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On multigrain Ciabatta; sundried tomato and carmelized onions

Parmesan Veal Cutlet on Rosemanry Focaccia (nf) 14
Charred onion, bell pepper-tomato sauce, mozzarella melt

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Thinking about ordering enticing food for your Valentine?

Please visit our website and check out our Valentine's Menu offerings crafted by Chef Denis Jaricot.

Valentine's Dinner Menu for Two

FRIDAY, FEB. 12TH - SUNDAY, FEB. 14TH

3 COURSE MEAL

Salad or Soup

Kale and Romaine Caesar Salad
Proscuitto crisp, Parmesan croutons, Caesar dressing (nf)

Citrusy Salad (nf)
Endive and romaine lettuce; Blood Orange Dressing
Grilled "River's Edge" goat cheese Crostini

Caledon Minestrone Soup (nf)
Baked in spiced butternut squash cup with a pastry dome

Entree Choice

Air-Fried Halibut Fillet with Fennel Fondue
Lobster meat and yellow kernel corn hash (nf)

Pheasant Supreme, Sour Cherry Chutney
Wild mushroom-juniper berry thigh confit stuffing

Charbroiled 8 oz Angus Beef Tenderloin with Crushed Peppercorn-Herb Rub
Foie gras parfait, shallot-Merlot reduction; horseradish cream (nf, gf)

"Amaranth" Mushroom Risotto and Spaghetti Squash Pot
Wilted greens, broad beans; roasted eggplant-tahini dipping sauce (vg, nf, gf, df)

All Entrees Include

Double baked Yukon gold potato in jacket with parsnip mash and sharp cheddar (nf, gf)
Bouquet of winter squash, root vegetable and rapini (vg, nf, gf, df)

Dessert for Two (nf)

Strawberry-Mascarpone Millefeuille
Chocolate Ganache and Grand Marnier Cream Profiterole
Rhubarb-Blueberry Crisp

vg - denotes vegan • gf - denotes gluten free
nf - denotes nut free • df - denotes dairy free

Note: Consult with us for Vegan alternative options.

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FREE | Thursday, January 28, 2021 | Volume 41, Issue 4



WINTER WONDERLAND - Shirley and Anthony of Caledon's Community Services Department were spotted maintaining the outdoor rink at the Caledon Centre for Recreation and Wellness in Bolton on Sunday afternoon. The outdoor rinks are proving a particularly popular destination this winter as stay-at-home orders have allowed exemptions for outdoor ice pads. Inset: Milenka and mom Jenny hit the ice.

PHOTOS BY GLENN RODGER

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Community offers input on 2021 Budget

BY ALYSSA PARKHILL
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

A day after Budget discussions at the January 19 General Committee meeting, the Town held a public open house to hear from the community on the proposed 2021 budget.

Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) at the Town of Caledon, Carey Herd, opened the public meeting by giving a brief presentation to provide residents some highlights of the proposed 2021 Budget.

The proposal has a tax levy increase of 1.08 per cent with a blended rate of 1.34 per cent, a reduction of 0.92 per cent from the original number after staff delegated funding from other sources on two projects, rather than from the taxpayers.

Staff at the Town continued to look at other ways to reduce the tax levy increase while working to meet the two per cent target goal given by Council back in September.

"Staff took an extra hard look at the Budget and decided to delay a number of hires as well as withdrawing a number head count request," said Herd.

The COVID-19 pandemic played a strong hand in discussions by staff.

"Since March 2020, staff have been adapting and pivoting to service delivery in response to COVID-19," said Herd. "I'm very proud of the work we have done."

Some of these included the Love Local Campaign to support small businesses, moving Council meetings online, a new digital platform for building permits, virtual programs and, most recently, Winterfest.

"The 2021 Proposed Budget takes into consideration the ongoing pressures related to COVID-19," continued Herd.

Members of the community submitted a variety of questions relating to the proposed budget for staff members and Council to answer and discuss.

One of the questions stated that Brampton and Markham are two municipalities that have frozen property taxes for their residents, but why not in Caledon?

Continued on Page 17

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Province investing in expanding broadband in Caledon

BY ALYSSA PARKHILL
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The journey towards to improving broadband across Caledon has taken another major step in the right direction.

Together, the provincial and federal government announced on January 25 up to $4.3 million in broadband infrastructure funding in order to improve and expand broadband for residents and businesses in Caledon.

The Town of Caledon, alongside Dufferin-Caledon MP Kyle Seeback and Solicitor General and MPP Sylvia Jones, have been advocating for broader, faster and more reliable internet in the rural areas of Caledon.

"At a time when people are depending more on broadband and having access to high-speed internet, I am pleased to see

Continued on Page 6

Win
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Peel's COVID-19 numbers decrease as provincial emergency extends for another 14 days

BY ALYSSA PARKHILL
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Peel Region's COVID-19 number are seeing a slight downward turn, following a decrease of cases Province-wide.

Peel reported 320 new cases on January 26, totalling 52,826 and 530 deaths.

Brampton continues to show the highest numbers out of Peel with a total of 32,920, followed by 18,740 in Mississauga and 2,027 in Caledon.

The stay-at-home order put in place by the Provincial government may be proving its worth as numbers continue to decrease across the province. Ontario reported 1,740 positive cases on Tuesday, with 63 new deaths.

Alongside Peel, fellow hotspots Toronto and York Region showed 677 new cases and 144 in York Region respectively.

There have been 8,433 vaccines administered in Peel Region long-term care homes to residents and staff. In total across Ontario 295,817 have been administered, with 83,285 completed.

Though the recent delay in COVID-19 vaccines due to the notification of reductions in the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine shipments, the Province has had to make specific adjustments and priorities.

Ontario has announced that they will not receive vaccine shipments for the week of January 25 and will receive 26,000 on the first week of February. In order to ensure proper distribution, the Provincial government has organized a plan to protect the provinces most vulnerable.

"Due to the delay in the next shipment of Pfizer vaccine doses, we are ensuring all available supplies are redirected to those who need them most: our residents in long-term care and retirement homes," said Premier Doug Ford. "I know this will mean that some people may have to reschedule their vaccine appointments, but it is critical that our most vulnerable seniors receive the protection they need as soon as possible."

First Nations communities, as well as residents at long-term care residences are main priority for distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine.

"Despite ongoing challenges with supply, together with our partners, we continue to vaccinate our most vulnerable as quickly as possible, and we continue to be ready to administer vaccines to Ontarians as soon as we receive them from the federal government," said Health Minister Christine Elliott. "Until there is sufficient supply to vaccinate every Ontarian who wants to receive one, we continue to urge everyone to stay home and continue to follow public health measures."

As the Province continues to prepare for further shipments of the vaccine, additional vaccination sites are planned to be expanded as Ontario has stated a goal to have a capacity of 40,000 people per day being vaccinated, a number which will continue to increase as supply becomes more available.

Local students to continue online learning

BY BROCK WEIR

Students in Peel will continue learning from home – at least for the time being.

Area students who have been out of the classroom since Winter Break will have to continue cooling their heels before returning to class, the Province announced last week.

On January 12, Ontario's Ministry of Education announced elementary and secondary school students in York and Peel, Toronto, Windsor-Essex, and Hamilton will continue remote learning. A further announcement on January 20 noted 100,000 students in select communities would be returning to class on Monday, with the above regions among the many missing the cut.

In the meantime, the Ministry said for the Regions left behind in this re-opening plan, health trends in these areas would be monitored closely.

"To support families during this period, child care will remain open and available for non-school aged children across the province," said the Province. "Where elementary schools continue to be closed for in-person learning, before and after school programs continue to be closed and prohibited from charging parent fees. Emergency child care will be extended to support those workers that require it during this period

"To support students facing mental health difficulties, the Government announced an additional and immediate $10 million from its Phase 2 federal funding allocation to support student mental health and expand access to services in both rural and urban communities. This funding builds on the Government's investment of more than $32.5 million in student mental health since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. This investment supports up to 475 additional staff to support student mental health and compliments the addition of 625 school-based public health nurses and expanded mental health education."



