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with grilled squash, spinach and fava beans medley

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Chicken Supreme and Wild Red Shrimps (nf, gf)
grilled with fava beans-basil pesto, sweet potato risotto

Caledon Mixed Grill (nf, gf)
lamb chop, wild boar sausage patty, beef tenderloin, smoked chicken, Parmesan crusted garlicky fingerling potatoes

Beef Tenderloin "Wellington" (nf)
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Hearty Beans Chili and Pumpkin Risotto (vg, nf, df, gf)
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eggplant, beetroot hummus, Olive and roasted peppers tapenade, focaccia, pitas, crostini and flatbread

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DESSERTS

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A CURBSIDE CHRISTMAS – Volunteer Effie Gialedakis places an ornament on a branch inside the entrance to The Sisters' Touch of Christmas, located on the Caledon King Townline, on Saturday morning. Although the organization is based in Bolton, the non-profit seasonal store is located just over the York Region border and just entered lockdown on Monday. Like so many local businesses, the Sisters have pivoted to curbside for the lead-up to Christmas. For more, see Page 12.

PHOTO BY BROCK WEIR

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Mayor's meeting brings officials together to support small business

Written By ALYSSA PARKHILL
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Mayor Allan Thompson held a Mayor Virtual Town Hall meeting Tuesday night to discuss the various support programs available for local small businesses.

Joining the session were MP Kyle Seeback and MPP and Solicitor General Sylvia Jones.

Members of the public submitted questions about COVID-19 and their small businesses and each level of government was able to provide their feedback and answers.

Myriad topics were covered including masks, business landlords, resources and programs available, as well as internet services.

"Without a doubt, small businesses have taken the hardest economic hit during the pandemic. Local businesses are the heartbeat of our town," said Mayor Thompson. "That's why shopping local is so important."

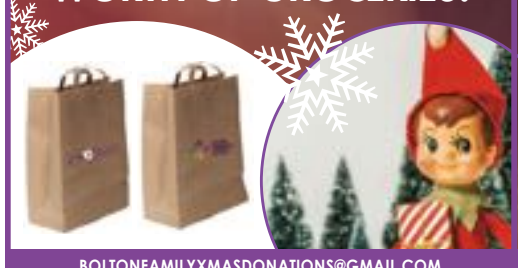
The Town of Caledon has implemented several promotional initiatives including Love Local Tuesdays and Shop Local in order to support business and encourage the community to shop local rather than online or at the big box retailers.

But one question that has been on a number of resident's minds is: why are small businesses forced to close while big box stores like Walmart and Costco stay open?

"I'm going to repeat what Premier Ford often says. There is nothing fair about COVID-19 or this pandemic," remarked MPP Jones. "If any of you have walked around a Costco, a Walmart or a hardware store, there are items in there that they sell that would be essential, and there are items that they sell in there that would be considered non-essential."

Continued on page 13

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Love Local Tuesdays to be extended until Family Day

Written By ALYSSA PARKHILL
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A Caledon councillor has gone above and beyond promoting local businesses in the Bolton area through the new local campaign Love Local Tuesdays.

Ward 5 Councillor Tony Rosa puts out an informative and promoting video of different local businesses in his ward every single Tuesday.

The promotional campaign was approved unanimously by Caledon Council to dedicate each Tuesday in the month of December as "Love Local Tuesday" in preparation for the upcoming holiday season, and to encourage the Caledon community to shop local.

Fortunately, with the success the campaign has brought so far, Council decided to extend the promotion.

Continued on page 6

TOWN OF CALEDON
TOWN NEWS
SEE PAGE 7

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Province rolls out COVID-19 vaccine to Toronto and Ottawa healthcare workers

Written By ALYSSA PARKHILL
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Province has broken the record, after reporting more than 2,000 new COVID-19 cases for the first time on Tuesday since it all began earlier this year.

Ontario reported 2,275 on December 15, bringing a cumulative total of 144,396 cases across the province. 123,373 cases have been resolved and there have been 3,992 deaths.

Peel Region reported 586 new cases as of December 15 for a total of 32,228 cases since the start of the pandemic. 27,385 cases have been resolved, and 4,435 remain active with 408 deaths.

Numbers continue to rise in the regions that remain in the Grey-Lockdown level including 711 new cases in Toronto, 185 in Windsor-Essex and 154 in York Region.

Amid the increase of cases in the Province, Ontario has officially begun distributing the COVID-19 vaccine developed by Pfizer-BioNTech, through a Phase One approach on December 15.

The vaccine was approved by Health Canada on December 9.

Phase One included 2,500 health care workers receiving the vaccine in Toronto and Ottawa.

"We are ready to receive these vaccines as soon as they become available thanks to the excellent work of our health care officials and General Hillier and the COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Task Force," said Premier Doug Ford. "We have one of the most robust and comprehensive plans in the country and I am confident that all the necessary security measures and the advanced logistics systems are in place. The progress we are making is a welcome sign, but we must continue to be vigilant and follow the public health guidelines until vaccines are widely available."

The Province has stated that two pilot sites will take place at the University Health Network located in Toronto and the Ottawa Hospital where hospital and long-term care health workers will receive the vaccine.

14 hospitals within the Grey-Lockdown and Red-Control level regions are receiving the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.

In early 2021, vaccines will be delivered to additional hospitals. The Province states that they anticipate more than 20 hospitals across the province will be administering the vaccine by the end of January.

"The launch of Ontario's three-phase vaccine implementation plan is a vital milestone in our ongoing work to keep Ontarians safe and overcome these unprecedented times," said Solicitor General and MPP Sylvia Jones. "This limited rollout in Toronto and Ottawa will allow us to test our process as we prepare for the increased availability of vaccines from the federal government."

Vaccination distribution has also begun in Quebec, where Gisele Levesque was the very first Canadian to receive the vaccine. Personal support worker Anita Quidangen was the first Ontarian to receive the vaccine.

"Keeping everyone safe is our top priority and this vaccine is Health Canada approved and ready to be administered," said Minister of Health Christine Elliott. "By vaccinating and protecting people who provide essential care in hospitals and long-term care homes, we will decrease the risk of COVID-19 outbreaks in these settings.

"Thank you to our frontline heroes, volunteers, and to all the researchers who made this vaccine possible. As we continue to receive more doses, we will ensure that every person who wants a vaccine will receive one."

For further information, please visit Ontario.ca.

Dufferin-Caledon receives relief funding from province to help vulnerable residents

Written By ALYSSA PARKHILL
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

On December 15, MPP Sylvia Jones announced funding from the province that is aimed to help vulnerable residents who have fallen due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

MPP Jones informed the public that both Dufferin County, as well as Region of Peel, will receive additional funding under the Social Services Relief Funding.

The Region of Peel will receive a total of $5,669,000 and Dufferin County $446,000.

The funding is aimed to enhance services including those that protect homeless shelter staff and residents, purchase or renovate current shelter facilities, add to rent banks, develop long-term housing solutions in the area as well as prepare for potential outbreaks or COVID-19 related emergencies.



Dufferin County and Region of Peel will receive significant funding in support of enhancing critical care services and homelessness in the area.

FILE PHOTO

"Our government is responding to the ongoing needs of COVID-19 by providing more flexible funding to keep our vulnerable citizens safe," said MPP Jones. "We know that COVID-19 has highlighted the importance of having supports available for those who need help, and this funding will help our social services continue providing essential support."

The funding is coming from the Social Services Relief Fund, which originated in March with a amount of $148 million to help support and protect those who are vulnerable while living amid the pandemic.

The funding also helps individuals who aren't able to qualify for emergency support programs provided by the Federal government.

Though homelessness isn't as visible in Caledon as it may be in other areas such as Toronto due to the vast amount of rural landscape, that doesn't mean it doesn't exist. This funding will help Caledon residents who are at most risk and struggling to stay afloat during the pandemic.

"Our provincial government's investment in the Region of Peel is truly a godsend. It will support the most marginalized and at-risk residents in our communities and allow organizations like Caledon Community Services to step up and extend themselves to our community with increased services and supports," said Caledon Community Services CEO Monty Laskin.

"The County of Dufferin welcomes the announcement they will be awarded discretionary funding which will allow the County to extend some of its pandemic programming longer term, to ensure better sustainability for those most in need," said Anna McGregor, Director of Community Services for Dufferin County.

In addition, this past October, over $241 million was announced and allocated in support of improving shelters and opportunities for long-term housing for municipalities and Indigenous community partners.

"Our government continues to respond to the pandemic with significant investments for our municipal and Indigenous partners," said Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. "As the public health situation continues to evolve, we are providing more support, so our partners are in a better position to protect those who need it most."

For further information, please visit Ontario.ca.

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REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF PEEL
NOTICE OF PASSING OF
DEVELOPMENT CHARGES BY-LAW

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Regional Municipality of Peel passed Development Charges By-law 77 - 2020 (the "By-law") on the 10th day of December, 2020 under section 2 of the *Development Charges Act, 1997, S.O., 1997 c. 27* (the "Act"), as amended;

AND TAKE NOTICE that any person or organization may appeal the By-law to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal as stipulated under section 14 of the Act, in respect of the By-law by filing with the Clerk of the Region of Peel on or before the 19th day of January, 2021 a notice of appeal setting out the objection to the By-law and the reasons supporting the objection.

The development charges in By-law 77-2020 will apply to all new residential and non-residential development, subject to certain terms, conditions and limited exemptions as identified in the By-law.

Development charges are levied against new development to pay for the increased capital costs related to the provision of such municipal services as Water, Wastewater, Services related to a Highway, Public Works, Police, Long Term Care, Public Health, Paramedics, Housing and Waste Diversion.

The development charges imposed by the By-law, which comes into effect on January 22, 2021, are as follows:

Municipality	Residential Development Charge Per Dwelling Unit				Non-Residential Development Charge Per s.m.	
	Singles & Semis	Apartment (>750 s.f.)	Small Unit (<=750 s.f.)	Other Residential	Industrial	Non-Residential - Non-Industrial
Brampton & Mississauga	$60,750.66	$44,066.64	$23,305.57	$48,114.77	$177.82	$229.88
Caledon	$60,093.31	$43,589.82	$23,053.40	$47,594.15	$174.92	$226.98

No key map has been provided in this notice as the By-law applies to all lands located within Peel Region.

Due to the efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19, a copy of the By-law is available on the Region of Peel's website at www.peelregion.ca.

DATED at the Region of Peel offices, 10 Peel Centre Drive, Suite B, Brampton, Ontario, this 17th day of December, 2020.

Aretha Adams
Deputy Regional Clerk
regional.clerk@peelregion.ca or
905-791-7800, ext. 4095



New three-digit suicide prevention hotline coming to Canada



Members of the Conservative party pushed to advocate 9-8-8 as the official suicide prevention hotline, a motion which was passed on December 11.

FILE PHOTO

Written By ALYSSA PARKHILL
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Local MP Kyle Seeback joined in the fight to allow easier access to suicide prevention programs for Canadians who are struggling with their mental health.

The Dufferin-Caledon MP announced at the beginning of this month, his support and advocacy to delegate 9-8-8 as Canada's official National Suicide Prevention Hotline.

Seeback offered his support, along with Cariboo-Prince George MP Todd Doherty, who is the Special Advisor to the Leader of the Opposition on Mental Health and Wellness.

Doherty brought forward a motion this past Friday to the House of Commons to enforce the three-digit number as the official suicide hotline for Canadians.

"Now, more than ever, the mental health of Canadians is being tested. Increased isolation and heightened anxiety have led to higher rates of alcohol and substance abuse. Reports [state] domestic violence have gone up and we are seeing elevated levels of suicidal ideation and crises. First Nations communities across Canada continue to battle a growing suicide crisis," said MP Doherty in a statement.

The current number for operated by Crisis Services Canada, incudes a 10-digit number of (833) 456-4566. A little hard to remember.

MP Seeback said he was thrilled by the unanimous passing of the bill brought forward by fellow Conservative MP, as he understands the struggle people go through on a daily basis.

"I myself have had serious bouts with depression over the years. I thought this was something to definitely try to get behind," he explained. "I've been very fortunate in my life. I've had good friends, family and the ability to speak to people when I needed to."

In the difficult times of living in a global pandemic, the need for easily accessible resources for mental health are vital.

