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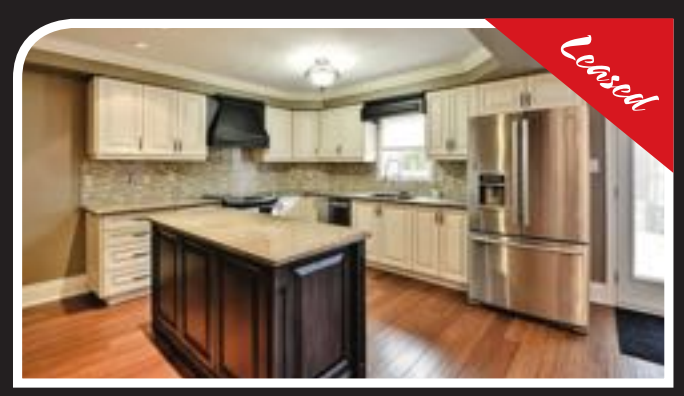
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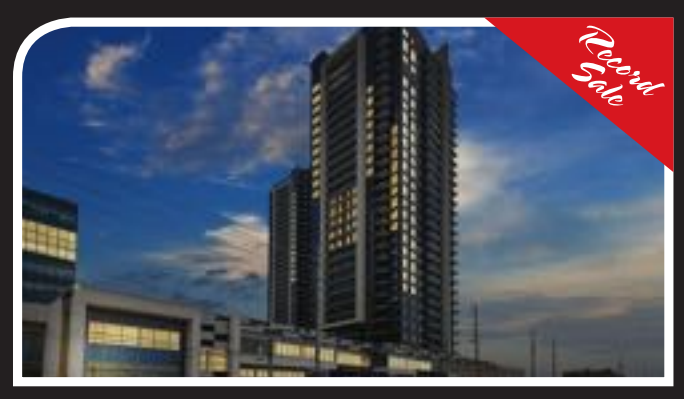
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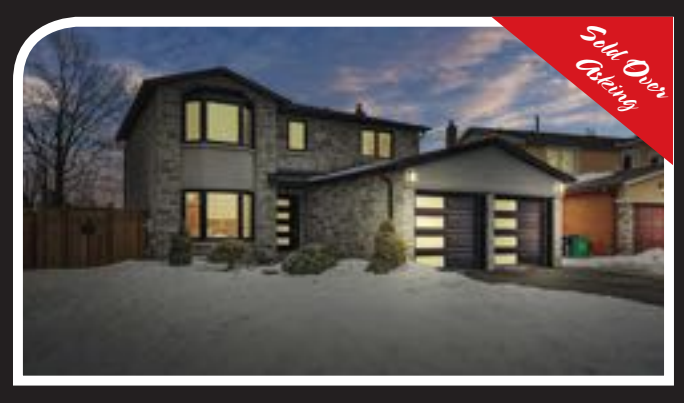


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PHOTO COURTESY OF HEADWATERS HEALTH CARE CENTRE

CENTURY OF VISITORS: More than 1,000 individuals have visited the new drive-thru COVID-19 Assessment Centre at Headwaters Health Care Centre since its opening last Thursday (March 19). People suffering with mild or moderate symptoms, including fever, cough, runny nose, sore throat or shortness of breath are encouraged to visit the centre. For the full story, see Page A3.

Caledon Council defers property taxes for local residents amid COVID-19 crisis

Written By ALYSSA PARKHILL

The Town of Caledon Council held an emergency town hall meeting over teleconference on March 24, allowing the public to call and listen in to the meeting. There was good news for residents, with the municipality deciding to provide local ratepayers with a property tax extension.

Due to the global pandemic of the COVID-29 virus and the decision to close all non-essential businesses by the Ontario government, the Town felt obligated to make life a little bit easier for residents.

"It's important that we do our best to help Caledon residents during this difficult time," said Mayor Allan Thompson.

All of council unanimously agreed to defer property taxes for two months. Payments originally due on May 7 have been pushed off until July 2, with Council also waiving all interest and late payment charges over that time period.

Post-dated cheques and pre-authorized payments will be processed as normal, but if those who are a part of the pre-authorized program want to join the deferral program, they have the ability to withdraw from the pre-authorized program by April 15.

Usual property tax installment payments take place on the first Thursday of March, May, July and September but due to the COVID-19 pandemic the second, third and fourth installments will all be deferred.

May 7, deferred to July 2, July 2 installment now deferred to Sept 3 and the last installment on Sept 3 will be Nov 5.

Though Town facilities are closed due to the pandemic, residents still have a variety of ways to make payments including online, pre-authorized payments, online banking, drop box outside Town hall, through mortgage company or by mail.

"Deferring tax payments is something that all of Council felt strongly about, and we hope that this will help lighten some of the stress that taxpayers might be feeling at this time," said Mayor Thompson.

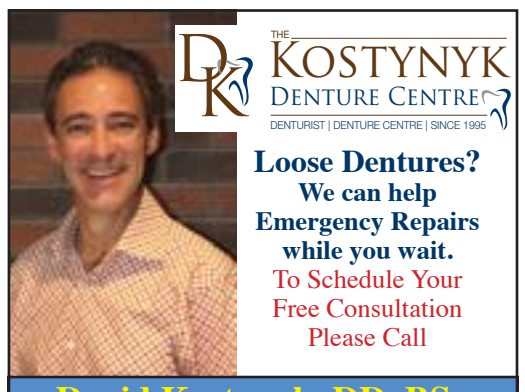
For more information about property tax deferrals, please visit Caledon.ca/tax.

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Four confirmed COVID-19 cases in WDGPH unit region

Written By ALYSSA PARKHILL

The Ontario government has ordered all essential services to close due to the rapid spread of COVID-19 virus.

The move comes after Peel Public Health strongly recommended, last Friday (March 20), that all non-essential services across the province should be closed to prevent the virus from spreading, while continuing to encourage resident to practice social distancing.

"In the past day, we are beginning to see evidence of community transmission of COVID-19 in our Region," said Dr. Lawrence Loh, interim Medical Officer of Health for the Region of Peel in a previous news release. "We are grateful that many businesses have already changed their operations to help limit spread of the disease. At this critical moment, however, we must take stricter measures if we are going to succeed at limiting the impacts of this disease on our community. For this reason, I am recommending the closure of all non-essential businesses."

Premier Doug Ford says the Ontario government has "been in constant contact with the public health sector, listening to every word and recommendation thrown their way to be able to ensure what's best for Ontarians."

He said, "This was a tough decision, but the right decision, as this is no time for half measures. I have said since day one we will, and we must, take all steps necessary to slow the spread of COVID-19. The health and safety of every Ontarian must come first. The health of you, your children, your grandparents and your friends depend on all of us doing our part."

A list of what it considered to be essential was released late Monday night, including 74 titles under the following categories: Supply chains, Retail and wholesaling, Food service, but only for delivery or takeout, and accommodations including hotels, motels and student residences, Institutional, residential, commercial and industrial maintenance , Telecommunications and service providers, Transportation, Manufacturing and production, Agriculture and food production, Construction, Financial activities, including credit unions, insurance etc., Resources, Environmental services, Utilities and community services, Communication industries, including news media, Research, Health care, seniors care and social services, Justice sector, and Business regulators and inspectors. Specifics can be found at Ontario.ca

"While this was a difficult decision, we trust that Ontario's business leaders will be able to promote safety while carrying out business and protecting jobs," said Premier Doug Ford. "The grocery store clerks, transit and hydro workers and truckers are out there on the front lines making sure the people of Ontario continue to have access to the products and services they need. It is essential that their workplaces be kept as safe as possible so these local heroes can return home to their families worry free."

Due to the pressure put on healthcare workers in hospitals, being overwhelmed with cases of possible contamination of COVID-19, a total of 58 assessment centres have been opened across the province, including on at Headwaters Health Care Centre in Orangeville. An online assessment tool has been developed and made available for those who believe they may be showing symptoms of COVID-19. Some of those symptoms include a fever, cough, runny nose and respiratory issues.

The online tool takes individuals though a series of questions and provides them direction regarding whether they should stay home and self-isolate, visit a local assessment centre, or go straight to the hospital.

"I encourage anyone who may have been exposed to COVID-19, have symptoms or may have travelled outside of Canada to first self-isolate and then take a few seconds to complete our new online assessment tool," said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "This easy-to-use tool, developed with guidance from Dr. Williams, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, is a great first step in that process. By answering a few questions, Ontarians will be able to make informed choices about what to do, while the province collects real-time data to enhance our ongoing response."

Social distancing has been one of the main encouragements from health and government officials towards the public. Social distancing is defined as minimizing close contact with others by avoiding crowded places and gatherings, limiting physical contact such as hugging and shaking hands and keeping a two arm's length from others as much as possible. Canadians are also being encouraged to stay home as much as possible.

Due to the lack of response in the request for individuals to social distance, the federal government is considering enforcing strict legislation to fine those who refuse to take the issue seriously. Those who fail to practice proper social distancing can be fined up to $1,000 and businesses up to $500,000.

> "The most important message to share is the need to practice social distanding and, if possible, stay home. It's the only way we are going to slow down the spread and spare many of our vulnerable citizens
>
> Mayor Allan Thompson

"Although voluntary compliance is always preferred, under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, there are consequences for individuals and businesses that choose to defy the act while it is in force," said Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in a news release this past Friday.

With the Ontario government declaring a state of emergency, gatherings of 50 people or more are now prohibited until March 31.

Caledon Mayor Allan Thompson echoed the words of Prime Minister Trudeau and Premier Ford, pleading with local residents to practice social distancing and self-isolate where possible.

"I'm in daily meetings with Peel Public Health and the most important message that our Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Loh, is asking us to share is the need to practice social distancing and if possible, stay home, said Mayor Allan Thompson. "It's the only way we are going to slow down the spread and spare many of our vulnerable citizens."

As of March 24, with 85 reported new cases, Ontario has now 588 confirmed cases of COVID-19. For ore information and updates, please visit Ontario.ca.

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Health coalitions issue joint statement o COVID-19

A coalition of Canadian health advocates has issued a statement declaring that the COVID-19 pandemic has laid bare the extent to which our individual health is dependent on the health of everyone in our community.

"Public healthcare is our best defense against this crisis and others like it. However, our ability to endure crises and care for each other has been eroded through decades of austerity budgets, privatization and inadequate planning. Even during 'normal times,' the health care system is at capacity.

"While health care workers and communities are struggling to support each other, corporate interests are trying to profit. This must be resisted. The solution is not privatization. Instead, we should be strengthening universal health care and our collective ability to care for one another.

"As governments ramp up efforts to address the current crisis, Health Coalitions across Canada are calling for them to resist privatization and to uphold the foundational principles of equity and compassion that underlie our public health care system.