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE TOWN OF CALEDON

Caledon opens new COVID-19 testing centre in Southfields

BY ALYSSA PARKHILL
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Caledon residents will now be able to get tested for the COVID-19 virus right here in Town

The newly-opened Southfields Community Centre will now be home to the first COVID-19 testing centre in Caledon.

Residents can book an appointment every Wednesday between the times of 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. if feeling any symptoms, or may have come in contact with someone who tested positive, at (905) 796-4922.

COVID-19 testing centres will also be opening in the Bolton and Caledon East communities at a later date.


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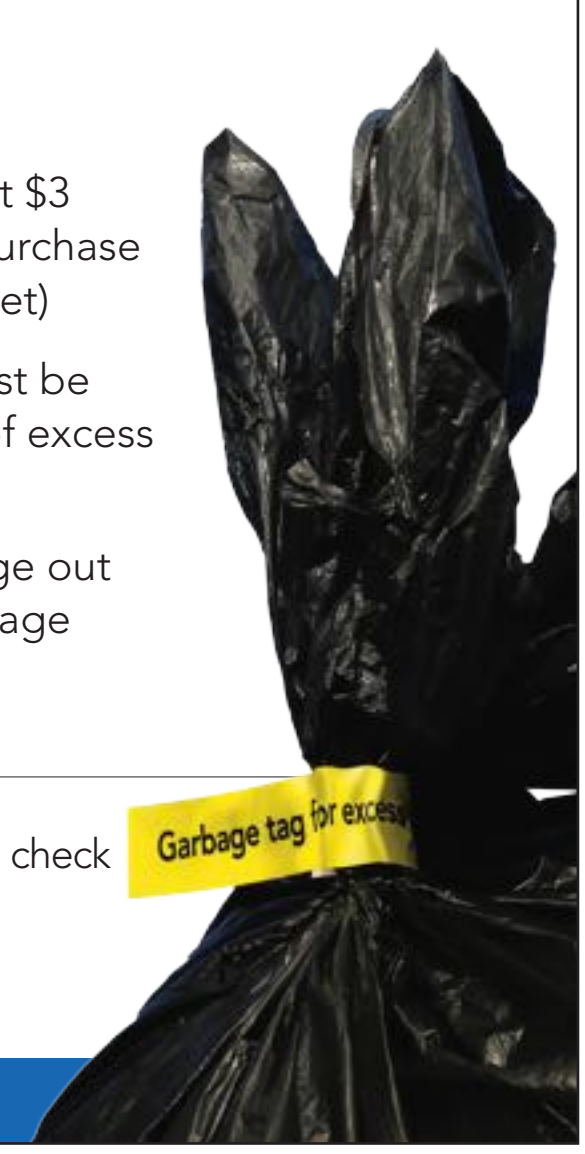
Garbage tag sales resume

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:

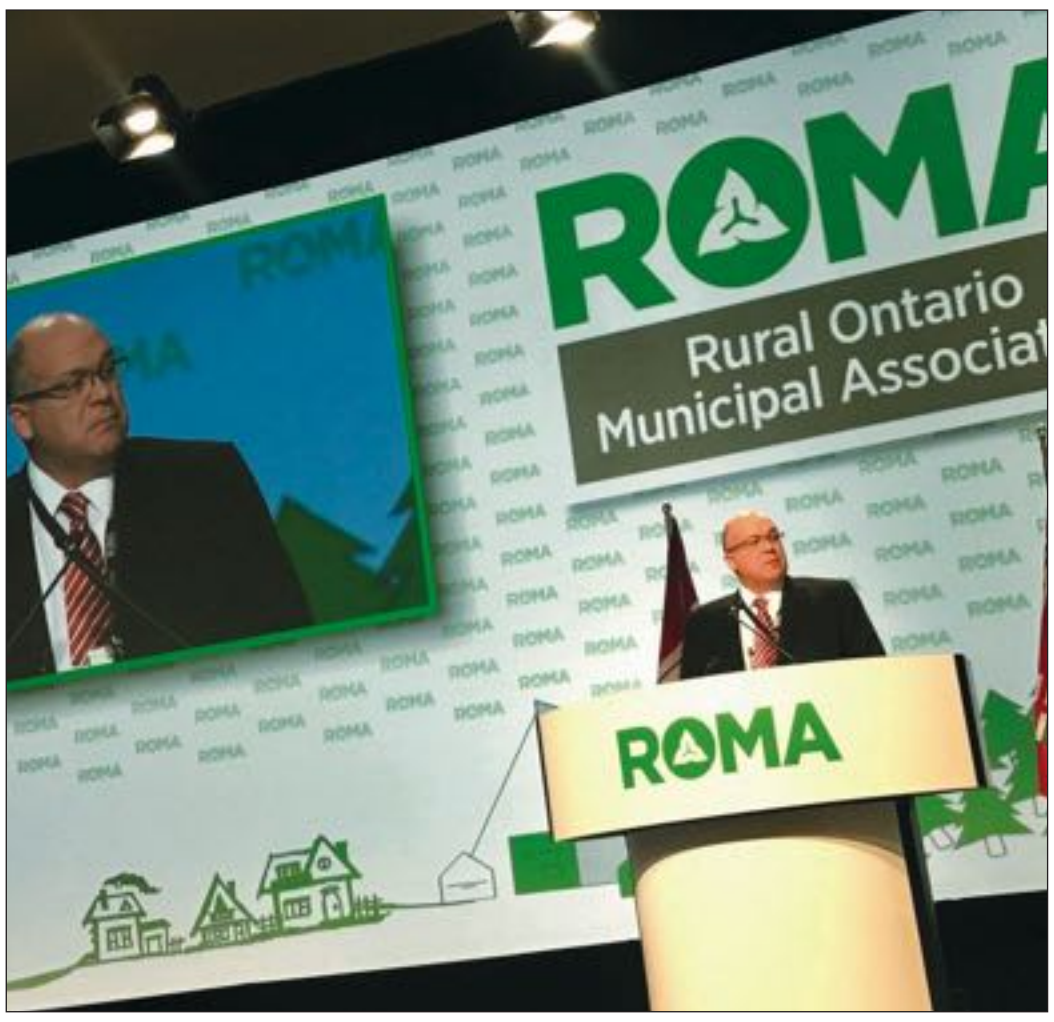
- Garbage tags cost $3 each. Minimum purchase of 5 tags (or 1 sheet)
- Garbage tags must be used to dispose of excess garbage bags
- Put excess garbage out only on your garbage collection day



For more information, check peelregion.ca/waste

WMG-0960 2021/01

Council advocates for Caledon at ROMA annual conference



Mayor Allan Thompson was appointed the Chair of Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) in 2019.
PHOTO BY MAYOR ALLAN THOMPSON

BY ALYSSA PARKHILL
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) annual conference was held virtually this year due to the pandemic, where various levels of government attending for speeches, delegations and workshops.

From January 25 to January 26, more than 1,100 participants from rural areas in Ontario, municipalities, organizations, as well as provincial and federal governments joined the 2021 conference.

The theme for the ROMA conference this year was ROMA: Connecting Rural Ontario. This year's conference was the first virtual ROMA meeting since the pandemic began.

Several topics discussed in the conference between provincial and municipal representatives included the COVID-19 vaccine rollout, municipal insurance, long-term care, economic recovery, public health, mental health resources, childcare, and broadband.

The Town of Caledon took the opportunity of this year's conference to voice several issues that have been priority for Caledon.

These included COVID-19 assistance, improved technology in the courts system, increased broadband connectivity, traffic measures, GO transit services, Agri-tourism and the protection of employment lands.

"This is a great opportunity for Caledon to make our voice heard," said Mayor Allan Thompson. "Despite the pandemic, we are continuing to work on behalf of the people of Caledon. Whether it's better internet, safer roads, more public transit or support for agriculture, this is where a lot of the hard work gets done to make change happen."

Mayor Thompson is the current Chair of ROMA and was one of the key speakers that led the conference.

He was joined by members of Caledon Council as well as staff who attended to advocate for the community. The Town stated the conference was an opportunity to connect with members of different levels of government and colleagues from across the province, as well as to bring up important issues.

Alongside Mayor Thompson, some other key attendees at the conference included Premier of Ontario Doug Ford, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Steve Clark, Minister of Health Christine Elliott, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Ernie Hardeman, and several others.

