create and implement an annual work plan that supports the identified priorities of the 2023-2035 Town of Caledon Strategic Plan and goals of the Community and Human Services Commission; and plan and implement youth events, programs and initiatives in partnership with recreation and culture staff.



Collected toys were dropped off at BrightStart Caledon Family Centre for distribution to families in need.

JOE BRISEBOIS/CALEDON OPP PHOTO

BrightStart Caledon thanks community for success of toy drive

Caledon OPP and local businesses supported initiative

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Caledon residents helped make the holidays better for children in need.

BrightStart Caledon Family Centre held a toy donation initiative in December and it was a great success thanks to the generosity of community members, local businesses, and the Caledon OPP.

Residents donated toys during individual toy drives organized by the Downtown Bolton BIA, CIBC (Downtown Bolton branch), Canadian Black Belt Academy, Garden Foods Market, and the Bolton Amazon Fulfillment Centre.

The Caledon OPP then collected all the toys and delivered them to BrightStart Caledon Family Centre's main location in Bolton, where they were sorted and delivered to families in need.

Tracey Stewart, program manager for BrightStart Caledon, said thanks to the donations many families got to experience the joy of the holidays in what might otherwise have been a difficult time.

"This incredible show of support is a true reflection of the kindness and generosity that makes our community so special," said Stewart.

In a news release, BrightStart Caledon and the Caledon OPP shared their deepest gratitude to all who helped make the toy drive a success.

"Together, these efforts demonstrate the power of collaboration and compassion in bringing holiday cheer to families in our community," said BrightStart.

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Baxter and Potts lead Golden Hawks to 4-3 shootout victory over Little Britain Merchants in PJHL action

BY JIM STEWART

Ryan Baxter fired the winning shootout goal and Kieran Potts tallied two to pace the Caledon Golden Hawks to a thrilling 4-3 victory over the Merchants at the Little Britain Arena on Saturday night.

Tyler Johnson opened the scoring for Little Britain at 11:57 of the first period, but Potts responded 59 seconds later with his first goal of the game to tie it 1-1.

The teams traded goals in the middle frame with Caden Beaton restoring the Merchants' lead at 4:15. Potts's second goal—a power play marker at 7:11—deadlocked the teams at 2-2 heading into the second intermission.

Everett Corneil's power play goal put Little Britain back out front at 3:47, but Jake Henderson's goal at 14:10 drew the Golden Hawks even and forced overtime.

After a scoreless set of extra periods, Baxter scored on Caledon's sixth shot of the shootout and Golden Hawks' goaltender Samuel Rudner repelled Beaton's breakaway to seal the visitors' second victory of the season. Rudner stopped 24 shots in regulation/overtime and 5 out of 6 in the shootout to earn the W.

The Golden Hawks (2-26-2-0) host the third-place Schomberg Cougars (15-13-2-0) on Sunday, January 12 at the Mayfield Recreation Complex. Puck drop is 2.30 p.m.

Caledon Admirals cool off in New Year after 4-1 win in North York and hard-fought 2-2 tie against the #1-ranked Trenton Golden Hawks

BY JIM STEWART

Rookie-laden hockey teams like the Caledon Admirals are prone to peaks and valleys in their performance as players adjust over the course of 56-game schedule to the rigors of the OJHL.

After a sustained improvement to close out the 2024 portion of their schedule, the young club started 2025 with a pair of disappointing losses: a 5-0 whitewashing at the hands of the Mississauga Chargers and 9-4 loss on home ice to the King Rebellion.

Head Coach Chris Taylor took the latest setbacks in stride and felt that the Christmas layoff affected his surging hockey club adversely.

"We had been off for ten days when we played Mississauga. The guys came out flat and it was a lack of maturity. To their credit, the Chargers came at us from the start. We down 3-0 pretty quickly and it was hard to come back."

Coach Taylor thought the club played a much better game against the Rebellion despite the final score.

"We had a hot start against King and got up two goals, but they pushed back really hard. It was more than the team could handle. It was a one-off situation and I know they'll bounce back in their next game."

Taylor's confidence in his crew is evident and it has rubbed off on the young team. His Admirals continued their midseason metamorphosis by defeating the Rangers 4-1 in North York in their last Sunday game before Christmas. Even more impressive than their decisive road win in Toronto was the Admirals' hard-fought 2-2 double overtime tie earned on Thursday night against the high-flying Trenton Golden Hawks—the #1-ranked team in the Canadian Junior Hockey League.