"We call upon all levels of government to work together to reclaim and increase the capacity of our public health care system to:

- Address existing health inequities by removing barriers to access and scaling up services for marginalized communities
- Restore capacity in our public hospitals by reopening facilities and beds that have been closed due to funding cuts and downsizing, and expand capacity under public and non-profit hospital governance
- Follow the lead of Spain and bring for-profit health care facilities under public control to enable a rapid and streamlined response in the public interest
- Improve supports for health care workers, including by adopting the strongest protective standards, enhancing recruitment and retention, and giving workers the resources and equipment they need
- Ensure that all services are available free of charge and delivered publicly, including testing, vaccination, hospital stays and telehealth.

"Now more than ever, we need a universal, public health care system that puts patients before profits, that prioritizes the health of everyone living in Canada and that honours and respects the principles of the Canada Health Act.

"We cannot allow this crisis to be used to dismantle universal, public health care in Canada. Instead, we must renew our commitment to a system based not on profit, but instead on the shared belief that health care is a human right".

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More than 1,000 visits to COVID-19 Assessment Centre in first week

Written By MIKE BAKER



SUBMITTED PHOTO

1,000-PLUS CASES: Healthcare workers have been working hard to process patients passing through the new drive-thru COVID-19 Assessment Centre at Headwaters **hospital.**

More than 1,000 individuals have visited the new drive-thru COVID-19 assessment clinic at Headwaters Health Care Centre since it was opened last Thursday (March 19).

The facility, currently open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., assesses local residents who may be showing mild or moderate symptoms of COVID-19. There are two lanes available, which people can drive their car into, with all assessments carried out on-site.

Assessments take approximately 15 minutes, says Gary Staples, Deputy Chief of the Dufferin County Paramedic Service. Upon arrival, individuals will be asked to fill out a 'screening sheet', which staff will then use to determine whether they need to be tested. Should an individual require testing, they will be asked to register and pull into one of the drive-thru tents. A member of the care team will then assess them while they remain in their vehicle. Depending on the outcome of the assessment, and the severity of symptoms, individuals will be told to self-isolate, or visit the emergency department.

While the testing process is fairly simple, and it can take between five and seven days for results to come back. Tests are carried out locally, then sent down to Toronto for analysis to determine whether or not the patient has COVID-19.

"As more assessment clinics become open in our area, the testing centre is being overwhelmed with the number of swabs coming in. As such, there will likely be a backlog in following up with these people," Mr. Staples told the Citizen.

As per Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health, there are now four confirmed cases of COVID-19 in our region – two in Dufferin County, and one each in Guelph and Wellington County.

Looking more closely at the numbers here in Orangeville, as of end of day Tuesday (March 24), the site has seen 1,041 visitors, with 954 of those visits leading to assessments. A total of 289 people have been tested for COVID-19.

Mr. Staples said the local healthcare community is already seeing the benefits brought about by opening the assessment centre.

"The most important thing for us right now is that we are diverting traffic away from the emergency department, so that they can handle regular emergencies," Mr. Staples said. "We are seeing minor to moderate patients, maybe some have symptoms but not so severe that they need to go to emergency."

He added, "The biggest benefit of the drive-thru is that people stay in their cars the entire time. If they are infected with COVID-19, or any other kind of infection, like the flu or a cold, they are not getting out of their car and coming into contact with all the other people that are around. That's a positive thing."

In a letter distributed to media on Tuesday, local doctor Jill Bailey said the Assessment Centre has two goals – to determine how sick a patient may be, and to swab patients for COVID-19 who meet current Ministry criteria.

The criteria, as of this week, are; symptoms of an upper respiratory tract viral infection to go along with close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case, or essential health or community service provider, or living in a retirement home or other institutional setting. People who are currently living on a First Nation reserve and are showing symptoms are also being swabbed.

"So, why can't we test everyone?" Dr. Bailey writes. "The simple fact is that all of Ontario is presently short on swabs and the supplies needed to analyze them. The Ministry of Health mandate for limited swabbing is not ideal, but it's our currently reality. Until we come up with an innovative solution to develop more testing supplies, we are left with this very limited ability to test."

She added, "It would be ideal if we could swab the 30-year-old father who works at a local restaurant and doesn't know that the person he sat beside on the bus had COVID-19. Now he has a runny nose and a sore throat. He doesn't get a swab. It would be ideal if we could swab the 75-year-old woman with COPD, who lives alone and often needs to user puffers, who has a low-grade fever and a worsening cough. She doesn't get a swab.

Just because someone may not be swabbed at an assessment centre, does not mean they do not have COVID-19 – it just means they don't qualify for a swab based on the criteria outlined by the Ministry. While Dr. Bailey admits "as physicians, we want to swab every possible COVID-19 case" that's not feasible due to the low supply of test supplies.

"The message we want to send to the public is that, if you have respiratory symptoms, such as cough, fever, runny nose, sore throat, shortness of breath, you need to assume that you have the COVID-19 virus. If you go to the Headwaters Assessment Centre and do not get offered a swab, do not think that the doctor doesn't think you are infected with the COVID-19 virus. You very well could be," Dr. Bailey said.

She called on all residents to follow self-isolation guidelines outlined by health care professionals and both the federal and provincial government.

"Please take your doctor or public health nurse's advice seriously. We are trying to save the life of your 95-year-old grandfather who you were thinking about visiting later, or the grocery clerk who has asthma whom you were going to interact with on the way home," Dr. Bailey said. "If you are unwell, even if you don't get a swab in the COVID-19 Assessment Centre, stay home. Don't leave the house unless you need to go to the emergency room."

She concluded, "Don't do it just for yourself or your family, do it for everyone in our community. We all have to work together to beat this."

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"Caring for others, from a social distance"

by Monty Laskin, Chief Executive Officer



There is an immediate need and you can help! At Caledon Community Services, (CCS), caring for others is at the heart of everything we do. Daily, weekends included, we provide direct care. We're all in for everyone in our community: children, teenagers, single adults, families and seniors. COVID19 is an assault on all of us.

Together, we're not easily deterred. Together we stand strong.

CCS has shifted in response to emerging expert advice while managing to maintain our services. I'm not suggesting that call to shutdown, stay home is wrong, it's absolutely the right thing to advise. We've got to get ahead of this. Staying home is key.

However, CCS drives hundreds of people to dialysis and other urgent appointments, provides personal care to seniors daily and ensures that hundreds of families can eat nutritious meals daily. Shutting down these kinds of services is not something we're about to do. Instead we've modified them by implementing many safety measures while still remaining in the corner of our most at risk clients.

Other services such as our English classes, employment workshops and health and wellness activities in the Exchange, eco-shopping and counselling services have been changed, suspended or being offered in creative ways that limit direct contact.

Thankfully, we are fielding calls daily asking how people can help. Food donations are being delivered to the back door of the Exchange throughout the week. .The kindness of this community knows no bounds; we are enormously grateful that Caledon recognizes the need to support the most vulnerable among us.

So how else can you help? When the need is immediate accepting and sorting food donations during a pandemic presents problems. The safest and most efficient way to ensure our neighbours in need receive nutritious food, transportation to medical appointments and daily personal care is through financial support. Visit our website at www.ccs4u.org and make a secure financial gift. It's an easy action you can take from the safety of your own home. Produce and other perishables can be purchased maintaining support to lower income families. Those living on low incomes are unable to stockpile food and other necessities. We are already seeing community need increase. Your financial gift allows us to purchase the most needed items. Gifts made online over $20 receive immediate tax receipts. Thank you.

How Do You See It?

Tell us how you see it.
Monty Laskin, Chief Executive Officer, Caledon Community Services at 905-584-2300 ext. 213 or mlaskin@ccs4u.org

This column is provided free of charge by the Caledon Citizen.

2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

What you need to know to help you and your family stay healthy.

- Only visit an assessment centre if you have been referred by a health care professional.
- Avoid non-essential travel.
- Monitor for symptoms after travel.
- Avoid large gatherings.
- Be prepared, but avoid panic stocking.
- Caring for those who are ill? Take precautions.
- Clean high-touch surfaces regularly.
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- Practice cough and sneeze etiquette in transit.

If you have symptoms, take the self-assessment at ontario.ca/coronavirus. Or call Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000 (TTY: 1-866-797-0007) or your public health unit.

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Yes You Can Pay LESS THAN 1%* Commission

OPP doing their part to help the limit spread of COVID-19

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) wants to ensure everyone is aware of how police services are expected to respond to the Government of Ontario's recent health emergency declaration related to limiting transmission of COVID-19.

Although voluntary compliance is always preferred, under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMCPA), there are consequences for individuals and businesses that choose to defy the Act while it is in force. Contravening the expert advice provided by the Chief Medical Officer of Health to close certain businesses and institutions and limit gatherings to 50-people or less, the Provincial Offences Act (POA) has been updated to include three offences to be enforced by police, along with set fines per offence:

- Fail to comply with an order - Part I Fine of $750
- Obstructions of Person Fine of $1,000
- Corporations Fine of $500,000

The OPP continues to provide public safety services to the communities we serve and support the efforts of federal, provincial and local health authorities during the current situation involving COVID-19. We appreciate the public's ongoing support of these measures.

Visit the OPP website news section for more information to help limit COVID-19 transmission.

Facilities/Services Affected by the Declaration of Emergency

As a result of the declaration of emergency, the following establishments are required to remain closed until further notice:

- All bars and restaurants, except to the extent that such facilities provide takeout and food delivery;
- All facilities providing indoor recreational programs;
- All public libraries;
- All private schools;
- All licensed child care centres;
- All movie cinemas and all theatres, including those offering live performances of music, dance and other art forms; and,
- All concert venues.

Additionally, all organized public events of over 50 people are prohibited, including parades, events and communal services within places of worship. These orders will remain in place until March 31, 2020, when the province will reassess for an extension or end the closures.

Caledon OPP officer spots impaired driver while on patrol

On Saturday, March 21st, 2020, at approximately 8:19 p.m., officers from Caledon OPP were on patrol, when they spotted a vehicle driving erratically in the area of Caledon King Townline in the town of Caledon.

The vehicle was stopped safely in the area of Highway 9 and Highway 400. Upon stopping the vehicle, the officers smelled a strong odour of alcoholic beverage emanating from the driver's breath. The driver was placed under arrest for Impaired Operation of a Motor Vehicle, and transported to Caledon Detachment for further breath tests to be conducted.

As a result, Jacqueline Gulyas, 56, of Vaughan, has been charged with:

- Operation while impaired;
- Failure to comply with demand;
- Driving motor vehicle with liquor readily available;
- Driving while under suspension, and
- Drive motor vehicle, no currently validated permit.

The accused is expected to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on June 4th, 2020.

Gas drive-off leads to arrest in Caledon

On Saturday, March 21st, 2020, at approximately 10:57 a.m., uniformed officers from the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Caledon Detachment responded to a report of theft from a gas station located in the area of Highway 10 and The Grange Side Road in the Town of Caledon.

Information was received that a customer attended the gas station, fueled their vehicle, and drove off without paying.