Some of the major highlights of the conference included an announcement the investment of $40 million from the provincial government to assist small and rural municipalities provide the necessary services and programs for their residents.

The funding comes from the Municipal Modernization Program which is an $125 million project through 2022-2023 to help rural communities save taxpayers' dollars.

"COVID-19 has highlighted opportunities for small and rural municipalities to modernize local services," said Mayor Thompson. "This funding will help municipal governments to review processes and improve services to be more efficient and better meet community needs."

In 2020, 184 projects led by smaller rural municipalities were funded by the province.

"Our government recognizes that COVID-19 has created challenges for everyone, including small and rural municipalities," said Minister Clark in a statement. "By working hand-in-hand with our local partners, we have ensured that vital services continue to be delivered to individuals, families and businesses. The funding we are announcing today will build on the progress we have made together and allow for further review and modernization of local services so we can get the best return on taxpayers' dollars."

For further information about the conference, visit roma.on.ca.



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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"2021—your year for your career," *by Cathy Perennec McLean, Director off Employment & Chrissy Jarvie, Communications Lead*



Are you sticking to your New Year's resolutions? Data from the social fitness network *Strava* shows many of us give up our health and fitness resolutions by January 19th. So many that the date is dubbed 'quitter's day'.

One of the biggest reasons we give up is that the size of the challenge becomes overwhelming without a support system. Mastering a new language is daunting but mastering a couple conversational sentences a week is manageable. Better yet is when you have a friend or family member, or CCS helping you.

If your resolutions involve your career, Caledon Community Service's Employment and Training team is your #1 source in Caledon. Making us your first call is a smart move. We offer a variety of programs and services to support your employment goals and even the COVID-19 pandemic hasn't gotten in the way of helping you. Now you can access the support you need virtually from the comfort of your home (on your couch, in your PJs – we won't judge!)

If you haven't made your career resolutions for 2021 or need a hand to get on track, here are some suggestions.

Find your dream career: if you're looking for meaningful employment, you're not alone. According to a poll conducted by job search site *Monster*, 47% of respondents set new career goals for 2021, with nearly half noting a new job as their #1 priority. CCS makes job searching easy with our online job bank which includes full-time, part-time and seasonal opportunities in a wide variety of industries in and around Caledon.

Refresh your employment tools: If you need to refresh your resume and cover letter, our team can offer tips for improvement. For eligible job seekers we also offer job matching and coaching to help you put your best foot forward.

Learn a new skill or improve existing skills: in a report by *The Canadian Press*, president of *Randstad Technologies, Carolyn Levy*, attributes a boom in e-commerce for creating high demand for jobs which move goods from businesses to the consumer as well as a high demand for IT workers as businesses make the shift to digital workspaces. Whether you need to learn something new or want to improve an existing skill, we can connect you with digital training opportunities like '*Accenture Skills to Succeed'* or recommend specialized training programs like '*Second Career'*.

Wherever you want your career to go, we're here to help. Take advantage of our many programs and services at ccs4u.org or email jobs@ccs4u.org to connect with our team. Find out if you're eligible for our assisted services which offer one-on-one support to drive your success. Make CCS part of your employment journey and let us help you make the most of your career in 2021.

How Do You See It?

Tell us how you see it.
Cathy Perennec McLean, Director of Employment and Training, Caledon Community Services at 905-584-2300 ext. 220 or cmclean@ccs4u.org

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

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Visit ontario.ca/COVIDsupport to apply

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DECEASED IDENTIFIED IN BOLTON HOMICIDE

On January 18, at approximately 12:26 p.m., officers from the Caledon Detachment of the OPP responded to a reported shooting at a residence in the area of Harvest Moon Drive, Bolton, in the Town of Caledon.

"Upon arrival, officers located two male victims inside a residence," said Police. "One was pronounced deceased at the scene and the second victim was injured and transported to hospital."

The deceased male has been identified as Giovanni Costa, 65, of Bolton.

The investigation is ongoing by the Caledon Detachment Major Crime Unit under the direction of the Criminal Investigation 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.

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.

"In order to protect our communities, the OPP is always on the lookout for suspicious activity," said Police. "You can help keep your community safe by reporting suspicious activity to police or Crime Stoppers. The OPP remains committed to keeping the communities it polices as safe as possible."

STREET CRIME UNIT ARREST SIX IN DRUG INVESTIGATION

Officers from the Caledon OPP Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU) assisted by the CSCU and Emergency Response Team members from Central Region, OPP Aviation Services, Regional Support Team, UCRT, as well as York and Peel Regional Police Services, executed several search warrants and made six arrests related to drug trafficking in the Town of Caledon.

After a lengthy police investigation, Caledon OPP CSCU members identified several suspects trafficking cocaine into Caledon. On Wednesday, January 20, officers executed five search warrants on the residences of the suspects – two in Caledon, two in Brampton, and one in Stouffville.

The following property was seized as a result:

- Over 1.5 kg of cocaine worth over $150,000
- Two handguns, magazines and ammunition;
- One replica handgun;
- Brass knuckles;
- Two Tasers;
- Taser cartridges;
- Cellular telephones;
- Digital scales;
- Packaging material;
- Over $ 20,000 dollars in Canadian currency;
- Money counting machines; and
- Three vehicles

Six individuals had been arrested in relation to this investigation and are facing numerous charges.

David Bedard, 46, of Bolton, has been charged with Participate in criminal organization; and Trafficking in schedule I substance - cocaine.

The charges have not been proven.

Ryan Suitor, 33, of Bolton, has been charged with: Participate in criminal organization; Possession of a Schedule I substance for the purpose of trafficking - cocaine; Possession of a scheduled substance - heroin; Possession of a scheduled substance - cocaine; Possession of proceeds of property obtained by crime over $5,000; Resist peace officer; Obstruct peace officer; Fail to comply with release order - four counts.

The charges have not been proven.

Winston Walters, 47, of Brampton, has been charged with Participate in criminal organization; Possession of schedule I substance for the purpose of trafficking - cocaine; Trafficking in schedule I substance - cocaine; Careless storage of a firearm - two counts; Possession of property obtained by crime over $5,000; Possession of prohibited device - four counts; Possession of prohibited ammunition; Possession of a prohibited firearm - two counts; Unauthorized possession of a prohibited firearm - two counts; Fail to comply with undertaking - two counts.

The charges have not been proven.

Leonzio Carbone, 33, of Stouffville, has been charged with: Participate in criminal organization; Possession of schedule I substance for the purpose of trafficking - cocaine; Trafficking in schedule I substance - cocaine.

The charges have not been proven.

The accused parties were held for a bail hearing and will appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on a later date.

Kedecea Hibbert-Walters, 36, of Brampton has been charged with: Possession of schedule I substance for the purpose of trafficking - cocaine; Possession of property obtained by crime over $5,000.

The charges have not been proven.

