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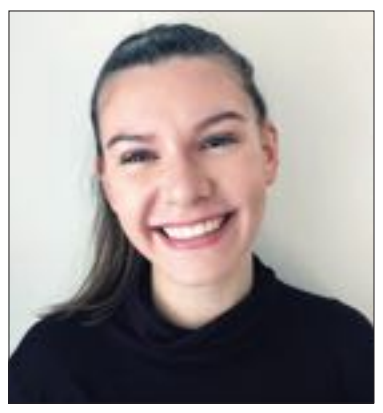
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Building Connections

Mayor Allan Thompson formally inaugurated a new President and Board of the Caledon Chamber of Commerce last week and the new leadership is looking forward to getting to work. According to new Chamber President realtor Anthony Caputo, above, their mandate is to promote "Shop Local, Support Local", strengthen existing connections within the local businss community and build new ones. Board members include (top row) Jessica Laurenza, Secretary, Pam Davis. Treasurer, (second row) Tish Hansen, Member, Sarah Leslie, First Vice President, (third row) Shannon Turnball, Second Vice President, and John Ruscetta, Member. For more, see Page A14.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

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Investigation continues into Bolton homicide

Written By ALYSSA PARKHILL
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A police investigation continues into a shooting in Bolton that left one man dead and another man injured on Monday afternoon.

The Caledon Detachment of the OPP are appealing for the public's help for any and all information related to the January 18 incident, including security camera and dashcam footage, according to Constable Iryna Nebogatova.

Police were called to the area of Harvest Moon Drive at 12.26 p.m. Monday responding to a reported shooting.

"Upon arrival, officers located two male victims," said the OPP on the day of the incident. "One has been pronounced deceased at the scene and the second victim was injured and transported to a hospital."

At press time this week, the OPP told The Citizen they were not able to provide any further information on the condition of the second victim or on any potential suspects in the shooting.

The investigation is being carried out by the Caledon Detachment's Major Crime Unit under the direction of the Criminal Investigations Branch.

"Anyone with additional information regarding this homicide is asked to contact the Caledon OPP at (905) 584-2241 or toll free at 1-888-310-1122," said Police. "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 $2,000 upon an arrest."

With files from Brock Weir

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Proposed 2020 Budget presents 1.08 per cent tax increase

Written By ALYSSA PARKHILL
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Town of Caledon held a quick and questionless Budget meeting this Tuesday, where all Councillors seemed comfortable and in favour of the financial forecast so far.

On January 19, Council heard from Town staff and received presentations from community organizations on the proposed 2021 Budget.

After going through a strenuous and uncomfortable Budget discussion last year where most Councillors saw numbers going in the wrong direction, this year has shown quite the opposite.

This past September, in preliminary Budget discussions, Council gave staff a target of two per cent. Deliberations usually would have taken place already, but Council saw it more appropriate to have discussions through this month and February to better understand the economic impacts the pandemic will have.

Continued on page 2

TOWN OF CALEDON
TOWN NEWS
SEE PAGE 7

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Peel Medical Officer of Health provides Caledon with COVID-19 update

Written By ALYSSA PARKHILL
LOCAL JOURNAISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Caledon Council members were joined by Peel Medical Officer of Health Dr. Lawrence Loh on January 19, who provided a much-needed update amid recent COVID-19 updates.

Dr. Loh shared wide-ranging information for Council, as well as those listening in on the meeting, from masks, to the COVID-19 vaccine, to the stay-at-home order.

One issue Dr. Loh shared with Council is the ongoing concerning situation regarding the hospitals within Peel Region, which are continuing to adapt and make necessary changes, according to public health guidelines.

"I understand from our hospital partners, they continue to be putting COVID-19 surge plans into effect, cancelling numerous elective surgeries, transferring patients sometimes hours away from the hospitals that they're admitted in order to receive needed care," he explained.

Peel is looking at the deployment of field hospitals in at least one of the Region's health care centres.

"It's more than just the cases at this point in time. We are now seeing the impacts on our health care system," Dr. Loh continued.

Residents, like everyone else across the Province, are highly encouraged to follow the necessary precautions and guidelines provided by the Ontario government and public health agencies. They are meant not only for the safety of residents and communities, but also for our healthcare providers and hospitals.

It's an effort to keep transmissions low so hospitals don't get overwhelmed with additional patients they may not have the capacity for.

"Sticking to the Provincial, stay-at-home order as part of the provincewide lockdown is really highly encouraged at this point," said Dr. Loh.

Peel hospitals include William Osler Health System, Brampton Civic Hospital as well as Trillium Health Partners' three main locations: Credit Valley Hospital, Mississauga Hospital and Queensway Health Centre.

Additionally, the mental health sector has also been significantly impacted as individuals continue to cope with disconnect and isolation from others.

A poll done by the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health concluded that 50 per cent of Canadians found their mental health worsening since the beginning of the pandemic. One in 10 Canadians reported that it was due to the pandemic that their mental health significantly dropped.

"It is really important for me to implore residents, implore everyone to please make sure even while you have to be physically apart, to remain connected to those that you love, to remain connected with your family, your friends and certainty to seek help if you need it," said Dr. Loh.

As the Federal government recently announcing the delay in distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine, some Council members shared their concerns on the impacts this will have on Peel Region and residents.

Dr. Loh shared with Council that Peel Public Health had been advised that the delivery schedule of the COVID-19 vaccine was to be reduced over the next month. The reduction is 20 per cent this week, 80 per cent allocations next week and 50 per cent the remaining two weeks after.

"We've since been advised that apparently there is no Pfizer that is anticipated to come on the first week of February, so not an 80 per cent reduction, 100 per cent," said Dr. Loh. "That may change as the situation continues to evolve."

As many residents continue to enjoy winter activities including ice skating, Council is encouraging the community to follow the provided guidelines, keeping apart from one another and wearing a mask to ensure their safety.

Caledon had seven outdoor community rinks where restricted gathering limits have been implemented by Peel Public Health, which includes a limit of five people per rink.

"I think it's important, especially even on the Trailways, everybody's got to keep six feet apart and please wear a mask," remarked Mayor Allan Thompson. "It's good at this time of year, especially when it's getting cold. It's just another thing to protect the nose and mouth."

Dr. Loh will be joining Caledon Council for his next COVID-19 update on February 3 for the Mayor's Virtual Town Hall.

Continued from FRONT

Proposed 2020 Budget presents 1.08 per cent tax increase

Carey Herd, the Town's Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), alongside Heather Hare, Acting Director, Finance and Treasurer presented to Council the proposed numbers.

"I am pleased to say that the staff delivered a tax levy increase of two per cent, resulting in a blended rate of 1.77 per cent," said CAO Herd.

But, to further change numbers, both Herd and Hare recommended to Council that the increased tax-funded capital of $280,000 be shouldered by the reserve just this one time in order to take burden off of the taxpayers.

The Town of Caledon was provided funding by the province of $2.6 million under the Safe Restart Funding program in order to assist municipalities recover from the COVID-19 pandemic this past August.

$84,600 of Provincial Offenses Virtual Court Costs will be funded by the Safe Restart program rather that coming from the taxpayers.

Taxpayers will see a reduction of 0.92 in the proposed 2021 tax increase, which amounts to $688,340.

Taxpayers have been dramatically impacted this past year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a year in which the Town of Caledon has worked to help take tax burden off their shoulders.

Back in March, Council deferred property taxes for local residents for two months, along with a waiver of all interest and late payments fees over that two-month period.

In comparison to property tax increases approved in last year's budget, which amounted to an increase of $114 for the average household, a typical residential property owner will see a $92 increase for 2021.

As stated in the presentation, "property taxes will not be increased in this fiscal year to address the impacts, rather the Town will be utilizing our financial strength through stabilization reserves to weather storm."

Once the pandemic pressures decrease and subside, budgets will be expected to go back to pre-COVID numbers.

Key matters that staff took into consideration when planning the proposed Budget included support for residents and businesses due to the pandemic, pressures related to growth and doing things differently.

Getting into the numbers, last year, the 2020 Operating Budget consisted of a total revenue of $104.4 million and total expense at $104.4 million. The current proposed Operating Budget is showing a total revenue of $113.3 million and total expenses totally $114.1 million, with additional funding of $0.8 million required.

The proposed 2021 Budget changes include unavoidable increases totalling $817,083, employee compensation at $1,170,799, inflationary pressures at $709,907 and utilities totalling $151,307.

Engineering Services holds the largest departmental budget with a total of $36.1 million. Looking at the rest of the departments, Fire and Emergency Services is totalling over $5 million, Community Services $20.7 million, and the Operations Budget total sitting at $6.4 million.

Additionally, Planning totals $1.5 million, Corporate Strategy and Innovation $1.5 million. Caledon Public Library (CPL) totals $877,880, the Office of the CAO at $175,000, Finance at $100,000 and, lastly, Corporate Services at $32,900.

The Town maintains the current tax funded Capital program with a target of $36 million.

An open house for public discussion on the Budget was set, at press time, for January 20 to gain thoughts on the numbers from residents, business owners and other stakeholders.

Members of Council had little to no questions for presenters and members of staff, proving very different from discussions of last year's budget.

"I think that the lack of questions today is the result of a very good budget presented by staff," said Ward 3 and 4 Regional Councillor Jennifer Innis.

Further deliberations will be held on February 9, with final considerations for the adoption of the proposed budget set for February 16.

For further information, visit Caledon.ca/budget.


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Garbage tag sales resume

As of February 8, the additional 2-bag limit for excess garbage will end. You can now order garbage tags by phone only.

You can order garbage tags by calling **905-791-9499** or **905-584-2216** for Caledon residents.

As a reminder:

- Garbage tags cost $3 each. Minimum purchase of 5 tags (or 1 sheet)
- Garbage tags must be used to dispose of excess garbage bags
- Put excess garbage out only on your garbage collection day



For more information, check **peelregion.ca/waste**

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Ontario is reporting decreased numbers of positive COVID-19 cases compared to this past month.

FILE PHOTO

Ontario sees lowest COVID-19 numbers in past month

Written By ALYSA PARKHILL
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Peel Region is slowly seeing decreased numbers of COVID-19 cases, as "stay-at-home" orders remain in place across the Province.

Peel has reported 346 new cases as of January 19, a decrease from previous numbers of 507, 585 and 639 reported this past Saturday.

Peel Region has surpassed 50,000 positive cases of the virus, with Mississauga reporting 17,615, Brampton 31,293 and Caledon at 1,931.

Caledon has had four school/child-care outbreaks including BrightPath Bolton, which reported their second outbreak on December 29 and was declared over as of January 18. Peel has also reported seven workplace/facility outbreaks in Caledon.

The Province has reported 1,913 new cases, a significant drop from previous numbers this past month.

Toronto reported 550 new cases and 235 in York Region, but the Province states due to technical issues at Toronto Public Health, the numbers are likely to be inaccurate due to underreporting.

The provincial government has declared a key milestone in the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine, stating the first round of vaccinations in long-term care homes in the major hotspots are ahead of schedule.

"This is the first of many victories to come against this deadly and ruthless enemy we face," said Premier Doug Ford. "We are making steady progress, but we will not rest until the residents and staff of every long-term care home and all Ontarians have had the opportunity to get a vaccine.

"Only then will we be able to get our lives back and return to normal."

Peel Region, Toronto, York Region and Windsor-Essex include the four highest COVID-19 areas in the Province and continue to be priority.

As of press time, more than 40 per cent of long-term care homes across Ontario have received the first dosage of the COVID-19 vaccine, which includes over 83,000 residents, staff and caregivers.

"To have the first round of vaccinations completed at long-term care homes in these hard-hit regions is a significant achievement, and I'd like to recognize all those who contributed to this effort," said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "Together with our partners we continue to expand our capacity and we are ready to administer more doses as soon as we receive them."

Due to the work being done in the expansion of the facility manufacturing the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, the Federal government received notice that there is to be a reduction of "Canada's allocations."

Due to these impacts, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health has updated the second dose administration stating, long-term care and retirement homes residents and staff will receive the second dose in 21 to 27 days.

Anyone else who has received the first dosage of the vaccine must receive the second after 21 days and before 42.

224,134 doses have been administered in Ontario so far, with 25,609 being completed.

Public notice

Region of Peel
working with you

Notice to members of the public that reside or conduct a business in Caledon wishing to serve on the Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) for the current term of council

The Region of Peel is looking for a representative from the Town of Caledon to serve on its Accessibility Advisory Committee. The Region of Peel invites applications from members of the public that reside or conduct a business in the Town of Caledon and are interested in serving as a volunteer on the Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC). Persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply, as per the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001 (ODA) and the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA), the majority of the members of the Committee shall be persons with disabilities.

The mandate of the Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee is as follows:

- To advise Regional Council on ways to improve opportunities and remove barriers for persons with disabilities through the identification and removal of barriers with respect to programs and services delivered by the Region of Peel.
- To advise Regional Council on the requirements and implementation of the Accessibility Standards under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* (AODA) and the preparation of accessibility reports.
- To advise Regional Council each year on the preparation, implementation and effectiveness of the Region of Peel Multi-Year Accessibility Plan.
- To review in a timely manner site plans and drawings described in section 41 of the *Planning Act*.
- To review in a timely manner all site plans and drawings as set out in the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulations (IASR) of the AODA as pertaining to the Design of Public Spaces Standards: exterior paths of travel, rest areas, and on-street parking spaces.
- To assist with planning and participate in community events and trade fairs to promote accessibility; and
- To perform all other functions specified in the ODA, AODA and subsequent regulations.

An applicant must be:

- A qualified elector of the Region of Peel pursuant to the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, (a Canadian Citizen, 18 years of age or older and a resident/tenant or owner of land in the Town of Caledon; and/or
- A person who is a qualified elector in Ontario, that represents a group or organization in the Town of Caledon that acts on behalf of persons with disabilities that reside in the Region of Peel;
- Not an elected official of Regional Council or of the Council of a municipality in the Region of Peel; and
- Not an employee of the Region of Peel or of a municipality in the Region of Peel

***While we encourage all interested parties from the local area to apply, first consideration will be given to applicants who identify with a disability.**

How to Apply:

Individuals interested in serving in this capacity will be required to complete an online application form outlining their qualifications and experience. The form can be accessed through the Region of Peel's website at **peelregion.ca/accessibility/committee/**. Alternatively, applicants may contact the Office of the Regional Clerk by email at **regional.clerk@peelregion.ca** or by phone at 905-791-7800, ext. 4369, to obtain the required application form.

Application deadline is Friday, February 5, 2021 by 4:30 p.m.

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DRIVER WHO COLLIDED WITH A HYDRO POLE CHARGED WITH IMPAIRED DRIVING

On January 17, 2021, at approximately 12:46 a.m., officers from the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) responded to a single motor vehicle collision on Caledon East Garafraxa Town Line in the Town of Caledon.

The vehicle had extensive damage from colliding with a hydro pole. The driver was transported to hospital to be treated for minor injuries.

The driver was arrested for Operation of a Motor Vehicle with Impaired, and later transported to the Caledon OPP Detachment where further breath tests were conducted.

As a result of the police investigation, Jacob Boynton, 22, of Caledon, was arrested and charged with the following offences:

- Operation while impaired - alcohol; and
- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (B.A.C.) over 80 mg

The accused is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on April 1, 2021 to answer to the charges. The charges have not been proven.

Public Notice
Region of Peel
working with you

Notice of Intention to Adopt a Budget

The Council of the Regional Municipality of Peel is providing notice that it intends to adopt the 2021 Regional Operating and Capital Budgets, including By-laws to change user fees for Regional services, fees or charges for the use of Peel water, wastewater (sewage) and waste management systems, as well as any increases, additions, deletions or changes to these fees or charges by-laws.

Copies of the 2021 Regional Operating and Capital Budgets will be available at peelregion.ca/budget as of January 14, 2021.

Due to the efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19 there will be limited public access to the Council Chambers. Pre-registration is required by emailing the Office of the Regional Clerk at regional.clerk@peelregion.ca. The meeting will be live streamed on www.peelregion.ca. Anyone wishing to make verbal or written representations at the Regional Council Budget meeting can do so virtually or in person. Please email the Office of the Regional Clerk at regional.clerk@peelregion.ca or call 905–791–7800, ext. 4465.

The Regional Council Budget meeting to commence discussion and consideration of the Regional Operating and Capital Budgets is scheduled for:

Thursday, January 28, 2021 at 9:30 a.m
10 Peel Centre Drive, Suite A
5th Floor, Council Chambers
Brampton, ON L6T 4B9

The Budget may be approved in whole or in part at the above-noted Regional Council Budget meeting or any subsequent Regional Council Budget meeting. If the matter is considered at a subsequent Budget meeting of Council, no additional notice will be provided unless Regional Council directs otherwise.