A uniformed officer observed the suspect vehicle on Highway 10, and conducted a traffic stop.

As a result of the police investigation, Robert Desjardins, 54, of Mississauga, has been charged with the following offences:

- Operation of a motor vehicle while prohibited X four counts, and
- Driving while under suspension.

The accused is expected to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on June 4th, 2020

If you are caught driving when your licence is suspended for a Criminal Code conviction, your vehicle will be impounded for at least 45 days.

OPP report first COVID-19 presumptive officer

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is confirming its first uniform member has tested presumptive positive for COVID-19.

Following their doctor's instructions, the member is in isolation at their home and is recovering. We wish them a speedy recovery. Their family and colleagues are in our thoughts.

The OPP member presumptively diagnosed with COVID-19 serves the Nipissing West Detachment area in northeastern Ontario. The member's name and specific work location is being withheld to respect their privacy. The OPP was made aware of the diagnosis on March 21.

Given increased testing and interventions underway, additional presumptive positive diagnoses are expected across Ontario. The OPP and its members are not immune.

The OPP remains committed to the health and safety of our members and will continue to make decisions that help us limit the spread of COVID-19 in the communities we serve.

Visit the OPP website news section for more information to help limit COVID-19 transmission.

Beware of online puppy scams

Officers from the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are investigating a puppy scam that was reported by a Caledon resident earlier this year.

The incident was reported by a local dog breeder, who advised that an unknown suspect had obtained the breeder's personal information and the Canadian Kennel Club registration, and was posting ads online advertising puppies for sale using the breeder's information.

Under the said ad, the scammers would ask potential online buyers to wire a deposit to "secure" a puppy by sending a partial or full payment. Once the deposit was received, the scammers would continue asking for additional payments to cover a vet bill, or ask for the outstanding balance.

Here are some signs of a puppy scam:

- Price is too good to be true;
- Seller won't let buyer see the puppy before receiving the deposit/payment;
- You must pay by money transfer or prepaid debit card;
- After you pay, there are additional expenses (shipping insurance, vet bills, crate fees), and
- The puppy's photo appears in other ads.

Scammers take advantage of people when they are in high emotional state. Here are some steps you can take to protect yourself from falling for a puppy scam:

- Endeavour to meet the seller in person to see if the puppy is the right fit for you and your family;
- Research the seller extensively;
- Ask the seller for references and follow up with those references;
- Reverse image search the puppy's photo to see if it is an authentic image, and
- Don't wire money or send prepaid cards.

The Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre, of which OPP is a partner, estimates only five per cent of victims report the crime to police. If you think you have been a victim of fraud, contact the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501 or report online at http://www.antifraudcentre.ca; you can also contact your local police service or Crime Stop-

"Bolton Pharmasave has been trying to help and assist the residents of Bolton and surrounding areas since the outbreak has occurred by many different ways. One such way was to increase inventory of medications and over-the-counter items and daily checks to ensure that her patients and other patients will have enough medications during these trying times, as issues with supply of medications and back orders continue to be a challenge, specifically now. However, as the College of Pharmacists and the Ontario Ministry of Health recommended, they will be filling one month supplies at a time and allowing one inhaler per month so that there is enough for everyone and gives them time to order more in.

They are offering free delivery services for prescription and over-the-counter medications and supplies to help keep patients and customers safe. All you have to do is call the store and they will arrange the service for you. Furthermore, as the staff saw an increase in demand for items such as hand sanitizer, rubbing and isopropyl alcohol, face masks, thermometers they started taking people's names and numbers and calling them when supplies were available. Once a shipment arrives, they start calling those patients on the list. So call to add your name to the list.

Bolton Pharmasave has implemented many changes in their store to help stop the spread, flatten the curve and keep every one safe. There are physical barriers put into place, they ask for debit and credit transactions if possible, they ask customers to bring their own pens when signing for lottery or Western Union transactions, and they have increased the frequency of their cleaning of the front store and pharmacy. They have additionally locked their front door but the side, wheel chair accessible doors remain open and they ask that the customers use their elbows and not hands to open the door to help stop the spread. Also, Bolton Pharmasave would like to encourage the residents to follow them on social media (Facebook, Instagram and twitter) for more up to date changes and news.

Dr.Bodok's office is located inside Bolton Pharmasave and she is still working by seeing her patients virtually (either by telephone or via Zoom.Us). If you have an urgent matter and need to contact her, please call her office at 905-951-1173. Other doctors have also implemented these virtual visits. Please call your doctor's office to see what changes they may have implemented in their practices as well.

Bolton Pharmasave also partnered with Good Doctor's Telemedicine last year to help bring simple, urgent medical care to the people of Bolton. With the recent change, Good Doctor's has also started seeing patients via telephone and virtually in the privacy of their own home for some conditions. You can call 1-888-930-6571 or text 705-910-7799 and connect with one of their doctors for a virtual visit if applicable.

Lastly, one thing the team and Mona (the owner) have noticed has been the increase in prices of these essential items. They would like to assure you all, that there will be no increases in these essential items unless there has been an increase in the cost of purchasing the items. Mona states "We would like to keep the integrity of our business and help keep money in the pockets of our customers and patients, but without putting us at financial risk."

Mona also says, "We here, at Bolton Pharmasave, are continuously trying to keep everyone safe, including staff and those most vulnerable during these times. We would also like to extend a helping hand to local pharmacies to please reach out as well if their patients are in need. We will not be closing all of our doors and were are here with you, the people and local businesses of Bolton and Caledon, to help you through these times. Once this all clears up, and it will, we will come out of this together a stronger community.Together, we can fight this."

BOLTON PHARMASAVE
905.533.7700
8 Queen Street N., Bolton

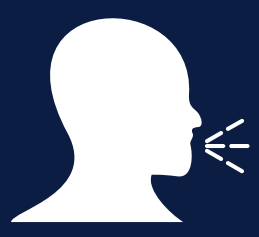
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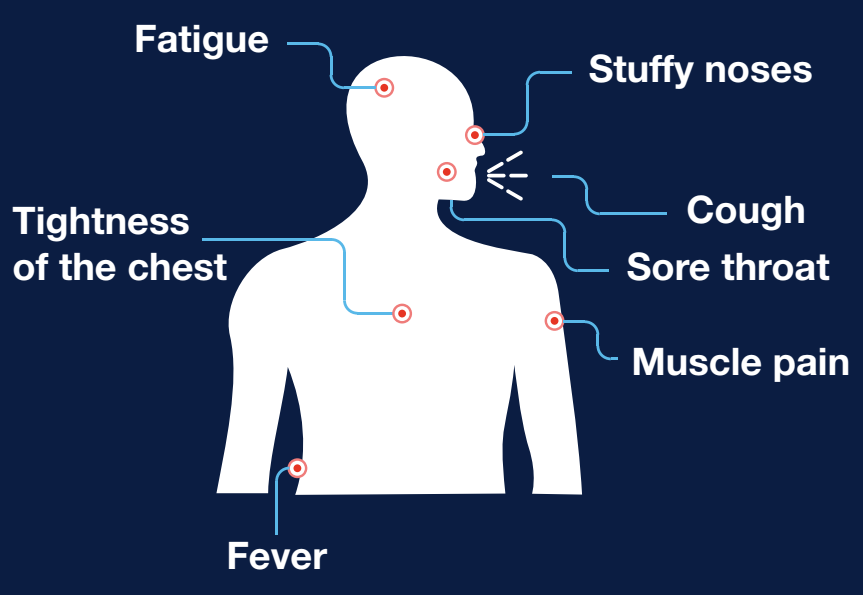


Airborne



Social contact

SYMPTOMS



PREVENTION



Avoid non-essential travel outside Canada



Avoid mass events



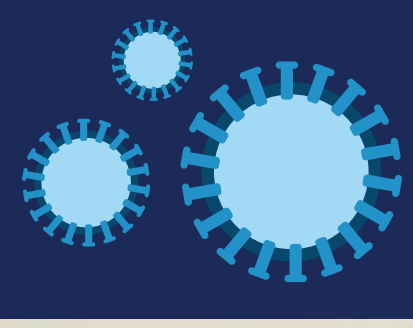
Wash hands with water and soap



Practice social distancing

COVID-19

Novel Coronavirus



Thank you to all the Health Professionals



AlteX academy takes drone training to a whole new level

Written By ROBERT BELARDI

If you are driving down Lloydtown-Aurora road and happen to see a sign named "AlteX Academy," it might be worth passing by and having a look at some of the high-tech, proverbial drones that are available. Yes, those things.

Operations Director at AlteX Academy, Yifei Zhao, claims drones have split public opinion in recent years.

There is a new motive to change the glooming perspective of these high-end pieces of technology. And here is why.

Back in 2010, Yifei Zhao and her business partner Alex Shvartsev ran a business known as NTFG Aerial. They were both known for many things. They were the first to use a co-axial drone in Canada, assembled quad-copter and completed specialty projects for many companies such as Tesla. It wasn't an expandable type of business. They needed more.

Three years later, there was a knock on the door, that would open a new avenue that could turn this business right around.

"In 2013 is when Humber College came to us," said Zhao.

"They said, 'Look you guys were the go-to, team in town. You were one of the first of three teams to start the drone department in film union here (IATSE Local 667), so we should take your skills and experience and build a couple of courses."

In 2014 it came into fruition and the school, Zhao and Shvartsev, had developed a partnership to offer college students training through continuing education.

There were plans to film the program. Back then, Zhao and Shvartsev were the first in Ontario to offer Transport Canada compliant Ground School with a certificate course from community college.

Police, engineers and real estate agents came in for training. At that point Zhao and Shvartsev knew this was a business. In 2016, AlteX Academy was born.

Zhao says, the drone is used for more than just filming. The drone is the vehicle for the camera to film and to market. So, it comes down to, what else can you really use the camera for?

"Actually, there is another function because drones have a GPS system for navigation," said Zhao.

"When you capture images, you don't just capture the picture, you actually capture a picture with GPS data and your geomatics data as well."

For surveying a land, for engineers, these employees want to know the topography of the land for cost of construction. To do this on the ground is time consuming. The drone, will provide that information effortlessly, taking photos at set intervals and processing the data through a software program.

The program is all completed through the cloud with the ability to adjust the data accuracy and send it back to the employer.

Two major departments in the OPP also use drones for traffic accident reconstruction and search and rescue projects.

The police department is able to visually present an accident scene with information such as the speed, position and impact of vehicles and present the data in court for prosecution.

In search and rescue missions, a thermal camera was used in discovering a man in Saskatchewan who had been involved in a roll-over accident back in 2013 (https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/aerial-drone-locates-sask-man-injured-in-rollover-crash-1.1398942). The drone was able to find the man with thermal signatures in the woods.

In using high-end, pieces of technology for the justice system, Zhao says drones have been recently tested between the Toronto Police force and the University of Toronto for finding missing people.