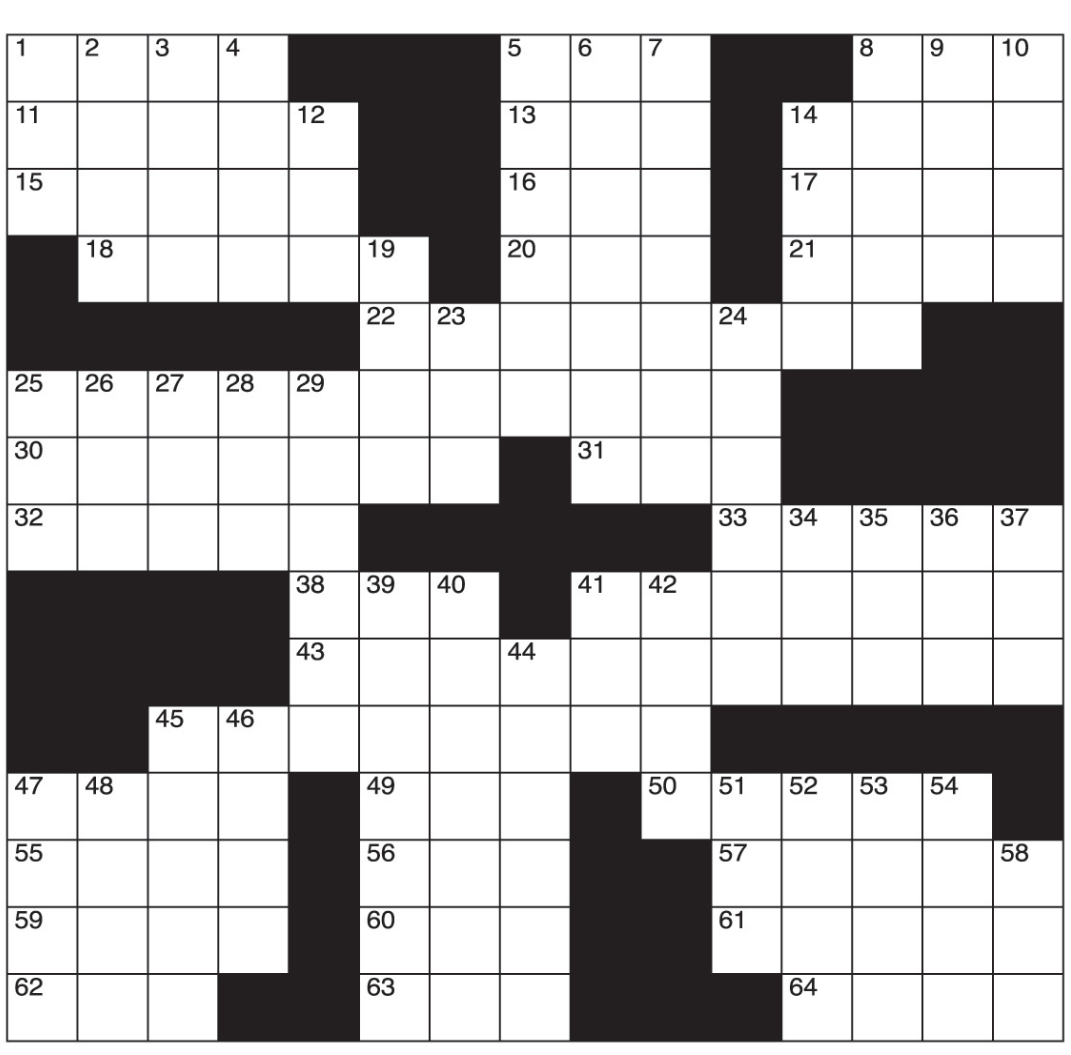
The accused party is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on March 29, 2021 to answer to the charges.

Saneek Moody, 31, of Brampton, is charged with: Possession of schedule I substance for the purpose of trafficking - cocaine; Careless storage of a firearm; Unauthorized possession of a firearm; Knowledge of unauthorized possession of

Continued on Page 12

The Citizen CROSSWORD

Solution on page A12



CLUES ACROSS

1. Gather a harvest
5. Federal Republic of Germany
8. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
11. "The Little Mermaid"
13. The common gibbon
14. Volcanic island in Fiji
15. Mother of Perseus
16. Egg cells
17. Teams' best pitchers
18. Credit associations
20. Advance
21. Hair styling products
22. Benign tumors
25. Arriving early
30. Called it a career
31. __ Paulo, city
32. Avoid with trickery
33. Easter egg
38. Veterans battleground
41. Lack of success
43. Thing that causes disgust
45. Deep, continuing sound
47. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
49. You might put it in a fire
50. Partner to "oohed"
55. Actor Idris
56. Slippery
57. Plant of the bean family
59. One point north of northeast
60. Patti Hearst's captors
61. Places to hang clothes
62. Midwife
63. Of she
64. S. Korean statesman

CLUES DOWN

1. Cool!
2. Amounts of time
3. Aboriginal people of Japan
4. Popular veggies
5. Wedding accessory
6. Deep, narrow gorges
7. Dry cereal
8. Competitions that require speed
9. Cain and __
10. Snake sound
12. Type of amino acid (abbr.)
14. Pattern of notes in Indian music
19. Satisfy
23. Misfire
24. Nearsightedness
25. Indicates before
26. Increase motor speed
27. When you hope to get there
28. Indicates position
29. Where rockers perform
34. Substitute
35. __ juris: of one's own right
36. Earliest form of modern human in Europe: __-magnon
37. Adult female bird
39. Do away with
40. Lens
41. Flattened appendage
42. Post or pillar in Greek temple
44. A medieval citizen of Hungary
45. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
46. Abba __, Israeli politician
47. Sew
48. Evergreen trees and shrubs having oily one-seeded fruits
51. Swiss river
52. Grayish-white
53. A way to illustrate
54. College basketball superpower
58. Midway between south and southeast

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

100 Women Who Care Caledon reach major milestone



The Caledon Seniors' Centre was the latest recipient of donations from 100 Women Who Care in Caledon.
PHOTO BY 100 WOMEN WHO CARE CALEDON

BY ALYSSA PARKHILL
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

100 Women Who Care Caledon has reached a major milestone for their organization, crossing the threshold of raising $100,000 for local charities in the Caledon community.

Since 2017, 100 Women Who Care Caledon have been meeting four times a year to raise funds for charities and organizations in our community.

Each participant donates $100 and members join together to nominate a charity or organization to receive their donation. Three charities are chosen and selected to present to the group of women about their group, outlining who they are and what they do.

The group of women then vote, and a recipient is chosen based on the most votes.

The most recent recipient was the Caledon Seniors Centre who marked their final 2020 donation.

In celebration of the Centre's 25 years of service in the community, 100 Women Who Care Caledon donated $5,000 to recognize the tireless work Caledon Seniors Centre has put in over the past two decades.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the group has made the necessary adaptions in order to keep the meetings going. Virtual meetings began taking place in lieu of their in-person meetings that are held at The Caledon Ski Club.

Looking back on the previous year, though there were challenges, 100 Women Who Care Caledon still had the ability and opportunity to keep giving back to the community.

"Every cheque presentation is a highlight for our group. It is gratifying to deliver the cheques and know that they will have an impact on our community," said Chair Karen McDonald. "Planning and executing our move to virtual meetings was also a highlight. We miss getting together at The Caledon Ski Club for our meetings but are glad that we have been able to find a way to continue to give together."

The concluding donation to the Caledon Seniors Centre put them at a milestone donation total of $100,000 raised. The group says it is thrilled to be able to hit such a significant number, especially after the hardships of this past year.

"It was such a great way to end a challenging year. We feel gratitude to our members, past and present, for their part in the group effort to have a meaningful impact on the community," explained McDonald. "It is truly a collaboration and being part of a group that gives together is very satisfying. The milestone of $100,000 is very exciting. We are all very proud of this group."

The group has had their fair share of challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The group was concerned about the impacts of moving virtual would have on donations, as well as keeping members and encouraging more to join.

Their main goal for 2021, besides continuing raising funds to support local charities and organizations in Caledon, is to encourage others to join.

"Our goal for 2021 and beyond is to increase our membership, which, in turn, increases the amount we can donate to each charity," McDonald said. "We haven't set a monetary goal for the year. We acknowledge that charitable donations are not front of mind for many right now and know that any amount of money raised can make a difference for the charities we donate to. It is very difficult for these groups to raise money now without the ability to hold in person fundraising events. They have had to become very creative with their fundraising during the pandemic."

The group is promoting memberships on their social media as well as presentations for various community groups and are hopeful to see new members this year.

"New members are always welcome to join as either an individual or as a team of up to four women," said McDonald.

100 Women Who Care Caledon will be conducting a Zoom presentation for the Caledon Seniors' Centre next month.

To learn more about 100 Women Who Care Caledon or to become a member, please visit 100womenwhocarecaledon.com.



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華語 : 416.880.6889 h.huang@laservices.ca

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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.

Stop the Spread
COVID-19 can be deadly.
Stay home.
Stay strong.
Save lives.

Visit **ontario.ca/coronavirus**
Paid for by the Government of Ontario
Ontario



The Town of Caledon residents will be receiving improved internet services thanks to the funding from the provincial and federal governments. **FILE PHOTO**

Province investing in expanding broadband

Continued from FRONT

the construction phase begin in Caledon," said Jones in a statement. "Our government is committed to expanding broadband internet access and these two projects getting started will increase access to reliable internet services for many households in our community."

