# A Message From
# Kyle Seeback, MP
## Dufferin-Caledon



The Christmas season has arrived here in Dufferin-Caledon. It's a time to reflect on what matters most to us - family, friends, and most importantly, our health. It's also the season of goodwill, random acts of kindness, spreading joy to those around us, and finding peace.

During this season of giving, let's ensure everyone may share in the magic of the holidays by making a donation to our wonderful local food banks, shelters, and charities who work incredibly hard to support those in our community needing a little extra help.

We can also spread the joy of the season by continuing to support local small businesses in Dufferin-Caledon. When we shop local, we not only help to ensure they survive the pandemic, but we also help the people they employ who are our neighbours and friends. Let's each do our part this Christmas and shop local to support the many outstanding small businesses in our community, to help everyone enjoy a terrific Christmas filled with peace, hope, and joy.

This Christmas will undoubtedly be challenging for all of us, but it also presents an opportunity to revisit traditions of bygone days and to create some new ones. In doing so, we can still capture the spirit of "the most wonderful time of the year."

***From my family to yours, I wish you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2021!***

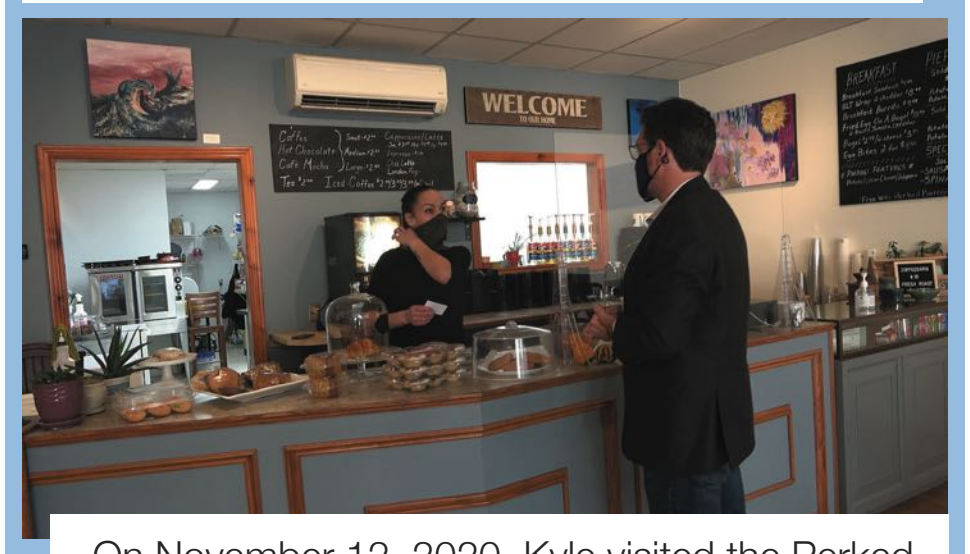

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On November 13, 2020, during his “Small Business Spotlight,” Kyle stopped by Stacked Pancake & Breakfast House - Bolton and met owner, Gopal (Paul) Khanna, to hear about the family restaurant’s wide menu featuring many delicious homecooked breakfast and lunch options. Stacked continues to offer pickup and delivery services during the lockdown in Peel.




On November 12, 2020, Kyle visited the Perked Pierogi, a beautiful restaurant located in Grand Valley, as part of his “Small Business Spotlight.” He met owner, Meghan Richards, who showed him around the café, which serves fresh baked goods, many savoury items and, of course, their signature item, gourmet pierogis.



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SPECIAL DELIVERY - Local resident Angela McKinnon (left) is receiving her Caledon Community Services (CCS) Gala Basket from Joyce Brannon (right) in preparation for the virtual Home for the Holidays Gala being held this Saturday, December 5. All proceeds from the event goes directly back into the community by funding programs, services and activities for the variety of residents who require their assistance.
PHOTO COURTESY OF CCS

# Move to reduce Caledon's representation at Region draws opposition

Written By ALYSSA PARKHILL
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Town of Caledon has been shaken by news of possible reduction of the municipality's representation at the Regional table.

Regional Council has held a meeting to discuss a variety of topics, including a proposed bylaw that would subtract two members from Caledon from Regional Council.

Regional Council was composed of 24 members of the three included municipalities of Caledon, Brampton and Mississauga in 2005. Mississauga at 12 members, Brampton at seven and Caledon at five.

In 2015, the idea of Brampton receiving more seats at Regional Council was introduced, but Council decided to keep the numbers the way they were for the 2014 election, and to report back the next year in-regards to the 2018 election.

As time carried on, in 2016 Caledon supported the increase of representatives for Brampton but refused to allow it to impact the number of Caledon representatives.

Regional Council sent a letter to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs requesting the number of seats be increased from 24 to 32 but this was not approved due to the lack of support from Mississauga.

The conversation was deferred numerous times until they were informed that a decision was to be made by December 31,

Continued on page 6

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TOWN OF CALEDON
TOWN NEWS
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# Town of Caledon introduces "Reimagining Winterfest"

Written By ALYSSA PARKHILL
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Town of Caledon is preparing for the winter season by rebranding the annual Winterfest event into a series of activities and programs to get residents outdoors.

Reimagining Winterfest consists of five components that revolve around enjoying the winter season while in a pandemic.

These components include a Winterfest At-Home Kit, Winterfest calendar of community activities, Winterfest Caledon Lights competition, Winterfest Community Rink program and, lastly, Winterfest community enhancements.

"To keep residents active this winter and throughout the colder months, staff have developed a winter strategy, which is not an uncommon type of strategy in larger municipalities where winter months predominately take up the calendar year, and in the wake of a pandemic, we know that the virus spreads slower outdoors. So, to try to entice people to get outside, we have capitalized on the Winterfest branding," said Heather Hare, Director of Community Services.

The annual event will look a little different this year. What is usually an event of skating, arts and crafts, and other winter activities, will be separated to follow proper safety guidelines due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Town is working alongside a series of parks, and rinks in order to organize activities and programs for the community.

"We would also look at partnering with businesses and non-profit organizations locally," said Hare. "There's already a lot of programs in place; we think we could enhance them, develop them and move them outside through this winter strategy program."



Caledon's Town Crier attends each and every Winterfest to help celebrate the festive and chilly season. FILE PHOTO

The Town will be hosting a Caledon Lights Competition, to get the community in the festive spirit. Residents are required to create a display at their home or business, share photos online and Caledon Councillors will choose the best displays where prizes will be delivered.

Under the Grey level lockdown restrictions, 10 people are allowed outdoors within the same area while social distancing with each other.

Council is hopeful that with community participation, the holiday season will look a little brighter under these difficult and unprecedented times.

"It's exactly what the community needs," remarked Ward 5 Area Councillor Tony Rosa.

*For further information, please visit Caledon.ca/winterfest.*

# Peel receives funding for isolation site for those unable to self-isolate

Written By ALYSSA PARKHILL
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Region of Peel has received funding, effective December 1, for an isolation site after concerns were raised over individuals not being able to self-isolate after testing positive for the COVID-19 virus.

When individuals are tested positive of the COVID-19, they are ordered to self-isolate for 14 days to contain and stop the spread of the virus.

One key concern that the Region of Peel has noticed over the past while is crowded households, or barriers, restricting individuals from being able to safely isolate without the possibility of transmission.

Due to these issues, Federal Health Minister Patty Hajdu announced funding in amount of $6.5 million to construct a safe, voluntary isolation site in Peel region for the next 16 months.

Peel Public Health Medical Officer of Health Dr. Lawrence Loh expressed his excitement with the news and outlined how the grant will help Peel.



Federal Health Minister Patty Hajdu has announced funding for a voluntary isolation site in Peel Region. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MINISTER OF HEALTH

"We are excited to receive this funding and to be able to expand our capacity to support more Peel residents during such a difficult and unprecedented time," he said in a recent press conference. "This funding will enable the Region to accommodate more residents who are challenged to self-isolate at home."

Individuals who require going to the isolation site will be able to isolate for the required period of time of 14 days.

"Self-isolation is a key step in stopping the chain of COVID-19 transmission because the virus cannot spread when we stay apart," he continued.

Peel is the second location to receive the grant to establish the Safe Voluntary Isolation Site. Toronto was the first to participate with a pilot project site earlier this year.

These sites include a total of 40 units for individuals to use, but can reach a total of 80 units if needed.

Local public health officials will identify residents who require a new location to self-isolate in which they will offer the isolation site as a temporary and voluntary solution.

"It is evident disparities exist within our community, and that these disparities effect our ability to do all we can to reduce the level of risk and keep our residents safe," said Loh.

The Region of Peel has consistently been working towards helping residents who have struggled with housing and homelessness in the region, and this new program is another step in the right direction to ensure proper safety measures are taken for Peel residents.

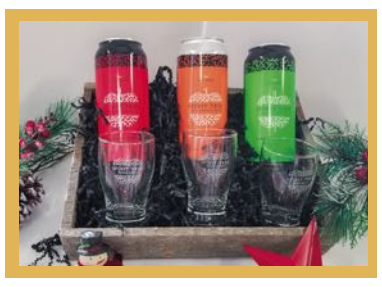
"As we work together to protect Canadians from COVID-19, the Federal Government is supporting communities with the Safe Voluntary Isolation Sites Program," said Minister Hajdu. "These spaces will help lower community spread by supporting safe spaces for Canadians who are not able to safely self-isolate due to housing conditions or financial constraints."