"Cold weather, uncertainty, eroded social networks and restrictions on holiday gatherings are hitting at a time when people are already anxious, hopeless and fearful that things are going to get worse," says Margaret Eaton, CMHA's National CEO, in a recent statement. "I am afraid that many people are in such despair that they can't see past it."

According to the Canadian Mental Health Association, 10 per cent of Canadians have experienced thoughts and/or feelings of suicide, an increase from the six per cent the past spring. The numbers are higher for specific groups of population, including 28 per cent for members of the LGBTQ+ community, 27 per cent of individuals who have existing mental health issues, 24 per cent of those with a disability and 20 per cent are those in the Indigenous community.

21 per cent are within the ages of 21 to 34, and 19 per cent 18 to 24.

17 per cent of Canadians have increased the amount of substances they take in order to cope with these issues.

"I was absolutely thrilled when the motion passed on Friday unanimously. We'd been pushing the government to go forward with it," said Seeback.

Members of the public expressed their support through petitions and online advocacy to help support the motion.

The implementation of the 9-8-8 National Suicide Hotline is said to be soon discussed with the Minister of Health in order to direct appropriate timing for the number.

"I think having a national hotline like this will save lives," said Seeback.



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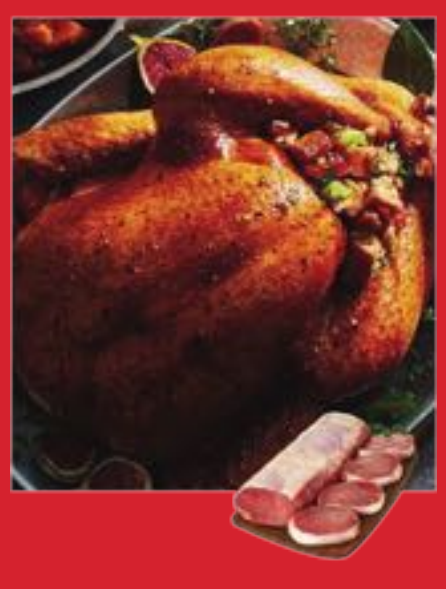


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Caledon OPP investigate robbery of Bolton business

On Tuesday, December 8, at approximately 3:42 p.m., officers from the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) responded to a robbery at a business located in the area of Highway 50 and McEwan Drive in Bolton.

Information was received that three unknown suspects attended the business, assaulted one of the employees, tied up another one, and proceeded to steal cellular phones from the store inventory.

The suspects then exited the store and fled in a Sport Utility Vehicle (SUV) in an unknown direction.

No injuries were sustained by the victims.

All three suspects are described as male, dark complexion, wearing dark hoodies, dark pants, gloves and masks.

"The investigators would like to ask the area businesses to check their security cameras for the images of the suspects," say Police. "Anyone with information regarding the incident and the suspects' identity is asked to contact the Caledon OPP Major Crime Unit at 905-584-2241 or toll-free at 1-888-310-1122.

You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at www.peelcrimestoppers.ca. When you contact Crime Stoppers you stay anonymous, you never have to testify, and you could receive a cash reward of up to $2000 upon an arrest.

EARLY MORNING COLLISION IN CALEDON

On Wednesday, December 9, at approximately 8:13 a.m. uniformed officers from the OPP's Caledon Detachment responded to a two-vehicle collision on Highway 9 near 6th Line EHS in the Town of Caledon.

Information was received that the driver of one of the involved vehicles appeared impaired. The officers attended the scene and investigated the collision. The driver was asked to provide a sample of their breath into an approved roadside screening device, which resulted in a "fail" reading.

The driver was then placed under arrest for Operation while Impaired - Blood Alcohol Concentration over 80 mg, and transported to the Dufferin OPP Detachment, for further breath tests to be conducted.

As a result of those tests, the driver's Blood Alcohol Concentration was found to be 260 mg of alcohol in 100 ml of blood, over three times the legal limit.

A 30-year-old male driver from Ajax stands charged with:

- Operation while impaired - BAC over 80 mg;
- Careless driving; and
- Having care or control of a motor vehicle with liquor readily available.

The accused is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on February 18, 2021, to answer to the charges. The charges have not been proven.

RENTING ONLINE? POLICE OFFER SOME TIPS

OPP in Collingwood and The Blue Mountains have been called to a couple of incidents in the last month of fraud related to rentals listed online and wish to provide a few tips on fraud prevention.

The Nottawasaga Detachment OPP have recently received similar calls and wish to provide a few tips on fraud prevention.

One of the incidents came to light when the owner of a residence had someone come to their door looking to view the apartment for rent listed online, which was not posted by the owner of the residence.

Police were provided with an email and phone number to contact the person responsible for the listing and, of course, both the email and phone number were no longer in service.

Another incident involved a house for sale, which was listed on a reputable website but the photos were then used/stolen by the fraudster and posted on a local website as a ski chalet "for rent" in The Blue Mountains area.

This fraud attempt was discovered by the actual owner of the house, which was legitimately for sale. In both occurrences no money was ever sent to the scammers.

In both those cases, the posting was done so that the scammer can obtain a down payment or deposit for the rental property and once this is done, the email and/or phone numbers used are put out of service and the renter is no longer able to get in touch with the so called owner of the dwelling. Here are a few tips to avoid being scammed in this manner:

- They want you to give a deposit or pay in full quickly giving you all kinds of excuses to instill a sense of urgency to send them money.
- They cannot meet you in person and the viewing of the property will be taking place as a 'walking tour' outside the residence, never once gaining access to the house.
- If possible, try to deal with a local reputable rental businesses which you can find via your social circle or online search with associated reviews.

Following the above tips will certainly go a long way in preventing victimization. For more anti-fraud tips visit www.opp.ca or www.antifraudcentre.ca

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Police hold virtual session to teach residents about frauds and scams



The Caledon OPP Detachment hosted an online learning session on December 10 alongside members of the Serious Fraud office and CAFC, to teach residents about scams and frauds.

PHOTO BY ALYSSA PARKHILL

Written By ALYSSA PARKHILL
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Caledon Ontario Provincial Police's (OPP) Serious Fraud Office presented an information session last week for members of the Caledon community about different kinds of frauds and scams.

Members of the public attended the virtual event with guest speakers including OPP Constables Erin Fraser and Lisa Cruz from the Serious Fraud Office, as well as Jeff Thomson who spoke on behalf of the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre.

The online event was hosted by Iryna Nebogatova, Community Safety Officer at Caledon OPP Detachment.

"Fraud can happen to anyone. There's no shame if you become a victim," said Constable Cruz. "Tell others about your situation to prevent them from becoming a victim, but it'll also help you to overcome the situation as well."

The presentation included a variety of stories of people who have become victims of fraud and/or scams to introduce different types of scams that people become victimized to.

Some of these include romance scams, government and CRA scams, identity theft, emergency scams, merchandise scams, and most recently, COVID-19 scams.

Individuals phone, email and even text another person posing as someone in need, including family members or friends, requesting money for assistance of some sort.

"Fraudsters capitalize on situations where people are most vulnerable, such as the current pandemic. It's on top of everyone's mind and they're using that to their advantage," explained Cruz.

A common scam that impacts Canadians are text messages or phone calls stating they are from the Canadian Revenue Agency (CRA).

"Typically, is a robot-call or a voicemail you'll get, and somebody is portraying to be from the CRA and what happens is they're letting you know that you're actually behind on taxes or you need to pay those taxes right away," Cruz explained. "Be mindful not to get on the phone with those scammers and don't call the number back."

The Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre (CAFC), which is run by the OPP as well as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), shared a series of statistics of how much fraud and scams has impacted Canadians.

They reported that the CAFC received a total of over 47,000 reports of fraud that totally a loss of $104 million in Canada.

Specifically, in Ontario, the CAFC received over 19,000 fraud reports with $41 million reported in dollar loss.

"Almost half of the Canadian losses come from Ontario," stated Thomson from CAFC. "If you're a victim of crime, you're a victim of fraud, report it to your local police. You can also report to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre."

Several of these scams are reported here in Caledon with similar numbers showing this year, compared to last.

"The number of fraud reports that our officers have responded to are very similar to 2019. Starting March 1, 2019, to December 10, 2019, we've had approximately 150 reports of frauds, and it's similar to this year," said Iryna Nebogatova. "Two other scams are the COVID puppies or kitten scams, as well as cottage rental scams, where people are trying to get away from the city."

One local report came from a resident in Caledon who said that a person had gotten a hold of her personal information and was posting ads online for puppies. Individuals paid full price to the unknown suspect, and unfortunately, received no puppy.

"It's very emotional for people," said Nebogatova.

To learn more about different scams and how to prevent them, please visit the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501, or Ontario.ca.





PUBLIC NOTICE

HAVE YOUR SAY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Simpson Road

Area-Specific Development Charges By-law and Background Study

On Thursday January 21, 2021 the Council of the municipality of the Town of Caledon will hold a public meeting pursuant to Section 12 of the Development Charges Act, 1997, as amended to present and obtain public input on the municipality's proposed area-specific development charges by-law and underlying background study. The area under consideration is Simpson Road (from 228 metres South of Parr Blvd to Mayfield Road). It will be imposed within a defined area of the South Simpson Industrial Secondary Plan.

Due to the continuing efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19 and to protect individuals, Town Hall will not be open to the public to attend Public Meetings until further notice. These meetings will be held electronically.

DATE AND TIME:
Thursday January 21, 2021 5 p.m.

HOW TO LISTEN:
To listen by phone call 1-833-311-4101
Meeting Access Code: **132 937 2808#**

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
Members of the public are welcome to participate via phone or Webex Meeting upon request. Please call 905.584.2272 x.4185 or email finance@caledon.ca. Please note deadlines apply.

HOW TO SUBMIT QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS:
- By email: agenda@caledon.ca and finance@caledon.ca
- By phone: 905.584.2272 x.4185

In order that sufficient information is made available to the public, the background study is being made available online at caledon.ca/dc

Copies of the proposed by-law and the background study are available from the Municipal Clerk at the above location or by calling 905.584.2272

Interested persons may express their comments at the public meeting or in writing, addressed to the Municipal Clerk, at the above address prior to January 15, 2021.

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

Continued from FRONT



Love Local Tuesdays have been a hit amongst the community, and has been extended until Family day and Valentine's day.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Love Local Tuesdays to be extended until Family Day

"The motion originally was going to be the month of December following Black Friday and Cyber Monday. We amended the motion to make it run until…Family Day and Valentine's Day weekend, and continue to promote it every Tuesday," said Councillor Rosa.

Several businesses have participated in the local initiative including Klaudya's Kloset, Noble Toyz, Black Tie Gifts, Caledon Roots, The Salt Cave, Jesse Tree Fine Foods, Forsters Book Garden, just to name a few.

"We think the Love Local campaign has made a real impact on people's understanding of the importance of shopping local and we are grateful to Tony Rosa for his enthusiasm and support of local businesses," said Donna Forster, owner of Forsters Book Garden, "We are also grateful for the customers who have indicated they are shopping locally this year because they realize not doing so will destroy the local economy."

The success the local initiative has brought to the community has shown enough motivation for Rosa to want to keep it around permanently.

"I'm finding such a positive response that I think at some point I'm going to bring a motion forward to keep Tuesdays as Love Local Tuesdays," he said. "I really do think that it's been valuable in making people aware that there are options in their community."

Rosa, alongside his fellow Councillors, are dedicated to supporting local businesses as they understand the struggles and difficulties they are going through.

The weekly initiative encourages members of the community to turn to the local businesses around them and to shop local for the holiday season that is just around the corner, on each Tuesday.

Similar to Black Friday and Cyber Monday, it gives local businesses the opportunity to promote their services and products.

"I think everybody's embraced the idea. I appreciated the support, and our next step is one the lockdown has been lifted, we're all going to be delivering packages to different businesses in our community with marketing materials and promotional products, and really push it throughout the municipality," said Rosa.

For more information, please visit Caledon.ca.

PUBLIC NOTICE

HAVE YOUR SAY

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

12476 Highway 50

Proposed Zoning By-law Amendment

FILE NUMBER: RZ 2020-0010
RELATED FILES: SPA 2020-0044

The Town of Caledon has received a Zoning By-law Amendment application. Your input and insight will inform and shape plans that meet the needs of our community.