Two projects have been developed in order to ensure rural areas of Caledon receive improved internet services. Both the provincial and federal government are funding $1.1 million towards these projects.

The first project will be constructed in the area of Mount Wolfe where construction is expected to be completed by the end of this year. It will provide improved broadband to 375 homes as well as businesses in the Mount Wolfe community.

The second project will be brought to 471 homes and businesses in Albion and Centreville Creek and is aimed to be completed by March 2022.

"The beginning of construction of broadband infrastructure in Caledon is an important step forward in our plan to deliver broadband that supports better educational opportunities, attracts more businesses and creates jobs," said Ernie Hardeman, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. "It's extremely important that we continue to expand broadband connectivity to our rural and remote areas, because the internet has become a critical tool that is used in almost every aspect of life."

The expansion is already underway by Southwestern Integrated Fibre Technology Inc. (SWIFT), a non-profit organization set to connect underserved areas in Southwestern Ontario.

These projects are a part of SWIFT's $209 million broadband expansion plan.

Additionally, SWIFT has partnered with telecommunications company Vianet who are making sufficient progress, especially during not only the pandemic, but the winter months.

"It's exciting to see shovels in the ground," said Mayor Allan Thompson. "This construction will mean literally hundreds more households in Caledon will have access to high-speed internet in the coming months. Thank you to Vianet for working so quickly to lay this cable and thank you to our federal and provincial partners and to SWIFT for their support."

This isn't the first time the Town has worked with SWIFT. In October this past year, SWIFT invested $6.2 million in high-speed fibre broadband where several communities were impacted including Mount Wolfe, Albion, Centreville Creek and the Grange.

Even farther back in 2020, 35 kilometre of new fibre optic cable was installed by Vianet along the Caledon Trailway in January.

These investments are in result of the dedication and hard work Mayor Allan Thompson and members of Council have put in, as improved broadband has and continues to be a main priority for the Town.

HILLS of HEADWATERS COLLABORATIVE

CAREGIVERS IN THE HILLS

Providing an unpaid caregiver with an i.d. card. It's a simple concept that can have a big impact for caregivers.



This is Cheryl, who is a caregiver for her husband, Richard.

I AM A CAREGIVER

Caregivers in the Hills is a program developed to provide recognition and validation of the caregiver role within healthcare; recognizing the caregiver as an essential partner in care and part of the healthcare team.

Caregivers in the Hills is partnering with The Alzheimer Society of Dufferin County and Dufferin Child and Family Services caregivers in Phase 1 of the program.
Visit our website to partipate in our survey:
www.yourvoicehillsofheadwaters.ca

info@hillsofheadwaterscollaborative.ca
@hhcollaborative

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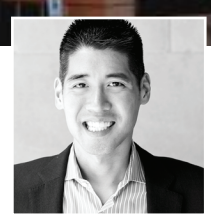
Caledon COVID-19 Testing Sites

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, Caledon
Every Wednesday | 2 - 8 p.m.

Call 905-796-4922 to book an appointment.
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

Bolton Downtown Revitalization Plan

Public Information Meeting

Date: February 2, 2021
Time: 7 p.m.

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.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

George Street and McFaul Street Stormwater Impact Assessment

NOTICE OF COMPLETION

The Town of Caledon has completed a Stormwater Impact Assessment which addresses drainage issues experienced by property owners on George Street and McFaul Street. The purpose of the assessment was to analyze the existing drainage system, identify potential drainage causes and issues, and develop solutions.

Five alternative solutions have been developed. The preferred and recommended strategy is a complete reconstruction of George Street and McFaul Street including an urban cross section with curb. This involves:

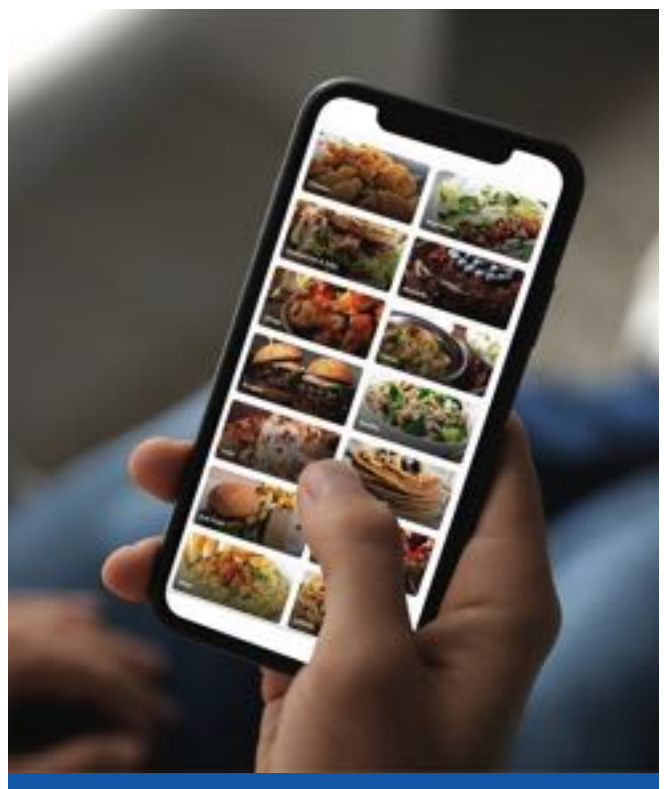
- A new storm inlet on both streets with a series of catchbasins and maintenance holes to capture surface runoff
- New curbs along with gutters on both sides of George and McFaul Street
- The installation of portable water and sanitary services

Alternative solutions were conducted solely based on the technical review/feasibility study of the project area. Studies on environmental features were not included.

If you have any questions or comments, please send them directly to:

Margi Sheth, M.Eng., EIT
Senior Project Manager
6311 Old Church Road,
Caledon, ON L7C 1J6
905.584.2272 x.4258
Margi.Sheth@caledon.ca





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LOCAL

Coming Soon

Live streaming of Council meetings now available!

caledon.ca/agenda

FEBRUARY

1 Heritage Caledon & Accessibility Advisory Committee CANCELLED

Council (Ward Boundary Review), 2:30 p.m.

2 General Committee, 2:30 p.m.

Planning & Development Committee, 7 p.m.

Public Meeting: Downtown Bolton Revitalization, 7 p.m.

3 COVID-19 Town Hall with Dr. Loh, 6 p.m.

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

15 Family Day Holiday Offices closed

16 Council (Budget), 6 p.m.

17 Committee of Adjustment, 1:00 p.m.

Open House: Fireworks By-law, 6 p.m.

Also, check out the community events calendar:

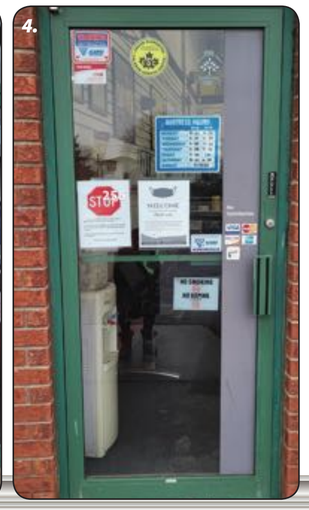
caledon.ca/events

Hometown Guess Whose Door of Caledon Contest

























Win $1000 IN PRIZES

"Local Merchant Care Package"

Contest will run in the Jan 28th, Feb 4th and Feb 11th editions of The Caledon Citizen.

Simply email a picture of your list of businesses, in the correct order, to: zach@lpcmedia.ca

Entries must be submitted by 5pm on Friday February 12th.

If your entry form has all 20 businesses matched to the correct door, you will be entered into a Draw for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place prizes. Winners will be selected and announced in the February 18th Caledon Citizen.

Top Prize: $500 gift card bundle
2nd & 3rd prize: $250 gift card bundles

All correct entries will be entered into a draw for the Care Package. Must be 18 years of age or older to win.

One entry per person per week.