*For further information, please visit peelregion.ca.*


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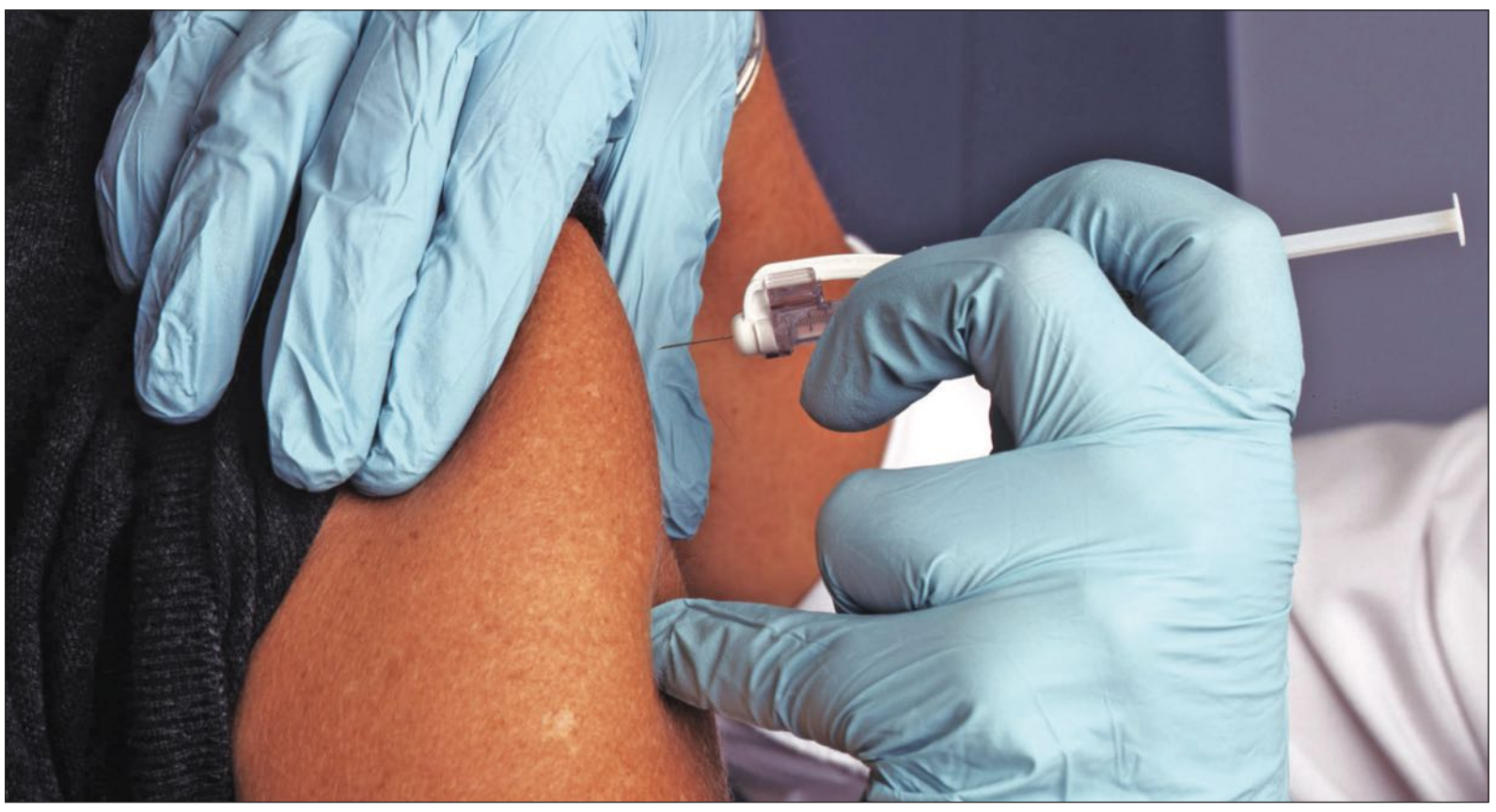
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# Peel region COVID-19 numbers decreasing while in lockdown



The Province continues their commitment to preparing for the upcoming COVID-19 vaccination.

FILE PHOTO

Written By ALYSSA PARKHILL
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Ontario reported 1,707 new cases of COVID-19 on December 1, but fortunately, Peel Region is showing decreasing number of confirmed cases while in lockdown.

Peel region has reported 373 new cases as of December 1, with 4,298 still active, 374 deaths and a total number of 25,762.

Peel has been on a consistent decline for the past several days, showing 572 cases on November 26, down to 517, 516, 503, 390, and now 373.

Alongside Toronto, Peel has been in lockdown since November 23, and will remain until 28 days have passed, in which public health will determine if Peel will continue to stay in the Grey level or be promoted to Red, or Orange.

Toronto has been showing sky high numbers while in lockdown, reaching 727 new cases as of December 1.

Ontario overall is showing 118,199 confirmed cases of the COVID-19 virus, which 100,012 resolved cases and 3,663 deaths.

Deputy Premier and Minister of Health Christine Elliot, alongside Solicitor General Sylvia Jones and General Rick Hillier, Chair of the COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Task Force held a press conference at McKesson Canada, located in Brampton on December 1.

The pharmaceutical distribution company proved to be the type of facility that will be significant in storage and distribution of the upcoming vaccine.

"This is a massive undertaking and here in Ontario we are fortunate to have the health, industry and logistical expertise to get the job done," said Premier Ford. "To support our planning, I've been on the phone with the Prime Minister, my fellow Premiers, the vaccine manufacturers, distributors, storage experts, and the health care sector to make sure we can roll out this vaccine when ready as quickly and efficiently as possible. I will continue to press the Federal government for more information on the status of these vaccines."

The Province is taking on a number of partnerships in regard to storage, distribution, transportation, administration, tracking and the monitor of pharmaceuticals.

Ontario has started the readiness of receiving vaccines by December 31, with the first doses to be available in 2021.

"Collaborating with industry experts in health care and logistics will be key to ensuring we are prepared by December 31 for the first phase of rolling out COVID-19 vaccines, when they are available," said Minister Elliott. "Under the leadership of General Hillier, the province will be ready to launch Ontario's COVID-19 immunization program."

Added Solicitor General Jones: "Our government is leveraging the expertise and resources of key industry partners to ensure Ontario is ready for the safe and efficient rollout of COVID-19 vaccines across the province. We are confident these key partners will support the work of our task force, led by General Hillier, to prepare for the next step of Ontario's recovery and keep Ontarians safe."

The Ontario government's task force formed with scientists and professionals, is choosing distribution centres that meet the requirements which includes, ultra-cold storage, delivery timing and priority populations for vaccination.

For further information, please visit Ontario.ca.

***Out of concern for the health and safety of the families we have served and our community as a whole, we will not be holding our annual Christmas Memorial Service this year.***

*This has been a difficult decision for us as we know, for many of you, this is an annual tradition to gather and reflect on the readings, Dr. Bill Webster[1]s message, special music and, of course, the lighting of the candles. However, we felt, given the current restrictions on large gatherings due to COVID-19 and not knowing what lies ahead in the near future, we wanted to let you know of our decision as soon as possible.*

*It goes without saying we will miss seeing you in person but we are here to help you through the grieving process. Please do not hesitate to call us at 905-857-2213 and we will put you in touch with an appropriate support network. We will continue to help our community stay safe and supported.*



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## YOUTH ARRESTED FOLLOWING CARJACKING

The OPP have arrested a 17-year-old youth in connection to an October carjacking in Bolton.

On October 30, Police responded to a carjacking in the parking lot of a plaza located on Parr Boulevard.

The victim, who was operating a 2017 silver Infiniti sedan, parked their vehicle in the plaza, and remained in the car. A male suspect wearing a balaclava approached the victim, displayed a firearm and instructed the victim to exit the vehicle. The victim complied. At that point, the suspect got into a car and took off in an unknown direction.

"On Saturday, October 31, 2020 at approximately 6:08 p.m., as a result of the investigation, the vehicle was located in the area of Castlemore Road and McVean Drive in Brampton," say Police. "Officers attempted to effect an arrest of the occupants. However, the suspect vehicle intentionally struck several OPP cruisers repeatedly and was able to flee the area.

As a result of the investigation conducted by the members of the Caledon OPP Major Crime Unit, with the assistance of Peel Tactical Unit, a search warrant was executed at a residence in Brampton. A 17-year-old young person from Brampton was arrested and charged with: Dangerous operation of a motor vehicle; Flight from peace officer; Mischief endangering life; Possession of property obtained by crime over $5,000; and Failure to comply with release order - five counts.

The accused was held for a bail hearing and is scheduled to attend the Ontario Court of Justice in Brampton on a later date to answer to the charges. The charges have not been proven.

The investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information, security video or dash camera footage involving the carjacking is asked to contact the Caledon OPP Major Crime Unit at 905-584-2241 or toll-free at 1-888-310-1122.

## FESTIVE R.I.D.E.

The Ontario Provincial Police Festive R.I.D.E. campaign is underway and runs until January 3, 2021. During the campaign, officers from the Caledon OPP Detachment will be highly visible as they conduct R.I.D.E. initiatives throughout the Town of Caledon.

The OPP has taken several steps to protect our members and those we serve to help prevent acquiring and re-transmitting the COVID-19 virus in our communities or at roadsides.

"Our officers have been trained to manage COVID safety precautions including the wearing of PPE and maintaining physical distancing where possible, while ensuring that the identity of a driver is obtained, and their sobriety is assessed properly at R.I.D.E. check points."

Caledon OPP wants to remind drivers of the following:

Don't drive impaired - plan ahead;

If you see a RIDE program in front of you, slow down and continue forward;

Mandatory Alcohol Screening law allows police with an approved alcohol screening device to demand a roadside breath sample from any lawfully stopped driver without having reasonable suspicion that a driver is alcohol impaired;

Don't assume that you have a zero blood alcohol just because it is morning time after a few hours of sleep. Officers conduct R.I.D.E. at any time of day.

## OFFICER STRUCK AT R.I.D.E. CHECK

On Thursday, November 26, at approximately 5:30 p.m., officers from the Caledon OPP were conducting a Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere (RIDE) spot check in the area of Bush Street and Old Main Street in the Town of Caledon.

While at the RIDE spot check, Police say a Mandatory Alcohol Screening demand to provide a roadside breath sample was made by the officer, however, the driver refused to comply with the demand.

"When the driver was asked to pull into a nearby parking lot for further investigation, the driver abruptly drove off from the RIDE check and one of the officers was struck by the vehicle," Police say. "The driver was followed by the officers for a short distance and was observed parking their vehicle in a driveway of a residence where they were subsequently placed under arrest."

The driver, Geeta Nair, 45, of Caledon, was arrested, and stands charged with: Failure or refusal to comply with demand; Dangerous operation of a motor vehicle; and Resist peace officer.

The accused is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on February 11, 2021 to answer to the charges. The charges have not been proven.

The officer struck by the vehicle did not suffer any injuries.

## STOLEN VEHICLE LEADS TO ARRESTS

On Tuesday, December 1, at approximately 3:14 a.m., uniformed officers from the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial were conducting patrols in the residential areas of Bolton.

During these patrols, officers came upon a white sedan parked on Harvest Moon Drive with two occupants sleeping inside the vehicle.

Police say further investigation revealed that the vehicle in question was reported stolen from Brampton earlier. Both occupants were subsequently arrested and are facing the following charges:

Preetinder Singh, 22, of Edmonton, is charged with: Possession of property obtained by crime over $5,000; Possession of property obtained by crime under $5,000; and Possession of a schedule I substance - heroin.

Rajwinder Singh, 22, of Brampton, stands charged with: Possession of property obtained by crime over $5,000; Possession of property obtained by crime under $5,000; and Possession of a schedule I substance - heroin.

Both accused parties are expected to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on February 8, 2021, to answer to the charges. The charges have not been proven.

"Caledon OPP would like to remind residents that reporting of suspicious activity immediately can help police prevent or interrupt crime."

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# Local businesses speak out on impacts of second lockdown

Written By ALYSSA PARKHILL
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER




Local businesses such as Forsters Book Garden (above) and Noble Toyz (below) are continuing to cope while in their second lockdown.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS




As second lockdown continues, local businesses are speaking out about how they've been impacted with the holiday season right around the corner.

Peel Region went into lockdown effective November 23 and is to remain in the Grey level for a total of 28 days.

Businesses have taken a hard hit, as many smaller retail and non-essential businesses have been ordered to close their doors, and to only allow curbside pickup or takeout.

Several Peel businesses understand the whys behind going into lockdown but feel not enough is being done to support them.

Forsters Book Garden, a long-time local business, stated that the lockdown was "the appropriate response, given the worsening of the situation."

"Since we are not allowed to let customers in, it has reduced our sales as our items require perusal," explained owner and local resident Donna Forster. "Now, our customers are not capable of doing that, so they need to know what they want or have to try to choose via our website."

"It is a scramble taking items to people at the curb, trying to do so expediently so as not to make them wait there too long," she added. "Sales, therefore, will be dramatically reduced."