The information and data of the person is inserted in the system and the drone will calculate the probability of where this person could have gone missing.

But, the biggest challenge is integrating rural police communities into this system. Forces, such as Toronto's benefit from funding. Zhao says this is the biggest challenge currently that many rural communities face.

Since Transport Canada, at the federal level, has alleviated most of the restrictions on their legislation in the new document from 2019, it has become a lot easier to get into the industry.

More than 90 schools are listed on Transport Canada's compliant training list (https://www.tc.gc.ca/en/services/aviation/drone-safety/get-drone-pilot-certificate/find-drone-flight-school.html). In Ontario, AlteX offers training with community college partners including Fleming College and Seneca College.

Last year, more than 3,000 pilots earned their advanced certificate to fly drones. More than 200 pilots, graduated from AlteX Academy. Last year's focus was more on certification. This year is different.

"Now we're focused on delivering results. Because, really, we focus on business applications for drones. Licensing is just the first step," explained Zhao.

AlteX Academy does not sell drones or any other pieces of equipment. Zhao says it is a conflict of interest as the focus is on the client.

"In this industry, you have to pick a side. You either pick the operators, the pilots or you pick the manufacturers," she laughed.

Zhao went on to add, that it is all about education in this industry. Give it another couple more years and you will see a lot more drone applications used in our everyday life.

Minister Leece releases final report on provincial intervention at PDSB

Written By ALYSSA PARKHILL

A recent provincial review of alleged racism in Peel District schools has found that "immediate and robust action is needed" to correct systemic issues that have marginalized groups of students over several years.

This past October, a request was sent in for ministry intervention against discrimination allegations against Peel District School Board (PDSB). The request was submitted by Past Chair and Vice-Chair of Board of Trustees alongside students, families and the broader community.

"Schools must feel safe, inclusive and welcoming places for students, staff and the entire community. Allegations related to equity in the Peel District School Board have raised concerns specifically related to anti-Black racism and lack of adherence to governance, leadership and human resource practices," stated Lecce.

Lecce responded to the comments made in the request and review and issued directions for the Peel Board to address the allegations against them including, systemic discrimination – specifically anti-Black racism— human resources practices, board leadership and governance issues.

"The accounts of systemic racism and discrimination documented in the report are deeply troubling and will not be tolerated. After decades of inaction, I want to see swift implementation of my directions to drive the necessary and positive change that students deserve," said Lecce in a recent press release. "Students and the community have demanded change and I want to assure them that we will monitor Board implementation of the directions and hold them to account to deliver transformational change that will put every student on a path to success."

The review got more than 450 requests for interviews and over 160 written and telephone submissions regarding the issue. 115 interviews were held along with four community and student discussions sessions to gain the publics perspective.

The Minister of Education appointed Shawn Richards, Sue Herbert and Ena Chadha to put together the review and recommendations.

"It is clear the immediate and robust action is needed," said Ontario's Advocate for Community Opportunities, Jamil Jivani. "The March 13 announcement by the Minister is an important step toward building a public-school system that gives each child – regardless of race, background or postal code – a fair start in life."

The Peel District School Board is responsible for a total of 257 schools within Caledon, Brampton and Mississauga with over 155,000 students with different race, ethnic, linguistic and religious backgrounds.

The Peel District School Board have been given 27 ministerial directions by Lecce with a strict timeline and deliverables, which is accessible online for students, families and the community can track the progress being made.

Chair of the Board Brad MacDonald and Director of Education Peter Joshua released a statement in response to the release of the final report on March 13.

The statement highlights committing the urgency on the directions given by the Minister of Education and the expectations staff and colleagues within the school board, along with apologies to those who have been affected.

"It is clear that many individuals have been negatively affected over the years, and we apologize for the trauma and hurt they have experienced. But apologies mean nothing if we don't take action to address and correct systemic issues that result in marginalization and oppression. To do this, we cannot centre issues of equity on the discomfort of people in positions of power. We must centre those who are being marginalized, lean into our discomfort and choose to do what is right and just by those we serve. We must put our commitment to equity and inclusion into meaningful and authentic practice," the statement reads.



TOWN OF CALEDON | News | Get the email version: caledon.ca/enews



COVID-19
Protecting yourself and others

Everyone in the community can help protect themselves and others by following these steps:

- Avoid gatherings and non-essential trips or errands.
- Practice physical distancing: Keep apart at least 2 metres (6 feet) from others.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, mouth and nose as much as possible.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve or elbow, not your hands.
- Wash hands after coughing and sneezing.
- Maintain a healthy lifestyle, including a healthy diet, exercise and enough sleep, to enhance your body's immune system.

COVID-19 Property Tax Deferral

TOWN OF CALEDON

caledon.ca/tax

In response to COVID-19 the Town is offering residents the following tax deferment options:

NEXT TAX DUE DATE
Payments can be made on the next due date, May 7, or deferred until July 2 without penalty or interest.

PRE-AUTHORIZED PAYMENT (PAP)
April payments are to be processed as scheduled.

POST-DATED CHEQUES
Processed as normal.

All NSF, interest and late payment charges to be waived from March 24, 2020 to July 2, 2020.

For more details on deferring or canceling your post-dated cheque(s), withdrawing from the PAP program or payment options, visit **caledon.ca/tax**.

COVID-19
Business & economic impacts

The COVID-19 pandemic is not only disrupting the daily lives of residents. It's also hitting local business and employees hard.

BUSINESSES:
Both the federal and provincial governments have announced substantial aid packages for business. For more information visit **caledon.ca/business**.

EMPLOYEES:
If your job has been affected by COVID-19 learn more about Employment Insurance (EI) and other assistance by visiting the Government of Canada website at **canada.ca**. For provincial assistance visit **ontario.ca**.

RESIDENTS:
Here are some ideas for how you can support local business in this time of need:

- Buy gift cards or book services in advance
- Order take-out
- Do not use cash, tap your credit or debit card (where possible)
- Use social media to write a positive review for local businesses

The Town of Caledon Economic Development Office is still providing service and support during this time. While Town Hall is closed we are still available by phone at 905.584.2272 or by email at business@caledon.ca.

Visit us at **caledon.ca/business**.

Burn ban is in effect

This ban applies to all agricultural, recreational and open air fires.



Residents are kindly asked to abide by the burn ban during the outbreak of COVID-19 so that Fire and Emergency Services resources and personnel can be reserved for emergency situations. Check for updates at:

burnpermits.caledon.ca

Facility closures

As part of a coordinated regional response to the COVID-19 pandemic Town offices and facilities remain closed until further notice. For a list of online services visit **caledon.ca/eservices.**

Staying up to date

For public health information and updates about COVID-19 visit **peelregion.ca/coronavirus**, follow @regionofpeel on social media or call 905.584.2216.

For news and updates from the Town of Caledon, visit **caledon.ca**, follow @YourCaledon on social media or call Service Caledon at 905.584.2272 x.7750.

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Extreme measures provide great learning experience

by Mark Pavilons

The extreme measures being taking across the globe to curb the COVID-19 virus offer a massive, world-wide learning experience.

There's no question were are living in a very different world.

When the dust settles on this pandemic we will evaluate and analyze all of these actions and create a future game plan. Perhaps, as scientists test new vaccines, we may reap the benefits of these tests, procedures and experiments.

This is unprecedented in the world. Yes, COVID-19 is new and spreading around the globe. Our species has seen this before – SARS (a form of coronavirus), MERS, Avian flu (H1N1, 2009), Hong Kong flu (1968-69) and the devastating Spanish flu of 1918-1920.

"Eerie" is how I'd describe the almost barren landscape. It's almost as if those apocalyptic scenarios are playing out for real. While I did stay in for a few days, I did venture out for some essentials.

People were in pretty good spirits and happy to chat – at a distance of course.

I applaud the tireless efforts of retail and food chain workers to replenish supplies, but it will take some time yet to see the shelves full again.

There's no question we will make it through relatively unscathed. We are a resilient lot, we humans.

The most recent measures – mass closures and limits to public gathering of any kind – are meant to contain the spread of the virus. It's much like cutting off the oxygen to a campfire. It will likely do just that in the coming weeks.

Scientists are also working tirelessly to come up with a "cure" or at least a vaccine and some say we are very close.

I think one of the reasons COVID-19 become the hottest news of 2020 is our access to information. We are in a different place than we were decades ago, with access to up-to-the minute information from around the globe.

Just as the virus is spreading fast, news and yes "fake news" is spreading just as fast. I heard from several reputable sources that stupidity is spreading even faster! In all of this, it's important not to let fear govern our actions.

Further, our means of detection, confinement, quarantine and yes, treatment, are amazing these days. We can also share medical information and measures with our counterparts all around the world so we're all on the same page. That's huge in the fight against any virus.

For the healthy in our society, you may not even notice COVID-19 if you or your loved ones contract it. If you do, symptoms are typically minor and healthy people will fight it off.

In a few weeks, when we've curtailed the virus, this will seem like a bad dream. But it will provide plenty for all of us to think about and analyze.

It's also a massive wake-up call for good hygiene, hand-washing and sanitization, something public health officials have been pushing for decades to fight the common cold and flu. These lessons may stick with us and help improve our health in the long-term. It will likely help restaurants, hotels, arenas and public transportation clean up their acts and implement more rigorous sanitization.

If you think about it, we may be entering our cleanest period in history!

If these practices spread to the home front, all the better. We could likely use better disinfection and cross-contamination measures in our own kitchens.

Yes, this will continue to impact society and commerce around the world for months, maybe years, to come. Some cities and countries are financially strapped as it is, so I don't know how their economies will ever recover.

As our prime minister and premier assured, measures and money are there to help keep our economy moving. I hope citizens appreciate the regular appearances by our leaders in providing updates and help for our workers, businesses and families.

Now is the time for some good, "old-fashioned" home cooking! Make it a shared experience and get back to sitting around the dinner table together as a family. Keep ordering take-out to support local businesses!

For school students in Ontario, they're in the midst of an extended holiday. But it's not much of a vacation if you can't go anywhere. My belief is this will spell the end of the current academic year.

For university students, my daughter included, their semesters will continue online. They will graduate, but ceremonies will likely be cancelled. It's sad to think that thousands of students won't be tossing their hats into the air this year.

Yes, there is a "silver lining" in all of this.

Neighbours are helping neighbours; strangers are offering delivery services to those self-isolating. Local grocers and business people are pitching in where they can.

This show of support is reassuring. In the midst of turmoil and uncertainty, it's nice to know our faith in humankind has not been misplaced. Keep it up folks!

I'm still at it because the news never sleeps. The paper will continue to be printed and delivered. Our team will do our best to bring you all the stories of the day, and updates of the COVID-19 measures locally. And please let us know about those Good Samaritans in our midst.

My thoughts and prayers for everyone out there!