APPLICANT: Antrix Architects Inc. on behalf of 2752324 Ontario Inc.

LOCATION: 12476 Highway 50, Bolton, Ward 5

PROPOSED CHANGES:

To amend the Zoning By-law for the subject lands from Bolton Highway Commercial (CHB) to Bolton Highway Commercial – Exception XXX (CHB-XXX) to introduce site specific uses to include Highway Commercial (CH) and Prestige Industrial (MP) uses, a convenience store, and various motor-vehicle related uses. The proposed by-law will also establish site-specific standards including increasing the building height, and reducing the planting strip widths, exterior side yard setbacks and parking space setbacks.



**The illustration is a conceptual plan for information purposes and it is subject to change. The application is currently under review by the Town of Caledon.*

LEAD PLANNER:

Adam Wendland, Community Development Planner
905.584.2272 x. 4024
adam.wendland@caledon.ca

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

For more information about this matter, including appeal rights, a copy of the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment, additional information and material, please visit www.caledon.ca/notices or contact the Lead Planner at Town Hall from Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

ACCESSIBILITY:

If you require an accessibility accommodation to access any materials related to this item in an alternate format please contact Records and Information Services by phone at 905.584.2272 x.2366 or via email at accessibility@caledon.ca.

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

Notice Date: December 17, 2020

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

HAVE YOUR SAY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

7904 Mayfield Road

Proposed Zoning By-law Amendment (Temporary Use)

FILE NUMBER: RZ 2020-0008

A Public Meeting will be held to consider a proposed Zoning By-law Amendment. Your input and insight will inform and shape plans that meet the needs of our community.

Due to continuing efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19 and to protect individuals, Town Hall will not be open to the public to attend Public Meetings until further notice. These meetings will be held electronically.

MEETING DATE: **January 19, 2021**
PUBLIC MEETING START TIME: **7 p.m.**

To listen to the Meeting (but not participate), you may call 1-833-311-4101, Meeting Access Code: **132 901 0717#**.

Members of the public are welcome to participate via phone or WebEx Meeting upon request. For more information on how to participate, please visit www.caledon.ca/development or contact the Planning Department. Please note that there are deadlines by which the request to participate need to be made.

You can also ask questions or provide comments by:

- Submitting written correspondence to agenda@caledon.ca and planning@caledon.ca for consideration during the Public Meeting. Please note that written comments will form part of the public record.
- Contacting Planning staff or the Lead Planner during office hours by phone or email.
- Booking an appointment to visit Town Hall to speak with Planning staff. Visit www.caledon.ca/development for more information.

APPLICANT: **Weston Consulting on behalf of Tarpa Construction Co. Ltd.**

LOCATION: **7904 Mayfield Road**

PROPOSED CHANGES:

To amend the Zoning By-law for the subject lands from Agricultural (A1) and Environmental Policy Area 2 Zone (EPA2) to Agricultural – Temporary XX (A1-XX), Environmental Policy Area 1 Zone – Temporary XX (EPA1-XX), and Environmental Policy Area 2 Zone – Temporary XX (EPA2-XX) to temporarily permit a commercial nursery and garden supply centre for a period of three (3) years.

LEAD PLANNER:

Adam Wendland, Community Development Planner
905.584.2272 x. 4024
adam.wendland@caledon.ca

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

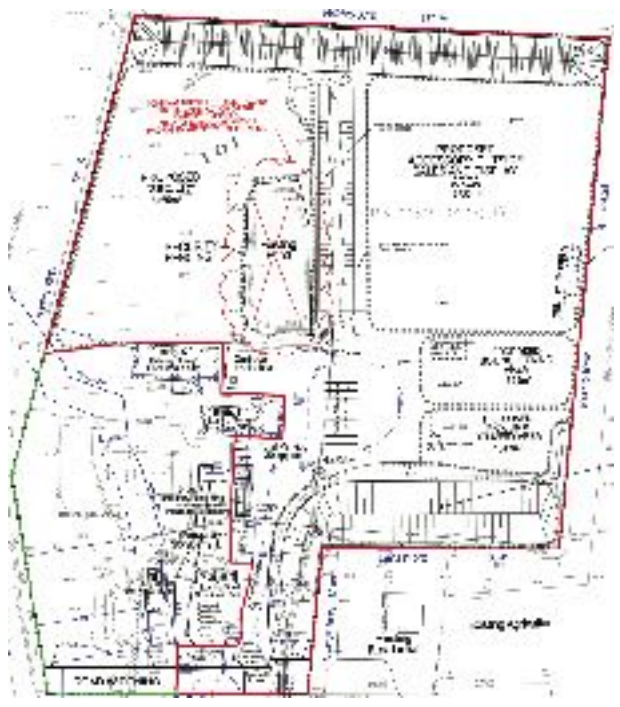
For more information about this matter, including appeal rights, a copy of the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment, additional information and material, please visit www.caledon.ca/notices or contact the Lead Planner at Town Hall from Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

ACCESSIBILITY:

If you require an accessibility accommodation to access any materials related to this item in an alternate format please contact Records and Information Services by phone at 905.584.2272 x.2366 or via email at accessibility@caledon.ca.

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

Notice Date: December 17, 2020



**The illustration is a conceptual plan for information purposes and it is subject to change. The application is currently under review by the Town of Caledon.*

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



COVID-19 Virtual Town Hall

Listen to the most up-to-date information on COVID-19 from Peel Public Health.

caledon.ca/agenda

PEEL PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

December 23, 6 p.m.

Join Mayor Allan Thompson and Dr. Lawrence Loh, Medical Officer of Health for Peel Public Health, to discuss the COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts on Caledon.

Stay Safe and Active This Winter



WINTERFEST

Let's celebrate all that winter has to offer in Caledon with Winterfest. Included are a collection of activities for everyone to enjoy:

- An at-home kit
- Outdoor community activities
- #CaledonLights competition
- Community ice rinks

caledon.ca/winterfest



VIRTUAL AND OUTDOOR RECREATION PROGRAMS

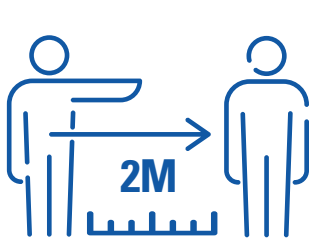
Stay active with virtual and outdoor recreation programs for the whole family. Have fun with:

- At-home activities for all
- Paint night
- Snowshoeing
- Virtual fitness classes

Pre-registration required.

caledon.ca/recprograms

Help Keep our Community Safe



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.

peelregion.ca/coronavirus

CALEDON FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES EST. 1925

Fire Safety for the Holidays

Be sure to keep these tips in mind for a safe and happy holidays:

1. **Stay in the kitchen when cooking**
2. **Drink responsibly**
3. **Place lit candles away from anything that can burn**
4. **Install and test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms**
5. **Practice your home fire escape plan**

Follow us for more fire safety tips:

@YourCaledon

caledon.ca/fire





Town of Caledon 2020 Holiday Hours

Further to the recent announcement by the Province of Ontario that the Region of Peel is in Lockdown (Grey) status, holiday hours of operation for the Town of Caledon look a little different this year.

TOWN HALL

Town Hall will close for the holidays at noon on December 24 and resume appointments on January 4, 2021. Please note: During regular business hours visitors to Town Hall must make an appointment in advance. To book an appointment please visit **caledon.ca/appointment** (an account is required).

CALEDON ANIMAL SHELTER

To visit the Animal Shelter an appointment is required. If you are looking to adopt a pet, please call 905.584.2272 x.4698 to book an appointment.

December 24, 25, 26 and 27: CLOSED
December 28, 29, 30: open 11am to 4pm
December 31, January 1, 2 and 3: CLOSED
January 4: regular hours resume

CALEDON PUBLIC LIBRARY (ALL BRANCHES)

At present all library branches are offering limited patron access. For more information about COVID-19 protocols and hours of operation, visit **caledon.library.on.ca**.

December 24, 25 and 26: CLOSED

December 27 to 30 inclusive:
open regular hours

December 31: CLOSED

January 1: CLOSED

PROVINCIAL OFFENCES ADMINISTRATION

The Provincial Offences Court offices in Caledon and Dufferin are closed to in-person services until further notice. If you have a question about a ticket, trial date or other court services, please visit **caledon.ca/poa** for more information or contact us by phone or email (information listed below). Starting at noon on December 24 phone/email service will not be available, but will resume on January 4, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.

Caledon: 905-584-2273, caledon.poa@caledon.ca

Dufferin: 519-941-5808, dufferin.poa@caledon.ca

AFTER-HOURS EMERGENCIES

For after-hours emergencies such as downed trees on roads or flooding call the Region of Peel at 1.800.563.7881. For power outages or to report downed wires, call Hydro One at 1.800.434.1235. View the real-time status of a power outage on their outage map.

If the emergency is life-threatening, call 9-1-1.

For a full list of all holiday hours, visit **caledon.ca/news**



Support local business!

#LoveLocalCaledon

Mount Alverno Luxury Resort opens for takeout

Written By ALYSSA PARKHILL
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

One local luxury resort is preparing for its grand opening this spring, but has opted to provide takeout to introduce themselves to the community. And, it is hoped, dine-in options will be on the table soon.

Mount Alverno Luxury Resort is the ideal get-away resort for all those trying to be at one with nature and to get away from the city life. With hiking trails in the natural and scenic beauty of Caledon, the resort is looking to become the perfect nature escape.

The resort was purchased back in 2017, where they decided to keep the original name of the property, Mount Alverno, to keep its heritage intact.

Those roots began in 1962 as a "minor seminary run by Franciscans, and not long after became a retreat center in 1970. The now-resorts sits on 100 acres of nature with views of the well-known rolling hills of Caledon.

"The building existed previously as a cultural retreat center and it was operated by Capuchin nuns," said Christine Patterson, Sales and Event Manager at Mount Alverno Luxury Resorts.

The retreat center closed down in September of 2017.

It was also known for students to retreat for the weekend, and even ran as a high school for some years.

"That kind of went out of fashion, and the owners decided to sell. Our current owners purchased the property in late 2017, and that's when the project began," she explained.



Mayor Allan Thompson was the first-ever customer to order and enjoy a meal made by Executive Chef Denis Jaricot at The Vista.

SUBMITTED BY MAYOR THOMPSON

The resort completely revamped the remaining building and built it back to up to make it their own.

The building is now equipped with 22 guest rooms on the upper level, and 10 individual chalet units, with plans to further expand in the future to add more rooms and facilities.

Since the resort rests in Peel, bordering Dufferin, they have been forced to go into lockdown along with other local businesses. But, to introduce themselves, takeout services have become available for residents to order, with the first meals coming out of the kitchen on December 9.

The Vista is the resort's fine dining restaurant, run by Executive Chef Denis who has brought in new recipes and his exquisite taste.

Originally born in Lyon, France, Chef Denis Jaricot offers "classical French inspired food with a modern Canadian twist."

With a large variety of local suppliers here in Caledon, Chef Denis is able to bring fresh and local meals to those who are craving authentic, yet wholesome, food.

The Vista is open from Wednesday to Sunday, each day offering different options for their daily features. Some items are constant, such as the Vista burger and vegan black bean burger.

There are also family meals specials as well as mini meals for children, and they even offer a holiday menu for corporate events, as well as for Christmas and New Year's.

"[Chef Denis'] knowledge is pretty extensive, and he can really do so many different things, which is great. We're going to get a bit of variance, then the menu will change probably seasonally," explained Patterson. "He's very focused on supporting local, a lot of farmers and artisans in the area. That's something that's very important to him."

The first customer to experience The Vista, was Mayor Allan Thompson who stated, "Mount Alverno gourmet take out is another outstanding example of the extraordinary culinary options Caledon has to offer."

Anne Thompson also shared her experience stating that the vision and development has been impressive and she is excited to see the resort come to life.

"Allan and I have been eating our way across Caledon since we came out of the first lockdown, doing our part (like so many others) to help our small, independent businesses," stated Mrs. Thompson. "When Mount Alverno and The Vista announced they would be opening for takeout last week we really wanted to be there for their first night to show our support. We just had no idea we would be the very first order!"