Forsters Book Garden has been independently serving the Caledon community since 1998 and has been dedicated to providing the community with new books of all genres for the past 20 years.

One key issue that several smaller businesses, as well as local officials, are concerned about is with the holiday season being a significant time for shopping and sales, the fairness of big box stores remaining open while smaller business suffer, seems to be in the back of everyone's mind.

"While essential items are important to be able to shop in person for, it is unfair that only the big box stores, who also carry non-essential items, like the ones we carry, can be open for browsing," said Forster. "That places the burden of limiting exposure to the pandemic on the back of small businesses who are already following all the rules and are equally capable of limiting numbers for physical distancing."

Derrick Noble, owner of Noble Toyz, is concerned for not only his own business, but for all the other small businesses are who struggling to stay afloat during this second lockdown.

"We already lost 20 per cent of them across Canada after the first (lockdown)," he remarked. "We were asked to use curbside, which is totally unfair for a shop like mine, and heading into our busy season we would probably only do about 20 per cent of regular holiday sales which is 50 per cent of our yearly sales," said Noble. "I have opened a few times and received fines and summons. I don't know what the future holds but we have to fight for the small businesses to reopen."

Businesses like Noble Toyz and Forsters Book Garden are hopeful that the local and provincial government hears their voices and changes can hopefully be made.

"Let the small shops reopen. Why can the Walmarts and Costcos stay open while we struggle to pay our bills?" asked Noble. "We went into a big deficit to stock up and fill the store for the holiday season, then they announced we had to close in 48 hours. We are now fighting for our rights and the support has been amazing.

"The store is stocked with the latest books, games, puzzles and stocking stuffers for Christmas. We can show some of these off at the door even if we can't let people browse," said Forster. "We post regularly on Facebook and Instagram. As much as possible we are directing customers to our website www.forstersbookgarden.ca. On a personal note, we will not see family outside of our own home for Christmas."

The Provincial Government has introduced investments such as over $2.2 million through the Ontario Together Fund in order to provide smaller businesses with free financial advice and online training to help them navigate through this pandemic.

The Ontario Together Fund is a $50 million commitment to help businesses with their operations and services to reopen safely.

A Small Business COVID-19 Recovery Network was introduced for accessibility to digital tools and training and information on different programs.

Different types of grants and rebates have been made accessible for the Main Street Relief Grant to help businesses with their property tax and energy costs.

But the real question is, is it enough?

"Shop local and independent! Help lobby our government to level the playing field," said Forster.

"We have so many amazing small shops in Bolton and Caledon," concluded Noble. "They need you now more than ever."

*To learn more about Forsters Book Garden, please visit forstersbookgarden.ca and you visit Noble Toyz on their Facebook and Instagram.*



# Move to reduce Caledon's representation at Region draws opposition

*Continued from Front*

in order for the composition to come into effect for the following term of Council in 2022.

Regional Council adopted a resolution on November 26 with the intention of passing a bylaw to change the number of members for Brampton and Caledon, while Mississauga's numbers remain, maintaining the overall count of 24 members.

The proposed bylaw states to "change the number of its members that represent the City of Brampton and the Town of Caledon by increasing the number representing Brampton by 2 to 9

members and decreasing the number representing Caledon by 2 to 3 members to be effective for purposes of the municipal election to be held in October 2022 and for purposes of the composition of the Council for the term of office to result from that election; and to provide that the 2 additional members representing Brampton be selected by the Brampton City Council from among City Councillors to represent Brampton on Council for a full four-year term."




The Town of Caledon shared their concerns regarding the proposed reduction of Caledon representation at Peel Regional Council.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PATRICK BROWN

Members of Caledon Council have expressed anger with the move.

An emergency Town Council meeting was organized on Monday, November 30 to allow the public and Council to discuss the matter.

Mayor Allan Thompson opened with strong words regarding the issue.

"It was a backroom politicking at its worst for the sole intent of reducing Caledon's ability to represent our residents in all matters related to the Region of Peel. In my 17 years of serving as an elected official, I have never seen anything like it," he said. "There was no public consultation, no advanced conversation, or respect of dialogue, no engagement or consultation with staff."

He added, "Mississauga and Brampton used their already significant majority on Regional Council to undermine and frustrate the process."

Brampton council came forward to Regional Council where all Councillors unanimously agreed to seek support regarding the motion in which all Brampton Councillors would sit at the Regional Council table, in the perspective of population by representation.

"We are big believers of representation by population," commented Mayor of Brampton Patrick Brown. "We hope there can be change in the right direction."

But, what about Caledon?

Caledon Councillors had a major issue with deciding on the motion over representation by population due to the rural nature of Caledon, and with growth supposed to continue to rapidly increase by 2041.

By reducing Caledon representation from five to three councillors, Caledon Council is concerned about the level of responsibility and focus the three Councillors will have representing all of Caledon.

"If you really are talking about three members of Council for Regional Council for Caledon, I think that ends up with two wards at 189 square kilometres; you'd have a difficult time even seeing your constituents," said Ward 1 Regional Councillor Ian Sinclair. "There are other aspects, and I think it needs more discussion."

Ward 3 and 4 Regional Councillor Jennifer Innis attempted to defer the conversation until this week's meeting on December 3 in order to make the matters public, as well as to include public engagement and understanding for Caledon residents. But this was not supported by other Councillors, including Ward 5 Regional Councillor Annette Groves.

Several residents delegated to Caledon Council on November 30 to express their disappointment with decisions made at Regional Council, as well as the last-minute addition of the correspondence on the agenda followed by the lack of support from fellow Councillors.

"This should not be happening. We should be standing at our five and that's it," said local resident Sherry Brioschi. "If we have to go down to four or three, then I would hope that Council is going to keep our area councillors because… the pressure that is going to be put onto our regional councillors is going to be insane."

Caledon concludes 56 per cent of the land mass in Peel region and accounts for the prime agricultural land as well as the headwaters watershed. The Town of Caledon's representation is for the smaller, communities, agricultural lands, greenspaces and natural heritage within the region.

"As we grow, our community deserves our voice on Regional Council to get stronger not weaker," said Thompson. "Demands are increasing across the region and every community in Peel should be properly represented. That's what we expect and what we will fight for."

Regional Council will be holding a public meeting for further discussion with public engagement on December 17 at 9:30 a.m.

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**CLOSES – Dec 10 – 6pm**

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## App helps first responders find callers who don't know their location

The Ontario Provincial Police has announced it will be using the mobile application what3words in its Provincial Communications Centres (PCCs).

In an emergency situation, if a caller contacts an OPP PCC and doesn't know where they are, the app will help call-takers pinpoint the caller's location so that OPP officers can quickly respond and more accurately know where to find the person(s) in need.

Through its global mapping system, the app labels every three squared metres with a unique three-word location tag. The PCC call taker is able to enter the three words into the system, which converts the tag into latitudinal and longitudinal coordinates.

With the proper coordinates in hand, the PCC can direct officers to the precise location of the person in need.

When a member of the public contacts an OPP PCC, the call-taker will ask them if they are familiar with the app and if they have it downloaded onto their device. If they don't have the app already downloaded on their phone, the call-taker can send callers a link that will automatically show them their three-word location tag.

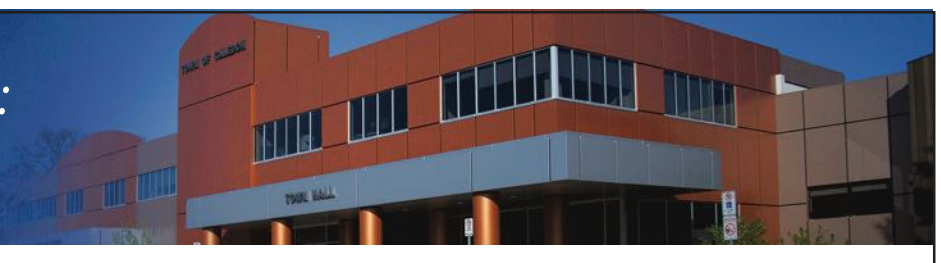
This process requires minimal cellular and data signals for the caller's phone to first receive the link and then for them to open and load their location tag from it. If a caller already has the app downloaded on their device, it works without internet or data, so they can still provide the PCC with their location code even in locations without a cellular signal.

The process will assist OPP officers in locating parties in remote and forested areas where signal is limited and on vast waterways. The use of technology can offer many benefits and the OPP is proud to incorporate progressive tools such as this one to assist with its goal of a safer Ontario for everyone.

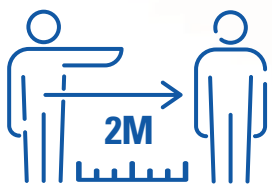
The OPP is encouraging members of the public to download the free app in case of emergency.



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# Follow these 4 steps to help us overcome COVID-19




## STAY APART

Maintain 2-metres distance from anyone who doesn't live with you or is not your essential caregiver.



## LATHER UP

Wash your hands often with soap and water or use hand sanitizer.



## MASK UP

Wear a non-medical mask when it's difficult to maintain physical distance and where masks are mandatory. Protect the supply of medical grade masks for health care workers.



## GET TESTED

If you think you might have COVID-19 or have been exposed to it you should get tested. While waiting for test results, stay home, self-isolate and prevent potential spread.

**Caledon has moved into Grey-Lockdown level under Ontario's COVID-19 response framework. We're asking residents, businesses and organizations to follow all measures to help control the spread of COVID-19 in our community.**

**To learn more about these new restrictions visit peelregion.ca/coronavirus.**

# Training and events to help your business during the pandemic!

For registration and details go to: **caledon.ca/cbiz.**

### ONLINE WORKSHOP

Is your business looking to transform during the pandemic and become future-proof? Then attend this online workshop to learn the skills needed to lead the change.

**Monday, December 7 | 5 - 7 p.m.**

### VIRTUAL NETWORKING

Attend the next CBIZ virtual meetup to learn how others are making the transition and to meet/connect with other businesses in Caledon.

**Wednesday, December 16 | 7 - 8 p.m.**

CBIZ | CALEDON BUSINESS INNOVATION ZONE







# Final property taxes are due

For those that can, pay your property taxes before December 31, 2020 to avoid penalty or interest charges starting on January 1, 2021.

If you're still experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19, you can apply for one of the two new tax assistance programs.

**caledon.ca/tax**



# Ward Boundary Review

We would like to thank everyone that participated and provided feedback so far. If you have not done so, we encourage you to take the survey which has been extended to the end of December.

To complete the survey or for updates about upcoming public engagement sessions in early 2021 visit **caledon.ca/wbr.**



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# Caledon Fire completes recruitment for 18 new volunteer firefighters

Written By ALYSSA PARKHILL
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Dream of being a firefighter? Well, Caledon Fire has given 18 residents the experience to learn firsthand on what it takes – by filling 18 volunteer positions.

The Caledon Fire Department was all over social media encouraging Caledon residents who are interested in receiving training to become a voluntary firefighter at eight of their stations.

"The recent call for volunteer firefighters was met with great response from the community with over 150 applications received. A total of 18 spots are available. The number of volunteer firefighters assigned to each station varies, depending on the needs of the community," said Captain Lee-Ann Lawrence, Training Division. "It could range from 25 to 40."