Contacts

Stephen VanOfwegen
Commissioner of Finance and Chief Financial Officer
905-791-7800 ext. 4759

Aretha Adams
Deputy Regional Clerk
905-791-7800, ext. 4095

Media inquiries

Bethany Lee
Communications Manager
905-791-7800, ext. 8556

Dated this 14th day of January, 2021

Information will be collected in accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.

SNOWMOBILE SAFETY WEEK

Two fatal snowmobile incidents over the weekend have the OPP warning snowmobilers to stay off frozen waterways, while the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) urges them to stay off closed OFSC trails.

With Snowmobile Safety Week (January 16 - 24) now underway, the OPP is reporting that six people have lost their lives in snowmobile incidents so far this season. On Sunday, January 17, three people died in two separate incidents after their snowmobiles broke through the ice on Georgian Bay.

"These latest incidents are a tragic reminder of the serious risks associated with snowmobiling on frozen waterways," said Chief Superintendent Rohan Thompson, Provincial Commander, Highway Safety Division. "Approximately 40 per cent of OPP-investigated fatal snowmobile incidents in the last 10 years have occurred on lakes and rivers. Excessive speed, driving too fast for the conditions and alcohol/drugs are other top contributing factors in snowmobile deaths. Our data speaks loud and clear about the behaviours and unsafe riding conditions snowmobilers need to avoid to make it through the season safely."

Added Lisa Stackhouse, Director, Marketing & Communications for the OFSC: "Our mild winter makes it particularly important for snowmobilers to regularly check the OFSC Interactive Trail Guide to get information about trail openings and closures. Snowmobilers are reminded that it is unlawful and unsafe to ride on closed OFSC trails and are encouraged to visit the OFSC website for other important information about what they need to do to enjoy a safe riding season."

During the campaign and throughout the snowmobile season, OPP officers will be visible conducting enforcement throughout the province, focusing their attention on safety violations and impaired driving investigations. Snowmobilers are reminded that Mandatory Alcohol Screening authorizes officers to demand a breath test from snowmobile operators without requiring suspicion that they have consumed alcohol.

Snowmobile Safety Week supports the OPP's commitment to saving lives on Ontario highways, waterways and trails.

OPP SUPPORT EFFORTS TO STOP THE SPREAD

On January 14, at 12:01 a.m., the Government of Ontario issued a new Stay-at-Home Order under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMCPA).

The OPP supports all measures necessary to limit the spread of COVID-19 in our community and will continue to work with local public health, municipal and regional officials to ensure compliance.

The new Order, which is expected to remain in effect until February 22, 2021, but could be extended, requires individuals to remain in their place of residence at all times unless leaving for an essential purpose.

Details of this can be found on the Government of Ontario's website: news.ontario.ca/en/release/59922/ontario-declares-second-provincial-emergency-to-address-covid-19-crisis-and-save-lives

"We recognize that this is a stressful time, with many people feeling a sense of uncertainty and instability within our community. While provincial offences officers, including police officers, have enforcement rights under the new EMCPAw order, we will continue to focus on the 4 Es - Engage (with the individuals), Explain (why we are there), Educate (on the rules and regulations), and Enforce (as a last resort). Enforcement will be aimed at those individuals who overtly put others in danger in our community.

"In the majority of cases, when we receive a complaint or respond to a call where individuals are in violation, they have willingly complied after being educated. We thank those citizens who are doing their part."

SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE FIRES IN TOTTENHAM

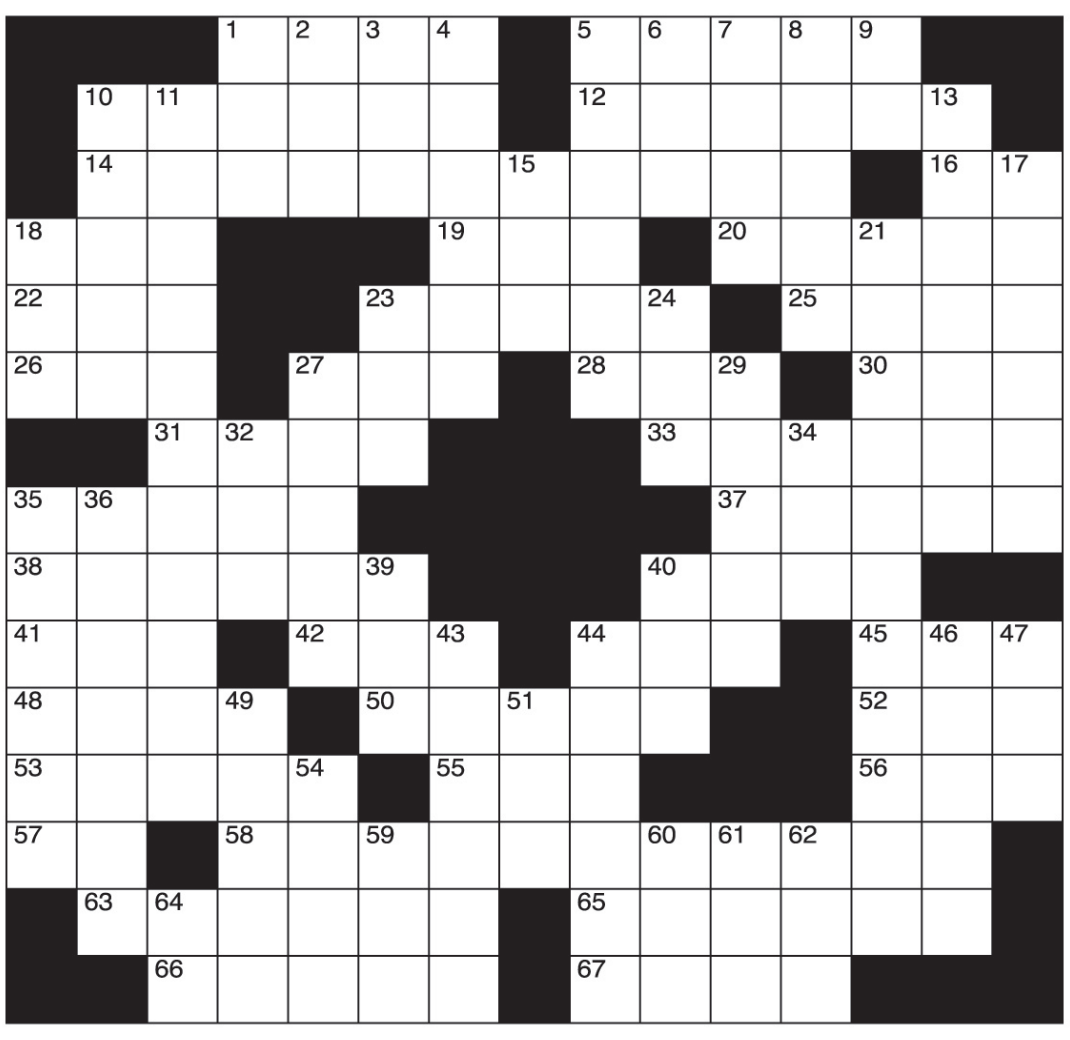
On Saturday, January 9, at 1:00 a.m., members of the Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) and New Tecumseth Fire responded to a vehicle fire in a rear parking lot near Mill Street and Queen Street South in Tottenham.

Upon arrival, emergency responders observed two working vehicle fires; a black Ford 150 pickup truck and a black Dodge Ram pickup truck. Emergency crews then noticed a third vehicle, a red Toyota Rav 4, on fire as well. New Tecumseth Fire extinguished all the fires and there were not any injuries as a result.

Anyone with information regarding these fires, or with possible video footage, is asked to contact the Nottawasaga OPP at or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). When you contact Crime Stoppers you remain anonymous, you will never have to testify and you may be eligible to receive a cash reward of up to $2,000.

The Citizen CROSSWORD

Solution on page B1



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1. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
5. 2014 Winter Olympics host
10. Soft fabric
12. Covered in flowers
14. Works at a college or university
16. Keeps us cool
18. Corpuscle count (abbr.)
19. Similar
20. Birthplace of Muhammad
22. They __
23. Preamble to a book
25. Southern China people
26. Hair product
27. The woman
28. Partner to cheese
30. One point north of due east
31. Round Dutch cheese
33. Be in awe of
35. Christmas song
37. Emits coherent radiation
38. Something that is comparable to another
40. Monetary unit
41. The cutting part of a drill
42. Resinlike substance secreted by certain insects
44. Touch lightly
45. Toyota SUV
48. __ and Andy, TV show
50. Made less dangerous
52. Assets under management (abbr.)
53. Nostrils
55. Moved quickly
56. Thai isthmus
57. TV personality Roker
58. Honors anew
63. Rags
65. One who obtains pleasure from inflicting pain or others
66. Marketplaces
67. Dark brown or black

CLUES DOWN

1. Nowhere to be found (abbr.)
2. Not new
3. Brew
4. Stain with mud
5. Chief or leader
6. Luke Skywalker's mentor __-Wan
7. Type of sauce
8. Sharpens
9. Priestess loved by Zeus
10. Jean Henri __, French entomologist
11. Regulates supply of fuel
13. Disturbing and horrifying
15. Equal (prefix)
17. Hosts film festival
18. Tattered piece of clothing
21. Rich desserts
23. Unique motor (abbr.)
24. Disfigure
27. Chemical substance
29. Slang for famous person
32. Department of Labor
34. The A-team rode around in one
35. Beach cabin
36. Living things
39. Gun (slang)
40. Disconsolate
43. Stroke gently
44. Actress Richards
46. "Cletus Hogg" actor
47. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
49. Brazilian mountain range
51. Upset
54. One with supernatural insight
59. Insecticide
60. Taxi
61. "Much __ about nothing"
62. Cannister
64. Popular clothing retailer

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

Digital evidence program introduced to Provincial enforcement agencies

Written By ALYSSA PARKHILL
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Provincial government is implementing new technology to further assist police services in identifying, managing and sharing digital evidence.

On January 19, Solicitor General Sylvia Jones was joined with Attorney General Doug Downey, Minister Peter Bethlenfalvy as well as Chief of Peel Regional Police Nishan Duraiappah and other Provincial and Municipal officials to announce the introduction of the Digital Evidence Management (DEM) program.

"Last week, we introduced the rollout of eIntake in Northwestern Ontario, the second region to adopt the digital platform. This is a major step in our government's work to modernize and streamline the justice system," said Solicitor General Jones.

The eIntake initiative allows officers to file criminal charges to the court digitally, as well as allowing Justices of the Peace to enter decisions and sign important documents along with requesting additional information, all digitally.

As we travel further into the digital age, this new investment by the Ontario government will ensure police officers less time filing paperwork at a desk, and more time on the road, investigating crimes and being in the community.

The DEM program has been designed and will be delivered by Axon Public Safety Canada after being selected by the Province.

Axon is a leading public safety technology company creating software, devices and apps to better protect the community and equip police officers with advanced technology.

"Axon is a global leader in connecting law enforcement technologies, evidence management and file sharing [between] Peel Region Police, and the Toronto Police Service," said Jones.

Police officers in Peel and in Toronto will be equipped with Axon body cameras with digital support and streaming capabilities. Through the DEM program, police services and justice system partners will be able to store, manage and share digital evidence wherever in the province for investigations, prosecutions etc.

The program will also police officers to engage in the public for assistance and allow members of the community to upload evidence directly to the system.

"Digital evidence management is a critical piece of a comprehensive digital justice system that will help reduce delays in Ontario's overburdened court system, eliminate costly duplication along the investigation to prosecution cycle, support the seamless and real-time sharing of evidence and information," said Jones.

Peel Regional Police is excited to be a part of the program and to enhance public safety through the new advanced technology.

"Our participation as an early adopter in the Province's digital evidence management solution is in line with our vision to be the most connected and technologically innovative police service in Canada," said Chief of Peel Regional Police Nishan Duraiappah. "Peel Police recognizes the importance of having our organization and it's frontline members adapt to the changing digital public safety environment."

The program will be available to Provincial enforcement agencies including the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), the Correctional Services Oversight, and Investigations (CSOI) unit alongside municipal and First Nations police services.

"The PAO (Police Association of Ontario) is confident in the partnership between the Ministry of the Solicitor General and Axon Public Safety Canada to execute and support this important system," said Bruce Chapman, President of PAO. "The PAO has had an ongoing relationship with Axon for the past few years, and I've always been impressed with their innovative approach to supporting policing through speaking opportunities at PAO events, Axon has expressed its commitment to continuing to educate our police association leaders on the changing world of technology and its impact on the policing profession."

Managing Director of Axon, Vishal Dhir, joined the meeting to share Axon's excitement on working alongside the Provincial government and further providing police services with new digital technology.

"This digital evidence management initiative is part of the Ontario Onwards action plan, and it underscores an important part of police work that the general public is not usually aware of since joining axon. One of the key learnings that stands out to me today is really how much police work happens behind the scenes. And I can assure you, it's nothing like we see on TV shows," exclaimed Vishal Dhir, Managing Director of Axon.

"Creating efficiencies and helping the members of the police services in Ontario," he added, "streamline evidence management and support timely submissions to the courts is something we've witnessed worldwide that can have a great impact on the effectiveness of the justice system and better service delivery for the public."

Region of Peel
working with you

Winter garbage exemption period is suspended

Unlimited amounts of garbage will NOT be collected.



Residents are also reminded that:

- You can still place up to 2 extra bags on your garbage day. No tags needed.
- Additional bags beyond the 2-bag limit will not be collected.
- Bulky items collection will continue.
- This is to ensure the health and safety of essential workers, while maintaining services for the long term.

WMG-0876 20/128

Check **peelregion.ca/waste** for information and sign up to receive **FREE** waste notification reminders.

LET US WELCOME
YOU HOME



Bolton Mills Retirement Community | By Esprit Lifestyle Communities

100 Morra Ave., Bolton
289-206-0775
@espritlifestyle
www.espritlifestyle.com
*Certain conditions apply. All images were taken prior to Covid-19.

PUBLIC NOTICE

HAVE YOUR SAY

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

12259 Chinguacousy Road
Proposed Draft Plan of Subdivision

FILE NUMBER(S): 21T-20006C

Related File Number: Minister's Zoning Order Ontario Regulation 362/20

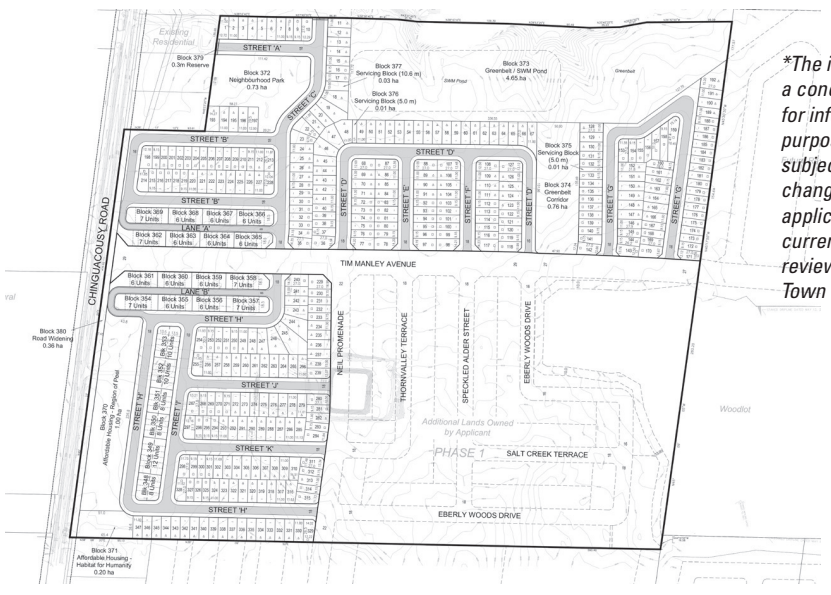
This is to inform you that the Town of Caledon has received a Draft Plan of Subdivision application. Your input and insight will inform and shape plans that meet the needs of our community.

APPLICANT: Mayfield Developments Inc.

LOCATION: 12259 Chinguacousy Road
Part Lot 19, Concession 2 WHS (Chinguacousy)
East Side of Chinguacousy Road, North of Mayfield Road
Ward 2

PROPOSED CHANGES:

To establish a plan of subdivision on the subject lands for 504 residential units consisting of 347 single detached dwellings, 101 rear lane townhouse dwellings and 56 back-to-back townhouse dwellings, together with new roads, an environmental block, greenway corridor, neighbourhood park, and two affordable housing blocks (one for the Region of Peel, one for Habitat for Humanity) and servicing block.



**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:
Stephanie McVittie,
Acting Manager, Development Review Services
905.584.2272 x.4253
stephanie.mcvittie@caledon.ca

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
For more information about this matter, including information about appeal rights, a copy of the proposed applications, additional information and material, please visit **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 legislative.services@caledon.ca.