Editorial

Effective leadership

IT'S PROBABLY TOO SOON to know how well it worked, but thus far we think Canada is showing the world how a federated nation should deal with a pandemic, while its neighbour to the south has been doing the opposite.

As we see it, the job of a political leader during an emergency is to listen carefully to the experts and take whatever action is required to minimize the harm to your people.

Thus far in the COVID19 pandemic, that's what we have been seeing in Canada at all levels of government, and as of yesterday the result was that we had about 2,500 active cases of COVID19 and 27 deaths, while the United States had more than 50,000 active cases and more than 700 deaths, or about two deaths per million population compared with Canada's 0.7.

Obviously, part of the reason lies in our different forms of government. In our parliamentary system, governments can act quickly, particularly if they have a majority of seats in the legislature. And even when, as is now the case, we have a minority government at Ottawa, speedy passage of legislation can take place when the opposition parties agree on the need. The Liberal government's $82-billion relief package got unanimous consent early yesterday after hours of behind-the-scenes discussions that succeeded in eliminating provisions that gave the government unprecedented taxing and spending powers without parliamentary oversight.

In the U.S., governors have as much power as Canadian premiers but in Washington the power is shared by the president and Congress, which currently has a Democrat-controlled House of Representatives, a Republican-controlled Senate and a president who never trusts experts.

The result has been almost total chaos, with nothing resembling effective leadership at the top. Seemingly preoccupied by a desire to be re-elected next November, Donald Trump initially dismissed talk of a pandemic as a 'hoax,' and as recently as this week refused to employ the Defense Procurement Act, a wartime measure that permits the federal government to order conversion of industrial output to ships, planes, tanks and armaments and could be used to supply hospitals with desperately needed ventilators, ICU beds, protective clothing and masks.

In our view, one of the few political heroes in the U.S. is New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, who has been holding daily press briefings during which he has repeatedly sought federal assistance, and whose plea for 30,000 ventilators resulted in the shipment by FEMA (the Federal Emergency Management Agency) of 400 of the desperately needed lifesaving devices and the promise of a few more from its 20,000-unit stockpile.

One thing no one knows is when (or whether) the COVID19 virus will subside, but most of the experts think it will take months, not weeks, for the disease to run its course and allow countries to return to something approaching normal.

But once again ignoring the experts, Donald Trump has called for U.S. churches to be packed on Easter Sunday (April 12), suggesting he will relax rules set a few days ago which recommended social distancing. Beyond that, he now is portraying the pandemic as little more than a new version of influenza and encouraging younger Americans to return to their workplaces so the economy can start recovering. Is this what real leadership looks like?

On hearing the president's remarks, senior officials of the World Health Organization said that if that happens, the U.S. might well replace Italy as the epicentre of the pandemic.

Oh yes, and by Tuesday Italy's death toll had reached 6,820, or more than double China's 3,277. And if Italy's current death rate per million population – 118 – were replicated in the U.S., the death toll there would be close to 35,000.

But, if COVID-19 has proven anything thus far, it's that it is terribly unpredictable. One thing is, however, for sure - the more government, meaning every government worldwide, does today, the faster we can put this nightmare ordeal behind us.



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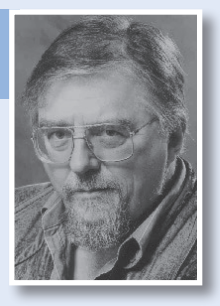
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The Plague: a few changes

GWYNNE DYER
OUR WORLD TODAY



They teach you in journalism school never to use the phrase "...X has changed the world forever". Or at least they should. Covid-19 is certainly not going to change the world forever, but it is going to change quite a few things, in some cases for a long time. Here's nine of them, in no particular order.

1. The clean air over China's cities in the past month, thanks to an almost total shutdown of the big sources of pollution, has saved 20 times as many Chinese lives as Covid-19 has taken. (Air pollution kills about 1.1 million people in China every year.) People will remember this when the filthy air comes back, and want something done about it. India too.

2. Online shopping was already slowly killing the retail shops. The lockdown will force tens of millions who rarely or never shop online to do it all the time. (Yes, all the websites are crashed or booked until mid-April now, but there will be lots of time to scale them up to meet the demand.) Once customers get used to shopping online, most of them won't go back, so retail jobs will be disappearing twice as fast.

3. Not so radical a change with restaurants, but basically the same story: more take-aways and home deliveries, fewer bums on seats. Habits will change, and a lot of people won't come back afterwards. Food sold out the door generates much less cash flow than food served at the table, and half of the waiters' jobs are gone. There will be a severe cull of restaurants.

4. Once it becomes clear that 'remote working' actually works for most jobs, it will start to seem normal for people not to go in to work most days. So a steep drop in commuting, lower greenhouse-gas emissions, and eventually a lot of empty office space in city centres.

5. There will be a recession, of course, but it probably won't be as bad or as long as the one after the financial crash of 2008. It isn't a collapse of 'the market' that has cost people their jobs this time. It was a virus that made them stop working, and governments are doing far more than ever before to sustain working people through what will probably be a long siege.

When the virus is tamed and they can go back to work, the work (in most cases) will still be there. Although there will also be a few trillion dollars of extra debt.

6. Don't worry about the debt. Banks have always created as much money as the government requires. Put too much money into the economy and you'll cause inflation, which is bad, but just replacing what people would ordinarily be earning so that the economy doesn't seize up is good.

So President Macron can tell the French that no business, however small, will be allowed to go bankrupt. Prime Minister Johnson can tell the British that the government will pay them 80% of their normal income, up to a limit of £2,500 ($3,000) a month, if their work has vanished. And President Trump can talk about sprinkling 'helicopter money' on the grateful masses.

7. What is being revealed here is a deeper truth. 'Austerity' – cutting back on the welfare state to 'balance the budget' – is a political and ideological choice, not an economic necessity. What governments are moving into, willy-nilly, is a basic income guaranteed by the state.

Just for the duration of the crisis, they say, and it's not quite a Universal Basic Income, but that idea is now firmly on the table.

8. Collective action and government protection for the old and the poor will no longer viewed as dangerous radicalism, even in the United States. Welfare states were built all over the developed world after the Second World War. They will be expanded after the Plague ends.

Indeed, if Joe Biden were to drop out of the presidential race tomorrow for health reasons, Bernie Sanders would stand a fair chance of beating Trump in November.

9. Decisive action on the climate crisis will become possible (although not guaranteed), because we will have learned that 'business as usual' is not sacred. If we have to change the way we do business, we can.

So it's an ill wind that blows no good (a saying that was already old when John Heywood first catalogued it in 1546). Some of the anticipated changes are definitely good, but we are going to pay an enormous price in lives and in loss for these benefits. It could have been dealt with a lot better.

And the West should learn a little humility. Taiwan, South Korea and China (after the early fumble) have handled this crisis far better than Europe and North America. These are already more dead in Italy than in China, and America, Britain, France and Germany will certainly follow suit.

Together we rally

SHERALYN ROMAN
TALK CALEDON



Caledon has once again stepped up to the plate and answered the call to action. We are, as everyone knows, and says repeatedly, (I'm thinking of having a T-shirt printed) experiencing "unprecedented times." Most of us have no experience with what is currently happening and those that might have gone through terrible times like war, rationing (or worse) – are now some of our eldest citizens and therefore some of our most vulnerable. While we might look to them for guidance, they are looking to us for support. Here we are, Caledon citizens rising together, to work together.

Over this past week we have heard so many stories of positivity that even in the face of this pandemic, they give us reason to hope. We asked residents to support The Exchange and they did! So many folks stepped up to help out that it was almost overwhelming. We would be remiss if we didn't share a special shout out to Garden Foods who delivered 400lbs (four hundred!) of fresh potatoes, carrots, onions, apples and canned meat! A simple thank you doesn't even begin to say enough but thank you nonetheless!

We've also heard about a few people who are reaching out to help the seniors in our community. Of course the amazing folks at Caledon Meals on Wheels, both staff and volunteers, continue to support our seniors in a variety of ways – even making personal phone calls to speak with seniors who participate in their programs, one on one. We have also heard about neighbourhoods where families rallied together to deliver food to area seniors who might be having more of a challenge getting out to supermarkets. Local senior's buildings are being supported by those that live close by whether that's in Bolton, Southfields or beyond and isn't that a wonderful thing? Our Area and Regional Councillors are doing everything they can to support our community right now, in a variety of ways both personally and in their capacity as a representatives of the Town. It goes without saying that our Mayor is going above and beyond and setting a wonderful example of what teamwork looks like during this challenging time. The scheduled 3pm conference call that our entire community recently had a chance to participate in was a refreshingly open and direct opportunity to have a "one on one" conversation with Mayor Thompson and the team who are supporting Caledon through this crisis. I thought it was a wonderful approach and a true personal touch and Caledon is making good (though difficult) decisions to help our community. Thank you Mayor Thompson and Council.

Supermarkets and pharmacies are opening early for seniors. Good job. We understand the Rotary Seniors Centre is also calling locals to do friendly check ins and that anyone with concerns, questions or in need of help can call the Rotary Seniors Centre for a chat. A local company, specializing in connecting folks who are 50+, is currently distributing printable "Hello Neighbour" cards online to help connect folks who can help with folks who need it. Simply print the card with your name and contact information, leave it with a neighbour you think might need some assistance, and help is on the way!

Finally, I should end on another positive note. Regular readers will know that I am no fan of Doug Ford but I am always happy to give credit where credit is due. Mr. Ford has been exhibiting calm leadership and making good decisions based on all the current information available. He speaks consistently, professionally and without rhetoric. It's refreshing. Our local MPP Sylvia Jones has been right alongside him throughout this crisis, making the difficult but necessary decisions that will help us all. No doubt they are putting themselves at some personal risk by working closely together, without benefit of social distancing, as they present a united front to the Ontario people. This isn't an easy time and it's a time unlike any we have ever faced. There is no "playbook" to draw from and only a few examples from other countries about what to do – or not to do. Mr. Ford, Ms. Jones, to you I say "Good job" and a sincere thank you.

HEADWATERS
Health Care Foundation

These are **challenging** times.

How we respond to members of our community who are, or may become ill with COVID-19, and to members of our community experiencing cancer, diabetes, cardiac concerns, broken bones, end of life and of course the joy of birth, **is** similarly **important**.

Charities suffer when there is a crisis such as this, and Headwaters needs your support **now more the ever!**

Anne, a long-time community member and Headwaters supporter has generously offered to **match all donations** made by the community between March 23rd and April 30th, up to $40,000.

Please donate today. Your gift will be used for the most pressing needs at Headwaters right now.

Visit www.hhcfoundation.com to donate now, or call 519-941-2702 ext. 2303

Follow us on Facebook to see how other members of our community are supporting Headwaters.

ARTS & Entertainment

2019 a record-breaking year for Ontario's film & TV industry

Written By MARK PAVILONS

Ontario's trendsetting entertainment industry is mainting its course.