As a volunteer firefighter, responsibilities include both emergency and non-emergency situations such as fires, medical emergencies, rescue calls, alarm activations and investigations as well as public calls.

But the eligibility extends to all men and women of all ages with different experiences and backgrounds.

To qualify, the individual must be at least 18 years old, have a valid driver's license (G status), learn from an information session provided by Caledon Fire, have a clean vulnerable sector check and live within five kilometres from a Caledon fire station.




PHOTO BY CALEDON FIRE

"Once the interview process wraps up, applicants will go through an aptitude test and a physical abilities test. They would likely start in February 2021," said Captain Lawrence.

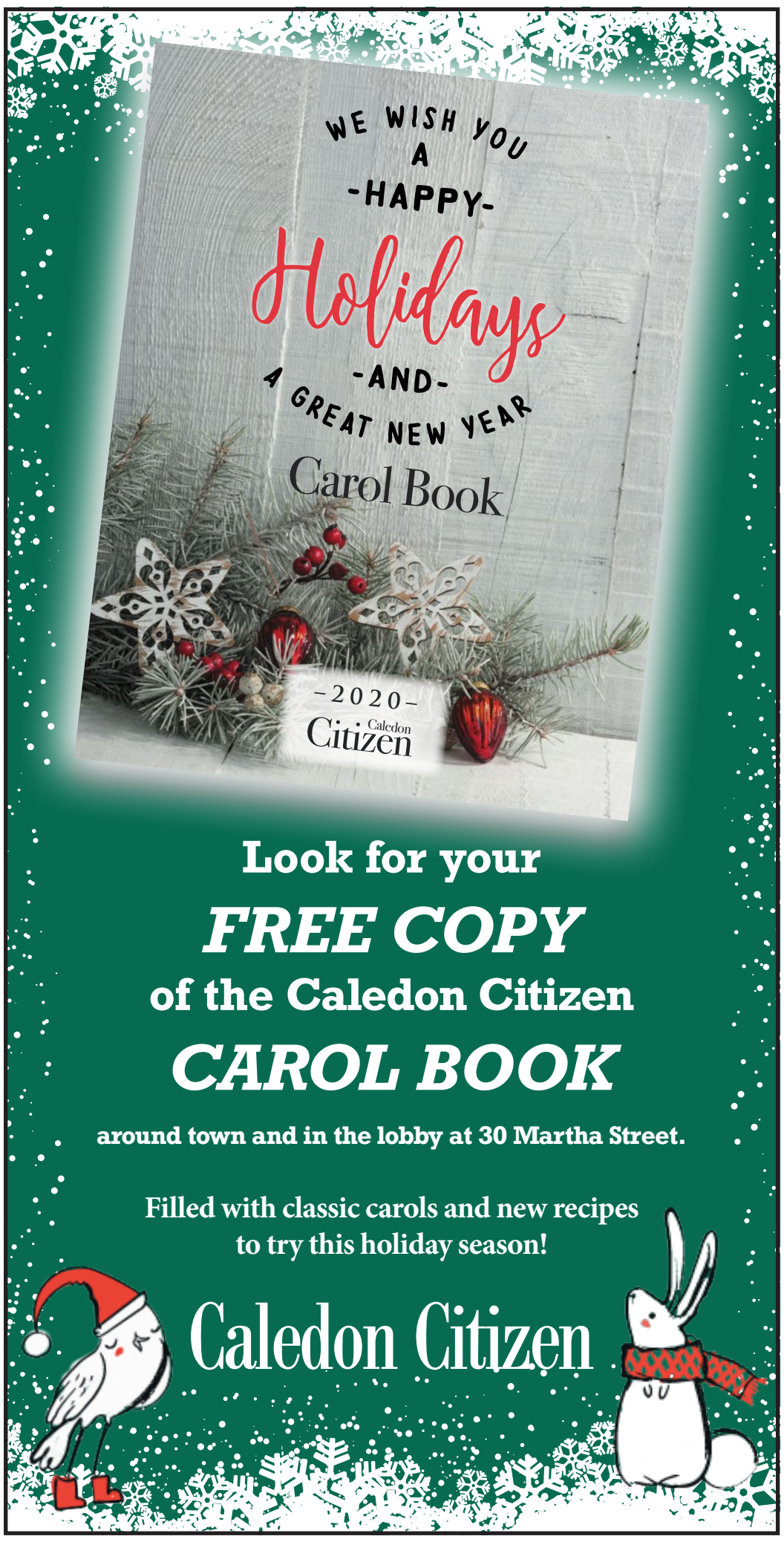
Caledon Fire displayed a variety of online videos and posts to encourage residents to sign up to fill the 18 available spots.

"I wanted to become a volunteer firefighter here in Caledon because I wanted to help my community," said one Volunteer Firefighter in a video. "I wanted to do something mentally and physically challenging, and, by doing so, I feel like I've accomplished something."

"Typically, the biggest reason why someone would want to volunteer is to serve the community and give back. Every recruitment window is met with interest and support from the community and this time was no different," said Captain Lawrence. "Given the current pandemic, virtual information sessions were new to the process and were a great success."

Recruitment happens annually, in which the next group of future volunteer firefighters will have the opportunity to sign up next year.

*For more information, please visit Caledon.ca/fire.*




# Drive-thru Christmas Winter Festival takes over Teen Ranch this month

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

A creative collection of 3D Christmas displays is taking over the grounds of Teen Ranch (20682 Hurontario St) from December 1 to 27 for its Christmas Winter Festival.

The festival is a drive-thru event, so attendees stay warm and cozy in their cars while rolling through the festival grounds and FM transmitters will output audio for each of the Christmas displays.

There are 30 displays in total, utilizing holographic technology, making this style of event the first of its kind for the area.

"We are going to be putting out illusion projections, so it could be anything from taking a sneak into Santa's workshop and seeing the elves get into mischief, to seeing Santa practicing taking off with reindeers, to virtual Christmas carollers singing right in front of your car," said Howard Dalal, Executive Director of Active Lives Day Program, a charitable organization for adults with special needs.

Active Lives has teamed up with Teen Ranch to make the event possible and fundraise for their programs as COVID-19 has impacted the way the two organizations raise funds.

"We had to think outside of the box," said Dalal. "This event is going to be different than the normal festive light events."

His target, he said, is to welcome 5,000 patrons to the Christmas Winter Festival over the 27 days that it's held.

The event is completely COVID-19 safe since patrons stay situated in their cars while touring the festival.

"There's no worrying about being immersed in a huge crowd and the fact that you're in your car makes it a big selling point," Dalal noted.

"Being out in the cold is always a challenge, but being able to stay nuzzled and warm with your family in the car is great."

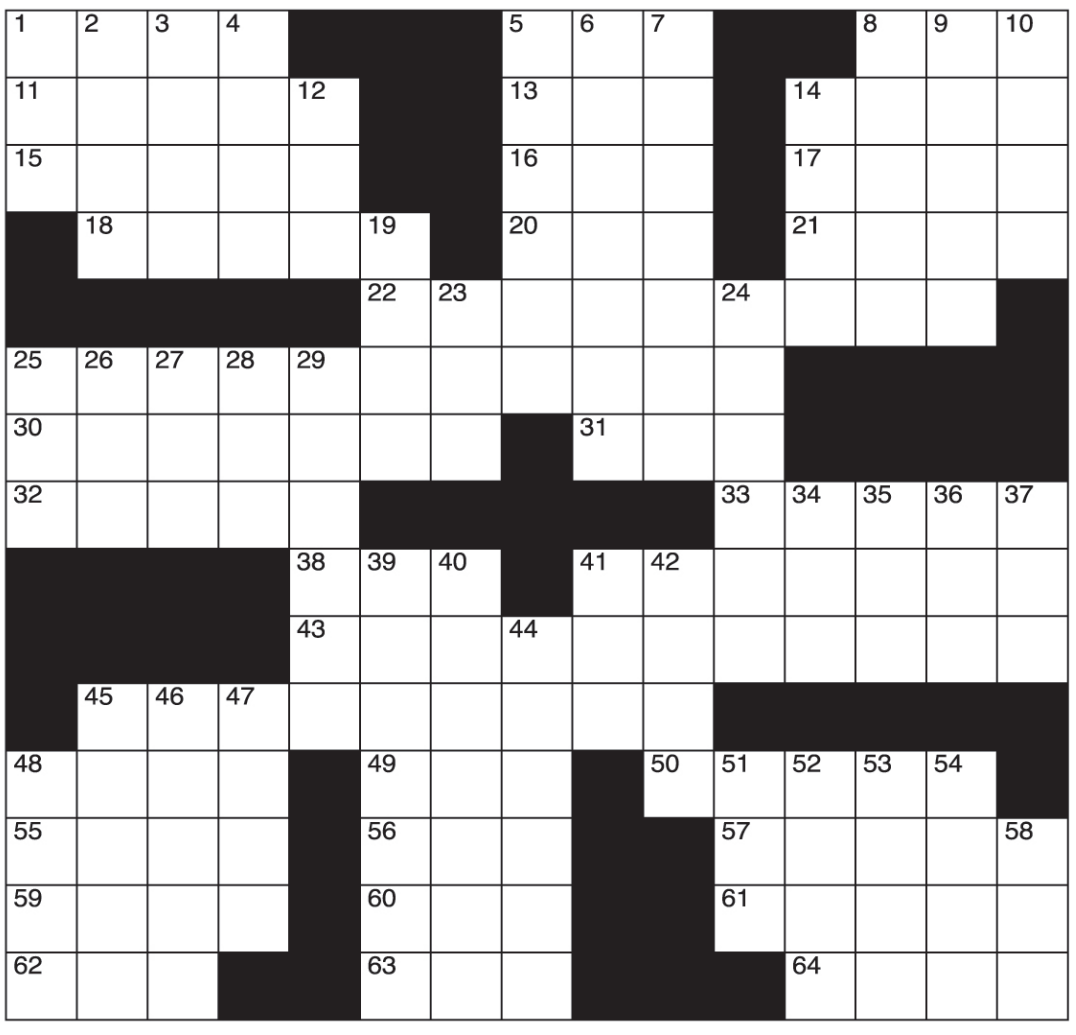
The event costs $20 to attend and runs from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. December 1-27.

Dalal added that this is the first time Teen Ranch and Active Lives partnered to host the Christmas Winter Festival but hope to make it an annual event going forward.

"This is an interactive holographic event that you won't want to miss. It's going to wow the youngest to the oldest of attendees," he said.