"With that first meal on opening night, Executive Chef Denis Jaricot has earned his spot as another of our Love Local Caledon favourites," she continued.

Staff at the resort are excited about the upcoming grand opening in the Spring. With the pandemic ongoing, and Peel remaining in lockdown, they aren't too sure what it will look like, but it's not keeping them from planning.

"After the lockdown is lifted, we are hoping to open our restaurant facilities for indoor dining, and then the rest of the resorts facilities and guest rooms we're anticipating opening in the spring," said Patterson. "We had been anticipating opening earlier this year. With COVID, we unfortunately were shutdown from March until the summertime."

Mount Alverno Luxury Resorts has already been accepting bookings for events such as weddings in 2021. They also have bookings for corporate events and event retreats.

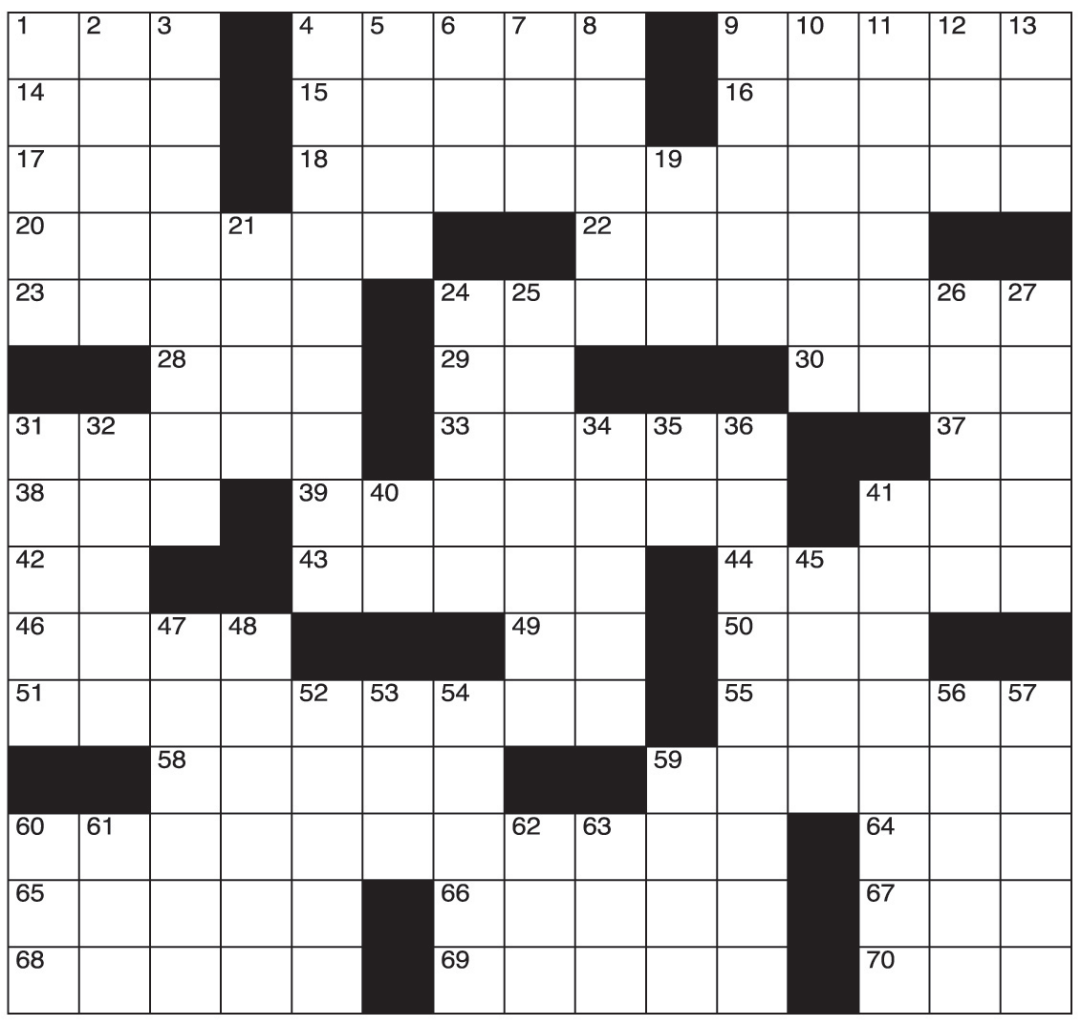
The resort is located at 20706 Heart Lake Road in Caledon Village and can be contacted at (365) 200-2030, or info@mountalverno.com.

To learn more or to order takeout, please visit mountalverno.com.



The Citizen CROSSWORD

Solution on page A12



CLUES ACROSS

1. Popular pickup truck
4. Profoundly wise men
9. Camera company
14. Folk singer DiFranco
15. Passerine birds
16. Plum-shaped fruit used for preserves
17. Popular kids channel
18. Dodgers' skipper
20. Removes
22. The Atlantic is one
23. Badgerlike mammal
24. Foulness
28. Luke's mentor __-Wan
29. Commercial
30. A type of gin
31. Temptress
33. Shuts in an enclosed space
37. Milligram
38. Actress Adams
39. Strive to equal or match
41. Health insurance
42. A detective's source
43. Small American rails
44. Alfred __, Brit. poet
46. Crest of a hill
49. Atomic #52
50. __ Caesar, comedian
51. Breaks apart
55. Register formally (Brit. sp.)
58. Worker
59. Chemical compound
60. Disgraced newsman
64. Born of
65. Chemical substance
66. Supernatural powers
67. Clothes
68. Indy footballers
69. Moves forward
70. Midway between south and southeast

CLUES DOWN

1. Driver
2. Bone cavities
3. Menacing
4. Where coaches patrol
5. Greek mythological figure
6. War-based board game
7. Midway between northeast and east
8. 18-year period in astronomy
9. Mid-century term used to describe Japanese-Americans
10. Large bodies of water
11. Eurasian ryegrass
12. Perform on stage
13. Greek island
19. 10th month of the year (abbr.)
21. One point east of southeast
24. Belgian city
25. Praise excessively
26. River in France
27. Edible lily bulbs
31. Quarterbacks take them
32. Organic compound
34. Tears down (Brit.)
35. Beloved Hollywood alien
36. Unconscious
40. Missouri
41. Firemen use them
45. Pig noise
47. Greatly dismay
48. Imitator
52. Moves by turning over
53. Boxing's GOAT
54. Swarms with
56. Margarines
57. Feudal superior
59. As fast as can be done
60. Reciprocal of a sine
61. Chinese city
62. Tell on
63. United

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

MP Kyle Seeback reflects back on a monumental 2020

Written By SAM ODROWSKI



MP Kyle Seeback is looking ahead to 2020.
FILE PHOTO

A lot has happened in 2020 and Dufferin–Caledon MP Kyle Seeback said there's lots to look forward to in 2021.

The biggest challenge of the year, of course, was responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, which created unprecedented levels of Internet usage while everyone stayed home, with Canadian Internet providers noting a more than 50 per cent increase.

This created challenges in Dufferin–Caledon since the service is slow or spotty in several places and extraordinarily expensive, according to Seeback.

"It was hugely challenging for people who were being told to stay home, try and educate their children online, while dealing with slow internet and, in many cases, massive data overage charges by the large internet service providers," he explained.

"I put enormous pressure on the large telecom companies, through both social media videos and letters to their presidents, saying that data overage charges to people in my riding and all across Canada during the pandemic was unacceptable."

For around four months, service providers waived data overage charges of all Canadians in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, which was a huge accomplishment for 2020, Seeback noted.

One of the bigger challenges when COVID-19 first started spreading here, he said, was getting all of the relevant information regarding the virus to his constituents.

Back when the pandemic started in March, all Service Canada locations shut down, so Canadians had nowhere to go to get information on government programs, other than through their member of parliament.

The result was Seeback's office becoming inundated with phone calls and emails from the public trying to get information on government programs related to COVID-19.

"That was incredibly challenging, to try and provide information to our constituents through phone calls, through social media, through our website, all of these things, but we did it really effectively," he noted.

"We were able to answer and respond to thousands of phone calls and emails over the course of that early shut down."

Supporting local businesses was another area of focus during 2020, brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Seeback has been hosting a Small Business Spotlight video series, where he brings attention to Dufferin–Caledon businesses that were nominated by people in the riding.

"I've gone around and put a spotlight on so many of those great organizations throughout our riding over the last seven months and I thought that was fun, interesting, and a great way to support our local economy," he said.

Small businesses enduring tough times economically is one of the largest issues facing the Dufferin–Caledon riding, according to Seeback. He said it's especially important to support small businesses and make sure their viable since roughly 70 per cent of Canadians are employed by them.

"Small businesses are really the ones that employ the vast majority of Canadians and when small business suffers, our communities suffer, so this is the number one issue I hear about almost every day," Seeback told the Citizen.

"Lockdowns have been extraordinarily tough, especially for my constituents in Caledon. They're in their second lockdown now, this has had a devastating effect on small business and trying to help those small businesses navigate through the programs that are available to help them."

Seeback said promoting local businesses and the fact that people need to shop local, particularly during the pandemic, is another key priority.

"It's very easy to push a button on our phone, it's convenient, but going out and supporting our local businesses, the ones that sponsor our kids' sports teams and others, that's what we have to do," he remarked.

Going forward, Seeback told the Citizen he's going to continue to "beat the drum" on getting more affordable and high-speed Internet throughout Dufferin–Caledon.

"The [federal] government's announced a whole bunch of money and I expect them to deliver and not just deliver on providing access, but delivering on affordability, because people shouldn't be spending $300-$400 a month for home internet in 2020," he stressed.

"The government's got to get involved, they've got to ensure that there's competition, so that we're not just getting our Internet from the two, Rogers, Bell. Competition will lower prices and also, the government has a role to play in determining what prices can be charged, especially to our rural customers."

Helping children and their families since 2004

The Country Toy Tea

THANK YOU, WE ARE DEEPLY HUMBLED.
YOUR GENEROSITY HELPED US RAISE OVER **$45,000**
FOR YORK REGION CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN NEED.
OUR WONDERFUL SPONSORS INCLUDE:

- Aspen & Ivy
- Beveridge Tree Farm/McFee Maintenance & Construction
- Birch Hill Media Group
- Black Forest Garden
- Bloomsbury Fine Cabinetry
- Boland Romaine
- Camelot Business Development Inc.
- Canadian Tire Bolton
- Capital Infrastructure Group
- Dr. Jeffrey Weaver Family & Cosmetic Dentistry
- Drake Custom Designs
- Expedia Cruises Air, Land & Sea Vacations
- GDI Integrated Services
- Highland Chevrolet Buick GMC
- JD Sign Group
- Joan Kelley Walker
- JJ Baron and Associates / Robyn Offen
- JTF Homes
- Kingsdown Mattress
- King Weekly Sentinel
- Graphic Designer: Jet Digital
- KTI Ltd
- Leith Wheeler Investment Counsel Ltd.
- McCOR Management
- Michelberger Orthodontics
- MediaEdge Communications Inc.
- NewRoads Automotive Group
- Prep Academy Tutors
- Powell Contracting Ltd.
- Sharon Croxon Design Inc.
- Sotheby's International Realty Kim Nichols & Khalen Meredith
- Summer Fresh
- Trend Boutique
- Westlane Development Group Ltd
- Wormald Masse Keen Lopinski LLP
- Worth Interior Design

- The Burge Family
- The Fitzpatrick-Power Family
- The Frost Family
- The Ofield Family
- The Wyndham-West Family
- Kathy Zaravinos-Tsiolis

To Learn More and to Donate
Please Visit thecountrytoytea.com

This holiday season needs to be different.

The safest way to celebrate indoors is only with the people who live in your home. People who live alone can get together only with one other home.

Gatherings with friends and extended family can carry an increased risk of getting and spreading COVID-19. Consider celebrating outdoors or virtually with others that are not part of your household.

Know the gathering limits in your area before you choose to entertain with family and friends indoors. Indoor gatherings are not permitted in regions in Grey-Lockdown.

For all gatherings with anyone you do not live with:

- maintain 2 metres physical distance
- wear a face covering
- avoid potlucks or shared utensils
- ensure everyone washes hands regularly, including before and after meals

Self-isolate if you are sick, even if your symptoms are mild and ask guests to stay home if they feel unwell.