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

Notice Date: January 21, 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

PUBLIC NOTICE

HAVE YOUR SAY

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

Emil Kolb Parkway, Chickadee Lane & Glasgow Road
Proposed Official Plan Amendment, Draft Plan of Subdivision and Zoning By-law Amendment

FILE NUMBER(S): POPA 2020-0001, 21T-20001C and RZ 2020-0004

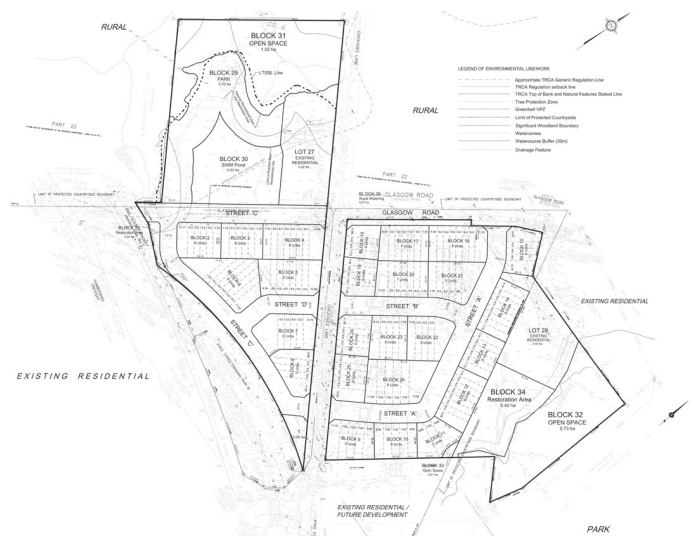
This is to inform you that the Town of Caledon has received Official Plan Amendment, Draft Plan of Subdivision and Zoning By-law Amendment applications. Your input and insight will inform and shape plans that meet the needs of our community.

APPLICANT: Humphries Planning Group Inc. on behalf of Zankor Homes (Bolton) Ltd.

LOCATION: 0 Emil Kolb Parkway, 550 Glasgow Road, 600 Glasgow Road, 615 Glasgow Road, 13935 Chickadee Lane, 13951 Chickadee Lane, 13977 Chickadee Lane, 13999 Chickadee Lane
Part Lot 10, Concessions 5 and 6 (Albion) East Side of Emil Kolb Parkway, Adjacent to Chickadee Lane and Glasgow Road
Wards 4 and 5

PROPOSED CHANGES:

The Official Plan Amendment proposes to redesignate the lands from Prime Agricultural Area and Environmental Policy Area to a Residential Policy Area to permit the development of single detached, semi-detached and various forms of townhouse units with a site specific density. The Draft Plan of Subdivision proposes to create 154 dwellings consisting of 3 single detached dwellings, 151 rear lane townhouse dwellings, a stormwater management pond, environmental and park blocks. The Zoning By-law Amendment proposes to rezone the lands from Agricultural (A1), Rural Residential (RR), Open Space (OS) and Environmental Policy Area 2 Zone (EPA2) to Mixed Density Residential – Exception XXX (RMD-XXX), Rural Residential (RR), Open Space (OS) and Environmental Policy Area 2 Zone (EPA2) to permit site specific uses and standards to implement the development.



**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:
Stephanie McVittie,
Acting Manager, Development Review Services
905.584.2272 x.4253
stephanie.mcvittie@caledon.ca

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
For more information about this matter, including information about appeal rights, a copy of the proposed Official Plan Amendment, Draft Plan of Subdivision and Zoning By-law Amendment applications, additional information and material, please visit **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 legislative.services@caledon.ca.

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

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PUBLIC NOTICE

HAVE YOUR SAY

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

6939 King Street
Proposed Official Plan Amendment, and Zoning By-law Amendment

FILE NUMBER(S): POPA 2020-0003 and RZ 2020-0011

This is to inform you that the Town of Caledon has received Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment applications. Your input and insight will inform and shape plans that meet the needs of our community.

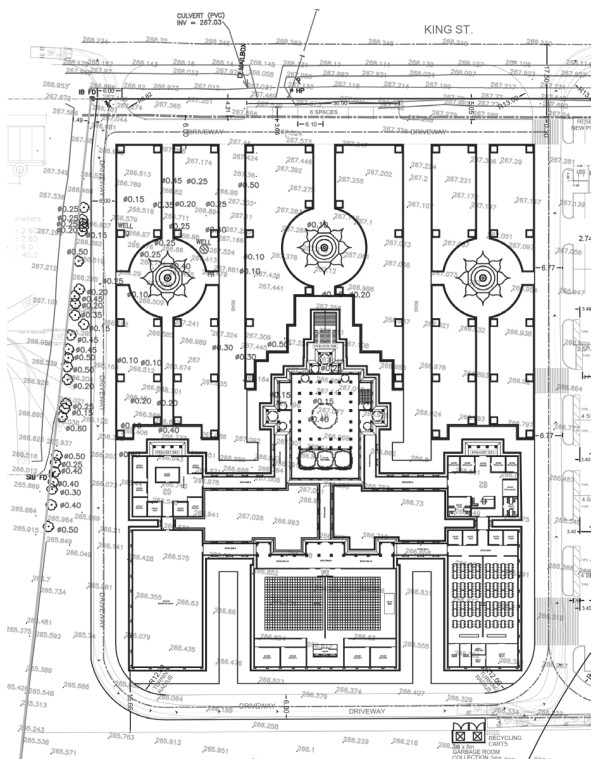
APPLICANT: Weston Consulting on behalf of Swaminarayan Mandir Vasna Sanstha Canada

LOCATION: 6939 King Street Part Lot 10, Concession 2 (Albion)
South-West Corner of King Street and Centreville Creek Road

Ward 4

PROPOSED CHANGES:

The Official Plan Amendment proposes to redesignate the lands from Prime Agricultural Area to Rural Lands. The Zoning By-law Amendment proposes to rezone the lands from Small Agricultural Holdings (A3) to Institutional Exception XXX (I-XXX) to permit various institutional uses and site specific standards to permit the construction of a place of worship.



**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:
Stephanie McVittie,
Acting Manager, Development Review Services
905.584.2272 x.4253
stephanie.mcvittie@caledon.ca

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
For more information about this matter, including information about appeal rights, a copy of the proposed Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment applications, additional information and material, please visit **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:
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Notice Date: January 21, 2021

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T. 905.584.2272 | 1.888.225.3366 | F. 905.584.4325

PUBLIC NOTICE

HAVE YOUR SAY

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

0 McLaughlin Road
Proposed Draft Plan of Subdivision

FILE NUMBER(S): 21T-20005C

Related File Number: Minister's Zoning Order Ontario Regulation 362/20

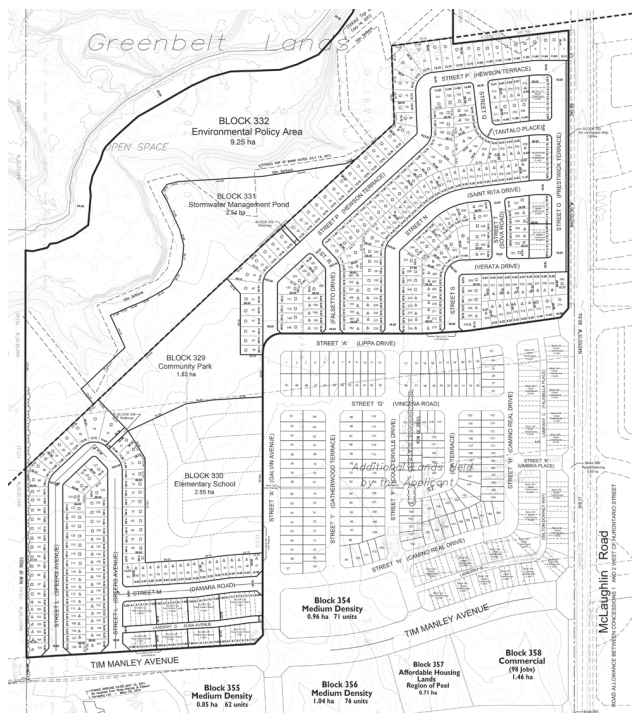
This is to inform you that the Town of Caledon has received a Draft Plan of Subdivision application. Your input and insight will inform and shape plans that meet the needs of our community.

APPLICANT: Malone Given Parsons Ltd. on behalf of Caledon Development LP and Caledon Development General Partner Ltd.

LOCATION: 0 McLaughlin Road
Part Lots 19 and 20, Concession 2 WHS (Chinguacousy)
West Side of McLaughlin Road, North of Mayfield Road
Ward 2

PROPOSED CHANGES:

To establish a plan of subdivision on the subject lands for 393 residential units consisting of 316 single detached dwellings, 27 townhouse dwellings and 50 rear-lane townhouse dwellings, together with new roads, community park block, elementary school block, stormwater management pond block, environmental block, buffer block and walkway blocks.



**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:
Stephanie McVittie,
Acting Manager, Development Review Services
905.584.2272 x.4253
stephanie.mcvittie@caledon.ca

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
For more information about this matter, including information about appeal rights, a copy of the proposed Draft Plan of Subdivision, additional information and material, please visit **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:
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TOWN OF CALEDON | News | Subscribe: caledon.ca/enews



COVID-19
New Testing Site in Caledon

If you have any symptoms, or think you may have been in contact with someone with COVID-19, get tested.

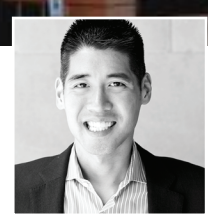
Southfields Community Centre | 225 Dougall Ave
Every Wednesday | 2 - 8 p.m.

Call 905.796.4922 to book an appointment.

Additional testing centres coming soon to Bolton and Caledon East.

For the most up to date information on COVID-19 visit **peelregion.ca/coronavirus.**

COVID-19
Virtual Town Hall





FEBRUARY 3 AT 6 P.M.

Join Dr. Lawrence Loh, Chief Medical Officer for Peel Public Health and Mayor Allan Thompson for a virtual COVID-19 Town Hall.

TO PARTICIPATE:

Dial 1-833-311-4101, access code 132 525 8399# or access the live stream at **caledon.ca/agenda**.

HAVE A QUESTION?

Send your question in advance to mayor@caledon.ca.



Grants for community / not-for-profit projects

Applications for funding from the 2021 Caledon Council Community Golf Tournament (CCCGT) are now being accepted. Community and not-for-profit groups are invited to apply to be the "primary" recipient of proceeds from the 2021 Tournament.

Grants will be provided to organizations for the purpose of a specific and measurable project or program.

Deadline: January 31, 2021
caledon.ca/golf



Public Information Meeting

The Bolton Downtown Revitalization Plan will guide Council and staff on future actions and investment to improve historic downtown Bolton for residents, business owners and visitors.

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: February 2, 2021
Public Meeting Start Time: 7 p.m.

For more information about all options to participate, please visit **caledon.ca/bdr**.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

HAVE YOUR SAY

Proposed Fireworks By-law

A Public Meeting will be held to consider the proposed Fireworks By-law. 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 for community member to attend Public Meetings until further notice. These meetings will be held electronically.

Date: **February 17, 2021**
Time: **7 p.m.**

To listen to the Meeting (but not participate), you may call 1.833.311.4101. Meeting Access Code: 132 070 9311#.

Members of the public are welcome to participate via phone or online upon request. For more information about all of the options to participate, please visit **caledon.ca/notices**. Please note that there are deadlines by which the request to participate need to be made.

PROPOSED CHANGES:
A new Fireworks By-law will reflect the changing needs in the community with respect to when fireworks are discharged. The changes will:

- Recognize Canada Day, Victoria Day, Diwali, Chinese New Year, and New Year's Eve as observances, which would permit residents to also discharge fireworks on these days;
- Include additional fire safety requirements when discharging consumer fireworks;
- Establish minimum safe distances from vulnerable and industrial properties;
- Set acceptable times for discharging of fireworks; and
- Enhance neighbourhood safety by only permitting non-aerial fireworks to be discharged by residents.

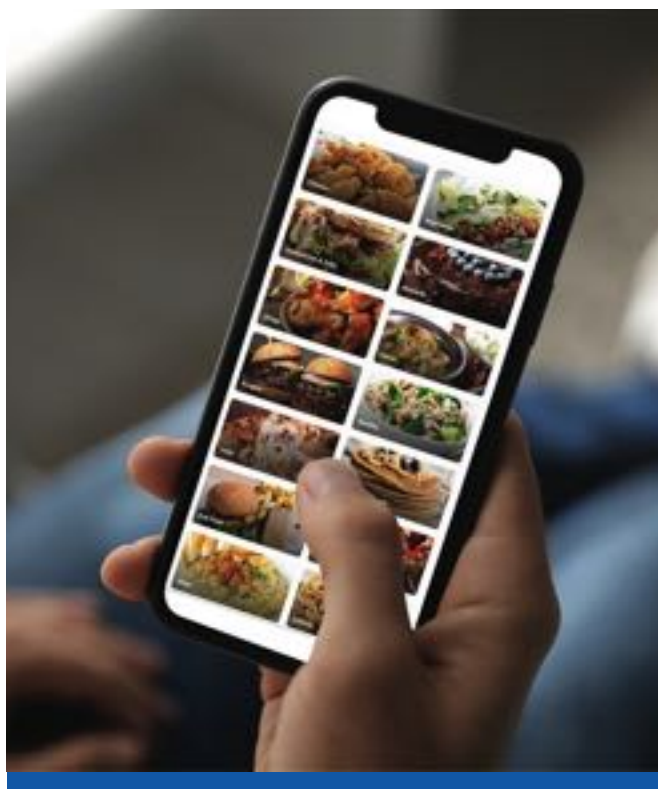
DRAFT BY-LAW
The Draft By-law and Procedural Guide are available for consideration at **caledon.ca/notices** and contain further details and clarification.

CONTACT
Dave Pelayo
Chief Fire Prevention Officer
905.584.2272 x.4340
dave.pelayo@caledon.ca

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
For more information about this matter, including information about appeal rights, a copy of the proposed Fireworks By-law, please visit **caledon.ca/notices** or contact the Chief Fire Prevention Officer Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

ACCESSIBILITY:
If you require an accessibility accommodation to participate in this Public Meeting, or to access any materials related to this item in an alternate format please contact Legislative Services by phone at 905.584.2272 x.2366 or via email at legislative.services@caledon.ca. Requests should be submitted at least 10 days before the Public Meeting.

Notice Date: January 21, 2021



Your next meal is only a click away.
Order from a local restaurant.

LOCAL

Coming Soon

Live streaming of Council meetings now available!

caledon.ca/agenda

JANUARY

21 Special Town Council, 5 p.m.

FEBRUARY

1 Heritage Caledon, 9:30 a.m.

Accessibility Advisory Committe, 6:15 p.m.

2 General Committee, 2:30 p.m.

Planning & Development Committee, 7 p.m.

Public Meeting Downtown Bolton Revitalization Plan

3 Virtual Town Hall with Dr. Loh, 6 p.m.

9 General Committee (Budget), 7 p.m.

15 Family Day Holiday

16 Council (Budget), 6 p.m.

Also, check out the community events calendar:

caledon.ca/events

Some failing grades in remote learning



by Mark Pavilons

"People expect to be bored by eLearning – let's show them it doesn't have to be like that!" – Cammy Bean

If only.

Let's face it folks, we are grooming a whole new generation of e-learners.

The pandemic has somewhat forced the government's hand and upped the remote learning game. The Province is on a new direction toward improved remote learning systems to make Ontario more competitive and give our students a "leg up."

Some studies have indicated that our education system is lacking, and that we're falling behind our world counterparts. Systems in other parts of the world have year-round schooling, and others include apprentice programs. Still other countries mandate a short military service when you turn 18.

All these measures combined build strong bodies and strong minds.

We've been knee-deep in the e-learning experiment for more than two full semesters now. By now, teachers, students and parents know the benefits, drawbacks and limitations.

Most would agree it's nowhere near perfect. And I doubt many would say this is the ideal situation.

While e-learning is a great tool, it's meant to complement classroom education, not replace it.

I believe the current situation has actually placed a bit more stress on students and parents alike.

For us 50-somethings, we graduated many moons ago. While we may be okay with new technology at work or at home, this form of learning is a tough nut to crack.

My youngest daughter is in Grade 10, while my son is in his second semester of college. Both have much different curricula and both are experiencing challenges.

Let's start with the most obvious: technology. While we're lucky enough to have several Mac laptops at home, that doesn't mean we're all geniuses. And while we may be comfortable with one format, or one platform, we're not well-versed in everything that's thrown at our kids.

Before the start of the current school year, I never heard of, let alone used, Google Chrome, Blackboard, Canvas, Moodle, and maybe a dozen more.