## The Citizen CROSSWORD

Solution on page A13



**CLUES ACROSS**

1. Opposite of west
5. __ Caesar, comedian
8. Helps little firms
11. A way to censor
13. Expresses atomic and molecular weights
14. Chalcedony
15. Type of sword
16. A corporation's first offer to sell stock to the public
17. Attired
18. A sequence of winding turns
20. Pal
21. Expresses pleasure
22. Amendable
25. Clear
30. A way to cut off
31. Indigenous Thai person
32. Pale brownish yellow color
33. Aquatic plants genus
38. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
41. Merchants
43. Fix a chair
45. Throws into disorganization
48. Famed German composer
49. Keyboard key
50. Oral polio vaccine developer
55. Partner to pain
56. Where golfers start
57. Jenny __: weight loss program
59. Sailing dinghy
60. Suffix that forms adjectives
61. Speeds at which music is played
62. Body part
63. Fall back
64. Ancient Greek sophist

**CLUES DOWN**

1. One point south of due east
2. Wings
3. One point south of southeast
4. The shirts on our backs
5. One who works on the seas
6. Select jury
7. Small intestines parts
8. Plant of the heath family
9. Extrasolar planet
10. Creates more of
12. Before
14. Forms over a cut
19. Runs down
23. Exercise regimen __-bo
24. Unkeyed
25. Principle underlying the universe
26. Corpuscle count (abbr.)
27. Residue
28. Company that rings receipts
29. Rugged mountain range
34. Commercials
35. NY footballer
36. They __
37. Soviet Socialist Republic
39. Poked holes in the ground
40. Pitchers
41. Your
42. Diana __, singer
44. Important document for inventors
45. Bangladesh capital
46. Fluid that flows in the veins of Greek gods
47. Famed daguerreotype photographer
48. Where military personnel work
51. Play a role
52. La __ Tar Pits, Hollywood
53. Unstressed-stressed
54. Type of palm tree
58. Judo garments

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

# Proposed bill threatening conservation authorities' role: CVC

Written By ALYSSA PARKHILL
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Conservation authorities across the province are concerned about the proposed changes by the Province that will limit their ability to protect local lands and watershed.

Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) shared their concerns about Ontario's latest budget bill, Bill 229, that will severely impact the role of 36 of Ontario's conservation authorities.

Schedule 6 on Bill 229, is proposed to allow the Minister of Natural Resources hold majority decision making on new developments along with allowing developers the ability to appeal decisions made by conservation authorities to the ministry.

The threat in CVC's role has initiated reaching out to the public to inform them of the role conservation authorities have on protecting their local environment and watershed.

The Bill, which was issued on November 5, made various changes to the Conservation Authorities Act and Planning Act that will limit their role and responsibilities.

Along with allowing the Minister of Natural Resources take over and decide on development permit applications, the changes actually project more costs, delays and red tape as multiple avenues of appeal are made available, which will result in short-circuiting the development review process, according to the CVC.

Changes, they say, will also "direct board members to act only on behalf of the municipality they represent."

This will go against the intent of the Conservations Authorities Act which is intended to surpass the political boundaries allowing municipalities to protect and manage their local environment and resources who share a watershed, they say.

Conservation authorities have been protecting and ensuring public safety in this province since 1956, with the necessary tools and abilities under the Conservation Authorities Act and Planning Act.

The CVC is looking for the assistance of the public to help their local conservation authorities by reaching out to their local MPPs and declaring that conservation matters.

"We think that the government should remove schedule 6 on Bill 229, so that it can be properly debated, so that there are no unintended consequences of some of the actions that are being proposed," explained CVC CAO Deborah Martin-Downs. "It should have public consultation so that people can weigh in on the relative importance."

Caledon specifically has areas that are vulnerable to flooding.

Areas such as Terracotta, and Bolton, which suffered from a flood in March of 2019. Inglewood and other locations along the Credit have historical communities know to have flood challenges.

"Our ability to engage in the conservation to ensure that permits or conditions which something would be approved will be properly vetted, through conservation authority and the tools that we have, and that we aren't circumvented through the appeals process that the province is suggesting" said Martin-Downs. "It's concerning because the Minister doesn't have the tools or the staff to actually make that kind of determination."

Let's break it down a little bit.

Conservation authorities have been equipped with the tools and knowledge to protect local environments and watersheds across the province for decades. These matters originally began in 2015, where the government noticed that the act was dated and in need of modernization.

They began the process, which was, indeed, later passed, but several provisions of the Act remained untouched due to the timing being months before the election. Since then, the government had yet to proclaim the provisions in the act.

Additional changes were then discussed and added to the Act in the spring of 2019 with, as Martin-Downs stated, "the expectation that it was intended to focus conservation authorities on their mandate."

"We're objected to that terminology because we've always been focused on our mandate, and, in fact, the Province didn't accurately portray our mandate," she continued. "Our mandate has always been management of natural resources on [watersheds]."

Several municipalities have reached out to the province with resolutions expressing their concerns about the proposed changes.

Local conservation authorities work closely with their municipalities and have been for the past decades.

"We've aligned our programs and our services with what municipalities want and need, and the Province actually doesn't understand that" said Martin-Downs. "[The Province pays] virtually nothing for the conservation authorities, yet [they're] trying to very much dictate what they can and cannot do."

With the help of the public, the CVC is hoping to get Schedule 6 removed from the Bill to allow them to continue to their work and dedication to protecting local environment and watersheds.

Conservation authorities are looking to discuss more on the matters and come to a unanimous agreement that will settle the modernization of the act, as well as allowing conservation authorities to keep their role.

Community response has already been incredible, according to the CVC, where thousands of residents have reached out to their local MPPs, and to the province advocating for the conservation authorities.

Exactly 17,829 emails had been sent to the Province through ontarionature.org by press time.

"The natural boundary of the watershed is what we use as our area of interest and how we assess the potential effects of something," said Martin-Downs. "If you don't think about it that way, and that's where we feel the government isn't full understanding the value of the watershed basis."

She added, "Good land management equals good water management, and we have to have both things if we're going to have a quality environment."

For more information about Conservation Matters and how you can help, please visit cvc.ca.

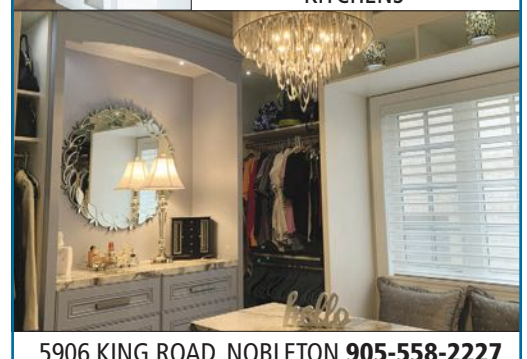


Credit Valley Conservation are seeking the public's help to keep conservation authorities' role protecting the local environment and watershed intact. PHOTO BY CREDIT VALLEY CONSERVATION


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Product of USA
$1.99 LB. 44¢/100 G



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Organic Beans
CERTIFIED NON GMO
Assorted Varieties
540 ml
$1.99



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Sugarless
Carbonated Beverages
NATURALLY FLAVOURED.
REFRESHINGLY DELICIOUS.
0 G SUGAR.
Assorted Varieties
6 x 355 ml
$4.99



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Naturally Filtered
Spring Water
TASTE THE PURITY OF ESKA NATURAL SPRING WATER, FILTERED BY CANADIAN GLACIAL ROCKS.
24 x 500 ml
$4.99



A. Vogel
Echinaforce®
Sore Throat Spray
QUICKLY RELIEVES PAIN & INFLAMMATION.
100 ml
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Sale Dates: Fri., Dec. 4 - Thurs., Dec. 17, 2020

# Laissez-faire

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

"Godspeed, Bob and Doug!"

If you're a Canuck, hearing that phrase might make you think of a couple of plaid and toque wearing hosers heading out across the frozen lake on a beer run or singing their version of The Twelve Days of Christmas

However, that was the send-off given to two astronauts as they launched in a SpaceX rocket to rendezvous with the International Space Station.

SpaceX was the first private company to send astronauts into orbit. They also have a few other impressive firsts under their corporate belt.

It's all because Elon Musk, the South African / Canadian / American billionaire, had a vision.

Musk wasn't born into a wealthy family, he's a self-made man.

Obviously, he's an intelligent man, but on top of that, he is driven to succeed and he acts on his ideas.

There are plenty of people who are very smart, but lack ambition, and never really get anywhere in life.

When SpaceX launched Bob and Doug into space, it also marked the first time NASA had contracted to a private company to get the job done. At the time, NASA hadn't launched a rocket from American soil in nine years.

If anything, this shows what can be accomplished by private business when allowed to operate without too many government regulations.

Of course, certain rules and regulations are in place for a reason. You can't have companies operating in a dangerous manner putting the health and lives of employees at risk.

I don't know how SpaceX operates as a company, but any private outfit that can successfully launch men into space won't have a lot of middle management sitting around and twiddling their thumbs while two engineers in the back room design a rocket.

Most likely they have a dedicated and experienced group of people who are focused on getting a job done – and getting it done right.

If you're launching a rocket, there will be no greater failure than having your craft explode on the launch pad, killing your astronauts and destroying your payload.

There's a real lesson here. It demonstrates how a laissez-faire approach to business will get things done. It means "let do" with the theory that business works best without intervention of regulation and subsidies.

There was a need for someone to start building rockets and Elon Musk filled that need – something that a government agency couldn't do.

Government run agencies require funding, and approval for that funding. Then they have to hire a whole bunch of people including consultants, committees, consultants to committees, supervisors, managers, people to approve plans, and people to approve people who approve plans.

At the end of a year they still won't have a project completed.

With private companies or publicly traded corporations there is a goal and investors to answer to. If you're going to be successful you can't waste time on unproductive people and exercises.

Then there is the competition in a free market society that drives companies to do better.

Probably the best example of this was when eastern Europe was run mostly by communist governments. It was an absolute disaster.

With governments in control of production, standards dropped to an absolute low. No western country would trade with places like the former Yugoslavia because they knew they wouldn't get what they needed. Have you ever seen an automobile designed in a communist country?

There was no competition so no one felt the need to do better. If you didn't want a product because it was garbage, too bad – take it or leave it.

A friend of mine toured eastern Europe when communism was in full swing. Although he had a good trip, there was an air of suspicion around him all the time, both by government officials and local people because nobody could understand why a westerner would want to go there as a tourist.

He noticed that every time he was in a town, it wasn't long until he was covered in a layer of fallout from local factories. With no one to challenge the government regarding pollution, they had no cause to try to fix a problem that was slowing killing their own people and environment.

Elon Musk's goal is to colonize Mars. Whether he can realistically come even close to that goal in his lifetime remains to be seen.

However, his entrepreneurial spirit and team of engineer is proving what private business can accomplish.

And Bob and Doug both appreciate the effort




## Pandemic proves we are all very connected

### by Mark Pavilons




It has taken a global pandemic to reveal what's been common knowledge for years.

Our planet, and all of its inhabitants, are keenly connected in almost every way, shape and form.

The good of the many takes precedence over the needs of the few.

From the working stiffs in the factories to the ivory tower power brokers, this connectivity is evident. And it shows the inherent weakness of our fragile global economy and society as a whole.

This massive domino setup began tumbling this spring, and the pieces are still falling. The long, winding road has hit every country, every industry, every business and every individual.

As we sit by our cozy fireplaces with hot beverages in hand, we wonder why our new stainless steel refrigerator is a month overdue. While we exercise in front of large windows overlooking the beauty of our rural landscape, we complain about not getting to the hair salon. It's a great time to do home renovations, but lumber, copper pipe and everything else has skyrocketed due to the demand.

Well, that refrigerator factor was closed, then open, then closed again. Hair salons, at least in Toronto and Peel, are now closed, and likely will not reopen before Christmas.

The hotel and restaurant industry is fading fast and experts say many will not survive the next 30-60 days. This is incredibly sad, not just for small and large businesses, but for all of us. These voids simply will not be filled anytime soon.