Follow provincial and local public health advice to keep you and your loved ones safe this holiday.

Stopping the spread, starts with you.

Visit ontario.ca/celebratesafely to learn more.

Paid for by the Government of Ontario

Ontario

Brock's Banter

New Traditions from the New Normal

Written By BROCK WEIR

I've never been the keenest of shoppers.

One of my earliest memories is going to a local mall at the age of three or four and, for reasons I can only imagine, upon entering the Sears store, throwing myself down on the well-worn and nearly threadbare beige and maroon carpet for a practiced and well-executed temper tantrum.

I wasn't about to browse through endless displays of bath towels, impossibly arranged bedroom linens, or table upon table of plastic countertop appliances designed to solve apparently age-old kitchen problems that seemed to reach new urgency as Christmas inched closer.

Down on the ground, it was almost game over as I was pried off the floor and grudgingly dragged through the aforementioned towels, linens, and apple-corers.

I can't say for sure what started that surprisingly passionate disdain at such an early age. Nor can I say that it set the stage for a lifetime's worth of reluctant shopping. But here it is – and while it comes and goes, I do my best to overcome it.

While online shopping has been a boon to so many of us over the years, for better or worse particularly during this global pandemic, its novelty for me only lasted so long. When it once felt like an accomplishment to get just about everything I needed to satisfy everyone on my gift-giving list from the comfort of my own screen, this faded fast.

In fact, it was a welcome change of pace when, for whatever reason, I had to cross the threshold into bricks and mortar to get that unique or one-of-a-kind item.

As it seemed inevitable last week York Region would be joining Toronto and Peel back in lockdown, I was surprised to find myself looking back fondly on an experience I would have just as soon forgot eleven months ago.

At this time last year, there were two items that I simply couldn't find locally or online. By sheer coincidence, they were located at bricks and mortar stores that just happened to be right across the street from each other a stone's throw from Toronto's bustling Bay and Bloor intersection.

As luck would have it, a friend based in the city was hosting a holiday party (remember those?), so it was the perfect storm to get these things at almost the eleventh hour.

There was another perfect storm: a sudden blast of snow around the lunch hour the next day.

There was some quick thinking involved. An afternoon appointment was rejigged to get a head start on the jaunt downtown – after all, GO Transit is sometimes a tricky thing even in the best of weather. Also rejigged was any thought of attending the aforementioned holiday party in my seasonal best.

There was a mission to be carried out and it was going to be done come hell or high water.

It was a close one. The trip to the city took more than 90 minutes longer than scheduled and, arriving at Union Station, I had just 40 minutes before shops closed to not only get where I needed to go but also get what I needed to get, all the while with time allowed to endure what would undoubtedly be ridiculously long lines.

Somehow, everything aligned perfectly. Securing one item and running across the street to get the next, I had it in hand with two minutes to spare and get immediately back on that subway for said holiday party.

At first blush, you might be wondering what on earth is in that above scenario worth missing.

Sure, there was stress, but there was a sense of accomplishment in physically securing something that ultimately meant a lot to its recipient. Before getting on that bus, it seemed like a one-off, but wrapping the gifts the next day made me yearn for making this a re-found but ultimately new tradition. I know, hardly a revelation.

It became clear some time ago that making this a tradition for the second year running would have to wait until Christmas 2021, but, yet again on Friday, I found myself in line once again.

Sitting down at my desk on Friday morning to work on our sister paper in Aurora, it was clear the lockdown that was avoided the previous week was simply not going to be avoided again. The writing was on the wall and it was just a matter of time waiting for the Province's announcement.

Once that news came, I saved my work, made a brief list of what else I needed to finish off my list and made a personal commitment to get it done.

First up: a local housewares store to get a very small kitchen appliance that could have been easily bought online – but, in the interests of shopping local and interacting with a live human, it was a good trade-off.

Another item took me to another store and what was on my list was found quickly and easily.

As I found my place in a short line-up not more than seven or eight people deep, I realized another item a couple of notches down on the list could be bought there as well. Getting out of line, finding the appropriate shelf, picking out the best one – I returned to find a line that had somehow swelled to a socially distanced 20-or-so.

You can't win 'em all.

The lineup for my next and final stop had a line that spanned the width of the building, with apparently everyone getting the same idea at the same time, but it moved mercifully swift enough so I was able to check out and check off that final item with just enough time to make it to the second and final weekend of the local Christmas market.

Although this is an unusual year by any definition of the word, this renewed commitment to buy local is something I hope we will keep close to our hearts as normalcy returns, whenever that might be.

Think of it as a new holiday tradition to spring out of this challenging time.

Now, with the commercial aspect of the season out of the way, at least for me, it is time to focus on building a full fleet of new traditions to sustain us through this favourite time of the year.

With the first injections of a COVID-19 vaccine in Ontario having taken place on Monday, there is a light at the end of the tunnel. It will still be a while before we're able to fully bask in its glow, so all we can do in the meantime is our level best.

And, in the spirit of that, I would like to know what you're doing this holiday season to maintain tradition and also, at the same time, introduce new ones with the potential staying power to be part of your family's observances in the years to come.

Send your thoughts to
brock@lpcmedia.ca.



The fatigue of one small town storyteller

by Mark Pavilons



I drive down the rural road, through the sleet, looking into the distance. It's dark earlier now after the time change and it feels much later than it is.

The hits from the '70s and '80s on the radio don't offer much in the way of comfort.

Like the valiant firefighters in our midst, I'm constantly looking for smoke and their respective fires.

From one to another I go, with hose in hand, dousing the flames. One trauma, emergency, fashion disaster or lost temper after another. One frozen wiper blade and flat tire to tricky door locks and eye appointments. This is my life in a nutshell. Perhaps it's not unlike many others out there. Parents dash to and fro, wiping eyes, giving hugs, calming hot heads, correcting mistakes. And that's at the end of a typical day, which follows a full day at work, perhaps some errands and a part-time job. It may also include a trip to the mechanic to drop off one of the cars. Oh, and then there's dinner, cleaning up after dinner and getting a plumber over to fix the pipes under the kitchen sink. Another day, another series of minor skirmishes. I often don't know whether I've won or lost any of the battles.

When the fires are extinguished, I stare off beyond the pixels in the HD TV, trying to find a deeper meaning. This, too, offers little comfort.

As my better half begins to nod off, I line up my regrets, indiscretions and sins, and go through them all with a fine-tooth comb. Then, like a shooting gallery at a small-town fair, I knock them over in quick succession, patting myself on the back for this accomplishment. But there's no stuffed animal.

After listening to late night talk show hosts berate politicians, I drag my sorry butt up the stairs and hit the hay, trying to avoid the body-sized divot I caused on my side of the "dent-proof" mattress.

The lights remain on in the hall until daughter number one gets home from work after midnight.

Often, mom is still awake – going to sleep is not an option until all offspring are counted for and safe. If some of our hummingbirds can't get to sleep, a conversation ensues, until the wee hours. Mom is happy to oblige.

Such is the burden of being a mom.

I have it easy, she believes, but I take my sins to bed. I need my beauty sleep to ward off the demons that threaten to keep me awake.

I miss out on the conversations in the living room below, but I often hear some shouting, high pitched squeals and laughter. I pass on such nuggets of personal information to my eldest, who's likely the most mature to listen and comprehend my predicament.

But you need to enjoy life more, get out and do things, she says. Life isn't one disaster after another, but a long lineup of joyful moments.

She's right.

Any adult who's managed to survive and thrive into their 50s knows full well the so-called meaning of life. We should know what's important and what things are worth worrying about and what's not. We should be aware of the fond memories, those special times that can't be replaced. We must realize just how blessed we are. We shouldn't have to be beaten over the head with common sense. I'm not sure how or why I let those nagging gremlins get the best of me. I suppose I believe those fires need to be put out, and my role demands that I act. I must "fix" things.

My wife reminds me our kids don't want Mr. Fix-it, they want hugs, support, encouragement, optimism. They don't need frowns or grumpiness – they have their own woes to contend with.

Our brains are fickle things and so are our memories.

I can't recall much from my youth, other than some spotty high school and college moments. I remember my 1970 Camaro, and still berate myself for letting it go. I remember pizza and beer with friends at a family restaurant in the old part of Brampton. I've never mourned much over the years, even though everyone in my birth family has gone. There are times, however, when I do feel like something important is missing, like something has been stripped away. I remember my mom, dad and sister, but their faces are a bit fuzzy now and few moments stand out in my mind.

They were part of me once, but are they still?

I play with toys and watch sci-fi to take my mind off this planet's current predicament. I need a distraction, something to calm the turbulent whirlpools in my soul.

I also need some ointment to rub on my shoulder, to ease a nagging new pain. I've depleted our supply of Aleve thanks to pain from my trigger finger and cracked molar.

I have to keep an eye on my daughter's OSAP, my son's college fees and my youngest daughter's grades.

I have to cook, clean and make sure the dogs don't run out of food.

I have to worry that the next wind storm will pry loose even more shingles.

I am really looking forward to some R&R over the upcoming holidays. I just want to decompress, flop on the couch and maybe even get hooked on the latest Netflix series.

I want to hear the ice cubes bump around in my glass of Crown Royal.

I also want peace – in the world, in the living room and in my mind. Time to reflect.

Time to draw the blinds and let the sunshine in!



Distributed throughout the Town of Caledon, the Citizen is published Thursdays by Caledon publishing Ltd.

The CALEDON CITIZEN is a member of the Ontario Press Council, an independent body set up by the newspapers of the province to uphold freedom of expression and deal with complaints from readers. The Press Council encourages complainants to first give the newspaper an opportunity to redress their grievances. If not satisfied, they may then write to the Council, enclosing a copy of material that is subject of the complaint, at 80 Gould St., Suit 206, Toronto, ON M5A 4L8.

Caledon Citizen

Canada Local Journalism Initiative Reporters are funded by the Government of Canada.

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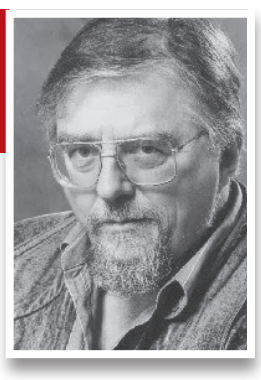
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The EU: Germany is the Reason...

GWYNNE DYER
OUR WORLD TODAY



In Brussels this week, the English-speaking journalists are all speculating about which way British Prime Minister Boris Johnson will jump.

He's there now, dithering over whether to cave in to the European Union's terms for a post-Brexit free trade deal. Most people reckon it's his last face-saving show of defiance before he surrenders to the bitter truth that Brexit with no deal would be brutal for Britain. But he might jump the other way.

If Johnson thinks that surrendering to reality would infuriate the fanatical Brexiters in his own Conservative Party so much that it endangers his job as prime minister, he will bluster some more about "sovereignty" and lead Britain out into the cold and the dark. His own future is all that matters, ever.

However, the EU's leaders aren't really holding their breaths about this anymore. "no deal" Brexit would cause minor damage to a couple of European economies too, but the presidents and prime ministers (who are meeting in Brussels this week) have bigger fish to fry.

Top of their agenda is Poland's and Hungary's threat to veto the EU's 1.8 trillion euro budget ($2.2 trillion), which includes a desperately needed 750 billion euro ($900 billion) post-COVID recovery plan to rebuild Europe's shattered economies.

The two Eastern European countries, both ruled by authoritarian governments on the extreme right-wing of political parties, are the "awkward squad" of the EU. They face financial sanctions for their attacks on democracy in their own countries, so they are blackmailing the EU by vetoing the whole 7-year budget, including the recovery plan.

That's what the EU summit in Brussels this week is really about, but the leaders are probably not going to solve the problem there. There is a plan on the table, however, put there by Portuguese Prime Minister António Costa, who assumes the EU presidency next month.

Costa's suggestion is that they split the EU in order to save it. Let all the "awkward squads" – the aspiring dictatorships, the other Eastern European states that just hate all migrants and refugees, and the so-called "frugal states" (the Netherlands, Austria and the Nordic countries) that hate high spending and fiscal transfers to poorer EU members – just go off on their own.