Industry supporters are celebrating the fact that Ontario's film and television industry had a record-breaking year in 2019, with 343 productions. That brought in a whopping $2.16 billion in production spending for the economy and supported 44,540 full-time equivalent direct and spin-off jobs.

This represents an increase in production by almost 15 per cent from 2018 and more than 7,500 new jobs for Ontarians.

Lisa MacLeod, Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries joined award-winning actress Wendy Crewson, award-winning director Sergio Navarretta, as well as industry leaders Jim Mirkopoulos (Cinespace Toronto), Justin Cutler (Ontario Creates), Theresa Tova (ACTRA), Peggy Kyriakidou and Jayson Mosek (UNIFOR), Angela Mastronardi and Monty Montgomerie (IATSE), and Michael Cerenzie and Jonathan Ahee (Stratagem Group) recently to discuss the results.

"Ontario is open for business, open for jobs, and open to the film and television industry," said Minister MacLeod. "These results show that we're building a business-friendly climate where production companies and production service companies can grow.

"In 2020, we are continuing to work with Ontario Creates and the industry to ensure producers at home and around the globe know that there's no better place to create content than right here in Ontario."

Ontario is a leader in domestic film and television production, and is home to a booming foreign production sector. The economic and employment benefits of Ontario's vibrant film and television industry are felt across the province.

The hotspots are across the GTA and cities in southern Ontario. Some the cities and productions are as follows:

Cambridge – The Handmaid's Tale, Madam CJ Walker, The Good Witch, Hardy Boys, The Queen's Gambit, Frankie Drake, Anne with an E and In the Dark.

Durham Region – American Gods (season 3), Coroner (season 2), Titans, Anne with an E, Schitt's Creek, The Handmaid's Tale, Secret Society of Second Born Royals, Madam C.J. Walker, Spinning Out and Falling.

Hamilton – Umbrella Academy, Mrs. America, Jupiter's Legacy, Titans, Locke And Key, and the upcoming David Bowie biopic Stardust.

Kingston – DC's Titans, Murdoch Mysteries and Star Trek.

Mississauga – V Wars, Self-Made, Designated Survivor, Dare Me, Shadow Hunters, Titans, In the Dark and The Boys.

North Bay – Cardinal.

Ottawa – Curious George, The Last Kids on Earth and Hilda (all animated in Ottawa).

"The government's commitment to growing Ontario's film and television industry means big business for Ontario and a globally competitive production scene," said Karen Thorne-Stone, president and CEO, Ontario Creates. "Our suite of financial incentives, over 10,000 locations, world-class crews, diverse talent, award-winning post-production facilities, and expanding studio space are a huge draw for producers from Canada, the U.S. and around the world."

Veteran actor and King Township resident Art Hindle has been a proud cheerleader for home-grown talent and resources for decades. Hindle is not only in front of the camera, but he's also vice-president of external affairs for ACTRA (Alliance of Canadian Cinema, Television and Radio Artists), the union of more than 23,000 professional performers.

"As an actor living in a rural community, I take pride in what we as members of our actor's union, ACTRA, has accomplished in leading the campaign through lobbying to ensure our political leaders understand the wisdom in creating and solidifying the best tax credits in North America. When both domestic and foreign film/TV productions film in our local areas they bring needed revenue to the local economy.

"So if you know a local filmmaker, show your support; it will pay off in the long run!"

Jobs created by film and TV production in the province include technicians (such as lighting, make-up, carpenters, set designers, set dressers and wardrobe experts), production managers and coordinators, location managers, craft services, post-production experts, accountants, performers and drivers.

Ontario offers tax credits to support film and television production. These incentives play an important role in increasing economic activity and job creation in Ontario while also enhancing the province's cultural profile.

In February 2020, the government announced a Ministers' Film and Television Advisory Panel, which will provide evidence and advice to the government on industry trends, challenges and opportunities to grow high-value film and television production in Ontario and maximize benefits for the province.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CBC

FILMED LOCALLY: Schitt's Creek, starring Catherone O'Hara abd Dan Levy, both pictured above, is filmed in Hockley Valley. The show, now in its final season, has been a huge hit, both across Canada and internationally.

adopt a pet



Mimi

Mimi is a friendly calico who was abandoned by her owner. Mimi has a calm personality and loves attention!

Mimi recently had a dentistry at our veterinarian to remove 2 painful, infected teeth - now her mouth feels great! Mimi is very obese, and as a result has some mobility issues. Because of her size, she is unable to groom herself; she will require regular brushing and making sure her sanitary area stays clean. Mimi is currently on a weight loss program and is gradually loosing weight . We would like her new family to continue her weight loss plan. Mimi is deserving of a great life and will feel much better once she is at her healthy weight.

If you would like to adopt beautiful Mimi, please visit during our adoption hours. No appointment is required, but we do recommend calling before you visit to ensure the pet is still available. Thank you.

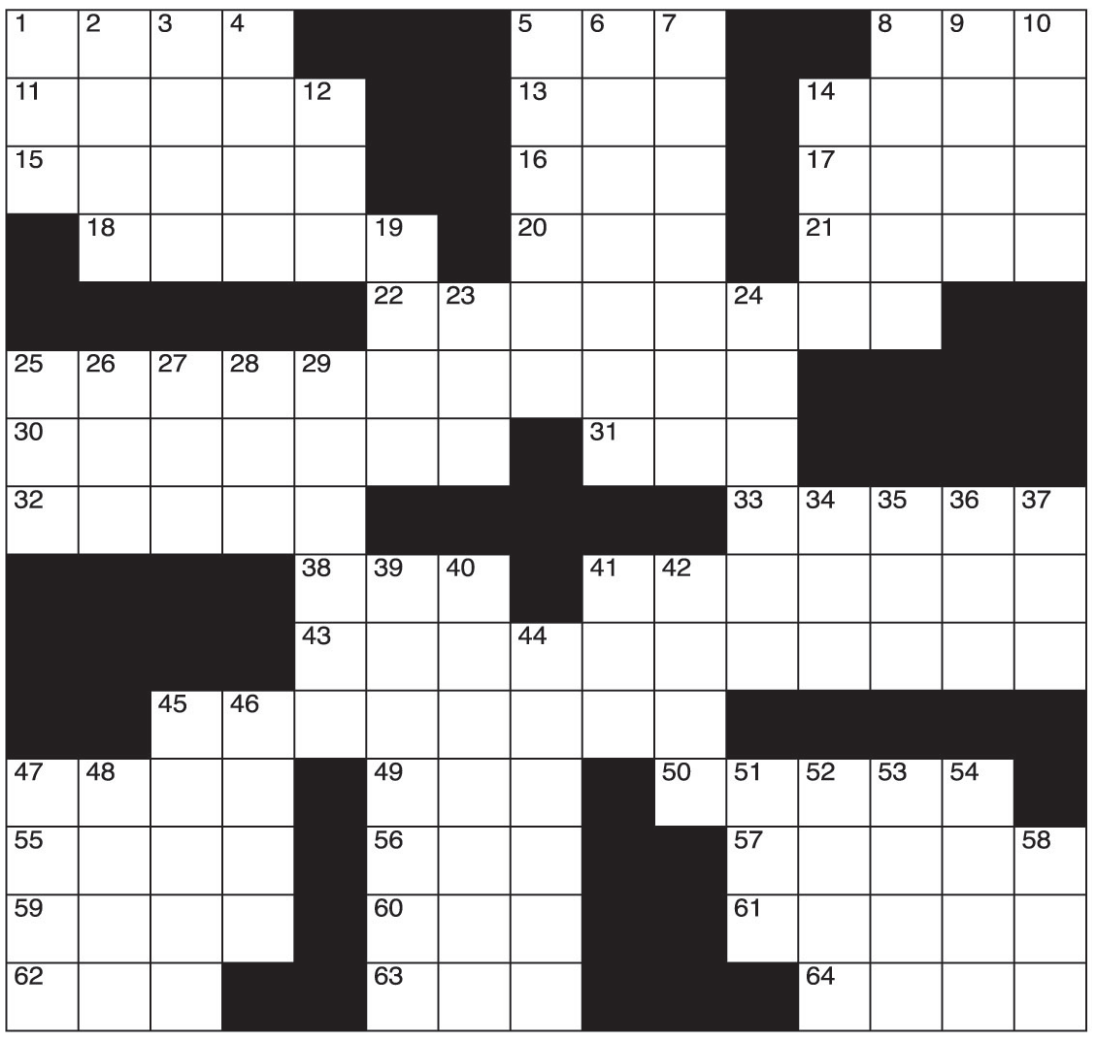
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The Citizen CROSSWORD

Puzzle No. 203410 • Solution on page B1



CLUES ACROSS

1. As soon as possible
5. Gateway (Arabic)
8. Doctors' group
11. Madder genus of plants
13. A team's best pitcher
14. Ancient Greek sophist
15. Go up
16. Neither
17. Bolivian river
18. Manila hemp
20. Comedienne Gasteyer
21. British School
22. Human reproductive organs
25. Surrenders
30. Dog with long, silky coat and drooping ears
31. Sun up in New York
32. Lead alloy
33. Eastern Asian plant
38. Rapid deployment force (abbr.)
41. Japanese warrior
43. Festivity
45. Interruptions
47. Nonsense (slang)
49. Data mining methodology (abbr.)
50. Calvary sword
55. French river
56. Global business conference (abbr.)
57. Afflicted
59. Con man's game
60. No (Scottish)
61. Jewish spiritual leader
62. Fish
63. Camera term (abbr.)
64. Impudence

CLUES DOWN

1. A continuous portion of a circle
2. Genus of seabirds
3. Infant's dining accessory
4. Native Americans from Arizona
5. Popular fruit
6. Poisonous plant
7. Scolded
8. Assists
9. Hand (Spanish)
10. Amazon product identifying system (abbr.)
12. Basics
14. Cain and __
19. Malaria
23. Indicates particular shape
24. Respiratory disease
25. Central Standard Time
26. Imitate
27. Golf score
28. A place to lay your head
29. Three cards of the same suit
34. Not in
35. Human gene
36. Ancient Chinese philosophic concept
37. French river
39. Thinks up
40. Type of geological deposit
41. Helps little firms
42. Area units
44. A device to remove
45. Secret political clique
46. Polite interruption sound
47. Foundation
48. Clare Boothe __, American writer
51. Swiss river
52. Prejudice
53. Actor Idris
54. Resistance fighters
58. Speak disrespectfully of

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

Local pet rescue seeking volunteers and donations for animals in need

Written By ALYSSA PARKHILL

Local pet rescue group, Donate a Paw, differs from other animal organizations who are dedicated to saving and caring for animals who haven't had the best start to life.

Two years ago, Megan Chiodi began Donate a Paw, first as a food bank for other local rescues before it grew into it's own rescue organization in the Spring of 2019.