But we can just order everything – from Christmas gifts to beer – online and have it delivered to our door, right?

Sure. Delivery people and some large retailers can still squeeze out a profit. But think about this: small retailers and specialty shops just can't compete. They can't have that special item, at Black Friday prices, at your door the next day.

They will not survive.

So, once again we have a scenario of the large, organized retail giants squeezing out any and all competition. I believe both Canada and the U.S. have anti-monopoly regulations, but it sure looks like consumer products are being gobbled up en masse.

The sad part is, it's everyone's fault. Consumers don't care, as long as they get their Kylie lipstick and YSL perfume. We're happy as long as we can get Uber Eats while watching The Walking Dead.

I am deeply ashamed of my fellow consumers, when I see bulk buying and gouging. The latest example is the mighty PS5 Playstation. As soon as they hit the market they were gobbled up by people hoping to profit by reselling them. And boy are they ever. Originally priced at roughly $600, they are selling for $1,500 and more online, even from established retailers. I wish I had a truckload of Tickle Me Elmos to dump on their doorsteps!

While I have ordered some products online, they are from local, Canadian retailers. Going to the mall is becoming less of an option, but retailers are happy to ship their products out. The other items I find online are simply hard to get in stores, so I have to search Amazon or eBay for them.

I have yet to order food to the door, but if things get much worse heading into the holidays, that may be an option.

While I understand that society, and business, have to adapt, change and evolve, I think this pandemic took everyone by surprise. Many companies are just not positioned to leap into the brave new world. Some don't have the IT or infrastructure necessary. And the service industry simply cannot operate virtually.

Will shopping online and ordering everything from our smart phones be the new reality? Maybe to an extent. It's hard to say.

Convenient, yes, but cold, faceless and "contactless." When the fog lifts surrounding this pandemic, people may either remain online junkies, or flock to the "offline" world and experience life again.

I don't know about you, but I'm itching to get back out there, in the real world, meeting and greeting people.

There are many cliches in life and business, but they don't seem to offer much comfort. Sure, only the strong survive. But if that means we're forever at the mercy of conglomerates, polluters and automated assembly lines, count me out.

We once laughed at those going "off the grid" but now that's looking quite inviting if you ask me.

I complain about the gas bill (whatever happened to lower utility prices?) and the wintry weather. I dig out my boots and warm jacket as the season changes. All the while, there are those without homes to heat; without boots; without a job and most of all, without hope. How does our efficient and intelligent supply chain help them? How does our "must-have" society become a collective of givers?

This situation we're in has had both good and bad effects on people. On one hand we're desperate, on the other we're generous. We shy away from people, or we go out of our way to make sure they're okay.

It's yin and yang, I suppose. Maybe it's the universe's way of telling us that things have to remain in balance.

But for some, it has resulted in a survival mode, a looking after number one mentality. I get it. We all have mortgages to pay and families to feed.

In our family, my wife has a second part-time job and my kids work. They may not want to, but I tell them they're among the lucky ones.

We can't hide or just lock our doors and turn off the lights, like we did on Halloween.

We are connected, to the very end. So, let's make this inter-dependent connectivity work, for all of us.

## Our Readers Write

# The schedule 6 shell game

Bill 229 was moved into a Standing Committee Nov. 23 for further discussion before going on to final reading.

For those who missed it, cleverly hidden in this Bill, titled "Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act" (Budget Measures), 2020, are several schedules including Schedule 6. It appears one of the things the Ford government wants to protect as we "recover" from COVID-19 is the right of developers to access areas currently protected by Ontario's Conservation Authorities.

Rod Phillips, the current Minister of Finance, and MPP Sylvia Jones, are defending Bill 229 and Schedule 6. When informed of our desire to have Schedule 6 removed from this budget bill, Ms. Jones sent a form letter defending the government's position and concluded with:

"In the coming weeks, the ministry will be consulting further on the regulatory proposals, including mandatory programs and services CAs must provide and the regulation outlining the agreements between CAs and municipalities.

"Thank you again for sharing your views on this important matter. I would encourage you to participate in the public consultation process."

Well, MPP Jones, I have consulted with many experts on ecological science, law and conservation education from the Canadian Environmental Law Association to Conservation Ontario to Environmental Defense to the Lake Simcoe Coalition.

They say you are spin doctoring.

Conservation Ontario (CO) recommends the Province of Ontario immediately remove Schedule 6, which amends the Conservation Authorities Act and the Planning Act, from the proposed changes contained in Bill 229: Protect, Support, and Recover from COVID 19 Act (Budget Measures Act) because it will: Create more red tape and higher costs for Ontario taxpayers; Threaten the independent watershed-based approach used by conservation authorities (CAs) in land use planning; Potentially add significant delays and costs in conservation authority enforcement, planning, and permitting processes; Potentially have significant impacts on Ontario's ability to cost-effectively provide natural hazards management/protection and drinking water protection.

Environmental Defence says that Schedule 6 "will take away any control over the protection of our precious wetlands, forests, wildlife habitat and natural spaces from Conservation Authorities and give huge new powers to developers to push through destructive projects. Worse, by sneaking through these changes buried in a budget bill, the government is avoiding the public consultation that is normally required on laws that impact the environment."

The Canadian Environmental Law Association says: "In CELA's view, the proposed changes to conservation authorities in Bill 229 will not achieve the crucially important goal of building climate resilience for Ontario. To the contrary, the package of amendments as proposed are likely to set back watershed planning and implementation of an ecosystem-based approach by decades. CELA recommends that Schedule 6 not be enacted in its present form and instead be withdrawn in its entirety from Bill 229."

The Government of Ontario has asked us to write our MPPs to express our views. Here it is: Remove Schedule 6 from Bill 229. And the next time you title a Bill the Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act, check with the Auditor General first – she has a few recommendations to help you get it right next time.

**Skid Crease**
**Caledon**

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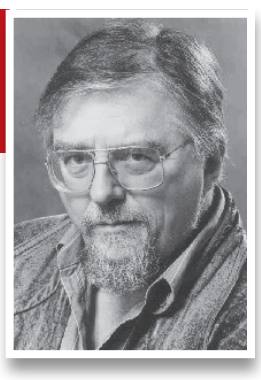
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# Ethiopia: War in Tigray

**GWYNNE DYER**
OUR WORLD TODAY



"Love always wins. Killing others is a defeat," said Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed in June 2018, shortly after surviving a grenade attack at a rally in Meskel Square in the capital, Addis Ababa. How was he to know that just thirty months after saying that he would have to stop loving and start killing?

That's the problem with being a reforming zealot who becomes prime minister: you have to deal with some really stubborn people, and sometimes it's hard to shift them without a resort to force. That's why Abiy launched an invasion of Tigray state on 4 November, and so far it's been doing very well.

"The next phases are the decisive part of the operation, which is to encircle Mekelle using tanks, finishing the battle in the mountainous areas, and advancing to the fields," Col. Dejene Tsegaye told the Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation on 22 November.

Here we are only less than two weeks later, and the federal government's troops have already captured Mekelle, a city of half a million people that is Tigray's capital. It's not clear how many people were hurt or killed in the fighting, but it went so fast that the butcher's bill can't be all that high.

In fact, it has all gone so well that Abiy Ahmed's soldiers are probably thinking they might be home in time for Christmas. When Col. Dejene talked about "finishing the battle in the mountainous areas and advancing to the fields," however, he was talking about the nine-tenths of Tigray that has seen no federal government troops at all, or at most a brief glimpse as they passed through.

Tigray is exactly the size of Switzerland, with about the same ratio of mountains to fields (although the mountains are somewhat lower). In other words, it is ideal guerilla territory, and a high proportion of the seven million Tigrayans are rural people who know the land. Moreover, they have long experience in fighting the central government's troops.

That was the old central government, of course: the Communist dictatorship called the Derg, led by Mengistu Haile Mariam, that murdered the emperor and ruled the country with an iron fist from 1977 to 1991.

Tigrayans were the first ethnic group to rebel against Mengistu's rule. They are only 6% of Ethiopia's population, but the Tigrayan People's Liberation Front (TPLF) was the most effective of the ethnically-based rebel groups that finally defeated the Derg.

The federal government that took over afterwards called the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), was formally a multi-ethnic alliance. In practice, however, TPLF cadres controlled most senior posts and prospered greatly as a result – a situation that continued until the EPRDF appointed Abiy Ahmed prime minister in 2018.

Unfortunately, Abiy's approach – merging all the parties based on the various ethnic militias into a single "Prosperity Party" – didn't work. The resentful TPLF cadres refused to join, and gradually withdrew to their heartland in Tigray. They don't yet openly advocate secession, but they do point out that they have that right under the current federal constitution.

Whether or not the shooting war began with an unprovoked attack by the Tigrayan militia on the federal army's base in Mekelle at the start of last month, as Abiy's spokesmen claim, it was bound to end up here. All Tigray's cities have now been taken by federal troops, but almost none of the rural areas.

This could be a brilliant victory for the federal troops that puts a swift end to the fighting. It's more likely to be the result of a decision by the TPLF leadership to skip the conventional battles they were almost bound to lose, and go straight to the long and bloody guerilla war that they might eventually win.

That would mean secession, in the end, for they can never win power back in Addis Ababa. The risk is that if the war goes on long enough, other major ethnic groups may break away from Ethiopia as well. Abiy's loosening of the tight centralised control that prevailed under the emperor, the Derg and the TPLF has already unleashed ethnic and sectarian violence that has rendered 2 million Ethiopians homeless.

# It was the Best of Times. It was the Worst of Times.

**SHERALYN ROMAN**
TALK CALEDON



In a similar theme to last week and with apologies to Dickens, 2020 might best be summarized succinctly by quoting the title of this article.

We've seen people at the end of their rope and people who have not only extended the rope to help others hang on but also provide them with a soft place to land. Politicians who have done the right thing and politicians who have done the worst thing and finally, charities who have supported many more than usual, while recouping little in terms of fundraising dollars either because people have nothing left to give or just don't seem to want to. Last week, myself hanging on to that rope by the thinnest of margins and ready to throw in the towel, my faith in humanity was restored by the kind act of a tow truck driver. Suddenly it seemed, and just in time, the spirit of the season was back. With December now upon us and both a full lockdown and the "holiday season" in full swing – is this the best of times or worst of times for you?

Locally, I was encouraged by a community, who combined with one Mom in her dogged pursuit of the opportunity to provide a "Hallmark moment" for her neighbourhood. Despite obstacle after obstacle, a Santa Claus parade was organized for parents and children (and some of us adults too) to watch from the safety of our own homes. Together with volunteer fire fighters, the happiest Santa we've seen in a long while and sponsored by a local real estate agent with a big heart, this event was a big hit for families who won't be able to watch the annual Bolton Santa Claus Drive By this year. In true Hallmark fashion, it was an even bigger hit for The Exchange as several other wonderful community minded folks offered their vehicles and front porches as safe drop off points for food donations, collecting a whopping amount of food over the course of the parade. It was a win-win situation for everyone and a shining example of the real meaning behind "holiday spirit."

On the flipside, last week also saw the betrayal of the best interests of our entire Caledon community; the ramifications of which will likely be felt long after any holiday spirit has departed. A vote took place at the Region of Peel; a vote that saw Caledon's representation at that Regional table, reduced significantly. This comes just as our little portion of Peel is set to grow significantly over the next thirty years and at a time when regional representation has probably never been so important.