I'm not sure why teachers don't all use the same one. This means a student (parent) has to be tech savvy and be able to download and learn dozens of new platforms before even cracking open a book or PDF.

That simple process aside, none of the schools and programs tend to take technical limitations, breakdowns, power outages and internet woes into consideration. This is simply ignoring the reality of what tools students have and their ability to use them. I don't even want to get into the basic math of affordability, and updating all of our kids' laptops.

While dogs can no longer eat kids' homework, computer gremlins can lay waste to hours of work.

Teachers themselves aren't all masters of technology, either.

What does a student's proficiency in learning a new platform, or owning a modern computer, have anything to do with science or social studies?

For this lack of consideration, I give all institutions an F.

Human interaction is something that YouTube and a dozen or so different video chat rooms simply can't replicate.

Cameras on or off? Microphones on or off? Asking questions by typing comments?

Students have been reluctant to speak up in class since schools began. Doing it online is a whole other arena.

My son really wanted to attend the campus of his college, to soak up the atmosphere, facilities and student interaction. He wanted the complete "college experience." The pandemic has denied him that opportunity.

I realize colleges and universities are limited in their reach. But this lack of physical connection does have an impact on young, formative minds. The post-secondary environment always included the social aspect, as a way to foster maturity, personal growth and engagement.

When I was in college, I always remained after class to ask questions or get into discussions with my fellow students and professors.

Academic types likely don't even consider such "frivolities" as important.

For this missing piece to the education puzzle, everyone gets an F.

Having witnessed, first-hand, the workload and teacher response to my kids, another huge failing exists.

With virtual learning, there's a tendency for teachers to increase the assignments and lessen personal attention. This is the exact opposite of how teaching should be done.

I can fully attest that workloads have increased noticeably, to the point where they exceed anything that would have been assigned in class.

Group projects and presentations are also very difficult to do virtually.

For dumping more on the shoulders of our kids, and offering less in terms of support, guidance and assistance, instructors get an F.

According to Bernard Bull, "in order to create an engaging learning experience, the role of instructor is optional, but the role of learner is essential."

I wonder how teachers feel about that one. Some may argue that as technology improves, teachers themselves could be replaced by muppets.

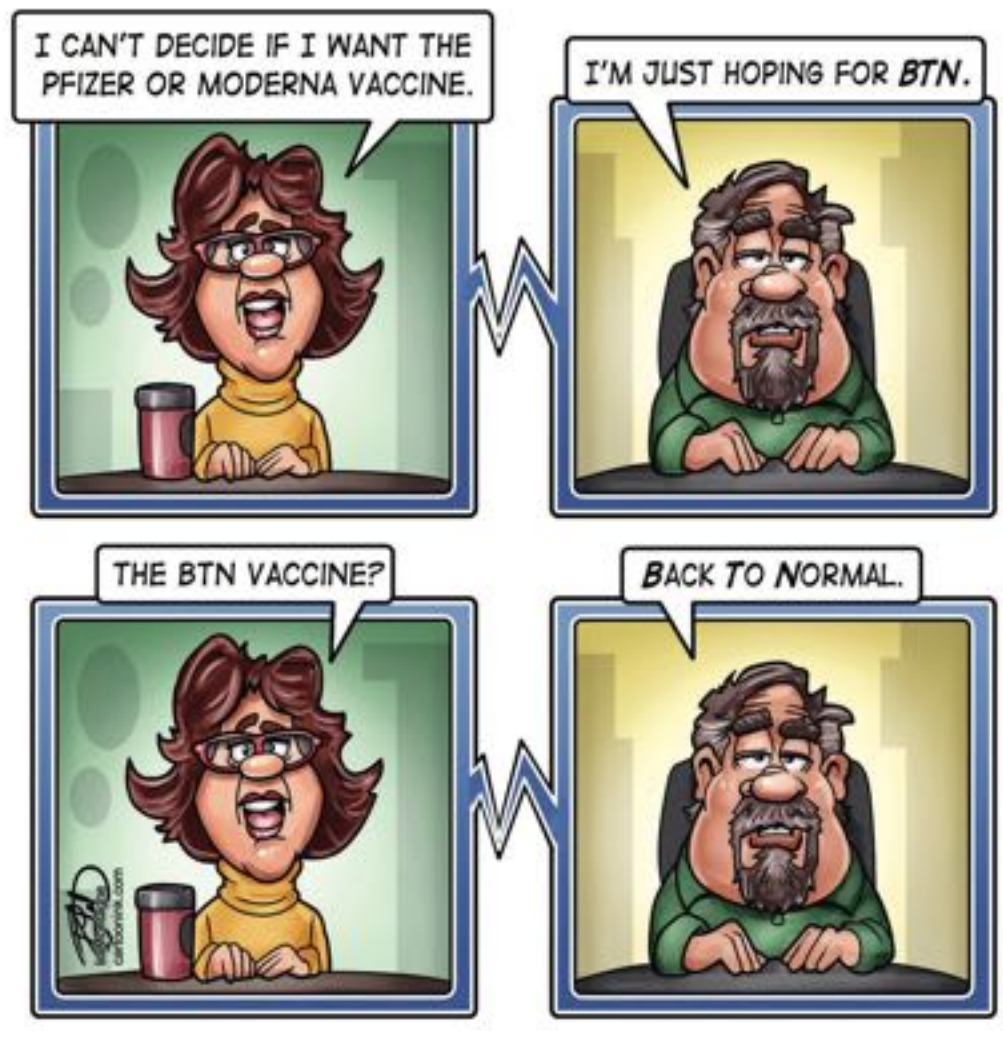
Teachers and unions have asked for an extension of the current stay-at-some rules to mitigate any future outbreaks in schools. Gaps exist.

I agree that perhaps a pause is needed, if only to bring everyone up to speed in terms of consistencies in online learning practices.

"The key to success is to appreciate how people learn, understand the thought process that goes into instructional design, what works well, and a range of different ways of achieving goals," according to Tim Buff.

We're all familiar with the term "getting lost in the shuffle." What we don't need is any more students falling through the cracks, some of which have widened thanks to virtual learning deficiencies.

Let's all work together to bring up those marks!



Brock's Banter

The war being waged behind closed doors

Written By BROCK WEIR

Little more than a year ago, it wouldn't have been a big deal.

In fact, it wasn't. It was almost routine.

Yet, when I got ready over the weekend, it was anything but.

Given the earliness of the morning hour, it would have been a simple matter of getting out of bed, hopping in the shower, getting dressed and going out the door bound for Newmarket.

This time around was a little bit different.

A mask? Check. Check. Check. Three, just to be sure. Some latex gloves? Sure, a couple of pairs just to be sure. A Health Card? Never leave home without it.

We're often told that it – and I don't think we need to define what "it" is these days – is going to get worse before it gets better, but sometimes you have to hedge your bets.

Just how much worse is it going to get? Once the worst passes, just how much "better" can we expect in short order?

As the weekend approached, the clock was ticking down on a long-standing medical appointment. Just routine, but it had already been put off once thanks to the pandemic. Rebooked at the beginning of December, I was fully prepared for it to be cancelled again due to "it" but that call never came. The ball was in my court and it was a matter of weighing the options: head over to the hospital and get it over with in the middle of a surge or re-book it a few months down the road in the hopes that "better" would be clearer in sight.

Without any degree of certainty as to what the next few months might hold, I resisted picking up the phone and putting it off in the hopes that whatever date landed upon was much sunnier than it is now. It was time to bite the proverbial bullet and tick that box on my "to do" list that only seems to expand with each passing week due to all the things we can't.

The sun hadn't yet risen by the time I arrived at Southlake for my appointed hour.

I have to say in all honesty getting out of the car was not without its fair share of trepidation.

With our healthcare system taxed to the max, there was a strange feeling of fear not knowing precisely what to expect tempered with a vague feeling of guilt that I was taking up their time with something which was, in the grand scheme of things, relatively trivial.

But, in I went. Or tried to. The entrance I was directed to was dim, with very few lights on. Illumination was still a floor away by the time I got buzzed inside and a security guard pointed me to what I thought was an empty kiosk. A phone was nearby, maybe I was supposed to go over there, pick it up and await my instructions, as if I was in an old episode of Mission: Impossible. But, no, there was a person inside the kiosk, sitting in the dark, at the ready.

Curious, but the job got done.

Having covered so many events over the years at Southlake Regional Health Centre, it was even more curious to walk in the direction I was pointed completely on my own. By the time I reached the second floor, I had encountered no more than three socially distant individuals going about their business, but I ultimately reached my destination, greeted by the people I needed to see who had me in and out, cheerfully, in little more than an hour.

When I think back on the anxiety, the unknown, and the infinite possibilities that raced through my mind on the trip to Davis Drive, it seems misplaced. My ultimate takeaway was the grace displayed by Southlake staff despite being under what seems like a never-ending barrage of pressure.

This early-morning Southlake encounter was brief as can be, even somewhat calming as the waves of anxiety and all the what-ifs washed away, but the knowledge that despite the sleepy, nearly-deserted atmosphere I walked into at 6.30 a.m. was undoubtedly in high contrast to a war that was being fought against the invisible enemy a floor or corridor away.

It was an unsettling feeling and a stark reminder that the way we conduct ourselves has immediate impact not only on ourselves, our families, and anyone else who happens to be in our immediate households, but very real impacts on the community as a whole, especially those who are working tirelessly day in and day out to keep us safe.

Perhaps it can be chalked up simply to COVID fatigue, but there seems to be a distinct shift in sentiment in this second wave. Focus at the moment appears to be largely trained on businesses, and rightfully so, but other areas of focus are all but falling by the wayside. Granted the ground is less penetrable during these winter months, but the lawn signs that were, for a window in time, a ubiquitous part of our landscape thanking our myriad frontline heroes have been packed away. Hand-made banners and messages of hope that once filled the windows and doors of countless home windows have left noticeable voids, and parades in front of the hospitals to support those fighting the good fight inside have largely fallen by the wayside.

The time for these shows of support is needed now more than ever.

Well, perhaps not the parades. In the lead-up to the holiday season, the local hospital said while frontline workers appreciated parades of support, a better show of community support for the work they do is abiding by public health measures and doing our part to stay healthy. That holds true now that the holidays are firmly behind us.

Whether or not you dust off your signs and decorations and poke them into your lawns or tape them back up in your windows is up to you, but doing our part, following directions and, when your time comes, getting your vaccine is the greatest show of support we can offer.

We may not see the battles being waged behind closed doors at our hospitals every day, but they are happening and our frontline heroes are warriors. With our collective efforts the war can be won.

Our Readers Write

Open letter to MPP Sylvia Jones on Schedule 6

This letter is to express my disappointment and frustration with your position, or more precisely non-position, on the Provincial government's passage of Schedule 6 as part of Bill 229 last month.

Under this legislation, the decision-making role of conservation authorities will be severely curtailed and environmental protection in Ontario will be diminished.

The Provincial government chose to ignore the warnings of known experts, such as former Greenbelt Council chair David Crombie, on the consequences of the Schedule 6 amendments.

Just one of the detrimental impacts is that, when the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing issues a (blatantly overused) Minister's Zoning Order (MZO) for development, conservation authorities will be forced to issue a permit even if they know it will cause flooding or erosion, and jeopardize human health and safety.

Private interests, like developers, will now have the upper hand in pushing through projects without the unbiased scientific, non-biased, and non-partisan recommendations and compliance restrictions which conservation authorities have exercised to protect the environment and the public.

Continued on page B5

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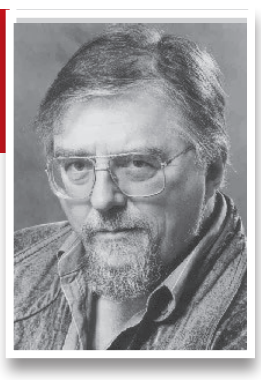
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Lucky Joe Biden

GWYNNE DYER
OUR WORLD TODAY



Joe Biden is thrice-blessed. Not only did he win the Democratic nomination and then the presidential election, but as a result of the events of 6 January he takes office when the Republican opposition is in utter disarray and likely to stay that way for a long time. None of that was foreordained, or even very likely.

"Just days ago the media and the pundits had declared this candidacy dead," Biden marvelled almost exactly a year ago after winning the South Carolina primary election by a landslide. It had been dead, too, until African-American voters in South Carolina gave him their overwhelming support.

It was the first primary he had won, and it put him back in the race. Two days later Biden won ten out of 14 states on Super Tuesday and practically wrapped the nomination up. But if South Carolina had scheduled its primary even a few days later, he would have gone into Super Tuesday as a "loser", and probably been written off.

So, he got lucky once, but it was a bad year for a Democrat to be running for the presidency. Donald Trump was mocked and loathed by the rest of the world and by almost exactly half the US population, but Trump's "base" didn't care and the US economy was in excellent shape.

The US media were doing their best to make the presidential race look exciting, because that's what they were going to have to talk and write about through most of 2020. But the fact is that incumbent US presidents running for re-election when the economy is good almost always win.

Biden's second stroke of luck came just ten days before he won the South Carolina primary, when the first case of COVID-19 showed up in the United States. By March, it was running wild, but Trump, aware that his re-election depended on a booming economy, avoiding taking any public health measures that would slow it down.

Other populist leaders did the same. Boris Johnson has been a week or two late on every pandemic-related decision, and Britain's per capita COVID death toll is even worse than America's. Bolsonaro in Brazil downplayed the COVID threat, as did Orban in Hungary, and their people paid a high price too. But none of them were running for re-election in 2020.

Trump's refusal to back anti-COVID measures like stay-at-home orders was driven more by electoral concerns than ideology: stall the economy and he could lose the election. But, of course, mass death will also stall the economy in the end, so he couldn't win. He ended up with a crashed economy, 400,000 COVID deaths, and a lost election, too.

And then, incredibly, he gave Biden another gift: the assault on the Capitol by his followers two weeks ago.

Biden was facing a grim time in office, with at least 70% of Republican voters and a majority of Republicans in the House of Representatives seduced by Trump's Big Lie that he really won the election by a landslide, and that the Democrats had somehow "stolen" it.

That is what Biden faced only two weeks ago: a nightmare time in office with the "Big Lie" rampant and Trump its proud purveyor. And then, suddenly, Trump, in his manic determination to hold onto power, sent his mob off to try a fore-doomed coup in the "Temple of Democracy", as American commentators pompously call it. End of game.

Trump is discredited even with a modest but significant proportion of his own base, and a growing number of Republican office-holders are in rebellion against the party's subservience to the Tangerine Tyrant. Biden's years in office will be enlivened by a vicious Republican civil war, quite likely ending in a permanent split on the American right.

Which will give Lucky Joe time to do some useful stuff.

Vaccine anyone?

SHERALYN ROMAN
TALK CALEDON



We're being told plans for the vaccine roll out are well underway for communities across Ontario. We're also being told of temporary delays in vaccine distribution due to renovations currently underway at Pfizer's Germany-based manufacturing facility. Among these news reports are others that provide conflicting information as to who is (or should be) next in line to receive the vaccination after health care workers and residents of long-term care facilities.

Murkier still are the waters that must be navigated when determining why certain groups should receive priority over others AND what to do about the vaccine deniers – those who say they won't be getting "jabbed" whether for religious, philosophical or conspiracy theory-related reasons. When your turn comes, will you be lining up for the vaccine?

I think we all understand and can agree on frontline health care workers being "front of the line." They face risk every single day, willingly putting their health and safety at risk to help protect ours. Residents of long-term care homes must also be taken care of. They are susceptible, sitting ducks whom we have done an abominable job of protecting. Currently published vaccine protocols suggest that other congregate care/residential settings are next, followed by remote Indigenous populations. So far so good, but what of the doctor on maternity leave vaccinated before their co-workers who are actually ON the job? What about the psychiatrist, only seeing patients virtually, receiving their first dose before PSWs working in long term care facilities? I'm reading about "lotteries" and dosages "going to waste" if they are not used up, meaning some folks are receiving the vaccine who shouldn't be. I'm just saying if we've called in the top military minds to help execute a safe, fair and efficient vaccine distribution campaign, it doesn't bode well for our success on the battlefield should that ever become necessary.

The decision of how to vaccinate an entire population is no doubt a legal, ethical and moral minefield. I don't envy those tasked with its execution. But that is presumably why we've called in the experts – both military and health professionals – to make these difficult decisions for us. Otherwise, I suppose we'd be left with no choice but to use good, old-fashioned common sense. For me, this would mean all frontline workers get the jab; paramedics, police officers, child and youth workers in group home settings, shelter employees and those living in congregate settings and so on. Then, how about the other people we've been calling frontline heroes all along? Truck drivers, grocery store workers, teachers, the people picking, packing and delivering all that stuff you've been ordering on Amazon? In fact, if we're claiming workplace outbreaks as a source of community spread, why aren't we starting there?