"We got a call regarding an abandoned bunny on a Caledon trail, so I took her in. I have a degree in animal care as well as experience working in shelters and vet hospitals. With my experience and passion for animals, I decided to take her in and raise funds for her treatment, as she was sick, as well as find her a new home," said Chiodi. "After we took in the bunny, we had other requests to help them out with re-homing animals. Days later, I decided that I could make a difference in the world and help animals in need."

From then on, Chiodi made it her goal to grow as a rescue, and created a foster program, building a website and social media presence to assist with the adoption process. Donate a Paw is a foster-base rescue, meaning that the animals in the Donate a Paw care, are being taken and cared for in volunteer's homes.

"We find, most of the time, an animal is less stressed in a home environment, and that, often, the animals need more of a one on one time experience with people in order to be confident again and earn human trust," explained Chiodi. "We have had some animals who have never been handled or have had a bad past and our amazing foster team is so good at being patient with them and slowly showing them that we care for them, that later on that animal warms up and becomes lovable and cuddly."

Currently, Donate a Paw is only taking in cats, bunnies and other small animals as they don't have the room for dogs. Chiodi is still in the process of working with the Ministry of Canada to become an official registered rescue, which will open more doors for growth and opportunities for the organization.

The rescue is constantly looking for assistance, whether in volunteers or just simple donations for the animals in care. They encourage anyone who is looking to help the rescue and the animals, to consider donating cat or small animal supplies, provinding monetary donations to help pay for veterinary bills, help transport animals, and most importantly, fostering. Especially during the hard times of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"COVID-19 has made a huge impact on the rescue. We had to cancel all upcoming fundraiser events, adoptions have been slow and it's been difficult for fosters as everyone is being self-isolated. Donate a paw has decided all adoption meet and greets will be held over a video conference or live video on social media, all adoption paperwork is being done through email and to those who have been approved for adoption, they will only be able to pick up their adoptive animal from the front door of foster homes to avoid any unwanted germs," said Chiodi. "We are hoping once things clear up we can eventually get back to normal and have regular meet and greets and tons of events. We have been waiting patiently to roll out our summer events, it will be nice when we can start again."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

CUTE AND CUDDLY: Donate a Paw founder and owner, Megan Chiodi, has dedicated her time and effort for the past year to save as many animals as she can, with the help of donations and foster volunteers.

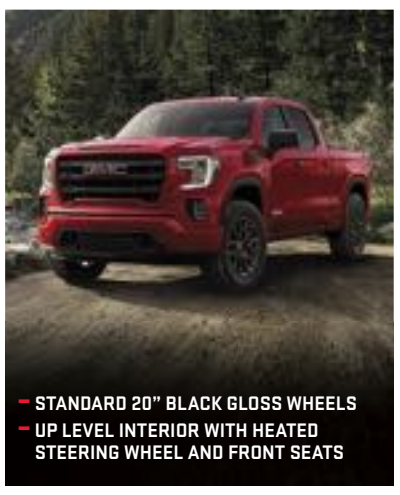
She added, "Everyone donating during isolation means so much to us as we always have sick animals needing treatment, as well animals who need the proper health care before adoption and without events or supplies it puts us in a difficult position."

Donate a Paw is not a first come first serve rescue, and is thorough with their applications and adoption process to prevent any errors from occuring, and to make sure the home and the animal are right for each other. Chiodi continues her work helping as many animals as possible, even with doubts thrown her way.

"I've heard many people tell me, 'you can't save all of them.' And my response is, 'you're right, I can't save all of them. But for that one animal that we do save, it's a life changing experience for them," she said.

For more information about Donate a Paw, or to donate your time or supplies to the rescue, please email donateapaw@gmail.com, or check out the Facebook page.



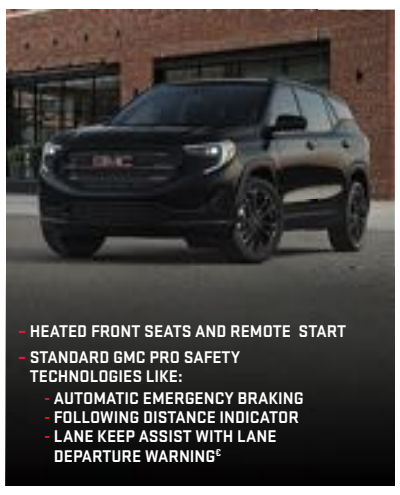


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Highlighting some gorgeous trends in green home design

An eco-friendly home offers many benefits. Besides reducing your carbon footprint and being better for the environment, you can save lots of money on your energy bills in the long run. Plus, many of the latest trends are simply beautiful. Here are some to consider for your next home or remodel:

Bamboo materials: Bamboo is a renewable resource that can be harvested gently, without disturbing the surrounding environment. It's also a great alternative to hardwood, since it can regenerate faster than trees. The timeless material is very popular for flooring and can also be used for bathroom and kitchen cabinets. When buying this material for your home, look for a high-quality, sustainable producer since cheaper versions can be less sturdy.

Passive house: Go beyond efficient appliances with an entire house that uses little-to-no energy. Derived from the German Passivhaus, passive house is a movement that refers to a design process that creates buildings that have a small ecological footprint and require little heating or cooling. Use the philosophy to guide decisions for your home — from adding solar panels on your roof to boosting your insulation.

Reclaimed pieces: One of the quickest and easiest ways to have a positive environmental impact is buying as little new as possible. The next time you need a piece of furniture, create something rustic by recycling or upcycling an old or vintage item with a new coat of paint or a fresh wood stain. If you're planning a demolition, try deconstruction instead — "un-build" the structure and find elements you can salvage or reclaim, like exposed brick and wood beams.

Water conservation: With more parts of the world experiencing drought, saving water is one of the top concerns for environmentalists. Wasting water is also expensive and leads to higher utility bills. Upgrading your home with water conservation features can go a long way, and most are designed to look sleek and minimalist. Opt for low-flow showerheads, toilets and sink fixtures.

Insulated concrete forms: Many homeowners now prefer to build with insulated concrete forms (ICFs) because the material offers better energy efficiency and performance than traditional wood. Homes built with Nudura ICFs also provide better fire protection and can help you save as much as 60 percent on heating and cooling costs.



FILE PHOTO

GREEN HOME: An eco-friendly home offers many benefits. Besides reducing your carbon footprint and being better for the environment, you can save lots of money on your energy bills in the long run.

Your home is less likely to contain cold areas as the insulation is continuous around the entire house.

Find more information about the benefits of building with eco-friendly ICFS at nudura.com.

Five outdoor projects that can add major value to your property

Exterior renovations can enhance the appearance of a property and make it more enjoyable for homeowners. Certain renovations have the potential to add value to a home, while others may do the opposite. Learning which one have the largest return on investment can help homeowners select features that will have the most positive impact.

Curb appeal goes a long way toward attracting potential buyers. According to the National Association of Realtors, first impressions of a property have a strong influence on buyers. Landscaping and external features can do much to influence such impressions.

Lawn care program

Investing in a lawn care program that consists of fertilizer and weed control application and can be transferred over to a subsequent home owner is an attractive feature. NAR says such a care program can recover $1,000 in value of the $330 average cost, or a 303 percent ROI.

Low-maintenance lifestyle

When choosing materials for projects, those that offer low-maintenance benefits can be preferential. These include low-maintenance patio materials, composite decking, vinyl fencing, and inorganic mulched beds.

Fire pit

A fire pit can be used for much of the year. In the spring and summer, the firepit is a great place to congregate to roast marshmallows or sip wine and gaze into the fire. In the fall, the fire pit can make for a cozy retreat. A fire pit that has a gas burner is low-maintenance, and the National Association of Landscape Professionals says that most can recoup about $4,000 of their $6,000 average price tag.

Softscaping

Hardscaping refers to structures like outdoor kitchens or decks. Softscaping involves the living elements of the landscape. Hiring a landscape designer to install trees, shrubs, natural edging, and rock elements can do wonders toward improving the look and value of a home.

Pool or water feature:

In certain markets, particularly hot climates, a pool or another water feature is a must-have. However, in other areas where outdoor time is limited, a pool or water feature can actually lower the value of a home. Speaking with a real estate professional can give homeowners an idea of how a pool will fare in a given neighborhood.



FILE PHOTO

INCREASED VALUE: Five easy-to-do projects that can add major value to your property.

Outdoor improvements can improve the marketability of a home, as well as enhance its appearance and function.

Some important tips for investors looking to buy a custom home

Even considering being able to design your own custom home is an exciting prospect. Whether you're ready to take the plunge or just exploring your options, here are tips to keep in mind.

Know what you're signing up for. Building a custom home is a significant undertaking and a major life decision. It's a big commitment in terms of time, money and energy. While this shouldn't scare you away from your dream home, it's important to know what you're getting into. If you're feeling overwhelmed with the kids or busy caring for an ailing parent, it may be best to start this later.

Hire the right professionals. You may be a DIY pro, but this isn't a project you want to take on yourself, even partly. Key professionals you'll need to work with include an architect, plumber, electrician and more. Consider also working with a designer who can help with the interiors to make sure the space is as functional as it is beautiful. Do your research to find quality pros - this isn't the time to skimp on labor.

Think about furniture layout early. While it may seem a bit premature to start decorating your living room before the foundation is laid, knowing how you'll want to use and lay out each room can help you during the building and design process. For example, you can save time and money down the line when you know from the get-go you'll want a window seat and two large couches to face the fireplace.

Know where to save and spend. Costs can quickly add up, so it's important for you to decide early on what matters most to you, and what's worth investing in. You can always upgrade your flooring or cabinetry, but you can never change the foundation. Build your home to last longer and perform better with innovative building materials like insulated custom forms (ICFs) from Nudura. This alternative to wood framing can withstand fire and high winds and provides superior insulation, leading to significant savings on your energy bills year after year.

Prepare for the unexpected. Building a new home is a process, and you can minimize stress by embracing that it will be unpredictable and can change throughout the journey. Plan for things like weather delays and higher costs. The unexpected can also lead to positive changes in your plans. For example, you might come across a new flooring material that's more eco-friendly, or a smart home automation system might hit the market and you'll want to integrate it into the design. Be flexible.

Find more information about building your new home with insulated concrete forms at nudura.com.

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The Jacome family welcomes home second son from abroad

Written By ROBERT BELARDI

Every family has their niche. It floats the boat. It fuels the fire.

This ubiquitous influence will define the members inside the home and will never, under any circumstance, become monotonous.

In Caledon, the Jacome family is fuelled by, none other, than the pride and joy of what it means to be Canadian.

Hockey is what makes this household run.

After the family welcomed home their eldest son Brendan from the University of Ottawa, their second eldest son Jack returned home from Clarkson University, after the COVID-19 pandemic suspended the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I hockey program and the school itself.

"It happened so fast and boom, we were home two days later," Jacome said.

"We were about to start our playoffs, and we heard that Harvard might cancel their season. The next day, another team might cancel their season. That night the NBA closed. Then the next day, the NHL closed."