The Admirals' recent remarkable run, during which they have compiled a 5-8-1-0 record after opening the season 1-20-0-0, has had an impact on the team's demeanor and this was evident in North York during their matinee at Herb Carnegie Arena.

Although the Rangers opened the scoring when Tyron Fevry beat Caledon goaltender Blake Sloan only 36 seconds into the contest, the Admirals responded immediately to the home side's opening cannon fire. At 1:28, the Admirals fired back when Stefano Fiorini beat North York netminder Nicolas Morvan, a PJHL callup who was having a fine year between the pipes with the Schomberg Cougars. Fiorini's tying goal was set up by Curtis Freeman's 13th assist of the season.

Just over two minutes later, Cam Lang's team-leading 20th assist set up Nasser Abou-Marie's power play goal to give the visitors a 2-1 lead and the young Caledon team exuded confidence for the rest of the contest.

Coach Taylor noted that the Lang and Abou-Marie have been a potent combination for the team.



"Cam is a natural playmaker and he makes it happen out there. Nasser has developed a nice finishing touch and gets the dirty goals because he has great hands."

Shylen McGahey augmented the Admirals' lead at 6:40 of the middle frame and Lang's unassisted marker one minute into the third period provided Caledon with a three-goal lead to subdue North York.

Lang's marker had a big impact on the team, according to Coach Taylor.

"Cam's breakaway goal put the game away. It gave us some relief on the road and you could tell that the goal finished off North York."

Beating the Rangers on the road was an uplifting win for the Admirals, but stealing a point from the best Junior A team in Canada the following week at the Mayfield Icebox served as a high water mark for Caledon thus far in the 2024-25 campaign.

Caledon netminder Calem Yorke turned aside 41 of 43 shots to earn the tie versus the juggernaut that is the Trenton Golden Hawks (28-3-2-0). Trenton's .879 winning percentage led the OJHL at the Christmas Break, but the Admirals seemed unfazed when it hosted the nation's top-ranked Junior A club.

Coach Taylor was effusive in his praise regarding his team's effort against Trenton.

"It was our best performance of the season. There was a general belief in the team that we could play with them, based on the way we had been playing and practicing coming into the game. We got great goaltending and there was a different energy on the bench. Everybody had their best game. We took it to them from the first period on."

Caledon forward Owen Meli—who sunk the Toronto Patriots with a big double overtime goal on November 30—opened the scoring at 8:10 of the first period and the young Admirals held the slim lead for over twenty minutes of play. Yorke turned aside 13 shots in the first period, but Trenton evened the score at 10:15 of the middle frame when Devin Mauro tallied his 17th of the season.

Mason Landry gave the Golden Hawks their first lead of the game at 5:48 of the third period, but red-hot Abou-Marie notched his tenth of the season at 15:03 of the final frame to tie the game and send it to overtime.

The Admirals were outshot 9-1 in the two extra periods, but Yorke "made some great saves," according to his Head Coach, and allowed Caledon to earn a hard-fought point against a veteran Trenton squad that is running away with the OJHL East.

Petition started after Town and TRCA announced skating on pond was no longer allowed


Continued from FRONT

She said skating on Palgrave Pond can be done safely under the PPCI's extensive safety procedures.

"While climate has meant the opportunity for skating has been reduced, it has not changed the safety procedures, so when the ice is open, it is just as safe as it always has been, and when it's less safe, the rinks are closed—something the community has always respected," reads a document prepared by Wilkins in response to the TRCA and Town of Caledon's decision.

In a December email to the Citizen, Caledon's Commissioner of Community and Human Services Catherine McLean said changing climate, reducing ice cover and inconsistent temperatures means that the pond ice is unstable and risky in more spots every winter.

In a December email to the Citizen, TRCA Director of Development and Engineering Services Sameer Dhalla said a changing climate and inconsistent temperatures pose an increased risk to anyone utilizing the Palgrave Pond for skating.



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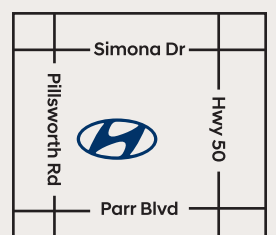
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OBITUARIES

BRONWEN HERLIHY Lover of family, friends, and flowers, Bronwen always had time and energy to give. She was happiest when she could bring joy to others, which she did throughout her whole life. A wonderful Mother, Nana, and friend, she was thoughtful and generous with her time and her heart. A superwoman who seemed to know no bounds, she simultaneously worked, attended university, ran a small farm, handled a household, and raised a family! She passed away peacefully on December 22nd, 2024 with family by her side. She will always be missed, and we are so grateful for the time we had together - the world is a better place because you were in it. We love you. A celebration of Bronwen's life was held at the Dods & McNair Funeral Home, Chapel & Reception Centre, 21 First St., Orangeville on Sunday, January 5th, 2025 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Condolences may be offered to the family at www.dodsandmcnair.com