Match the Correct Door to the Participating Businesses

☐ 1.	☐ 11.
☐ 2.	☐ 12.
☐ 3.	☐ 13.
☐ 4.	☐ 14.
☐ 5.	☐ 15.
☐ 6.	☐ 16.
☐ 7.	☐ 17.
☐ 8.	☐ 18.
☐ 9.	☐ 19.
☐ 10.	☐ 20.

Participating Businesses

SYMPOSIUM	CHEEKS RESTAURANT
ZEHRS	OXFORD LEARNING
TOM THE BUTCHER	SALT CAVE BOLTON
JIFFY LUBE	TIRE JUNCTION
DEANNA HUCLACK PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION	FOUR CORNERS
BOLTON PHARMASAVE	CALEDON ROOTS
DESJARDINS INSURANCE	AUTOMOTIVE MAINTENANCE
MCDONALDS CALEDON VILLAGE	NATURALLY BULK
MOUNTAINVIEW PHYSIO	BOSS LEATHER
BOLTON FAMILY DENTAL	FOODLAND CALEDON EAST

Good luck to all and what a great way to get up and go for a walk, drive or bike ride to make sure you have the right doors chosen for each business.

Contest sponsored by THE CALEDON CITIZEN and the participating businesses.

Good Luck!



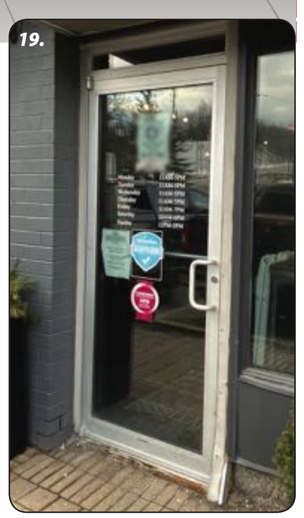














Brock's Banter

Changing of the Guard – Welcome or Otherwise

BY BROCK WEIR

Whether we want it or not, Canada often seems behind the trend in many cases compared to our neighbours, and it takes a year or two to catch up. Again, whether we like it or not.

Pierre Trudeau once famously said of the relationship between North America's two largest nations, "Living next to you is in some ways like sleeping with an elephant. No matter how friendly and even-tempered is the beast, if you can call it that, one is affected by every twitch and grunt."

This is, I believe one of the contributing factors to what felt, at least to me, a vague sense of unease in this country following events in another on January 6. Perhaps it was because what we saw on our screens twhat day was unlike anything we have seen before. Perhaps it was the idea that if this is the kind of thing that is fermenting in the States, it is only going to be a matter of time before we get our first whiff.

And then things got eerily quiet once the now-former President of the United States was booted from his virtual bully pulpit, one from which he regularly bombarded us with pithy Tweets that had real and immediate consequences not only on the United States but the world writ large.

It was the beginning of the end of the end.

We knew that change was in the air, but, if the last four years have taught us something, it is that anything can happen. So, the rest of us had no choice but to sit back and see how it would all unfold.

As it ultimately unspooled this past Wednesday, the sense of relief was palpable for so many. People were allowing themselves to become unbraced, settling into a welcome return to some degree of normalcy.

"Over the centuries through storm and strife, in peace and war, we have come so far. But we still have far to go. We will press forward with speed and urgency, for we have much to do in this winter of peril and possibility," said President Biden on January 20. "Much to repair. Much to restore. Much to heal. Much to build and much to gain.

"To overcome these challenges, to restore the soul and to secure the future of America, requires more than words. It requires the most elusive of things in a democracy: unity."

Nevertheless, hearing these words, the acknowledgement of these difficult and simple truths that have been recognized the world over in recent years with one terribly noticeable exception, were a balm for the soul after the bombardment. It left this writer feeling hopeful, but also wondering how this undoubted change of guard would impact the country we call home.

I didn't, however, anticipate a change of our own guard to be so swift – albeit in very different circumstances.

Less than 24 hours after the newly minted American President and First Lady spent their first night in the White House, someone else was changing house – this time Julie Payette as she took the extraordinary step of resigning as Governor General following a damning report into alleged workplace harassment at Rideau Hall.

"Everyone has the right to a healthy and safe work environment, at all times, and under all circumstances," said Ms. Payette. "It appears this was not always the case at the Office of the Secretary to the Governor General. Tensions have arisen at Rideau Hall over the past few months and for that, I am sorry.

"I am a strong believer in the principles of natural justice, due process and the rule of law, and that these principles apply to all equally. Notwithstanding, in respect for the integrity of my vice-regal Office and for the good of our country and of our democratic institutions, I have come to the conclusion that a new Governor General should be appointed. Canadians deserve stability in these uncertain times."

If you have any interest in the post of the Queen's representative in Canada, a person in a position near the very pinnacle of our Constitutional structure, the writing was already on the wall for Ms. Payette. Allegations were not letting up and she was coming under increased scrutiny in her day-to-day carrying out of her constitutional duties.

While Ms. Payette should be commended for finding ways to inspire younger Canadians in the myriad fields of STEM, with a particular emphasis on that first S of "science", it was clear she was not an ideal pick. It was also clear that she had not been properly vetted – or even briefed – by the Federal Government and particularly Prime Minister Trudeau in marked contrast to the non-partisan review panel instituted by Stephen Harper during his tenure. This expert panel resulted in the appointment of David Johnston to a remarkable tenure at Rideau Hall, one which re-engaged and re-connected Canadians of all backgrounds.

Now, the difficult task will begin to find a replacement.

Although the Federal Government and PMO are being frustratingly vague on how any potential candidates will be vetted, selected or prepared to fill the void, this is a chance to make significant repairs to an office that has become unfortunately and unnecessarily battered since Mr. Johnston left office in 2017.

To echo the words of Mr. Biden, who will undoubtedly be greeted by the next Governor General on his inaugural visit to this country as Head of State, it is a chance to repair, restore, heal, build and gain – even from allegedly self-inflicted wounds.

Whoever is ultimately appointed by The Queen will be in an unenviable position but, if their appointment is made in a non-partisan way as when Harper was tasked with finding someone to succeed Michaelle Jean, identifying the best fit for the job, and someone who actually embraces what the job entails and represents, we will be well on that road.

To end this column on a positive note, I just want to say that after the last few years how refreshing it was to see a Head of State or, in Canada's case, the official representative of our Head of State, recognize, even late in the game, that the office they hold is greater than the individual and know when it is time to make an exit for the good of their country and democracy.



Trying to stay connected with fellow humans

by Mark Pavilons



Poet John Donne pointed out that no man is an island. Our personal networks – our connections to one another –are facing unprecedented strain.

This is perhaps one of the keys to the mounting stress during the current pandemic. In an effort to curb the transmission and mounting cases of COVID, governments all around the world have had to come up with some novel, ingenious, and yes, extreme methods. The latest include our stay-at-home order, and in some places, curfews, forcing people to stay inside for parts of the day.

Curfews are nothing new, and were used in times of crisis and war. The last time they were implemented here in Canada was the "October Crisis," in 1970 when the FLQ kidnapped Quebec's deputy premier Pierre Laporte and British diplomat James Cross. Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau enacted the War Time Measures Act, the only peacetime use of this extreme measure.

Our on-again, off-again imposed isolation is getting tiresome.

We've all been affected, some more than others. For those who are simply somewhat "on edge," make no mistake that this is the reason.

"The meeting of two personalities is like the contact of two chemical substances: if there is any reaction, both are transformed," Carl Jung once said.

Just what has happened to this necessary transformation?

The old adage, you don't know what you have until it's gone, rings true. In what seemed so long ago, simply running errands, smiling and greeting our fellow human beings was taken for granted. Now that it's very limited, it's like a hole in our hearts.

With heads down and mouths covered, we trudge along as best we can. Few even make eye contact anymore.

We frail humans need one another, despite cries by some that they love their solitude.

We need to talk, to share, and we need human contact.

That's one of the reasons we have so many well-developed senses. While they have initially been entrenched to increase our chances of survival, we have evolved to the point of choosing when and where to use our God-given abilities.

The pandemic has altered our daily routines and rituals. It has forever changed our hygiene and sense of contamination and contagion. To some, it has become a bit of an obsession.

Will this forever change the way we approach and come in contact with our fellow human beings? Maybe.