Questions have been raised just in the last few days about how to manage vaccinations for those who are medically compromised and/or the people who care for them. Those concerns range from, "Is it safe for someone suffering from 'X' to receive the vaccine" through to "If I am the primary caregiver for someone with 'X' should I be front of the line so as not to spread COVID to them?" Do we further delineate this list based on the severity of 'X?' Are some diseases or conditions considered more deserving than others? Should those who have chronic medical conditions be near the front of the line? Yup, I certainly think so, but I'm also biased. I love someone with a chronic, life-altering medical condition. Perhaps this has been part of the problem with the rollout plans. In attempting to define every scenario, no scenarios are clearly defined.

On the vaccine deniers, I fear there is little to say. It seems obvious to most of us that the vaccine is not a secret plot by Bill Gates to install a microchip into every human on earth. It seems obvious to most that vaccinations, in and of themselves, don't cause disease. But tell that to someone who received a travel vaccination and within days, mysteriously fell ill with a severe, life-lasting medical condition. Tell that to the mother of a girl who received the Gardasil vaccine and has suffered from a crippling disability ever since, or to the person with life-threatening allergies who has read about the 21 severe anaphylactic responses to the vaccine and wonders if they might be next. I'm not a vaccine denier, but I do have some concerns. I'm going to get the vaccine, but I am worried about it. I worry too - what do we do with those frontline workers who refuse to be vaccinated but work in health care or congregate living settings? Will this become a mandatory condition of employment? There are so many questions. It's a complicated web we weave when we attempt to define COVID vaccination schedules for all, all while trying to do so with the "greater good" in mind. As for the idea of COVID passports, I don't think so. The words "civil liberties" come to mind. All of these musings beg the question, what will you do when your turn comes?

PUBLIC NOTICE

HAVE YOUR SAY

Age-Friendly Caledon
Notice of Public Engagement Sessions

Public engagement sessions will be held to share information on the Age-Friendly Caledon Action Plan, including survey results, background details and more.

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 these engagement sessions, and both will be held electronically via WebEx.

Session 1: January 27, 2021 at 10 a.m.
Session 2: January 28, 2021 at 1 p.m.

HOW TO LISTEN:

Call the Toll-Free Number at 1-833-311-4101. When prompted enter the Meeting Access Code followed by the pound (#) key. Please refer to the specific access codes for each session below:

Access Code for January 27: 132 998 7048#
Access Code for January 28: 132 092 1586#

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

Members of the public are welcome to participate via telephone or video conference (WebEx) upon request. For more information on how to participate, please visit **caledon.ca/notices**. It is encouraged that members of the public request to participate in advance of the sessions.

Should you be interested in submitting written comments or questions in advance, you may do so by:

- Submit written comments or questions in advance to adult55@caledon.ca for consideration during the public engagement session. *Please note that written comments will form part of the public record.
- If you have questions about the process, please contact the Adult 55+ Coordinator during regular office hours by phone at 905.584.2272 x. 4106 or by email to katie.sawyers@caledon.ca.
- Booking an appointment to speak to the Adult 55+ Coordinator in advance of the Public Engagement Session.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

For more information about this Public Engagement Session, please visit **caledon.ca/notices** or contact the Adult 55+ Coordinator from Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

ACCESSIBILITY:

If you require an accessibility accommodation to participate in these Public Engagement Sessions, or to access any materials related to this item in an alternate format please contact Legislative Services by phone at 905.584.2272 x.2366 or by email at legislative.services@caledon.ca. Requests should be submitted at least 10 days before the Public Engagement Session.

Notice Date: January 14, 2021; and January 21, 2021

PUBLIC NOTICE

HAVE YOUR SAY

NOTICE OF COMPLETION FOR

Whispering Pines Infiltration Facilities Retrofit, Municipal Class Environmental Assessment

THE PROJECT:



The Town of Caledon (the Town) has initiated a Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) Schedule A+ study of three Storm Water Management (SWM) facilities that service the Whispering Pines subdivision on Cranston Road between Mountainview Road and Airport Road. The facilities were constructed over 30 years ago to control stormwater quantity and quality. The facilities are reported to be underperforming, and the purpose of this Class EA is to identify the cause(s) of the poor performance and to evaluate alternative solutions to retrofit the facilities. Ecosystem Recovery Inc. had been retained by the Town to complete the study.

The study identified alternatives to improve and manage stormwater management concerns in the study area. Through public consultation and a technical review of alternatives, preferred alternative solutions were selected and concepts were developed for the alternatives to move towards a detailed design and construction phase of the project.

THE PROCESS:

The Class EA study was completed in accordance with the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act and will cover all necessary phases of the Schedule 'A+' EA Process. The Schedule 'A+' process applied to municipal projects regarding normal maintenance and operational activities. This process also included public engagement, and there was opportunity throughout the process for public input, including a Public Information Centres (PIC) which took place on October 15, 2019. The preferred alternatives for each SWMF are:

SWMF 29: Re-Establish design intent, improve drainage and sediment capture conditions. The design intent will be re-established through increasing the size of the infiltration well to infiltrate runoff faster, and sediment capture conditions will be improved through implementing an Oil and Grit Separator (OGS) and vegetated filter strips. An OGS will be installed on-line the inlet pipe and vegetated filter strips will be implemented to provide water quality treatment of runoff to enable the SWMF to qualify for Environmental Compliance Approval from the MECP.

SWMF 30: Complete maintenance works and implement an Oil and Grit Separator (OGS) upstream of the SWMF inlet. Maintenance works involve cleaning sediment accumulation from the inlet area of the SWMF. An OGS will be installed on-line the inlet pipe to provide water quality treatment of runoff to enable the SWMF to qualify for Environmental Compliance Approval from the MECP.

SWMF 36: Complete maintenance works and restore design conditions. This solution involves repairing and replacing damage conveyance culverts as required and excavating the percolation pit to restore the required storage volumes for the SWMF to function in accordance with the original SWM report.

PROJECT REPORT FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

With the completion of the study, the Project File Report has been prepared and will be available for public and agency review on the Town of Caledon website for a 45-day review period, starting from January 14, 2021 and ending on February 28, 2021.

Details on how to obtain a copy of the report: caledon.ca/notices

If you have any accessibility requirements in order to be able to comment on the above report, please contact the Project Manager as soon as possible.

If, after reading the report, you have any questions or concerns, please contact:

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Senior Project Manager
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Under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and the Environmental Assessment Act, unless otherwise stated in the submission, any personal information such as name, address, telephone number and property location included in a submission will become part of the public record files for this matter and may be released, if requested, to any person.

CCS shares highlights and challenges overcome during the pandemic

Written By ALYSSA PARKHILL
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the local community organizations have buckled down to ensure residents of Caledon have been able to receive the care or resources they require.

Caledon Community Services (CCS) has run into a series of challenges amid the pandemic but have continued to overcome through the help from community members, organizations and local businesses.

CCS's The Exchange is a community kitchen where local residents can access healthy, fresh food, and information and tools needed to learn basic nutrition and how to prepare meals.

Their food support program allows residents to receive packed and nutritious meals for individuals and families in need.

Some of the challenges include higher demand for food, services and supports due to job losses and closures of businesses and schools.

Photos hit social media of bare shelves at the Exchange where the community jumped at the opportunity to lend a helping hand to donate in order to give back to those in need during these difficult times.

"Corporations, individuals of all ages, schools, community groups, sports teams, whole community food drive initiatives," said Donna Cragg, Director of Communications and Marketing. "Donations anywhere from 100 pounds to 7,000 pounds was incredible. Some organizations and/or businesses donated more than once."

Many gift cards were collected alongside food donations, and CCS shares that each and every donation went a long way to alleviate hungers for those in need. As such, their appreciation is immense.

"CCS would like to thank each and every one of the individuals, community groups and businesses who stepped forward to make a difference," said Nicole Hand, Chief Development Officer.

Some of the groups who contributed to this include: Access Storage/Bolton Kia/Caledon Hawks Minor Hockey banded together and raised 3,300 lbs of food; Village of Inglewood Holiday Food Drive saw 7000 lbs collected within the community with the help of the Fire Department; Bolton Family Dental Centre Dr. Rosanna Poretta and Inside Out Family Chiropractic; Caledon Ontario Provincial Police (OPP); Albion Bolton Agricultural Society; Caledon Lions and Knights of Columbus; North Peel Community Church; and Claude Presbyterian.

"Corporate support was amazing," said Hand, adding to the list Silcotech, Rowland Investments, Desjardins Insurance, SRSS, Rameshwar Mandir & Cultural Sabha Inc. Home Depot, CBG Homes, Vraj Community Services John @ Automotive Maintenance Caledon East, Nobletoyz.

Mono Mills Community, Terra Cotta Community made 4 trips to donate food collected around their community tree.

"Regular donors we couldn't serve without – Zehr's Walmart, Foodland, Food Basics and Garden Foods. Allan Drive Middle School Palgrave Public School, Robert F. Hall Secondary School, St. Michaels Hospitality Class, Holy Family Elementary, St. John Paul II online students. Even being online didn't stop our youth. Fines Ford did pickups from the schools and small business to bring the food to the Exchange which was a huge assist."

These were only a portion of the many donors. There were hundreds of other donations on top of those listed.

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, events were doomed to be cancelled in order to keep the community, as well as CCS members, safe from the spread of COVID-19.

This past holiday season, though annual events such as the Annual Family Days that leads up to Christmas or any in-store shopping or toy drives, staff at CCS were able to organize COVID-19 friendly ways to celebrate the holiday season with the community.

"The solution was to collect gift cards and special Christmas dinner food stuffs and distribute to families prior to Christmas so that they could ensure their family had a chance of some joy over the holidays," said Cragg. "The community support brought smiles to faces all across Caledon this holiday 2020 despite the struggles."

Caledon Community Services had several highlights from 2020, even during the difficult times. Going into the New Year, CCS shared some of their highlights from this past year, and some upcoming events to look forward to in 2021.

"Employment and Training gears up to serve increased numbers of Assisted Service Job Seekers of all ages with special programs for youth looking to get an edge starting out in their careers," shared Cragg. "Seniors supported through innovative wellness check in's and fun activity packages. What could have been a sad and lonely Hallowe'en was turned into an exciting one. The wellness check-ins – found a senior in medical distress and were able to intervene with very positive outcomes, getting the individual the help they needed to recover."

CCS transportation decreased by 90 per cent but other essential services were able to continue with safety adaptions. The levels of monthly support for disadvantaged residents were increased due to CCS.

New services opened at the Southfields Community Centre that recently opened this past September which shares space with Punjabi Community Health Services (PCHS).



The Exchange has received an overwhelming amount of donations to keep those in need cared for.
PHOTO BY CCS

Additionally, they received support from the Immigration Refugee Citizenship Canada on the expansion of Caledon Community Services' settlement services and partnership with PCHS.

CCS also became an Anchor Agency for the United Way of Greater Toronto this past February.

Lastly, CCS launched an initiative to identify and address Anti-Black racism within the organization called iDream.

Two major events are upcoming from Caledon Community Services including the annual Coldest Night of the Year, which has been turned into a virtual event in order to become COVID-19 safe to raise money for charities helping people coping with homelessness.

Alongside the Coldest Night of the Year, CCS is preparing for the celebrations of their 50th anniversary in Caledon.

For more information, please visit ccs4u.org.

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The importance of proper recycling vital for natural resources and economy

Written By ALYSSA PARKHILL
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

One major way individuals look to do their part in making a positive contribution towards the environment and to hold on to our natural resources is to recycle.

We are all used to separate our plastics, bottles and paper items from our garbage, throwing them in our municipal recycling blue bin and putting it out on the curb every other week without a second thought.

But what happens to the items that are not properly recycled? Where do they end up? How does this impact us?

According to the Region of Peel, items that aren't recycled properly are considered garbage and are sent to the landfill.

"Items such as jugs, jars, yoghurt containers are all recyclable. However, you must ensure that these items are rinsed and clean before putting them in the recycling bin," said Erwin Pascual, Manager, Waste Planning at Region of Peel. "We cannot separate food from containers at our recycling facility. Full or partially full containers can't be recycled. They are sent to landfill as garbage."

Some items that fall under the recyclable list include plastic, glass and metal containers, magazines, newspapers and cardboard cartons, along with plastic and glass bottles as well as milk and juice cartons. Juice boxes and plastic cups can be recycled, but straws go into the garbage.

According to Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canadians throw away around three million tonnes of plastic waste in which only nine per cent is properly recycled. This means that 29,000 tonnes end up in our landfill and in our natural environment.

Some of the items that impact our natural environment include single use plastics, which Environment Canada is working on banning.

"These items are harmful to our environment and their value is lost from the economy when they are tossed in the trash. This proposed ban will help drive innovation across the country as new and easier-to-recycle items take their place in the economy," said Minister of Environment and Climate Change Johnathon Wilkinson in a statement.

Residents are encouraged to educate and inform themselves on not only proper recycling and what steps to take to ensure items go to their rightful place, but the importance of how it can impact our natural resources, and even the economy.

"Our earth's natural resources are limited. When we draw raw material from the earth to make new items, we are chipping away at our natural resources, consuming energy and creating greenhouse gases," said Pascual. "One way to help avoid this is to recycle. Recycling also creates jobs, making it good for the economy."

Many items are reused into new products. Recycled paper and cardboard items turn into cereal boxes, paper towels, newspapers and paper bags.

Plastic containers get remade into insulation for jackets, plastic lumber and storage containers. Pop cans are even reused for airplane and bike parts or turned into new cans.

"By properly participating in Peel's recycling program, you can help give discarded items another chance at a new life," added Pascual.

Pascual states that while the majority of Peel residents participate in recycling, about "a fifth to a quarter of materials that is put in the recycling bin is not recyclable. This is called 'contamination' and is the Region of Peel's biggest concern with our recycling."

Contamination includes porcelain and ceramic products, batteries and disposable masks and gloves. These items make it harder for items to be properly sorted and overall impacts the quality of recyclables.



The Region of Peel encourages residents to participate in recycling program to learn how to recycle proper items to ensure reuse and less in our landfills. **FILE PHOTO**

To be able to reuse many recycled items, they must be clean and acceptable, as many recyclable convertible companies won't accept low quality items.

"If we don't recycle right, it ultimately impacts our earth because we use raw materials from our natural environment to make new items and use more energy and increase greenhouse gas emissions – all of which affect our community," said Pascual.

To learn more about Region of Peel's recycling program and to learn more about what can and cannot be recycled, visit peelregion.ca/waste.

Parts shortage causing problems in auto industry

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

If you have been shopping for a new or used car over the past few months, you probably noticed that local dealerships are starting to look a little bare as their lots don't have the same amount of inventory they had a year ago.

A check with one dealership noted that they usually have around 150 units on the lot but had been reduced to around 20.

It is a two-fold problem.

During a visit to a prominent dealer in the Orangeville area, it was explained that dealerships are having trouble getting new vehicles delivered to their lots. Disruptions in transportation due to the current pandemic means dealerships can't get the inventory they need.

On top of that, the recent province-wide lockdown has seen a drop in sales as customers aren't as willing to make appointments to visit a dealership.

One sales person said, "It happened almost overnight. People just stopped coming in."

The shortage of vehicles has also impacted the used car market. With fewer people trading in their old cars, there isn't a lot of inventory on the pre-owned side of the dealership lots.

"Used cars are going fast," one salesperson said. "There's not a lot of vehicles coming in. When we get a nice one it won't be here long."

The latest concern in the auto industry is a shortage of parts that is causing delays in production.

The parts shortage has affected pretty much every auto manufacture, not only in North America but around the world.

In Brampton, the Chrysler plant has already seen temporary layoffs and also suspended operations at its plant in Mexico.

The Alliston Honda plant has announced it will stop production on one of its lines during the week for January 25.

The problem is a shortage of semiconductor microchips.

After a slow down in production earlier in the year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, semiconductor manufacturers allocated more capacity to meet the soaring demand from consumer-electronics makers. Microchip makers favour consumer-electronics customers because their orders are larger than those of automakers. The annual smartphone market alone is more than 1 billion devices compared to fewer than 100 million for cars.

The pandemic has resulted in an increase in sales in phones, game consoles, smart TVs and laptops, as people are spending more time at home.

New cars are using more and more microchips in their vehicles to handle everything from navigation systems to traction control.

Industry experts say the situation will most likely turn around in the next three months.

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The Caledon Public Library is holding a book photo contest, encouraging residents to submit photos with a great book in order to win cash prizes. Here, feline Firefly settles in with a good book.
PHOTO BY CALEDON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Caledon Public Library looking for community feedback on strategic plan

Written By ALYSSA PARKHILL
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Caledon Public Library (CPL) is reaching out to the public for community feedback to help determine future public library services.