Unlike Brendan, who idolized those who wore the number 19, Jack raised himself, praising players akin to his own height and style.

At 5'7, Jack cheered for the long-time Tampa Bay Lightning forward and Stanley cup champion, Martin St. Louis.

"He was the guy I looked up to and he paved the way for a lot of other small guys playing in the NHL now. Yeah, he was my guy, no other way to put it."

Jacome began with the Caledon Hawks around the age of five, playing hockey a year above his age group, before moving to Brampton's system for rep.

He remained a part of Brampton's rep league all the way to AAA Midget and even wore the number 26 like St. Louis. That was when the OJHL, Georgetown Raiders, signed him to the team for the 2015/2016 season.

After his first game, Clarkson coach Casey Jones approached Jacome to speak with him. By February 2016, he had officially committed to the school. He already had offers from other division one schools at this time, but chose Clarkson over all others.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

IT'S IN THEIR BLOOD: Caledon boy Jack Jacome has recently returned home from the United States after having his hockey season, and school year, cut short by COVID-19.

"Where Clarkson is in New York, is a really small town."

"I'm from Caledon. I live in a pretty small part of Caledon too, so, I'm used to being around farms and just used to a small town feel which I really like."

In the same year, Brendan and Jack were playing together with the Raiders. Jack led the team with 67 points and his brother Brendan finished the year with 58. Jack says, that not every sibling has the chance to play with their brother in such a high level of hockey and it is a memory he will forever cherish.

After his first year, Brendan left the Raiders and Jack, was the one and only Jacome on the roster. In the 2016-2017 season, he led the Raiders to the Buckland Cup, finishing the year with 91 points and was named top-forward in the CJHL.

"A big part of that year for me was the coaching. We had some amazing coaches. Greg Walters, who is now the coach of the Oshawa Generals in the OHL, I still keep in touch with him, he helped me out so much and let me be myself out there."

"Big year for my development as well. I think I grew a lot as a player. It gave me the direction to move on to Clarkson the next year."

The Raiders practices and games were only fifteen minutes away from his house. Jacome was ready to leave for Potsdam, New York, to another country, a state instead of a province and against a whole new league he had never seen before.

Jacome says the biggest challenge he faced, was living on his own. It was mundane to return back to your dorm to know there is laundry to be done, and he had no other choice.

Now in his third year, it has been easier ever since, being a part of school in the United States.

Clarkson travels to most games within a five-hour radius, such as Cornell, Albany and even as far out as Harvard.

There have been some cases where the school had to fly over to Michigan and even into Wisconsin for hockey. Unlike the OHL, the university out in the United States organizes hockey games for Friday and Saturday nights.

Jacome laughed and said it gives him structure that way, otherwise, he doesn't know what he would do without it.

He says in the NCAA, there are a lot of Canadian players playing south of the border. The game is very different in the United States versus Canada. It is structured, through and through.

"Games are really structured, with the system the coach puts in place. Usually there is not as much offence."

"Everyone is so structured and systematic. It's really physical. There's only two games a week, once you get to the weekend, you're pretty excited to play."

So far, this season, Jacome is Clarkson's sixth leading scorer, with six goals and 11 assists.

He also took the time over the phone, to commend the efforts of his father, who has bred three talented hockey players in the family.

Father, David Jacome, played at Western University before playing professionally in Holland.

He has shared his passion with his wife Angela, and his three sons. Jacome says, he used to build a rink in the backyard so the boys can practice and would flood the rink at night; even if it was 15 below zero outside.

Jacome says, it might be cliché to say he owes his father everything. But it's the truth. They all do.

Sooner or later, the youngest son Joey might have a nice story too.

Caledon's Andrew Mangiapane enjoying breakout year in National Hockey League

Written By ROBERT BELARDI

Bolton-Caledon native Andrew Mangiapane was having his best season as a pro until the National Hockey League suspended the year due to the COVID-19 virus on March 12th.

The 23-year-old winger has recorded 17 goals and 15 assists in 68 games, in his first full season as a Flame. Last year, Mangiapane was on the ice for only 44 contests.

In the first two months under Bill Peters' tutelage, Mangiapane only recorded nine points.

When reports emerged, Peters had sent in his letter of resignation on November 29th and the Calgary Flames named Associate Coach, Geoff Ward as the interim coach, the young winger has flourished.

Mangiapane has amassed 23 points, including a 12-point month in January since Ward has been in charge.

He has been on a line with centre Mikael Backlund and tenacious-winger, Matthew Tkachuk.

In February, Mangiapane terrorized the Anaheim Ducks, earning his first career hat-trick as a professional and adding one assist.

In the last three games prior to the suspension of the regular season, Mangiapane has been riding a three-game point-streak.

As for his team, the Flames saw their three-game winning streak come to an end on March 8th at home against the Las Vegas Golden Knights.

After falling 3-0 down early in the second period, the Flames cancelled out the advantage with three goals of their own by the beginning of the third period.

Mangiapane assisted Tkachuk's finish and the momentum seemingly shifted in the Flames' favour.

However, two costly goals late in the period from Shea Theodore and Jonathan Marchessault led to a 5-3 loss.

After the game, Mangiapane said to reporters, "we're good when we forecheck right and that starts off with the first guy getting in on the body. Hitting him, making him make a play that he's uncomfortable with."

He went on to add, the one positive about the last game of the season was the resilience from the group battling back. Once the boys got into the dirty areas and battling for every puck the odds were in their favour.

In 70 games played thus far, the Flames sit in third in the Western Conference Pacific Division with 79 points, one ahead of the trailing Vancouver Canucks.

The Flames face a tough battle for a ticket to the postseason. Should the team fall into a wildcard spot, the Winnipeg Jets sit at 80 points and the Nashville Predators at 78.

As hockey fans anxiously wait for the season to resume, there is no telling what is in store for the Calgary Flames and Mangiapane.

For now, it is hoped the season returns sooner rather than later; for every sports fan's sake.

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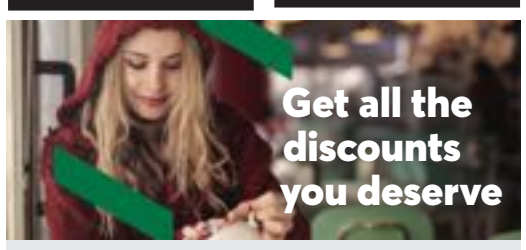
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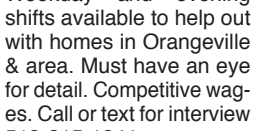
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IF YOU WANT to keep drinking, that's your business. IF YOU WANT to stop drinking, that's our business. Call Alcoholics Anonymous Hot Line, 1-866-715-0005. www.aanorthhaltonerin.org.

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

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

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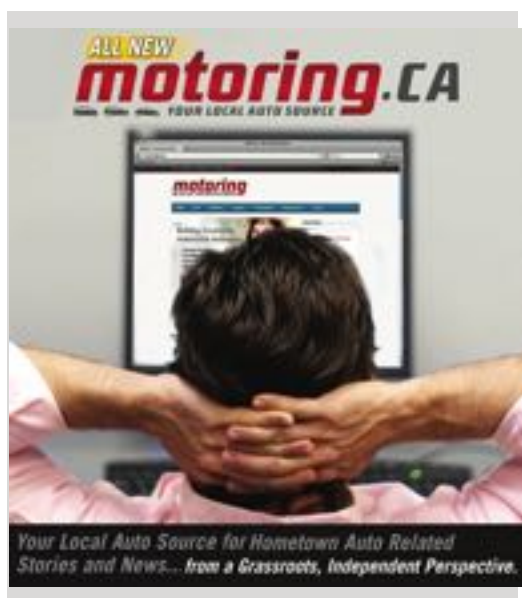
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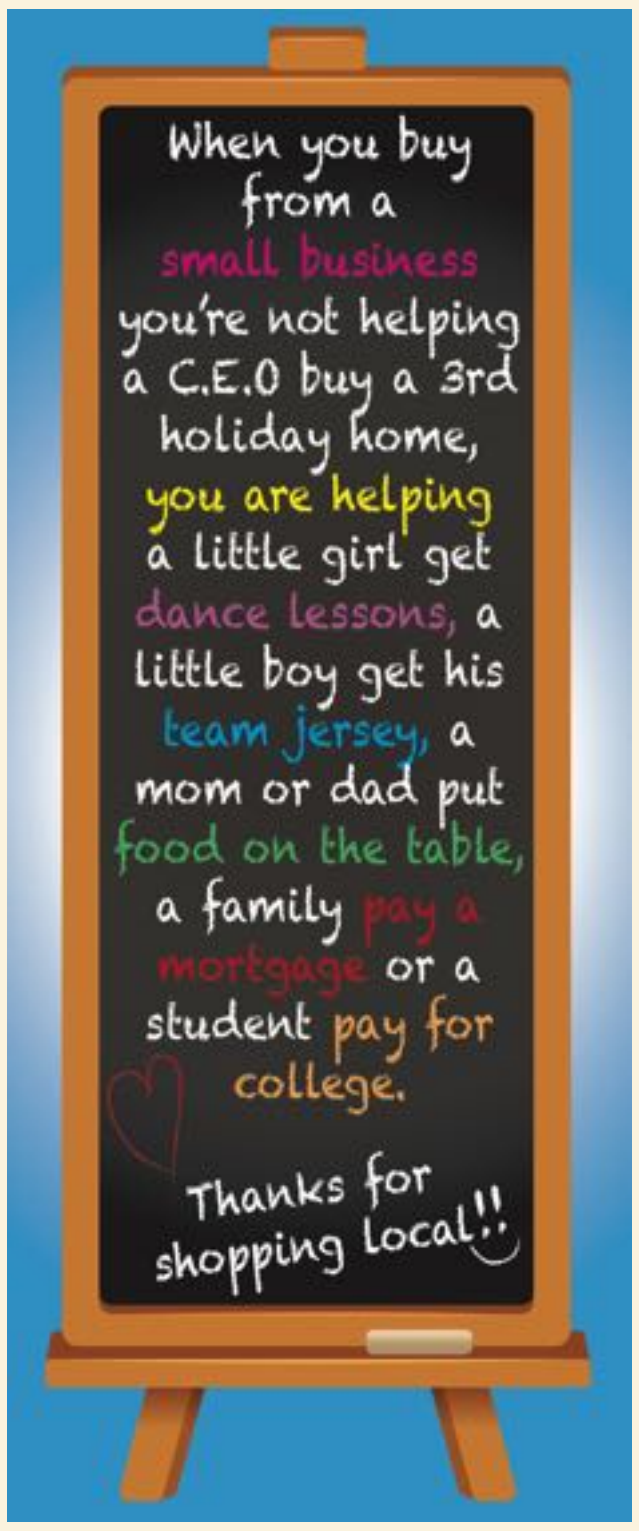
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