While impractical, I suggest when all of this is over we organize one massive group hug. It would be like a giant wave at a ball game and it could start right here in our home town Can you imagine? From sea to shining sea, just like Canada's motto (A Mari usque ad Mare).

Until then, we are forced to confine, sequester, detach, disengage and insulate.

Not very nice terms, and not very conducive to the way human beings are meant to live.

I would be so bold as to say this is shaking the very foundations of our democratic society. Recent events have very graphically demonstrated that.

Our society is based on enshrined rights and freedoms, contained in our venerable Charter. These include guarantees of free speech, to gather, to practice religion. We are granted the right to enter and leave Canada at will.

Now, due to such unusual and unprecedented circumstances, these rights have been curtailed and severed. It is not an ideal situation by any means.

All of these rights and freedoms have to do with human nature. It has to do with supporting an engaged public, doing things which bring us together for a common goal or purpose.

To lose one's purpose is sad, indeed.

Sure, we can express our opinions on blogs and social media. We can share Mass and Sunday service via YouTube. We can study and learn through Google.

Again, this is not how it's meant to be. How does one go from being a social creature, to a recluse, closed off from our brothers and sisters? How do we simply flick the switch, and turn off that part of our essence?

The answer is we can't. But we've been forced to.

Therein lies the dilemma.

People in some cities and regions around the world have protested, some vigorously, against the restrictions, curfews and orders. Whether touting fundamental freedoms, or simply being frustrated, they desperately want to be together again with their fellow citizens.

Who doesn't? No one is an island.

It's unlikely any of us will be able to celebrate upcoming Valentine's Day, birthdays, and March Break as we would have liked. There are a couple of milestone birthdays in my household, and I have no idea what to do.

At the moment, even going to the store is not an option. I doubt you can order balloons on Amazon.

I don't want to be detached, segregated, divided, removed or kept apart.

I want to be emancipated, released, sprung, let loose and unfettered.

Right now, we can't physically heal one another's wounds, or reach out to damaged hearts.

But the time will come when the doors swing wide open and we're greeted by a breath of fresh air and the sun on our faces.

And when that happens, I hope we see a flood of hope, compassion and love. I hope we see an outpouring of gratitude and mutual support.

Will the world emerge from this cocoon with renewed spirit? I truly hope so.

Our Readers Write

My Sister's Place thanks community for generosity

The Board of Directors and Staff of My Sister's Place would like to send out a large and heartfelt thank you for all of the support received over this past Holiday period and all year through.

In this unknown time, we weren't sure how successful the Sponsor-a-Family for Christmas campaign would be, but once again we were able to facilitate extra support for close to 200 families in the South Simcoe area, in their times of extra stress and great need.

We were thrilled with the overwhelming response from organizations, businesses, church and social groups, individuals and families. Our simple thank you holds with it the importance of ensuring that all of our donors know the impact of such support.

We rely on our community to enable our services to continue and are so very grateful that every year, the needs of the women and children we serve are met. We are reminded, especially in these extremely trying times, what a fantastic community we live and work in. How it really does take a village coming together to help those most in need.

In our 33rd year in Alliston, our charitable organization People In Transition, "My Sister's Place" offers Emergency Shelter, Crisis Counselling, Outreach Services and Social Housing to women and children fleeing abusive situations. Our team of professionally educated staff share their knowledge with women accessing our services.

Together, we plan future next steps, based on her direction.

Our services change and grow each year according to the needs of the women in the community. Throughout this past year, we have worked hard to make sure that our services have all remained open and, though they may be delivered in a different way from time to time, we have continually served our community and the needs within.

We invite you to visit our website at www.mysistersplace.ca to find out more about us and encourage you to reach out to us anytime. Best wishes from us all for a safe and happy year ahead.

DEBORAH HERRINGTON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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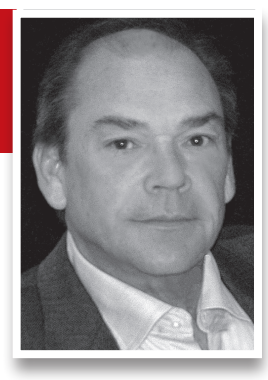
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Meet the new boss

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



I don't really follow American politics – at least not at the level people in that country would.

If I'm going to follow politics, it's going to be about the people on Parliament Hill whose decisions could affect my life.

However, the recent Presidential Election in the U.S. and subsequent Broadway show of theatrics that followed over the next couple of months was hard to miss.

The new president, Joe Biden, seems to be a decent guy. He has a lot of experience in politics, and at the very least, he seems to be able to appear presidential in terms of conducting himself in a place of high office.

During the Presidential Inauguration, which is a big deal in the States, Biden said in his speech, it is "A day of history and hope, of renewal and resolve."

Yes, a time of "renewal." That sounds familiar.

Going back over the past 60 years, lets take a look at the theme of inaugural speeches by incoming Presidents:

John F. Kennedy 1961

"Let both sides explore what problems unite us instead of belaboring those problems which divide us – signifying renewal as well as change."

Lyndon Johnson 1965

"We say 'Farewell.' Is a new world coming? We welcome it—and we will bend it to the hopes of man."

Richard Nixon 1969

"We are torn by division, wanting unity."

Gerald Ford 1974

"My fellow Americans, our long national nightmare is over."

Jimmy Carter 1977

"This inauguration ceremony marks a new beginning, a new dedication within our government and a new spirit among us all."

Ronald Reagan 1981

"We must act today in order to preserve tomorrow. And let there be no misunderstanding: We are going to begin to act, beginning today."

George H.W. Bush 1989

"The new breeze blows, a page turns, the story unfolds."

Bill Clinton 1993

"And so today we pledge an end to the era of deadlock and drift, and a new season of American renewal has begun."

George W. Bush 2001

"I will work to build a single nation of justice and opportunity."

Barack Obama 2009

"Starting today, we must pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off, and begin again the work of remaking America."

Donald Trump 2017

"We, the citizens of America, are now joined in a great national effort to rebuild our country and restore its promise for all of our people."

There is a definite theme of change, unity, renewal, and rebuilding in all of those speeches.

To be fair, there's not much else an incoming president could say.

It's not like a president is going to get up there and proclaim, "Things are going well. When I take over, I'm going to continue the status quo."

It seems that over six decades, no one has been able to unite the country – at least not according every new administration.

I think our cousins south of the border are envious of our Commonwealth status. They really want a King, not a president.

They refer to the Kennedy administration as Camelot and compare Jackie to a queen.

There are constant royal references in the media.

There's the King of Rock n' Roll, King of Pop, Queen of Soul, Queen of Pop, Queen of Disco, Roy and Dale as Queen of the West and King of the cowboys, Queen of Country music, King of country music, Queen of Bluegrass, Hollywood royalty, Hollywood's reigning Queen, and the list goes on.

I once saw an interview where a "celebrity" asked why more Americans hadn't been knighted by the Queen. The interviewer had to explain the revolution to her.

Well, they don't have a Queen or a King who rules for life.

They have a president who is in charge, four years at a time.

Whether Joe Biden can unite the country remains to be seen.

But it reminds me of a song: "Meet the new boss, same as the old boss."

Just One Question

SHERALYN ROMAN
TALK CALEDON



On a happier note this week, at least for me and the 81+ million people who voted for him, let's all just take a moment to pause and be grateful for at least one thing: the world is now well rid of Trump. I believe, together with millions of Americans, that the we collectively sighed with relief at 12:01pm January 20th knowing that the nuclear codes were now out of the hands of the man who damn near decimated democracy. While it frightens me to think about what he might be up to next, nothing could be as frightening as having him "in charge." Or could it? The spread of misinformation, lies, fake news and just plain irresponsible journalism threatens us daily and if the power of media has shown us anything – it's just how dangerous fake news can be. Trump was a master of it and I fear he is not done with us yet. Whether from Trump or elsewhere, fake news is still circulating widely, in particular "news" about the pandemic, and that concerns me. Makes me wonder, is there a solution?

Surprisingly, in my media feeds, conspiracy theories actually seemed to escalate the week after President Biden was elected. I'm not sure if that was just a fluke or if TNN (Trump News Network) is already at work behind the scenes.