There would still be an EU, but it would be a two-speed Europe and they'd be the slow-moving part. German, France, Italy, Spain and some others would stay in the core group, forging ahead with ambitious initiatives like the recovery plan and "ever closer union."

Costa didn't mention it, but this core group could also be the foundation for a more self-sufficient defence strategy as the United States gradually withdraws its old NATO security guarantee to Europe. (Trump might have done it eventually, Biden won't do it, but it's bound to happen eventually.)

Thanks, António, but no, thanks. Germany won't play. It has a deep-rooted horror of having to underwrite the debts of other EU members, all of whom it sees as spendthrift and improvident, so 'no' to the two-speed Europe.

And "no" also to French president Emmanuel Macron's ambition for a "global Europe" with an independent European defence strategy that matches the clout of the United States and China. It would cost too much, the Germans think, and, besides, they'd rather go on clinging to America's skirts.

In the words of Germany's Defence Minister Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer: "The idea of strategic autonomy for Europe goes too far if it nurtures the illusion that we could ensure Europe's security, stability and prosperity without NATO and the US. Germany and Europe cannot protect themselves without America's nuclear and conventional power. This is simply a fact."

The hell it is. In the mid-1980s NATO's total population was about 675 million and the Warsaw Pact's was around 390 million, but almost half of NATO's population was far away across the Atlantic so each side did pose a plausible threat to the other in terms of the strength they had on the ground in Europe.

Now it's 2020. The Warsaw Pact was long gone and all the former Eastern European satellites had joined NATO. Even the Soviet Union's fifteen republics broke apart, leaving 145 million relatively impoverished Russians all alone to face a NATO alliance now drawing on the resources of 870 million people.

The NATO-Warsaw Pact population ratio used to be about three-to-two. Now the NATO-Russia ratio in population is more like five-to-one. In terms of wealth it's around fifteen-to-one. Local and limited clashes here or there are still conceivable, but it is not possible to write a convincing scenario for a continent-spanning conventional war in Europe today.

As for a nuclear deterrent, the French one is big enough if you really feel you need one. It's still a bit bigger than the Chinese one, and that seems to work. Grow up, guys.

The "K.I.S.S." Principle

SHERALYN ROMAN
TALK CALEDON



I'm not sure where your head is at, but I know mine is crying out for some simple common sense. Or, at the very least, what appears to be common sense in my opinion and certainly in the opinion of many of my acquaintances.

With our COVID numbers continuing to climb, another holiday season fast approaching and the inconsistent application of lockdowns across arbitrary municipal borders, it's creating a "free for all" out there which can only make matters worse than they already are.

If, in the spring, we locked things down when our numbers hovered around the 4-500 mark, why the heck are we not closed down now when we more than triple that number? This current patchwork approach isn't helping any of us already suffering (whether that's financially, physically or with mental health issues) and, I would argue, is only adding to the potential for suffering for many, many more.

It's time for an "all or nothing" approach. There's an old training acronym that's not really appropriate these days but I'll modify the principle by leaving off the second "S" to make it more palatable: Let's just "Keep It Simple."

The announcement a couple of weeks ago by the Ford government, to place Peel and Toronto in lockdown, caused a great deal of angst, particularly so amongst small, local shop owners. Penalizing the local bookstore, toy store, hair salon or specialty giftware shop makes zero sense when each is perfectly positioned to monitor traffic in their premises, keep shoppers safe and provide exceptional customer service.

Funnelling all of that shopping traffic toward massive line-ups both inside and outside of big box retailers instead simply places a whole bunch of people in harm's way by forcing them to flock together, potentially spreading the virus.

Not only did it endanger people in our own community (by putting livelihoods at risk) but placed us all at greater risk as we travelled to regions outside of our own to shop, eat or get a haircut.

To make matters worse, another announcement on December 11, that York Region and Windsor-Essex would join us in lockdown, resulted in about a gazillion shoppers flooding Vaughn Mills to be sure they could shop in person, resulting in long line ups that Dr. Michael Warner, the Director of Critical Care at Michael Garron Hospital called "irresponsible."

Seems simple to predict that more crowds means more chance to spread the virus which in turn gives a whole new meaning to the saying "shop 'til you drop," except in this case, "drop" means from COVID, not fatigue.

The government had a chance to make things right in the lead up to this holiday season. They had a chance to help contain the virus which is clearly now spiralling out of control. A number of hospitals have gone on record in these last few days to say that they have reached and/or surpassed their tipping point.

As of the time of writing we are closing in on 2,000 cases a day. Are we waiting until we have to call in the refrigerated trucks before we declare a disaster?

Are we waiting for the vaccine that arrived on Monday but realistically will take the better part of a year before we all receive it?

With Christmas just around the corner, you and I both know that while many people are responsible, some will not be and the spread of the virus will spike again about 10 – 14 days later. That's if it isn't spiking already as a result of all our panic shopping across city borders.

Mr. Ford and his Health Minister Christine Elliott should have placed the entire province back in to a lockdown situation and Mr. Lecce should have joined them with an agreement to close the schools a week early and keep them shut for an additional week after the holiday. This would have ensured a window of isolation time both before and after Christmas that maybe, just maybe, would have helped to curb the rise in COVID cases.

If in the past political action has been taken "for the greater good," why not this time? Why not just universally declare a lockdown like our counterparts in Manitoba and Alberta and give families sufficient notice that Christmas – if you celebrate it – is amongst the members of your own household only?

Suggesting there is hope by drawing an arbitrary line in the sand locking down some regions and not others is just wrong. Additionally, it only fosters false hope that Christmas 2020 will look just like any other Christmas when you suggest you'll review lockdown requirements on December 2, just four days before Christmas.

The potential, if lifted, which I doubt, is that volumes of shoppers will flock back to malls again in their own, or other towns and cities, to buy gifts for family they shouldn't be going to see anyway.

Lockdown would have protected us all. Lockdown would have helped small business because they wouldn't be competing against big box stores and perhaps more people would have purchased gift cards for services to be obtained from small business owners when this pandemic is over.

Shutting schools would have helped prevent all those little asymptomatic spreaders from spreading the virus. I fear it's all too late now. Should have kept it simple…



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Sisters' Touch of Christmas moves to curbside after making merry on the edge of lockdown





The Sisters' Touch of Christmas, located on the Caledon King Townline, has pivoted to a curbside pickup model. They offer an array of Christmas and seasonal goods, many of which are made in-house, including hand-painted glass, left, and, baked goods.
PHOTO BY BROCK WEIR

Written By
BROCK WEIR

Christmas is a time Effie Gialedakis looks forward to every year, and not just for gathering around the tree with loved ones to share the spirit of the season.

For 17 years, she has volunteered her time with The Sisters' Touch of Christmas to help make a difference in her community, the sale of one home-made Christmas ornament, home-baked box of cookies, and hand-knit scarf at a time.

The Sisters' Touch of Christmas is a Christmas gift shop established by Bolton's St. Kosmas Aitolos Greek Orthodox Monastery.

Situated in a heritage home on the Caledon King Townline, the Sisters' Touch of Christmas, like so many of us, have experienced an unusual festive season, one made doubly so by the fact The Touch of Christmas is on the York Region side of the border.

For the past few weeks that Peel Region has been under lockdown, the shop on just the other side of the street has been serving customers, for whom Touch of Christmas is a holiday tradition. Now, as they settle into lockdown with the rest of York Region, they are shifting their operations to curbside pickup.

"We attend church here and 17 years ago, when the Sisters thought to do a seasonal store, we decided to all volunteer to help out as they help the community as well; we're giving our time to help them so they can help others," explained Ms. Gialedakis on Saturday.

"This is an unusual Christmas, but people are very nice, they are very understanding as we follow the rules and social distancing. People don't mind to wait. Everybody is happy to follow the rules and then have a Christmas experience, because this is the ultimate Christmas experience. They love listening to the music, they sing along, and it is wonderful, wonderful time of the year.

"Some people come every year as a tradition and they are building traditions. We see children who 17 years ago were two or three, and now they come as young adults to keep the tradition going."

Now, their doors are closed to the public.

Watching customers do their last bits of in-person shopping over the weekend before lockdown arrived was Sister Philothei, protected by a clear plastic face shield.

Over the course of the season, the Sisters and their volunteers have reconfigured their store to meet ongoing and evolving health protocols. They re-arranged the space for allow for a separate entrance and exit for customers, put increase emphasis on sanitizing and maintaining social distance, and implemented other measures to make sure the store could continue in person as long as possible.

"As far as the sales and the people, people still have that Christmas spirit in themselves," said Sister Philothei. "They are still very happy to come, the joy and the peace has not left them. The hope hasn't left them either, especially at this critical and difficult time of the year. I think it is probably brought people in the community closer together, if you want my honest opinion. I have seen people reach out to each other and it is really nice to see that. There is a lot of good in everybody. We're all in this together and what else are we going to say?

"The spirit is out there – and more so to help people during a difficult time like this because there are a lot of people suffering out there. You can see a lot of people buying other things for other people just to give them that joy. That is what the spirit is also about."

As a charitable organization, proceeds from The Sisters' Touch of Christmas are allocated in various ways, from contributions to area shelters, organizations serving those in need, and families in need of help from within their own congregation.

As they make the shift to curbside and close the doors to customers, the Sister says it is important to remember that Christmas is not their store, nor is it December 25.

"We're accepting phone and email orders for what people need, and we're just going to try and assist them as we can. It's a shame, it's Christmas, and look what we're all going through. But, it's always Christmas. Christmas is more than just one meaning of gift-giving because Christmas is within all of us. It is not just the gifts and the sounds and the smells of Christmas. It is the love and the peace and the joy that each one of us gives from within us to someone else. Isn't that what Christmas is all about?"

For more on The Sisters' Touch of Christmas, visit thesisterstoc.com or call 905-859-8077.

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Thanks for shopping local!



Continued from FRONT

Mayor's meeting brings officials together to support small business

She went on to say the Province didn't want to get into specifically telling what people can and cannot buy, determining to leave the bigger name brands open.

Members of the Caledon community have raised concerns on why they were looped in with the rest of Peel Region, when Mississauga and Brampton shown significant higher numbers of positive COVID-19 cases.

The question has bounced around the Town since the beginning of the pandemic, but Mayor Thompson assures the public that though Caledon's numbers are small, the spread is still happening.

"If you look from September on, and especially the month of November on a per capita basis, our numbers in Caledon were higher than Mississauga, and still are today," said Thompson. "Our numbers aren't declining enough to hope to get out before the Christmas rush for our businesses to open up."

Added Jones: "The local medical officers of health in the regions track very closely where the outbreaks are. Having said that it becomes challenging to know and narrow that down to where the outbreaks are when people don't disclose what they've been doing. The numbers speak for themselves. Unfortunately, Mayor Thompson and I have had a lot of conversations about this. We were working pretty actively to get Caledon separated out for the purposes of the lockdown, but the numbers didn't make that a doable reality."

Jones went onto remark that announcements are made on Fridays, which are shortly put into effect on the Monday. When the time comes for businesses to be allowed to reopen their doors, there will be a short, but needed, lead time to prepare.

"I'm not sure that there's a lot of businesses that would say, 'please give me two weeks to prepare.' I think the vast majority of them would say, 'even if I have less inventory than I would traditionally have, I would rather be open than closed,'" she said.

Several local, provincial and federal support programs were listed from all three representatives including the Canadian Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) which was created to give financial support to employed or self-employed Canadians whose jobs were impacted by the pandemic.

If eligible, a total of $2,000 per month was given to the individual. That program has now been wrapped in with the Employment Insurance benefits that residents can apply for and get $500 a week.

Programs also became available specifically for retail commercial businesses where a new program, which came out this past October, provides a rebate on hydro bills and the opportunity for municipal tax relief as well.

One federal program which didn't work out and had to be adapted was the commercial rent subsidy. The program allowed for the landlord of the building to apply and receive 75 per cent of the rent.

"A lot of landlords chose not to apply. This was incredibly challenging for a number of small businesses," said MP Seeback. "Not a great design program by the Federal government. But the new program does not require the landlord to make the application. If the landlord isn't cooperating, the tenant can still apply for this program."

Locally, the Town has various promotion initiatives and relief programs in order to help local businesses, especially during lockdown.