Staff at CPL are developing a strategic plan in order to determine a long-time plan with necessary programs and library priorities with and for the community.

CPL has reached out and gained assistance of Lighthouse Consulting Inc., a strategic planning company specifically for library services, for a four-year strategic plan.

"It's more than providing traditional library services to Caledon residents," said Colleen Lipp, CPL CEO and Chief Librarian. "It's about listening carefully to our community, our staff and essential research, and stepping outside of the box to demonstrate that we are truly relevant to your needs and essential to Caledon's quality of life. We need your feedback in order to do so."

Included in the plan is public engagement. An online public survey has been organized to gain feedback from the Caledon community.

The survey questions look at the needs of residents, how they feel about library services, and suggestions on new and different future services and programs.

"As per our current strategic plan, CPL is envisioned as a vital service and vibrant community space. Over the last four years we have worked to strengthen facilities, build partnerships and encourage discovery, creativity and innovation," said Lipp.

The online survey will be available until February 15. All those who complete the 20-minute survey will have their name entered to win an Acer Chromebook laptop.

"To genuinely reflect the vision, needs and expectations of you, the Caledon community, with this new Plan, we hope to hear from as many voices as possible," said Lipp.

In addition to CPL's upcoming strategic plan, a book photo contest has begun for residents to participate in.

Beginning on January 11, and going until the end of February, residents are encouraged to submit a photo of a book with a great story or message, along with a description.

The categories include ages six to 12, 13 to 17 and 18 and older. Winners will receive cash prizes from $50 up to $100.

The contest is being sponsored by Friends of Caledon Public Library (FOCPL).

"The Friends enthusiastically support this contest as we've done for many years," says FOCPL President Marty Harrison. "This contest is a great testament to the talent and creativity in our Caledon community."

To learn more about the online survey, and book contest, visit Caledon.library.on.ca.

Rural students struggle with distanced learning, poor internet

Written By JESSICA LAURENZA

The Ministry of Education announced that as of January 4, all elementary and secondary students will be temporarily shifting to virtual, remote learning.

While the switch isn't an issue for students living in urban areas, its potentially jeopardizing the quality of education received in households with poor internet connections.

Abbey Spencer, a grade 11 student at Orangeville District Secondary School (ODSS) says she's been having technical and educational issues with online learning. Living in Mono, she doesn't have access to high-speed internet, so her mom reached out to the school to obtain textbooks and worksheets in case she can't login to live learning with the rest of her class.

However, asynchronous learning hasn't been working to Spencer's advantage.

"I feel like they move so quick. I feel like I haven't learned a thing. I'm getting assignments, I just do them myself and hand them in," she explains.

Sometimes her Wi-Fi cuts out and she has to log off because she can't hear anything.

"It's sad," she says. "Especially for kids with IEPs (individualized education plan) or those who need extra help. I truly think I'm missing out on the whole year."

Heather Loney, Communications and Community Engagement Officer for Upper Grand District School Board, told the Citizen that the schools and the board are ensuring all families have equal access to educational resources, including a strong internet connection.

When COVID-19 first hit last spring, the Board provided students and families with access to Chromebooks, tech and internet support, and printed packages for asynchronous learning options for students who have difficulty learning in real time.

Schools had previously surveyed families to understand where access to internet is cumbersome and implemented board funding to offset any costs for data plan increases or phone hotspots in areas with weak internet connection.

"Even areas with good internet coverage may be struggling with everyone drawing on the same resources within the home," Loney explains.

She encourages any families struggling with internet connection to reach out directly to their school principal to access additional services.

Joanna Presley lives just outside of Orangeville and has three boys, in Grade 7, Grade 9 and Grade 12. Before online schooling, her internet was slow. Now with virtual learning, "we have four people (including myself) logged on at the same time and it is extremely slow."

If the Wi-Fi cuts out, the students must email their teacher after the video call for clarification, says Presley.

In terms of additional support for students, she states that it is dependent on the teacher.

She finds that elementary school teachers are much better with email communication and updates whereas her two sons at ODSS are responsible for completing the work and relaying information to parents.

One of her sons uses her work laptop to complete his online school, which impedes upon her ability to get her own agenda completed.

Online learning has been a tough adaptation for families juggling conflicting work schedules and having their kids at home.

Loney notes that "mental health and well-being for staff, students and families is the primary focus for us."

The school board has created resources such as webinars, virtual counselling and support, to help students and families deal with this challenging time.

Additionally, teachers are working towards innovative and creative ways to keep students engaged. Resources are shared on internal staff websites and newsletters to help teachers who are new to online platforms.

"We know it's been a really tough year. Everyone is learning how to do things differently, to change and to shift. Through all of this, we're proud of our students, staff and families."

Loney encourages families to reach out directly to their school if they require additional support or resources.

King Township, Seneca unite to repurpose historic Eaton Hall

Written By MARK PAVILONS

Historic Eaton Hall will get a new lease on life, thanks to an agreement between King Township and Seneca College.

King Councillors gave their stamp of approval on the new deal, which will see the famous site revamped and repurposed.

Plans are in the works for Township and Seneca staff to work together, designating Eaton Hall as a municipal capital facility. It will be exempt from taxation and the facility will be available for public use.

The college initiated the request to Council and they wanted to use the facility for special events such as weddings, conferences, etc. In order to do so, the building requires substantial improvements.

Staff noted Eaton Hall is an important, significant heritage asset. It has a long history associated with one of Canada's best-known families, the Eatons, founders of Eaton's department stores.

There are several buildings on the 700-acre property that is home to the 35,000-square-foot mansion. It was designed to be the Eaton family country estate and was also a working farm, producing things like butter, milk and flowers for the Eaton stores. The Eatons had planned to retire in King.

Lady Eaton was 60 and a grandmother when the estate was completed by 1940.

Lady Eaton and her husband, Sir John Craig Eaton, acquired their first parcels of land in King Township in 1920 on recommendation from their friend Sir Henry Pellatt, who owned the nearby Mary Lake property. It took two years to assemble the entire 700 acres. Lady Eaton moved into Eaton Hall three years after demolishing her city mansion, Ardwold.

Eaton Hall is adjacent to a body of water named Lake Seneca today, formerly Lake Jonda (a combination of the first three letters of her son John David Eaton's first and middle names).

Design was started in 1932 by architects from the firm of Peter Allward and George Gouinlock.

Construction was completed in 1939 and was supervised by John W. Bowser of the Aurora Building Company. Bowser had just worked on the Empire State Building and his Aurora gravesite contains a marker in the shape of that New York landmark.

A heritage study back in 2012 indicated the hall, and other structures "exhibit high cultural heritage value worthy of protection."

As part of the lease arrangement with the hospitality company, Seneca will offer affordable and accessible recreation and heritage event space and programs for King residents, non-profits and community groups.

The college agreed to offer the ground lease to the municipality for 99 years, at $1 per year.

It was challenging to calculate the actual taxes that could be levied on just a portion of the large property.

Township staff hired a consultant to conduct an appraisal of the building and seven acres surrounding the facility. This was subjectively pegged at upwards of $14 million. However, the property doesn't currently pay property taxes, so there is no loss of revenue to the Township.

Council also amended the current ground lease with Seneca (made to accommodate the new recreation centre) from 60 years to 99 years.

This is advantageous for the municipality for a number of reasons, including a longer-term control of a capital asset, and the ability to refurbish and extend the life-cycle of such an asset.

King Mayor Steve Pellegrini said the Township is proud having both Seneca and Eaton Hall in the community. It's important to retain the building's history and to purpose it for public use. Councillor Debbie Schaefer agreed, noting Eaton Hall is very much part of Canada's history.

"It's wonderful to think of this structure being brought back to life," she said, adding King is thrilled to be working with Seneca on this.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Turning grandma's recipe into profit

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

If you have an old secret recipe that people have always said you should try putting a label on the jar and selling it, now may be a good time to show a little entrepreneurial spirit.

The Ontario Government is supporting home-based food business by providing a guide on how to start a such an enterprise. This includes regulatory changes that allow more flexibility to sell low-risk home-prepared foods.

The guide includes an overview of public health requirements that need to be followed as a food producer.

This is part of an effort to help small independent businesses succeed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"For many local entrepreneurs, they start with a love of food and a cherished family recipe, whether it's grandma's apple pie or that new take on homegrown pickles, jams and preserves, and try and turn their passion into a successful business," said Prabmeet Sarkaria, Associate Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction.

"Our government applauds them for their vision and effort and we are doing everything we can to help them seize new opportunities without compromising Ontario's high standards for food safety."

The guide is for foods considered low-risk that are non-hazardous and do not require refrigeration. This includes items such as baked goods, pickles, jams and preserves, chocolates, hard candies and brittles, fudge and toffees, granola, trail mix, nuts and seeds, and coffee beans and tea leaves.

"Starting a home-based food business is an excellent opportunity for people across Ontario to share their culinary creativity, build a business for themselves and be part of the province's agri-food sector," said Ernie Hardeman, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. "Our government is committed to encouraging this growing part of the economy and to support all the good things that are grown and produced right here in Ontario."

Starting your own home-based food business can be a rewarding enterprise but you must still follow proper regulations. This includes adhering to requirements under the Health Protection and Promotion Act, and the Food Premises Regulation.

Anyone starting their own home-based food production business can also expect periodic inspections by their local health unit. Home based businesses that prepare only low risk foods are exempt from some regulatory requirements such as specified hand washing stations, compliance with commercial dishwashing requirements and food handling training certification.

That old family recipe that everyone loves may provide entrepreneurs the chance to turn it into a successful home-based business.

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Caledon Chamber of Commerce welcomes new President and Board

Written By ALYSSA PARKHILL
LOCAL JOURNAISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Caledon Chamber of Commerce has announced big changes, including a new President and whole new Board to start connecting to local businesses in Caledon.

On January 11, the Caledon Chamber of Commerce changed things up by electing an entirely new board consisting of business owners in the Caledon area.

Anthony Caputo, owner of real estate group, The Caputo Group, has been elected President of the Caledon Chamber of Commerce and is looking forward to working alongside other business owners to bring about support that is much needed during these difficult times.

"When I found out what the role of the Chamber was and how important it is in the community to advocate for not only small businesses, but for all businesses in general, I said to myself, being a small business owner, that it's extremely important, especially in a town like ours," Caputo said. "A lot of businesses feel they're not represented properly and neglected."

Caputo has resided in Caledon since moving here when in elementary school and is currently raising his children here too. He has seen the growth within the community and sees its potential.

Alongside Caputo stands Caledon Roots owner Sarah Leslie as first Vice President and owner of The Mortgage Centre, Shannon Turnball, as second Vice President.

Pam Davis, owner of Sparkittechs has been elected Treasurer, Jessica Laurenza owner of The Neighbours of Central Caledon as Secretary and board members include John Ruscetta owner of Pizza Panini and Tish Hansen, owner of The Concierge.

"I was tasked with putting together this board, and I feel I've chosen some prominent business members that started from scratch; their businesses are just phenomenal," said Caputo.

He added, "these are all small businesses that are successful during a pandemic. Why not pass that knowledge, pass that experience to the rest of businesses that are suffering and help them get on their feet?"

The council's responsibility and role, general speaking, is to engage with businesses in the Caledon community, as well as assist in individuals pursuing opening a business in Caledon.

"We're here to help anyone and any business, any way we can, whether they want to start up from scratch or they need help," said Caputo. "We're here for them."

Jessica Laurenza, owner of The Neighbours of Central Caledon, is using her role on the board as an opportunity to connect with other businesses in the community.

"I didn't really know what it would entail, honestly," she explained. "The Chamber, to me kind of seemed like an intimidating organization. I didn't really know that much about it, but I knew if I wanted new business connections and I wanted to get my name out there and my magazine, it would be a good opportunity to be a part of it."

Laurenza is in the process of publishing a community magazine called The Neighbours of Caledon. As a long-time resident and new business owner, the opportunity was too good to pass up.

"I've lived in Caledon my whole life; I grew up here. I know that it's such a tight knit community, and it's important to me because I'm starting a small business to connect with other businesses that are in the same boat to uplift each other, [and] help each other thrive within the community," Laurenza said. "That's what I'm most excited about. Meeting new people, hearing their stories and hopefully talking face to face this year."

Mayor Allan Thompson swore in Mr. Caputo, and the rest of the board, on January 11 during a virtual ceremony.

"On behalf of the Town I wish the new Board all success as they start this new chapter," said Mayor Thompson. "The Chamber is an important voice for business in Caledon and we look forward to working with them to support our local business community."

Caputo states their mandate is clear: Shop local, support local.

"We are here to promote small businesses as well as support. I feel that Caledon is a diamond in the rough, we have so much to offer and people really don't know what we have here," said Caputo.

For further information, visit caledonchamberofcommerce.ca.

Ontario invests in short-term flexible training program

The Ontario government is providing $35,000 to help adult learners and displaced workers develop the skills they need to work in the textile computing industry. The new online training program has been created by OCAD University (OCAD U) and Myant Inc. and is part of Ontario's plan to support more flexible, short-term and responsive education programming to prepare people for the in-demand jobs of today and tomorrow.

"The partnership between Myant and OCAD U is proof that effective partnerships between Ontario's businesses and world-class colleges and universities can deliver high-quality education that leads to real jobs," said Ross Romano, Minister of Colleges and Universities. "We have heard loud and clear about the gap between employers, like Myant, that cannot find candidates with the right skills and the many Ontarians looking for meaningful employment. By working together, we can create flexible and responsive programing that meets the needs of employers and ensures that Ontarians can learn a new skill, to help them better succeed in their careers."

The online training program in Human-Centred Design is a micro-credential that has been created to help people rapidly obtain the design skills they need to work at Myant Inc., a technology and advanced manufacturing company, and other workplaces. Participants in the program will receive training on design principles and developing prototypes.

Ontario is working on its first-ever micro-credentials strategy to help people quickly retrain and upgrade their skills to find new jobs. As announced in the 2020 Ontario Budget, Ontario's Action Plan: Protect, Support, Recover, the province is investing $59.5 million over the next three years to further establish micro-credentials, an emerging and innovative teaching model in postsecondary learning.

The funding will help:

- Create new micro-credentials that respond to regional labour market needs and strengthen partnerships between postsecondary institutions, training providers and employers
- Create an online portal to access micro-credential training opportunities
- Ensure individual learning experiences are formally recognized and tracked
- Support students with financial need so they can pay for education geared to in-demand jobs, through the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP)



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Males living with disordered eating to get increased help thanks to donation

Written By BROCK WEIR

There is sometimes a perception that disordered eating is a challenge most often faced by women and girls, but this is a perception that is being challenged by the Aurora-based Riverwalk Wellness Centre as they aim to ramp up help for males looking to overcome and recover.

Riverwalk, formerly Eating Disorders of York Region, recently received an anonymous donation specifically to help them reach males in the community who might be struggling.

"We are deeply appreciative for the donation," says Riverwalk Executive Director Janice Morgante. "We receive calls every day from individuals looking for support and it can be from anywhere, even Nunavut because support is so hard to find."

Riverwalk was founded in 2004 after several families came together after the death of a young woman, who used resources from her memorial fund to start an agency to address urgent and unmet needs for those suffering from disordered evening.

It is a grassroots organization which offers a variety of assistance and support programs well beyond their home base of York Region.

This most recent donation enables them to meet further needs that were previously unmet.

"If I am speaking to someone who is a male, or calling about a male they know, after we have gotten to know each other a bit in that conversation I can explore with them the support that can be made available that they otherwise may not be able to manage without this donation," says Ms. Morgante. "It's the same conversation I would have with anyone, but unfortunately we don't have the donors at this point, although that could change, who would want to make contributions for which we can issue an official income tax receipt and allow us to support even more people.

"As an example, we have been getting calls from students who have no financial means; they are not working, they are not on campus, they have no contact with what might have been on-campus support, although that was likely not specialized around disordered eating, but they have really stressful situations as many people do right now. My heart breaks for students. I can tell you from first-hand experience how the room lights up when we're able to address real financial need."

The donation will also help to provide outreach to the male population.

Although Ms. Morgante says she has no firm reasons on why males are sometimes more reluctant to seek help, she says that this demographic sometimes flies under the radar.

"Someone in that person's circle just doesn't think about it," she says. "That is where information is so helpful. There isn't anyone who is immune to anxiety, depression, stress and trauma, and all of the aspects of difficult coping that we're experiencing right now with COVID. There isn't any reason to think that one person over another would be inclined to use food as a way to cope.

"Another aspect is, using the lens of common sense, younger individuals and children have access to food in their home and not to the liquor store, and hopefully not to their local drug dealer. No one goes out of their way to decide they are going to use food as a coping strategy, or any other substance. All of us needs coping strategies and hopefully somewhere along the way we have acquired positive coping strategies but, of course, that is not always the case.