DEANNA MARILYN PIETZ Peacefully at Dufferin Oaks on Sunday, January 5th, 2025 at the age of 84. Beloved wife of the late Raymond Pietz (2014). Loving mother of Stephen (Denise) and Michael (Judy). Proud grandmother of Trevor (Erin), Jessica (Tony) and Samantha (Les). Great grandmother of Landon, Raelyn, Macie and Brooklyn. Dear sister of Lenore (Paul), Judy (Bill), Patricia (Fred) and Cecile (the late Owen). Deanna will also be greatly missed by other relatives and many friends. Visitation will be held at the Dods & McNair Funeral Home, Chapel & Reception Centre, 21 First St., Orangeville on Saturday, January 11th, 2025 from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm. Memorial Service will be held at Dods & McNair Funeral Home Chapel on Saturday, January 11th, 2025 at 2:30 pm. Memorial donations to Alzheimer's Society or the The War Amps would be appreciated by the family. Condolences may be offered to the family at www.dodsandmcnair.com

BETTY MCCABE (nee Tucker) DEC. 16, 1928 - NOV. 28, 2024 Died peacefully Thursday, November 28, 2024 surrounded by family. Loving wife of the late Ross and mother to Shirley and the late Dan Lynch, Shiela and Dennis Foster, Mary Lynn and Terry Bernard, Ray and Tara McCabe and Betty Jo and Dave Lee. Cherished grandmother of: Patrick and Sue Lynch, Jeremy and Shannon Lynch, Christopher and Cheryl Lynch, Crystal Foster and Pete Kidd, Jessica Bernard-Wood and Allan Wood, Stefanie Bernard and Matt Vince, Tiffany McCabe and Vikas Vig, Jasmine McCabe and Kenzie Pullen, Brandi McCabe and Gord Currie, Jade McCabe and Brent Reusch, and Foster, Rebecca and Avery Lee. Proud great-grandmother of Abi, Clayton, Spencer, Daniel, Jordyn, Isla, Madalynn, Abigail, Asha, Nora, Landan, Raelyn, Erik, Archie, Charlie, Lydia, Kennedy, and highly anticipated twin girls. The family received friends at Jack & Thompson Funeral Home, Shelburne on Monday, December 2, 2024 from 11a.m. to 1p.m. The funeral service followed in the funeral home chapel at 1p.m. Interment occurred at Shelburne Cemetery. If desired, donations to Dufferin Oaks or the Alzheimer Society would be appreciated.

LAWRENCE JAMES WETMORE It is with great sadness the family of Lawrence James Wetmore announce his passing on Saturday, December 28, 2024, in his 94th year. Lawrence was predeceased by his wife, Alice, and leaves behind his children Larry (deceased) and Kay, Brenda (deceased) and Bryan, Terri Ann (deceased) and John, Howard and Janice, Daniel and Adele, Leonard and grandchildren Julie, Cheri, Bryan Jr. (deceased), Brett (deceased), Bartholomew, Jennifer, Joseph, Robert, Alexander, Zachary, Sean, Stephanie and six great-grandchildren. The family received their friends at the Egan Funeral Home, 203 Queen Street South (Hwy. 50), Bolton (905-857-2213) on Friday morning, January 3 from 11 o'clock until time of memorial service in the chapel at 12 noon. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Alzheimer Society would be appreciated. Condolences for the family may be offered at www.EganFuneralHome.com.

ELIZABETH ROSE MERRITT JULY 26, 1945 - DECEMBER 21, 2024 It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Elizabeth Rose Merritt on December 21st, 2024 in her 79th year. She was an amazing mother and grandmother and leaves behind 2 daughters, 1 granddaughter, 3 grandsons and 1 sister. Elizabeth will be laid to rest with her loving husband Ron Merritt. She will be missed very much.

THANK YOU Betty Ida Mccabe We are forever grateful for the love and support extended to us during our mother's passing, two weeks before her 96th birthday. The prayers, visits and comforting words have been appreciated. Special thanks to the 2nd floor staff of Dufferin Oaks, Jack and Thompson Funeral Home and Rev Gord Horsely for their loving care and support. Thank you for all the charitable donations made in Mom's memory. Shirley, Shiela, Mary Lynn, Ray and Betty Jo

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

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