Through the Economic Development office, Sandra Dolson shared several different programs and resources offered through the Town such as the Digital Main Street program.

The program began in Toronto in support of the province and other sponsors, and has been rolled out across the province, including Caledon. It allows businesses to set up and sell online as well as different free training modules are available.

"I really believe that most people want to support local business as much as possible, so the more convenient we can make it for them to shop and spend their money in this community, the more positive economic impact we can have on this community, and keep our businesses open," said Dolson.

As stated, the Town launched the Love Local Tuesday initiative to encourage residents to shop locally, as well as turning the community online to help promote through hashtags and photos.

There is also a Caledon Innovation Business Centre which offers personalized services for small businesses and new start-ups. The program has staff dedicated to help with marketing research, finances, networking or business plans.

"The Economic Development office offers supports. If you're looking for a new location or getting set up and need some guidance through the building and planning process, or any process that is required by the Town. We also have dedicated resources for our tourism operators," explained Dolson. "We have a web page that is dedicated to the current business resources and information that has become so critical during this pandemic."

Information and resources can be found at Caledon.ca/business or by reaching out to the Economic Development office at the Town for further assistance.

Visit Ontario.ca to learn about other provincial programs to assist small businesses during the pandemic.



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Devonleigh Homes has once again shown their support for Headwaters Health Care Centre and Foundation through a generous donation.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Devonleigh Homes strikes again with support to Headwaters

Written By ALYSSA PARKHILL
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Devonleigh Homes is once again showing their support for the Headwaters Health Care Foundation with a generous donation.

The company, and president Andrew Kidd, have made significant donations to the foundation in order to ensure proper health care for residents and making life a little bit easier for those at Headwaters Health Care Centre (HHCC).

In October 2019, Kidd and Devonleigh Homes donated a whopping $60,000 to help reconstruct the helipad at the hospital and the Intensive Care Ramp.

The helipad is a vital service for HHCC to be able to transport critical patients where they need to go, including from Sick Kids Hospital, and trauma patients.

"We are very fortunate to have such incredible health care within our region. We truly value the efforts of each person who diligently works to make Headwaters Health Care an indispensable benefit to our community. It is our privilege to be able to help support some of these urgent equipment needs," said Kidd in a statement.

Devonleigh Homes has donated $74,000 to the foundation to help with the hospitals urgent equipment needs.

The generous donation will be allocated to purchase an Obstetrical Radiant Warmer that will provide care for almost 900 babies that are born every year. The money will also go towards providing a variety of lifts that will help patients movement and rehabilitation.

"This is a critical time in the world and in our community. We are thankful that Devonleigh Homes and…Andrew Kidd understand the importance of ensuring great health care close to home," said Foundation CEO Dora Boylen-Pabst. "New and replacement equipment does not receive government support, outside of large-scale capital builds, and so the hospital is dependent on the support of our community."

Devonleigh Homes is a homebuilding company that has built over 3,000 homes in Orangeville and surrounding areas. The family-owned and operated company has been in the community since 1996 and has built a reputation of creating beautiful streetscapes in the local community.

For more information on Devonleigh Homes please visit devonleighhomes.com.



Gardens for year-round appeal and final garden chores

Written By ELEONORA SCHMIED
SCHOMBERG HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Winters in Canada can be long, so create winter interest in gardens by leaving the seed heads on coneflowers, black eyed Susan, blazing star, Joe Pye weed, tickseed, sun flowers, sedums and ornamental grasses.

They add structure, motion and movement to your cold-weather garden. Keeping the landscape lights on all winter adds mystery to a snow filled back yard, while an urn filled with winter greens, natural stems and berries creates a focal point on the deck.

For most birds, the dried inflorescences of ornamental grasses furnish essential food, while the plants themselves provide great wildlife habitats. Add drama with fiery stems and emphasize intriguing bark and highlight unusual natural branch structure. The seeds and berries of viburnum, beautyberry, mountain ash, sumac, crab apple and serviceberry supplement the diet of our feathered friends and welcome migratory birds upon their return in the spring.

At this time of the year, messages like "putting your gardens to bed" are popping up all over social media, gardening magazines and educational seminars.

Granted, there are certain items on the checklist that absolutely have to be done, but for the most part, gardens really don't need to be put to bed permanently when the snow starts flying. Don't put so much pressure on yourself!

Chores like draining the garden hose, blowing out the pipes of the sprinkler system, storing the pressure washer inside so it does not freeze, emptying the rain barrels and storing them upside down, bringing in tender plants, are a must. Clay pots need to be emptied and washed with a mild bleach solution and stored for next year. If leaving them outside, they have to be off the ground and turned upside down.

Clean and put away garden tools and treat the wooden handles with linseed oil or tung oil. Spring is just around the corner, so continue to plant spring flowering bulbs until the ground freezes.

This would also be a good time to put stakes around the trees and bushes that need protection from road salt (like boxwoods), drying winds and a scalding winter sun. However, it is recommended to wait with wrapping the plants after the ground freezes. That way the little critters that were looking for a cozy home inside your wrapped bushes will have gone and found another home for the winter.

Rhododendrons should be loosely wrapped with burlap while burning bushes benefit from being protected from hungry critters with a wire mesh.

Horticulturists recommend to cut back peonies, phlox and other plants that are prone to mildew but urge us to leave hollow stems at about 12 inches high, so beneficial insects can lay their eggs or hibernate in them. Slugs might hide and overwinter under dead hosta leaves, so they should be removed.

After the first frost and when daytime temperatures are below freezing for a couple of consecutive days, protect roses from freeze and thaw cycles by piling fresh soil or compost over the part where they were grafted by using fresh soil, not soil that was scraped from around the plant.

Don't get carried away with the leaf blower, as it is important to leave the leaves on the garden beds. Insects hide in them, which then become food for backyard birds.

Leaves are packed with trace minerals that trees draw up from deep in the soil. When added to your garden, leaves feed earthworms and beneficial microbes. They lighten heavy soils and help sandy soils retain moisture and they make an attractive mulch in the flower garden.

Leaves are a fabulous source of carbon to balance the nitrogen in your compost pile. And they insulate tender plants from cold.

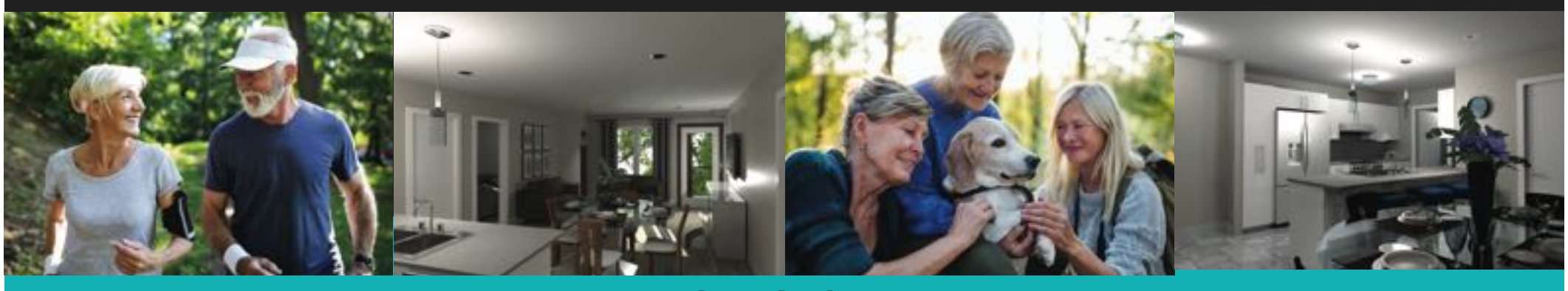
Leaving leaves on the lawn might harm the grass, unless they are finely mulched, which then turns them into an important source of nutrition.

With all this in mind, let's enjoy our gardens for year-round appeal, let them feed our souls and spirits.



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York's rebranding a signal that innovation has no bounds

Written By ROBERT BELARDI

In last week's unveiling of York9's brand new name, crest and uniform for the upcoming Canadian Premier League season, Managing Consultant Angus McNab shared why the moment to be innovative is now.

"It's just the time to be brave. It's been a year to the day I've been in the post and I think when we started all of this it was about identifying: what is our mission, what is the vision, what are our core values? They'll be our North Star to guide us through the toughest of times," McNab said in the club's introductory ceremony, streamed via YouTube.

Backed by the slogan "United By You", this name is a message to bring forth inclusivity. It's about uniting York Region and those outside the jurisdiction closer together.

"The name is very reflective of a new era, a bigger and better brand. Our league has always stood for and will always stand for being innovative and creative and adaptable. Collectively, we knew it was important to listen and continue to evolve the incredible brand we started in York Region two years ago," said Commissioner of the Canadian Premier League David Clanachan.

Clanachan reminisced about the heart of the process and said it was the supporters that engaged in candid discussions about the change.

Their passion for the club and the community rang true.

"We have to acknowledge we have a lot of passionate supporters who are attached to where we have been. We want to move forward with everyone. We want to unite this community. We want to grow it," McNab said.

McNab acknowledges the past and was wholeheartedly set on maintaining the Nine Stripes' nickname.

Working closely with McNab in this project was graphic designer for the club Robert Marchese.

Marchese designed the club's new brand, analyzing many crests in the sport to put this all together, all of which was done internally within York.

"I honestly didn't think it would ever happen and we would make it this far and especially for my design to be the final one. I always thought I would start chalking up ideas and pass it on to an agency with more experience. I am truly honoured to be part of it and have my stamp on the club for a long history," Marchese said.

The new crest drew influences from Real Madrid and A.S Monaco. The swift blue and green colours emblazoned with York United written across the face was all designed on the template of a shield. The shield is to remember the Queen's York Rangers regiment from 1866.

The crown also holds a trillium, an emblem saluting the Province and Ontario's royal heritage.

"The crown fitted very naturally. We were getting inspired with things around the world but you actually look at things like road signs around Ontario. You look at other elements that sit in the downtown core around Toronto. There were a lot of things that were in our backyard," McNab emphasized.

Supporters have the availability to purchase jerseys online right now and will receive a free jersey with the purchase of a three-year membership package with the club.

If he stays or goes, Harden's fantasy value won't change

Written By ROBERT BELARDI

With the upcoming NBA season set to start on December 22, one of the League's formidable talents has been quite the hot topic with the trade market and off-field criticisms.

Houston Rockets guard James Harden has reportedly told the team this past week he is open to a trade to the Philadelphia 76ers, according to ESPN. It has also been reported, the Brooklyn Nets, the Milwaukee Bucks and the Miami Heat are destinations Harden would prefer.

This is all bearing in mind Harden signed the League's most lucrative contract in history two seasons ago and the Rockets acquired John Wall from the Washington Wizards along with free agent DeMarcus Cousins.

In spite of the team's efforts to appease Harden, it looks like it still wasn't enough.

As the start of the year edges closer, fantasy basketball managers gear up for another highly anticipated NBA season.

Harden, who has been lauded for his trademark step-back-threes and notorious for winning trips to the free throw line has arguably been the best fantasy player in recent years. He's one that you simply can't pass up when you're in the top five picks of the draft.

The Bellflower, CA native, led the NBA averaging 34.3 points, a league high 4.4 three-pointers made per game and a staggering 35.5 per cent success rate from beyond the arc.

He also averaged 7.7 assists and 6.6 rebounds to add to his value.

Depending on the categories chosen in your fantasy basketball formats, Harden teetered around the No. 1 overall ranking as a fantasy player. And despite the drama and trade talks currently overshadowing his talents, Harden is a top five fantasy choice and one that would be a mistake to pass up on as a fantasy owner. Even if he is traded.

Hypothetically, if Harden is moved to one of the teams aforementioned, the only team that would shatter his fantasy value would be the Brooklyn Nets. But a trade to Biggie Smalls' hometown doesn't look likely. The Rockets made it quite clear, Kevin Durant or Kyrie Irving must be a part of the trade.

And let's say he ends up staying in Houston. It's a perfect fantasy situation. John Wall and DeMarcus Cousins were sidelined all of last season with injuries and in the event these players re-aggravate their previous ailments, Harden's value would skyrocket.