"Now, we're able to offer support to a 13-year-old boy whose single mom would not have the financial means to get him the help he needs. In this case, it was a teacher who noted the difference in the young boy from last year to this year and alerted mom. It can be that we're all so busy coping ourselves that we might not be paying as much attention to, for instance, males and the negative coping strategies that might be prevalent."

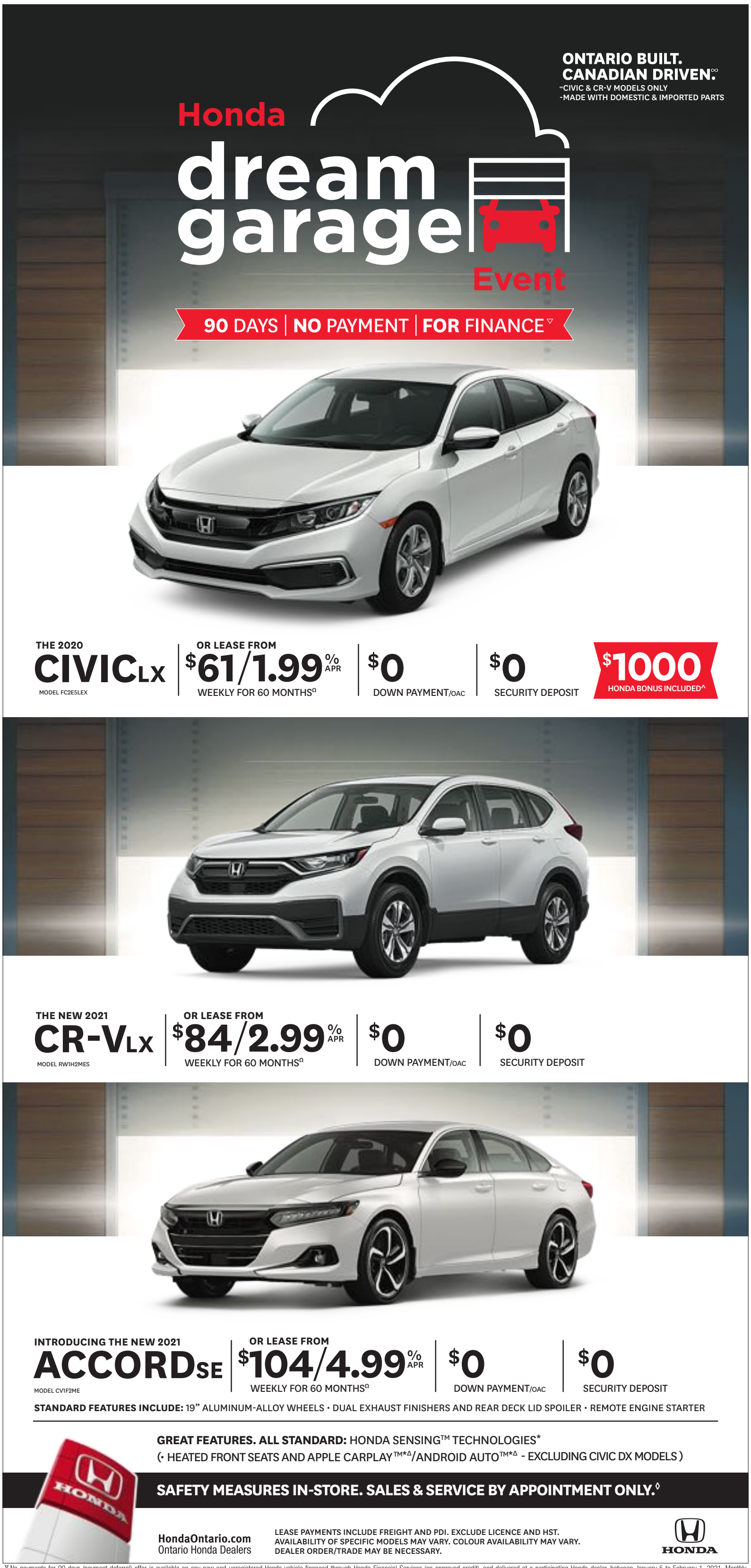
We're all human and we all need help in unique ways, she says, but it is sometimes the case that people don't know that their coping strategies are detrimental – and it can take a while before that moment of realization arrives. Through Riverwalk's Faces of Recovery campaign, people who have been down that road highlight when they "awoke" to the fact their health was suffering and why they sought support.

"We look at this as a circle of support – a 'circle' because we know all of us are flexible, we move forward, we move back, not necessarily in a straight line when we decide something doesn't seem right and we would like to find out more," says Ms. Morgante. "Specialized knowledge of disordered eating is extremely important because those who mean well that are not informed can cause more harm, quite unintentionally.

"A diagnosis [for our programs] is not required. Someone can just have some thoughts, concerns and questions, and, on our website, you will see a list of questions they can review and ponder. If they feel indeed there was something they wanted to know more about or seek some more support around, we're here."

For more information on Riverwalk and the services they provide, visit edoyr.com.

> "If I am speaking to someone who is a male, or calling about a male they know, after we have gotten to know each other a bit in that conversation I can explore with them the support that can be made available that they otherwise may not be able to manage without this donation
>
> Janice Morgante
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‘Life is a lot easier’: how Pindrop Hearing changed my life

It took Paul Briggs 25 years to realize he needed hearing aids and only one day wearing them to notice that they changed his life.

Paul lives a quiet home life in Mono with his wife Anne-Marie and his yellow lab, but professionally, he is a hunter, shooter, a military man and a test pilot- industries that all carry the risk of hearing loss. “Hearing aids have made such an improvement in my life that it’s almost my duty to share that.” Paul states.

This is his story:

As a hunter, he didn’t have access to hearing protection at first; In the military, he was exposed to firearms; As an experimental test pilot, he was exposed to high pitched turbines and squealing jet engines.

At 58 years old, Briggs admits that “he should’ve been smarter and humbler 20 years ago,” but it wasn’t that simple for him. Paul goes for a Category 1 Medical every six months as a pilot and if there is something even remotely wrong with him, he is suspended and it could take years to be reinstated. Beginning at age 55, a hearing test is mandatory in his field which is what brought him to Pindrop Hearing Centre.

“It’s an interesting juxtaposition that the medical that is supposed to ensure pilots are healthy and safe is, in fact, a deterrent for us going and getting tested for anything,” Paul shares.

If he acknowledged it, he would have to do something about it, If he didn’t, it could have spelled the end of his career.

The average time it takes for people to act on their initial realization of hearing loss is seven years. “When I take my hearing aids out, my whole world goes flat,” Paul admits.

For the past two decades, he found himself laughing at jokes he couldn’t hear or guessing what people were saying. Only when he began wearing his aids, did he realize he had previously been reading lips without noticing it. If he couldn’t see someone’s face, he didn’t know what was being said and “it was maddening as hell.”

At dinner parties, he would find himself “conversing with the loudest talker or the man with the deepest voice. [He] would focus on that with no idea what was happening with the rest of the party.” He was exhausted by the end of gatherings and couldn’t wait to go home.

Paul explains that he “was amazed at how much more energy [he] had” when he first started wearing his hearing aids. He realized “wow, life is a lot easier.”

His hearing loss also strained his relationship with his wife, Anne-Marie. The most embarrassing aspect of hearing loss, Paul says, is how he and his wife would go about watching television.

“I would need the television turned up to 72-76 and I would be leaning forward and lip reading. She would have earplugs in and sometimes, a headset. It goes to show you how you can fool yourself for a long time if you’re prepared to suspend reality.”

In communication, there was a high probability that something was either misinterpreted or missed completely. For instance, she would ask him to take out the garbage and he would nod along without knowing what was being said.

Anne-Marie adjusted to this miscommunication by becoming more animated with her hands and gestures. She knew she had to be in front of Paul to effectively convey her message.

Hearing aids “have improved her life as much as it has improved mine”, Paul explains. “Now that I can hear, there is no strain when we communicate and I’m a much better listener because I have hearing aids.”

Two days after getting hearing aids, Paul called Anne-Marie into the laundry room and asked “do you hear crickets?” to which she replied, “we’ve had them in the house all summer, I’ve been telling you that.” Paul shares that being able to hear “gives your world back.”

“If someone had told me the day before I got hearing aids that you aren’t going to believe how much more energy you’re going to have, how much better humour you’re going to be in, and how much more you’re going to enjoy life, I would’ve said ‘you must be getting paid by the hearing company’… What a tremendous improvement these have created for me. It has changed my life.”

Written By Jessica Laurenza

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Strong Play is a strong, educational avenue for children

Written By ROBERT BELARDI



Volunteers Adib Razavi and Alexander Arthur aim to provide children's educational classes and sports tips right from home this summer.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Six years ago, the dream began.

Volunteers for Strong Play, Adib Razavi and Alexander Arthur, always had a sentimental idea of running a not-for-profit service to support families in need.

Initially, the service was intended to be solely in-person. However, a few years back, both highly driven individuals formulated an idea, predicated on providing a virtual service. Fast-forward to last year, when the global pandemic began, the virtual idea became the focal point.

Strong Play became a program to provide youth education in sports, technology and the arts.

"We wanted to be able to provide programming for youth in athletics and technology and anything related to enhance their knowledge and anything in the Canadian culture," Razavi said.

Receiving help from Canadian Red Cross, Strong Play was a successful project this summer. Offered in six-, eight- or 12-week sessions, Strong Play served 820 youth across the Greater Toronto Area.

Technology-based classes such as coding, 3D design, digital imaging, graphic design and financial literacy courses taught students everyday essentials. It also offered virtual coaching in soccer, basketball and dance. All of these meet mental health standards and needs for youth and some education on the COVID-19 virus.

"We've been able to design all of these programs with community partnerships in mind as well. A lot of parents have given us feedback on what has been useful in the past," Arthur said.

"The beautiful thing about Strong Play and having these programs for free and running them through Canadian Red Cross is we're able to bring programs that would otherwise be premium programs to anyone with access to a computer."

Students were provided with equipment this summer as per the grant from Canadian Red Cross. Parents had the availability to pick up the items before anything began.

As for students without access to technology, in-person holiday camps were available all summer.

Both Razavi and Arthur contacted 412 schools across the Toronto District School Board and York Region District School Board, 31 community centres, six MPs and over 30 private organizations to notify citizens.

Plenty of children in Aurora and Richmond Hill were enrolled, and the plan is to continue to expand beyond the city and York Region.

Razavi said the beautiful thing COVID has brought to us is the limitless virtual opportunities. Strong Play, Arthur added, hopes to reach out to other regions including Peel and Simcoe, as well as other provinces and internationally.

"Right now, we're in the process, hopefully, with the numbers going down we want to have a location up north. Maybe even Lake Simcoe or Newmarket," Razavi said.

And the program will look to expand to offer services to seniors. Services such as delivering groceries are being considered for seniors who need assistance with that this summer.

For those interested in enrolling their child for Strong Play this upcoming summer, head to strongplay.ca for more information.

You may contact Razavi and Arthur directly as well. To reach them, please email info.strongplay@gmail.com.

100 locations coaching you right from the screen

Written By ROBERT BELARDI

Orangetheory confirmed all 100 locations across Canada will be leading workout sessions virtually on Orangetheory Live, the science-based gym confirmed last Thursday.

Coaches will be offering real-time motivation in a period where exercising has seen a dramatic decline.

"While there are a multitude of at-home workouts available to Canadians, both free and paid, every one of these offerings fail to deliver on the most critical component of a successful fitness routine – the accountability and motivation that can only be delivered by a live local coach," said Blake MacDonald, President of Orangetheory Canada, in a statement.

"Our goal is to deliver world-class interactive, coach-led training to our members, regardless of the government timeline to re-open studios."

Based on a scientific approach, Orangetheory believes in excess post-exercise oxygen consumption (EPOC).

Exercise sessions are designed for patrons to use 84 to 91 per cent of their maximum heart rate in a one-hour session, consisting of cardio and weight training.

"You can connect your OTbeat Burn heart rate monitor so you and your coach can track your splat points and see your personalized results in real-time. Doing so gives you the motivation you need to get you through your workout and helps your coach make sure you don't overtrain or undertrain," MacDonald said.

For every minute of exercise, within the 84 to 91 percentile, one splat point will be awarded. If you achieve 12 splat points in a session, according to the science, your body will burn calories for 36 hours at a much faster rate.

As an in-home exercise over Orangetheory Live, a sole proprietor similar to Zoom, this is quite different than in-person sessions. Member Associate Nicholas Hunt at the Bolton location says members have been pleasantly surprised with their results.

"A lot of people are skeptical when it comes to a virtual work out. You don't really see how good it can be. Once we've had members come out, they almost get the same amount of splat points as they would in-studio and almost the same calorie burn," Hunt explained.

With virtual work outs, coaches understand not every member will have exercise equipment at their disposal at home. Orangetheory is basing at-home sessions as cardio-based sessions and body-weight exercises. Equipment is simply a bonus.

As for packages, members are encouraged to purchase a package deal and Orangetheory has reduced the prices.

The premiere package enabling a member to exercise at any time will be reduced by $50, an elite package with the availability to exercise eight times a month is reduced by $50 and the basic package will be reduced by $20 for four sessions a month.

"Orangetheory will continue to innovate as a response to Canadian health and fitness preferences. At this time, Orangetheory Live will be permanently included as a membership option," MacDonald said.

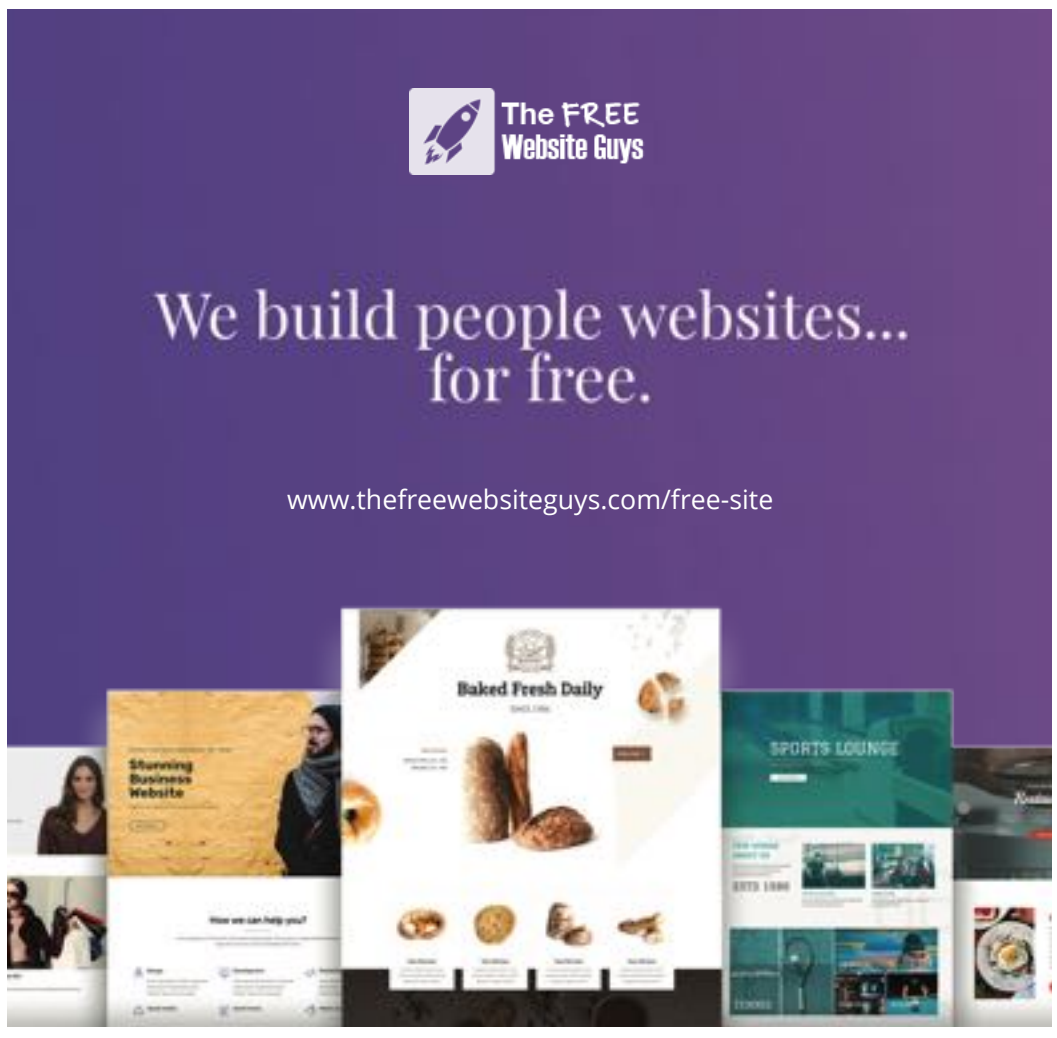


All 100 Orangetheory locations in Canada, including Bolton, be offering virtual classes for as long as the lockdown goes with discounts included.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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OBITUARIES