Caledon's population is projected to double by 2040 and double again by 2050. We're growing across the region, from Mayfield West to Caledon East and already form more than 50% of the landmass that comprises Peel Region. I would think now, more than ever before, is not the time to take away from our seat at the Regional table. If you are not already familiar with it, the issue of regional representation is large, complicated and far too unwieldy to delve into here. It requires careful review and consideration. What can be said is that the issue is contentious and requires a unified front by our Caledon Council members who are charged with representing the best interests of our entire community.

Voted in to represent us, most of Council did indeed step up to the plate. Betrayal always hurts but to say it's disappointing for one Caledon council member to vote against their peers, on a decision as potentially far reaching as this one, is one heck of an understatement. As Mayor Thompson suggests, with our community growing, we "deserve our voice on Regional Council to get stronger not weaker." Not presenting a unified front in front of the Region doesn't help.

In another repeat of last week's column (because you have about 20 days of shopping time left so I figured a reminder couldn't hurt) the good news is we've seen a significant upswing in the #LoveLocal and #SupportLocal movement.

Town Council, residents and social media are promoting and supporting local business with a renewed emphasis and sense of purpose, recognizing these are the folks who in turn support us. The bad news is, nothing has changed at a provincial level and why big box stores can remain open and small retailers can't, continues to defy logic. Let's hope, in the spirit of the holidays, that #ShopLocal isn't too little too late.

Finally, I might just add that while I am not one to promote flouting the law, when it comes to doing so there are two types of folks. You have the "meat guy" in Toronto and then, more local to Bolton, a "protest" of sorts by a gentleman just trying to make a living. Opening a small retail location, but doing so safely and without protests, anti-maskers and other related zealots, who were kicking up quite a fuss, is a different kind of rule breaking than what we saw in Toronto.

May I respectfully suggest that perhaps "meat guy" donates some of his undeserved hundreds of thousands in GoFundMe dollars to support other small retailers in the event they find themselves fined? Even better, donate all that money to the charities currently working double time to support triple the need.

A gal can dream right? Meantime, looks like I'm heading back into the "worst of times" territory. I might need another "lift" (of the holiday spirits that is) from a benevolent tow truck driver.



# SPORTS

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## Robert F. Hall student off to Rio Grande on scholarship

Written By ROBERT BELARDI

Robert F. Hall athlete Jake Merante has committed to the University of Rio Grande in Rio Grande, OH on a baseball scholarship.

The catcher for the Titans Baseball Club in the Canadian Premier Baseball League of Ontario said he was at a loss for words when he was offered.

"I didn't know what to say. I just smiled. Honestly, it's a one-time thing. This has never happened for me before. It was very exciting," Merante said.

The Titans were able to salvage some baseball, playing a 20-game fall ball season amidst COVID-19.

A few games in, Director of Operations Lawrence Vera suggested producing a recruitment video. The University of Rio Grande responded and, in a conference call, offered the bona fide ball-player a scholarship.

The Hockley Valley native is the youngest of four children and his three older siblings played hockey competitively.

Growing up, Merante was exposed to hockey but predominantly played soccer. An incident one summer ultimately decided a changing of the guard.

"One summer, my appendix burst. After I recovered, I switched from soccer to baseball," Merante explained.

He began his baseball career in Orangeville. After three years, Merante moved his career over to Barrie to play AA and AAA before moving to the Aurora Titans this past year.

He played every position on the diamond, beginning with third base. When he moved to catcher, it simply stuck.

"I'm a very talkative person in sports. I'm very loud. I keep the boys going. At the catching position you call pretty much every single play and you're pretty much the backbone of the team. You have to stay strong all the time."

Throughout this past year, Merante says he has improved at the plate and, after working with his father landscaping, he says he feels a lot stronger.

Now, the waiting game begins.

Merante expects to be in Ohio in the third or last week of August in 2021 and he admits the nerves have settled in.



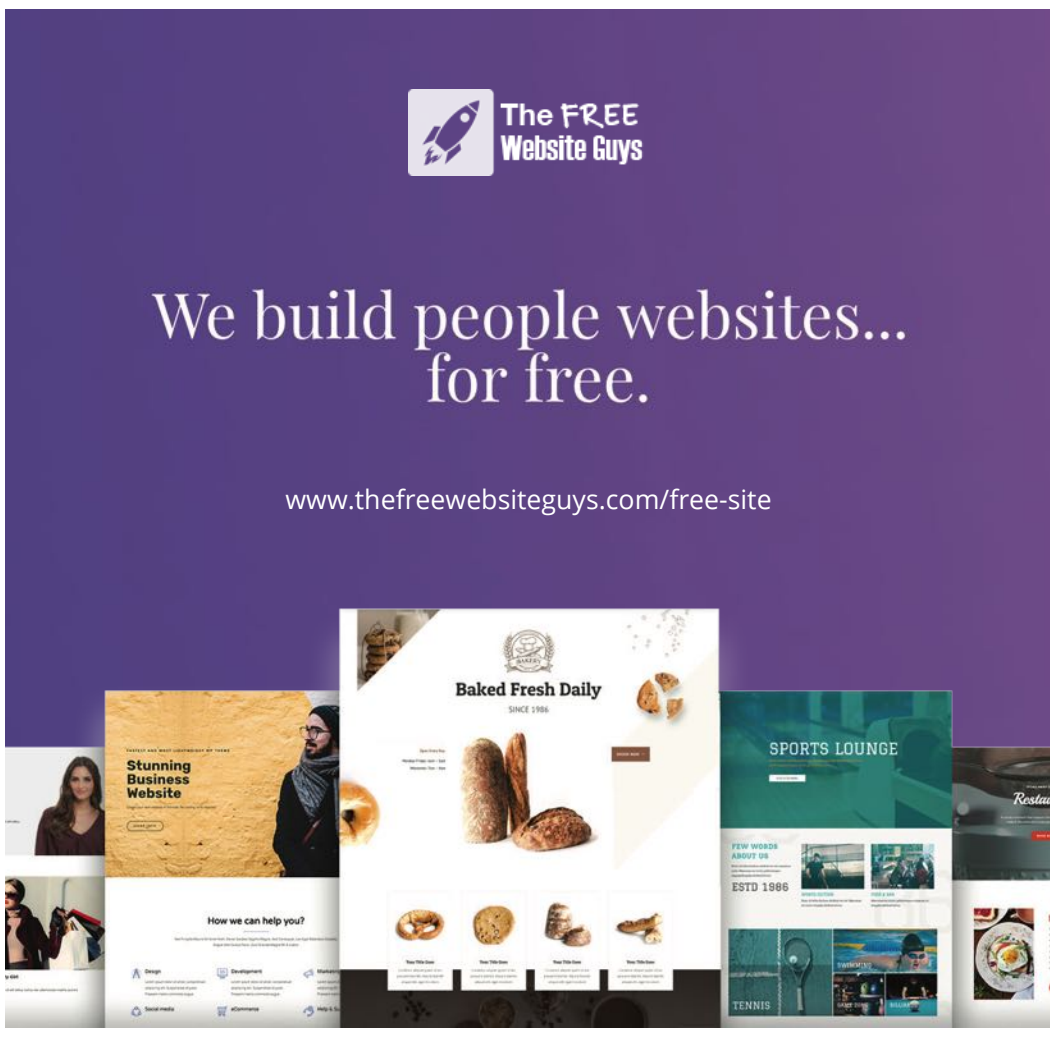
"I've never really gone on trips without anybody from my family. Never lived on my own. It's going to be a huge change, but I feel like I can fit in. Get used to it," Merante said.

He knows there will be people around to help him and to speak to.

This past year, Merante helped lead the Robert F. Hall Wolfpack to the Div. 2 to the finals against the Iona Catholic Secondary School Dolphins this past year.

As for his education, Merante has not quite decided on what subject he would like to pursue. He has yet to discuss his future with Rio Grande.

He said he is leaning more towards either Social Sciences or Business. That has yet to be determined.




## Roger Thompson weighed his options and chose York9

Written By ROBERT BELARDI

Roger Thompson has signed a multi-year extension with the Nine Stripes, a decision he said was family-based.

"There were a lot of things to look at when it comes to my family and financially," Thompson said. "The best decision was to stay here long term and be here with my family. Also, I did leave Sweden to come back in front of my family for my dad and my friends to be able to come and watch me play. I missed that being in Europe."

The Canadian-Jamaican international spent a few years in Sweden playing for Trelleborgs FF and Ljungskile SK before securing a contract with York9 FC for the Canadian Premier League inaugural season.

"My last two years there, I became one of the key guys on the team. You learn a lot there as well and take responsibility for

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certain things. I think it helped me grow a lot and become a better player in the process."

The 28-year-old missed the entirety of the 2019 Canadian Premier League campaign due to injury and the most important factor heading into this past summer's Island Games was remaining fit.

Moving into the project for next season, Thompson says he is excited to be under the tutelage of Jimmy Brennan and Paul Stalteri as well as the "young project" from Managing Consultant Angus McNab.

"He (McNab) wanted to rebuild the club and go young and help the young boys to get better. I feel like I'm at a point in my career where a project like that entices me. You know I want to stay home, I want to get better and play for the team closest to where I grew up. If I can help younger players get better in the process, I'll happily be a part of that."

York9 conceded only seven goals in the Island Games; the least amount of goals conceded by any club in the tournament. Although the club didn't advance, Y9 were built extremely well from the back. At one point, Thompson led the league in attempted passes. It's a style of play he loves and he will continue to push the ball up the pitch.

In a defining offseason for the club, Y9 has seen the likes of marquee players such as Manny Aparicio, Joseph Di Chiara, Morey Doner and Matthew Arnone leave the club as well as Luca Gasparotto retire.

Thompson doesn't want to focus on what the club has lost but rather what the club has gained.

"It's not so much to think about what we've lost but try to work with what we have and see what these guys can do when they come in."

York9 FC has been particularly busy in the transfer market this offseason, acquiring U18 Canadian midfielder Felix N'sa, defender Chrisnovic N'sa, goalkeeper Niko Giantsopoulos, midfielder Cedric Toussaint and Brazilian winger William Wallace to the roster.

He has seen improvements in the Canadian Premier League since its inaugural season and looks forward to seeing this league continue to grow competitively. Pacific FC and HFX Wanderers have improved and this league is moving in a direction that will hopefully knock off Cavalry FC and Forge FC off the podium.

"As the years go on, the quality is going to get better and better."

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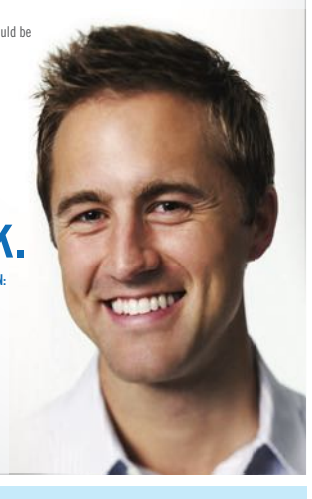
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## John Thomas Ingoldsby



Peacefully at Headwaters Health Care Centre, Orangeville, on Thursday, November 26, 2020, John Thomas Ingoldsby, at the age of 92 years, beloved husband of Violet Ingoldsby (nee Aitchison). Loving father of Larry and his wife Carol (deceased) Crang, Linda and her husband Stephen Knight. Cherished grandfather of Kirby (Erin), Cory (Farrah), Kristy (Darrell), and Jake. Proud great-grandfather of Chelsea, Tanner, Chase, Dean, Carlee, Charlea, and Emily. Dear brother of Margaret Quittenton (deceased) and Jean Chapman.