Players like Wall and Cousins are examples of athletes fantasy managers should actually be weary of. The NBA's new confounding policy on load management will prohibit players from taking a night off when games are being nationally televised.

Kawhi Leonard, was notorious for this in his last year with the San Antonio Spurs and his championship run with the Toronto Raptors.

So, for players like Leonard and even Lebron James, it isn't quite clear how this will affect players throughout the course of the season but most certainly in some cases could affect their minutes moving forward.

But not for Harden.

Harden averaged 36.5 minutes played last season, tying with C.J McCollum for second-most minutes averaged by a player in the League.

At 31 years of age, his window of opportunity is closing and he is the prime of his career. All the power to you to take him.

Why the Lou Marsh Trophy winners this year will never forget it

Written By ROBERT BELARDI

Bayern Munich defender Alphonso Davies and Kansas City Chiefs offensive lineman Laurent Duvernay-Tardif were announced co-winners of the Lou Marsh Trophy last week.

This will be the third time in history co-winners have been announced since Graham Smith and Ken Read in 1978 and Wayne Gretzky and Rick Hansen in 1982.

The Lou Marsh Trophy is awarded to the best Canadian athlete of the year for their on-field performances and, in this particular case, integrity and class off of it.

But in a pandemic-riddled year, this 2020 award holds more merit than in years past. Uniquely as well, co-winners Duvernay-Tardif and Davies are the perfect combination of one of the best humanitarian efforts we've seen and one of the best Canadian soccer stories to date.

This past year, Duvernay-Tardif became the first doctor to ever win a Super Bowl. Although documenting only three games played in the entirety of 2020, Duvernay-Tardif became the first athlete to win the Lou Marsh Trophy representing the NFL and the first football player in the league this year to opt out of the season.

Instead of playing, Duvernay-Tardif took his doctorate talents to his native town Mont-Saint-Hilaire Que., to join a long-term care home to help fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The significance of Laurent winning the award is that he has brought a heightened awareness to the award for young football players and he has brought a standard of excellence that will enhance the status of the award as well as past and future winners," Lee Barette, CEO of Canada Football Chat, tells The Auroran.

In the second year of CFC's inception in 2011, Barette lived in Montreal. He immersed himself in the Quebec football scene to provide a better service for Quebec-born players.

"I shadowed the McGill football team the entire season, Laurent's second year with the team, and first-year playing offensive lineman full time. I remember contacting Duane Ford (TSN) and telling him this is the best offensive lineman prospect I had seen."

What Barette was also impressed by was Duvernay-Tardif's work capacity. He worked full-time at his family bakery while being a full-time student at McGill's pre-med program.

"He practiced once a week and attended team meetings when he could (rarely) and still performed at an elite level."

Barette says the position Duvernay-Tardif plays is the most intellectually challenging position on the field. Knowing his previous history to be where he is today, at 29-years of age, it is quite incredible he left his Super Bowl winning Chiefs to join the frontline.

And knowing his history of rarely showing up to meetings and practices, what's missing a season for this man? That question will be answered next year should be return.

As for Davies, his past also reflects his current status now at one of the largest clubs in European soccer.

Davies became the second soccer player in the Lou Marsh Trophy history to win this award and the first male to do so; Christine Sinclair won the award back in 2012.

The former Vancouver Whitecaps prospect was sold to Bayern Munich in 2018, for a then, MLS record of $22 million.

Davies joined the Whitecaps Residency in 2015-2016 and simply made his mark within the club.

"He was just a young kid with a big smile on his face. He didn't stay with us very long but in his first 16 games, he assisted or scored on every goal," said Club Ambassador and U16 Residency assistant coach Carl Valentine over Zoom.

"Every time you see him, he has this infectious smile, this great energy around him. He just loved doing what he was doing. He was always the hardest trainer even though he was the most skilled young player we had at the time and we've ever had."

When Valentine heard Davies became co-winner with Duvernay-Tardif, he simply was "blown away."

Davies had an exceptional season at Bayern Munich becoming the first Canadian to win the UEFA Champions League.

"I'm so happy for him," Valentine said.

In Vancouver Whitecaps folklore, Davies will always be part of this MLS club's long history along with other notable soccer names that have come to Canada's western metropolitan city.

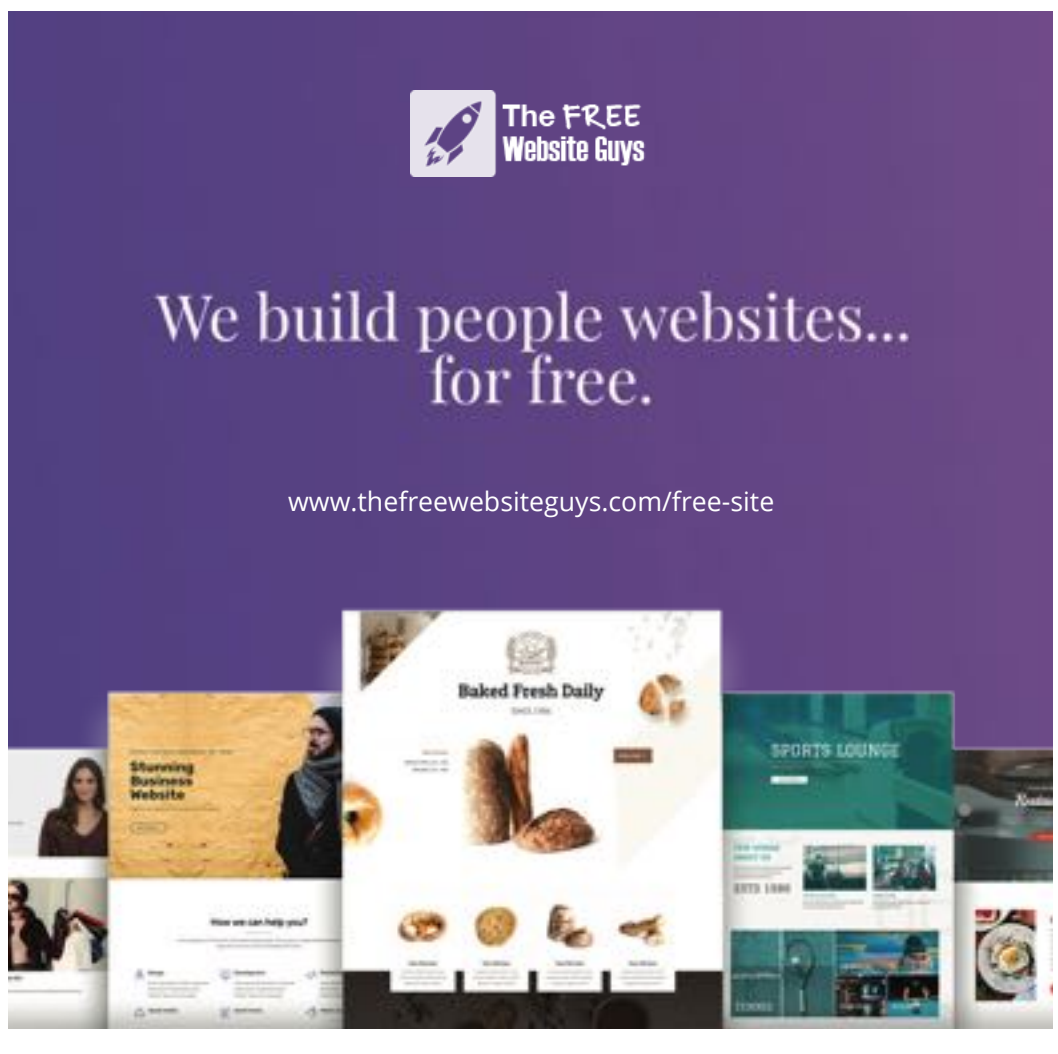
Sir Bobby Robson and Ferenc Puskas made their mark with the then Vancouver Royals in the 1960s and the late Tony Waiters led the Whitecaps to a soccer bowl championship in 1979.

Valentine came over from England to play his professional career in Canada and appear for the national team in their only World Cup appearance in 1986. The Manchester-born forward leads the Whitecaps in all time appearances.

Valentine says this is what we need right now to look at inspirational people at this time doing what they're doing and the award this year is the best example of human nature. It's also excellent proof for young Canadian soccer players to know their dreams can become reality when looking at where Davies has come from.

Combining together the importance of both athletes winning this award and all of the notable mentions that came close, like Kadeisha Buchanan, the Canadian female athlete of the year, it is safe this award-winning combo is one of the most unique in the history of the trophy.

A doctor and a refugee from Ghana who found a home in Canada. That's quite something, isn't it?





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OBITUARIES

SHILLUM, John Charles



Within the loving embrace of his family, John Charles Shillum, born September 30, 1947 in Stratford Ontario, passed in peace to be with His Heavenly Father, on Friday, December 11, 2020.

Beloved husband of Lynda Shillum (nee Coulter), loving father to Kim Stevenson (Darryn) and David Shillum (Krista). Cherished grandfather to Kaelyn, Craig, Brandon, Julia, and Aiden. Loving family member and loyal friend to many.

John took great meaning from his years as Detective Constable with the Caledon East O.P.P Crime Unit. He will be remembered for his enormous heart and compassion in times of difficulty, and for his service to others throughout his career.

John faced the challenges of his illness with humility, humour and gratitude. A guitar strumming campfire singer, with a love for boating and time spent with family and friends, he had a presence that was larger than life.

Sincere thanks for the incredible care provided by Princess Margaret Hospital, Royal Victoria Hospital, and to Dr. Mori, Dr. Sandhu, and the compassionate nurses at Headwaters Health Care Centre. There are countless others who deserve our gratitude.

John's pride in his children, and his grandchildren, was unending. His love for his wife Lynda was an inspiration to all who knew him.

We have been blessed by your love, and will love you forever. Be at peace now, and know all is well.

In lieu of flowers, donations to Headwaters Health Care Centre would be most appreciated.

Private Family Service will be held at Westminster United Church, Orangeville.

A tree will be planted in memory of John in the Dods & McNair Memorial Forest at the Island Lake Conservation Area, Orangeville. The next annual dedication service will be held on Sunday, September 12, 2021 at 2:30 p.m. Condolences may be offered to the family at www.dodsandmcnair.com

ZIRNIS, Mara Diana

Passed away suddenly in her home on Saturday, December 5, 2020 at the age of 66. Beloved daughter of the late Ted and Aina Zirnis. Cherished sister of Solveiga (Sophie). Mara will also be greatly missed by her cousin Margie Markle and her family in the U.S.A., other relatives in Ontario and Latvia. Mara was a dedicated teacher with the School Board of Peel for over 30 years.

A Service to Celebrate Mara's Life will be held at later date.

Memorial donations in her memory may be made to a charity of your choice.

A tree will be planted in memory of Mara in the Dods & McNair Memorial Forest at the Island Lake Conservation Area, Orangeville. The next annual dedication service will be held on Sunday, September 12, 2021 at 2:30 p.m. Condolences may be offered to the family at www.dodsandmcnair.com

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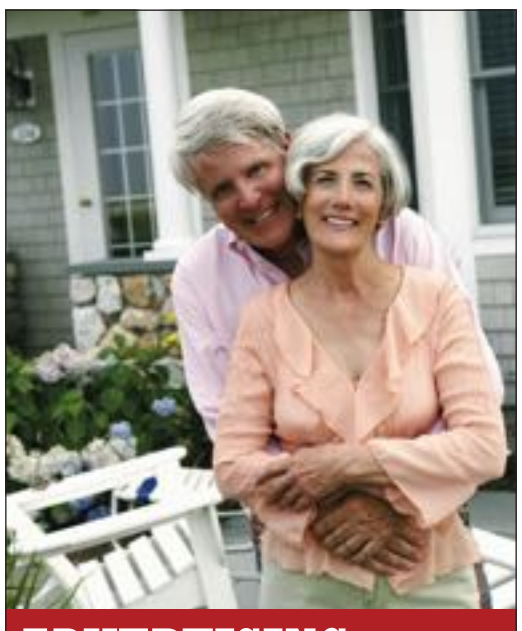
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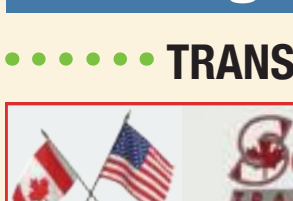
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