OBITUARIES

SKUTA, Patrick



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our dear father, Patrick Laurence Skuta on January 12th, 2021.
Born on September 7th 1930 in Fort William (Thunder Bay). Son of Andrew Skuta and Mary Guzda, immigrants from Czechoslovakia. Patrick grew up on a farm before his family moved to Port Colborne in 1940 on Borden Avenue to a house which still remains in the family to this day. He attended Welland High and in 1955, he moved to Welland where he resided for the rest of his days.
Patrick is predeceased by his parents, and nine siblings: Steve Skuta, Marjorie Odovichuck (Alex), Theresa McMaster (Harold), Irene St. Louis (Maurice), Andy Skuta, Bertha Hannigan (Johnny), Gloria Toth (Charlie), Zeta Colburne (Jimmy) and Butch Skuta and his son, Anthony. He is survived by his wife Shirley Skuta and sister-in-law, Iris Skuta. He will be dearly missed by his four children, Tammy, Tina, Kevin (Christine) and Patrick (Tisha), his loving grandchildren, Stephen Arcuri (Giulia) , Julian Arcuri (Carina), Nicholas and Christian Arcuri, Karly Jolin, Taylor and Jake Skuta, Angelique and Skylar Skuta, and great granddaughters, Rosalia and Gianna Arcuri. He will also be missed by his many nieces, nephews, cousins, many friends and to all who were lucky enough to encounter his infectious personality, unique sense of humour, and ability to make those in his presence feel special.
Patrick was a retired electrician and worked at Page Hersey/ Stelco for over 30 years. He was also a skilled carpenter whose perfectionism could be noted in the fine details of all his projects. His handy work and craftsmanship will be adored for many years in the homes of his loved ones. He loved to cook and share his creations with friends and family while entertaining them with his accordion and homemade wine. He had a love for music and passion for dancing. He was forever moving to a beat. He enjoyed the outdoors, animals, camping, horse shoeing, playing cards, traveling across Canada, and as of late, his weekly trips to Toronto. What brought Patrick great joy was gathering with his family while sharing good food and great laughs, and cheering on his children at their sporting events, which he often followed by leading post-game celebrations. In his later years he continued to cheer from the crowd as the number 1 fan of his grandchildren's sporting endeavours and events.
A special thank you to Dr P.J.Kundi for his care for over 40 years. To all the nurses in unit 5B but especially Carly, Sarah, Jo and Cocoa for their care and compassion with Dad and our family during his time at the St. Catharines General hospital.
To all the PSW's from Care Partners and Para Med over the years for their daily support and kindness towards our father, but especially to Sandi and Stacey who always went above and beyond their responsibilities.
Dad, your parents and siblings have been waiting for you. They have been tuning their instruments and warming up their voices. Now with you in heaven they can say, 'Let the party begin". Take care Dad, and continue to guide us from above! You will live in our hearts forever and always.
In keeping with Patrick's wishes, cremation has taken place with arrangements entrusted to the H. L. Cudney Funeral Home, 241 West Main Street, Welland. A burial ceremony and celebration of life will take place at a later date. Donations in Patrick's honour can be made to the Caring for my COPD program in Welland or the Welland Humane Society. Online condolences available at www.cudneyfuneralhome.com.

OBITUARIES

PATERSON, Grace Ivadel (nee Harkies)



Passed away peacefully and with dignity at the Margaret Bahen Hospice on Saturday, January 16, 2021 in her 98th year. Predeceased by her husband Nelson (1988) and siblings Jack (1989), Bessie (1992), Charlie (1996), James (1997), Mary (2017) and Ruth (2020). Big sister to Ralph Harkies, Orangeville, ON. Cherished and loving mother of Bonnie (George) Alexander, Queensville, ON and Craig (Kim), Victoria BC. Loving grandmother to Cheritee Alexander, Newmarket, ON; Nicole Alexander (Julian) Smerdon, Ajax, ON; Andrew (Kelsey) Paterson, Vancouver, BC and Brenna (David) Gardner, Houston, TX, USA. Beloved great grandmother (G.G.) to Amelia, Loghan, and Coulter Smerdon, Ajax, ON; Ronan and Katharine Alexander, Newmarket, ON; Hamish and Campbell Gardner, Houston, TX, USA and Frances Paterson-Snape, Vancouver, BC. The family wishes to thank the staff at Margaret Bahen Hospice for their kind and thoughtful care of our precious Mom. Due to the pandemic, a private family service will be held. A Celebration of Life to be arranged later in the year. M.W. Becker Funeral Home, Keswick, Ontario. If you wish to make a donation in memory of Grace, please consider Ravenshoe United Church (www.ravenshoeunitedchurch.com) or Southlake Hospital Foundation (www.southlake.ca/foundation). Sign an online book of condolences at mwbeckerfuneralhome.com

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Mom

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I miss and love you dearly

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Tears fall freely from my eyes

Like a river filled with grief

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From pain, you've found relief.

Missing You

Love Julie

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

DRUG PROBLEM? We've been there, we can help! Narcotics Anonymous meets over Zoom, via video call. The Zoom meeting information is: Meeting # 245 323 6271. Password: 1234. The meetings are hosted on Fridays & Sundays at 7:30 pm. Call anytime 519-215-0761. Shelburne is meeting at 7:30.

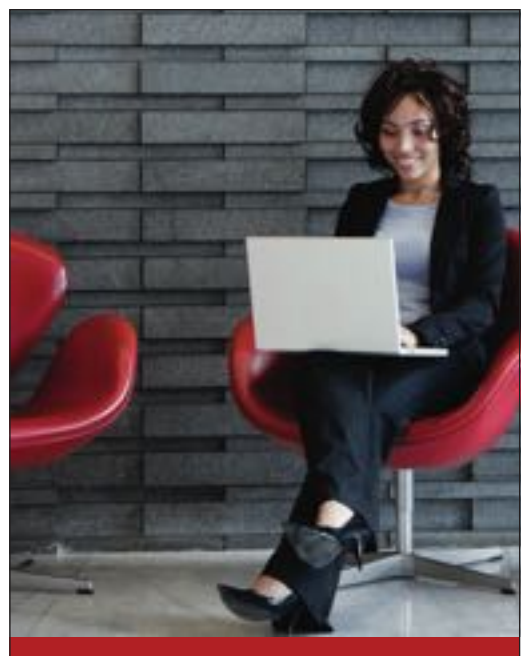
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Continued from A8

Our Readers Write

Open letter to MPP Sylvia Jones on Schedule 6

From my perspective, it seems the whole purpose of the Schedule 6 is to put development interests ahead of the public good.

Many former Progressive Conservative premiers including Leslie Frost, John Robarts, and Bill Davis understood that business is an essential part of a strong economy, but not the only part. Building prosperity requires a strong and devoted public service to ensure the broader public interest is protected.

I am very concerned that you, my MPP, have either not replied or have issued vague non-committal responses to the many letters from friends and acquaintances expressing their concerns about Schedule 6.

From your lack of response I surmise you agree with the undermining of Ontario's conservation authorities or lack the courage to tell Premier Ford and Municipal Affairs and Housing Minister Steve Clark that this legislation is fundamentally flawed.

One of the most vocal critics of Schedule 6 is Caledon Councillor and Toronto Region Conservation Authority chair Jennifer Innis, who expressed her opposition in a Toronto Star Op-Ed opinion piece.

As the MPP for Caledon, one of the Greenest Towns in Canada your silence on this matter is disturbing. I urge you to speak out against your government's dismantling of environmental protection policies and programs.

DAN O'REILLY
CALEDON

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER!



From left: Vince's Community Ambassador Maria Ciarlandini presents a cheque to WCYR's Interim Executive Director, Kelly Broome.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Vince's presents cheque to Women's Centre and announces 2021 Community Product Initiative recipient

Representatives from Vince's and from the Women's Centre of York Region (WCYR) assembled for a brief, socially-distanced presentation at the Sharon store last Friday. Here, proceeds from the 2020 Community Product Initiative were released after a successful year-long campaign, and the independent grocer was pleased to announce that $18,393.68 was raised to help WCYR continue their life-changing work.

"We are thrilled with the response from our customers, staff and vendors in making this happen," said Giancarlo Trimarchi, partner at Vince's. "The Community Product Initiative has so far raised nearly $60K over the past three years, and we expect continued, strong support in 2021."

As COVID-19 cases have surged, the Women's Centre of York Region has been dealing with more than just the virus. "We now have a 'Pandemic within a Pandemic,'" said Kelly Broome, Interim Executive Director, WCYR.

Following the province's stay-at-home orders, schools closed, and many workers were laid off or told to work from home. With personal movement restricted and people confined to their homes, regulations intended to protect the public and prevent widespread infection, left many intimate partner violence (IPV) victims trapped with their abusers.

"At the Women's Centre of York Region, our supporters are our heroes," added Broome. "Thank you, Vince's Market. With your support, our team has the ability to quickly provide urgent care for victims of IPV and can continue our mission to #HelpKeepHerSafe. We're all in this together and we'll get through this together. That's the power of the community."

Support for Mental Health

It is normal to feel anxious while dealing with the uncertainty of this pandemic. 2020 has been stressful for many, especially for those already dealing with some form of mental illness. Resources that have been strained during pre-COVID times are quickly becoming overloaded.

The Mental Health Program at Southlake Regional Health Centre is one of these key resources, and provides a wide range of services for children, adolescents and adults. It comprises a multidisciplinary team focused on helping people through acute mental illness, allowing individuals experiencing an urgent mental health crisis to find immediate care in a safe, private environment as soon as they need it. But COVID-19 is just one piece of the challenge. As one of Canada's fastest growing communities with a rapidly aging population, rising rates of dementia, addiction and mental illness, combined with impacts of the pandemic, Southlake is facing the perfect storm of challenges in providing mental health care.

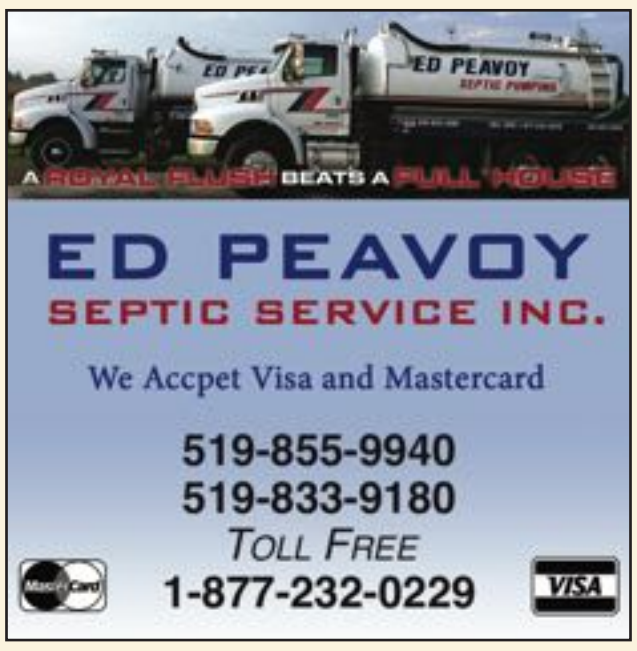
"Vince's is pleased to announce Southlake's Mental Health Program as the 2021 recipient for our Community Product Initiative," said Trimarchi. "The pandemic has severely stressed their resources, and we know how important this is for patients facing mental health challenges, and how this impacts them in their ability to contribute to their families, their workplaces, and to ensure their financial independence. I am honoured that we are able to help."

"We are so grateful to be partnering with Vince's Market to raise awareness and generate much-needed support for the Mental Health Program at Southlake," said Jennifer Klotz-Ritter, President & CEO, Southlake Foundation. "Vince's shares our commitment to create a healing environment that provides privacy, peace, dignity and security to ensure that we can make a vital difference in the recovery for mental health patients and their families. Together, we're building the right spaces at our hospital to give patients right here in our communities the leading-edge mental health care that they deserve, when it matters most."

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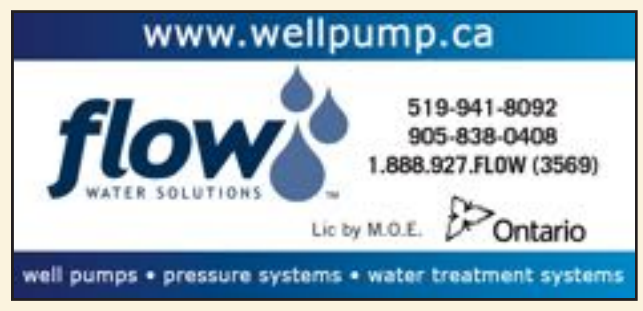




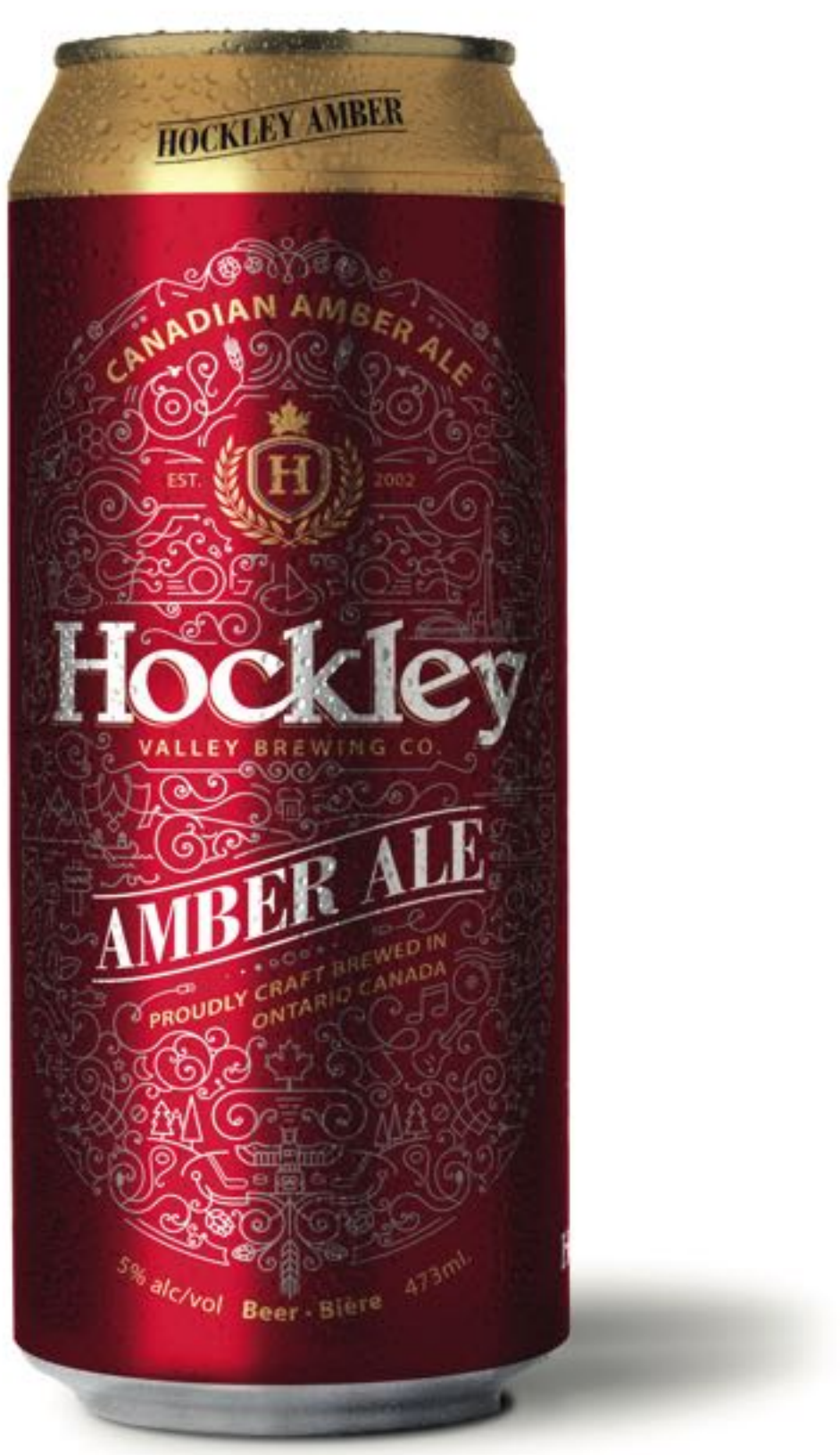
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