The Ingoldsbys were one of the founding families of Peel Region. They were pioneers who settled on a 100-acre farm at the corner of Heart Lake Road and Countryside Drive in 1828. John was a fifth generation farmer. After retiring from farming, he pursued many passions including travelling, hunting, curling and long-range sharp shooting. Over the years he was a member of the Canadian and Ontario Rifle Teams. He competed all over the world including England, Kenya, Australia and South Africa. In celebration of their success, he and his teammates attended the Queen's Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in 1995. Most of all, he loved being on the farm, with his wife Vi, tinkering with machinery in the barn or downstairs in his gunroom and celebrating with family, friends and neighbours. We will miss the little, mischievous chuckle that he had in his voice. He spent the last few years at the Montgomery Village in Orangeville making many new friends. After he reluctantly stopped driving a car he switched to a power scooter. He could often be found around Orangeville having a quadruple-quadruple coffee at Starbucks, visiting a family of geese at a nearby pond and, of course, smoking a cigar.

The family would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the wonderful team at Montgomery. And finally, to the doctors and nurses on E-Wing at Orangeville Hospital your love and care will not be forgotten. Due to the global pandemic, a private family funeral service will be held at Egan Funeral Home, 203 Queen Street S. (Hwy. 50), Bolton (905-857-2213). Interment Caledon East Public Cemetery. If desired, memorial donations may be made to Headwaters Health Care Foundation. Condolences for the family may be offered at www.EganFuneralHome.com

## McKinnon, Alex



Passed away peacefully at home in Bolton, on Monday, November 23, 2020 at the age of 89 years.

Alex was born in Blantyre, Scotland and immigrated to Canada in 1955 on RMS Queen Elizabeth via New York. Married in England 68 years ago to Pamela and raised four children Iain, Paul, Sheila and Anne. Loving father in law of Susan, Anne and Donnie.

Cherished grandfather of Katie, Tara and Blair, Jennifer and Remi, Matthew, Allison and Kevin, Amanda and Steve, Adam. Adored great grandfather of Alexia, Julia, Luella, and Weston. Dear brother of Harry and Sue, Gordon and May, Jean and Tim Newman, Brian and Jan, and predeceased by James and May, William, Joe and Anna, Ian, Ronald, Edwin, Gerard and Sandra. Fondly remembered by his nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Alex served in the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment in England. After coming to Canada, he worked most of his life in Sales & Marketing, first with Neilson and then with Hershey Chocolate. He enjoyed camping, sailing, and was the most enthusiastic owner of his 1950 MGTD. In Scouting most of his life, he was a proud Scout Master and honoured recipient of the Gilwell Badge. Member of the choir at St. James Church, Caledon East.

Cremation has taken place.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Sleeping Children Around the World, St. James Anglican Church or The Salvation Army.

Condolences for the family may be offered at www.EganFuneralHome.com

**GARDNER, Robert Alan**



I will miss the hugs from someone who when standing, can look me in the eyes. The reassuring 'give em hell' confidence booster before an interview or important event. The confidant, who you knew with absolute certainty, had your best interests at heart. This is just the perspective of a son who recently had to say goodbye to his Dad through a window, a barrier brought upon them by COVID. Robert Gardner left us today yet he will forever remain with those he loved and who in return loved him. He was Bobby to many, Dad to Jenna and Jared; Papa to Layne, Aria and Theo. For my Mother, Joanne, he was a partner for better and everything else life presented. Today is the first day of many that we will miss him dearly, but as my Dad made clear just a few weeks ago, 'I will always be with you, wherever you go'. Our family will be forever grateful for the compassionate care given to our Dad at Bethell Hospice in Caledon. Donations in memory of Robert can be sent to foundation.bethellhospice.org

**GOSLING, Frank**
**August 20, 1932- November 18, 2020**
Frank Gosling left this world very peacefully on November 19, 2020. We miss him but he had already left us. He is with God and whole again. We smile through our tears because we know his spirit is alive and well, and with us.
Love never dies!
Tom, Lissa, Lexy & Jaynne Gosling
As expressions of sympathy, donations in Frank's memory may be made to The Scott Mission.
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In Memoriam Funeral Services has been given the honour to serve the Gosling Family.

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**The Lord Dufferin Chapter IODE** holds their meetings at the Lord Dufferin Centre on the 4th Tuesday of every month. We are looking for women who would like to help in the Community. Call 519-941-1865.

**TOPS (TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY)** meets at 6:15 pm every Wednesday night at the Avalon Retirement Centre, 355 Broadway. For more information call Trudy Rockel 519-941-6146.

**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.

**DRUG PROBLEM?** We've been there, we can help! Narcotics Anonymous meets every Friday & Sunday at 7:30 pm, Westminster United Church, 247 Broadway, Orangeville, or every Thursday 8:00 pm at St. Paul's Anglican Church, 312 Owen Sound St., Shelburne, or call 1-888-811-3887.

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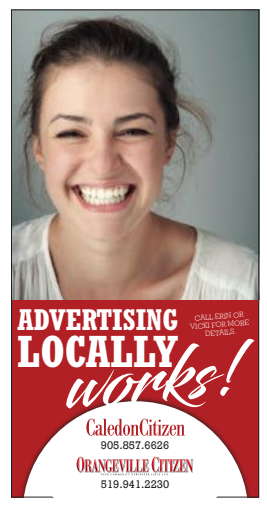
## SERVICES

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

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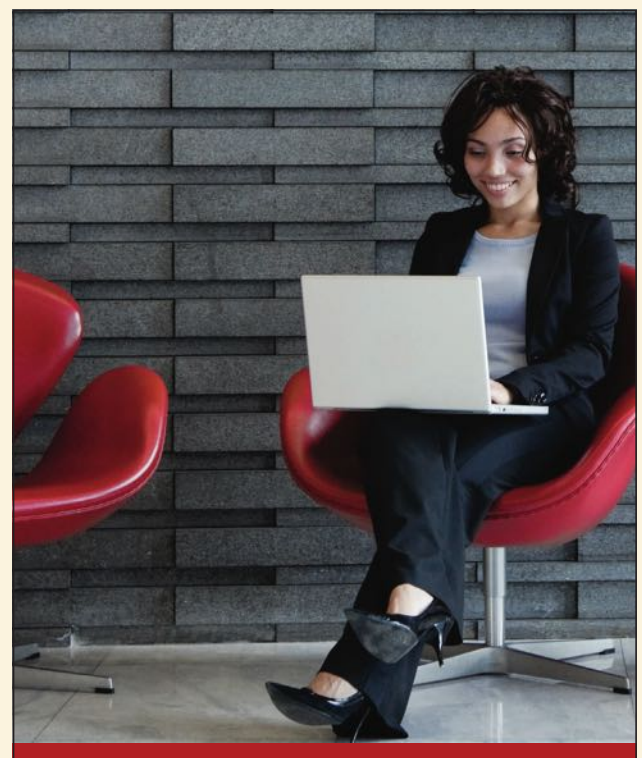
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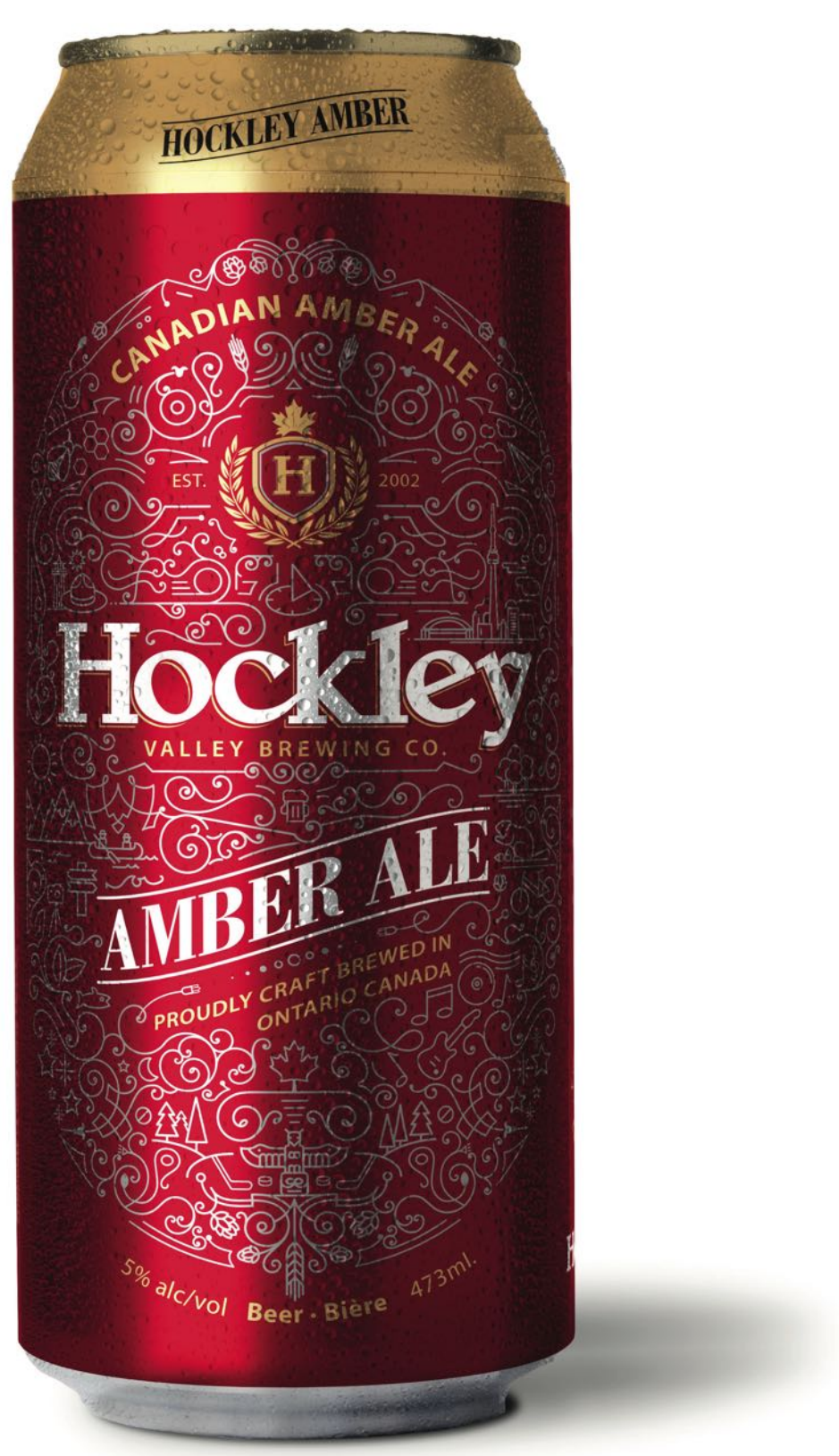
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