Here in Canada, helped along by two recent letters (posted publicly) by MPP's Hillier and Baber, multiple "news" claims continue to be made about COVID-19. References as to the questionable source of the virus, how the World Health Organization is allegedly disseminating falsehoods and how China is intentionally covering up and blocking the truth about COVID-19's origins are still pervasive. Folks seem to be increasingly sceptical rather than less so in the wake of the US election. Scepticism is good. Questioning our media and our government officials is good. A healthy democracy demands scepticism but pandemic fatigue is escalating and more and more people are becoming frustrated, angry, depressed and disenfranchised. Fatigue and frustration are a dangerous combination. They make folks more susceptible to things like fake news. Again, I wonder – is there a simple solution to the "plague of fake news?" I doubt it. But is there a simple solution to virus containment? I think so and I wonder, why aren't we following it?

At least on the issue of the fact there IS a global pandemic, I think we all agree. The virus continues to rage in our communities, and around the world, in fact, it appears to be mutating, making it potentially even more problematic. People are dying in the millions and there is no "iron ring of protection" around our most vulnerable residents in long term care homes. Students and teachers are suffering despite alleged improvements to ventilation and "increased" asymptomatic testing, both of which do nothing to alleviate mental health issues. Businesses are closing at an alarming rate and hospitals are overrun.

Concurrently, cases of seasonal flu are almost non-existent. Perhaps because large numbers of folks who are listening to the public health advice, practicing social distancing, wearing masks and only going out for essential requirements are staying healthy. While some have fallen ill and, sadly, a few have died, our medical professionals are not suffering from COVID in large numbers. It makes me wonder whether in fact masks, sanitizing, social distancing and soon – the vaccine – are actually working? And - if these measures are working - why aren't we all just following the health recommendations regardless of our personal beliefs, theories or assumptions about how and where COVID-19 began?

There. That's the question. Whether you think this is all just some big damn conspiracy theory or not is irrelevant! It appears that when used "according to directions" mask wearing alone is a pretty good preventative measure against COVID-19 (and the flu!) Combined with the distancing and the hand-washing and, yes, some slight infringement on my ability to visit my local store, I'm happy to avoid COVID if all I have to do is wear a damn mask.

Whether this virus was unleashed by accident or on purpose from a lab in Wuhan, China, whether it's a global conspiracy by big business to eliminate competition and increase profits or even a ploy to microchip us all – the cure (or at least significant curbing of the virus) is the same. We know how it spreads, so it's up to each of us, regardless of our beliefs, to help stop the spread.

I read an interesting quote the other day and I think it's applicable here: "You must ALWAYS be willing to truly consider evidence that contradicts your beliefs, and admit the possibility that you may be wrong. Intelligence isn't knowing everything. It's the ability to challenge everything you know." Please, by all means question away! Question your sources of information and question our government and how they are responding to the COVID-19 crisis. A healthy dose of scepticism is a good thing. But, as the quote implies, intelligence is also marked by a willingness to accept a truth even if you disagree with it and the truth is, masks work, social distancing works and so does washing your hands and staying home as much as possible. Who cares how this whole damn thing got started? It's up to us to finish it.

Interestingly, soon after writing this article, I read a tweet about a new initiative known as "ScienceUpFirst," an "awareness and engagement campaign" that will use social media to counter a concerning "rise in misinformation and conspiracy theories related to COVID-19 vaccines, virus transmission and government response."

The campaign suggests "misinformation is a dire, imminent threat to the lives of all Canadians and is proven to be one of the factors fuelling Covid-19 infections, and dissuading Canadians from getting vaccinated." It seems I'm not the only one concerned about fake news.

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Mental Health a priority today for local soccer clubs

BY ROBERT BELARDI

The third annual Bell Let's Talk event is set to be held this week, and 12 of Ontario's soccer clubs from Peel, Halton, the GTA and Ottawa are getting involved.

Hosted by Brams United Girl's Soccer Club, registration is available to join the Zoom meeting on Thursday, January 28, at 7 p.m., by emailing victoriamattacchione@gmail.com for details.

In a statement last week, organizers hailed the past year as one of firsts. This week's Zoom will be the first time community clubs have united to bring awareness of mental health impediments that many people currently face today.

During a period of uncertainty, this effort of unity to end the stigma surrounding mental health will not go unnoticed.

According to statistics, one in five athletes continue to struggle through mental health challenges.

People who are also responsible for being role models within their communities, have recently admitted their mental health struggles in the past few years.

Two notable names are DeMar DeRozan, forward for the San Antonio Spurs, and Kevin Love, forward for the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Hosted by moderator Katryna Indeway, the Acting Senior Director of Oakville Soccer Club, the Zoom meeting will feature Dr. Tracy Vaillancourt, Tier 1 Canada research Chair in school-based Mental Health and Violence Prevention from the University of Ottawa as a panelist.

It will also feature Danielle Cyr, Head Coach of the Women's Soccer Program at Mount Saint Vincent University as a panelist and Dominique Bosshart, Game Plan Advisor, Canadian Sport Institute Ontario.

As guests on the Zoom call, Jhanelle Peters, Mental Health Clinician for the Toronto Raptors and Registered Psychotherapist will be joining in, and Krista Celluci, Social Media Manager for Milestone Integrated Marketing will be attending.

Soccer clubs who will be in attendance for this week's virtual presentation will be Brams, Oakville, Richmond Hill, Erin Mills, Ottawa City, Guelph, North Mississauga,

FC Durham Academy, Burlington, Milton Youth, Oshawa Kicks and Brampton Elite Academy.

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Precision over Power: How an Aurora native made it to UBC

BY ROBERT BELARDI



Adam Khan is moving on to the University of British Columbia living by his motto. The 18-year-old pitcher values precision over power. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The art of pitching can be defined in two crude forms.

Power pitchers are those indefatigable throwers, whipping the ball 100mph. The others, a more relatively precise form, are those who pick their corners and speeds effortlessly, confusing batters at the plate.

This is one of baseball's most intriguing matchups. A pitcher's duel will drive fans to the stadiums.

Each pitcher calculates every move. With a kick of the leg and a towering arc of the arm, you simply never know what you're going to get. But, these pitchers know what they are going to give. What defines these throwers is simply what they value more.

Some pitchers value both power and precision equally. Some place one value over the other.

So, which will it be? Precision over power? Some of the best pitchers in the game, like Clayton Kershaw, with his trademark curveball, might say it's precision. In this case, that is the answer.

Aurora native Adam Khan has lived by this motto.

To his memory, he didn't step onto the mound as a precision pitcher. But now, as an 18-year-old who only has to make his commitment official with the University of British Columbia, he is living by these words: precision over power.

"I like to use the mental side of the game more. I'm a statistics guy. I look at hitters and I try to study them. I look at their strengths and weaknesses. Where can I locate my pitches better?" Khan said. "I like to mix in my off-speed a lot. If they're not going to be able to hit my off-speed, I'll throw it five times in a row."

The 6'3, 180-pound pitcher says he has been told he resembles the late Roy Halladay. And now, being a part of the UBC Thunderbirds, that resemblance could pay dividends moving forward in his university career.

Between 2001 and 2019, 24 pitchers from UBC have been drafted to Major League Baseball clubs, along with three other, non-drafted pitchers signed on free agency.

It's something Khan discussed with head coach at UBC, Chris Pritchard.

"He thinks I could be one of those players to be drafted next. If that's the case, I'll be very excited and happy. It's something I look forward to, there's a whole lot of opportunity there," Khan said.

"All that stuff on how the history is there and I can be one of the next players to hop along that history is just something very exciting to look forward to for me."

Khan began playing baseball with the Aurora-King Baseball Association when he was four. His grandfather, Luke Lefevre, was a famous fastball pitcher. He was inducted into the Timmins Sports Hall of Fame in 2016.

Along with his family history, Khan seemingly enjoyed baseball's natural elements as well. He loved throwing and catching and playing under summer's smooth heat.

He travelled through the ranks, playing in A, AA and AAA. When he was 15, he tasted what it felt like to be a pro.

With the Vaughan Vikings in 2016, Khan, travelled to Prince Edward Island. This group of elite players represented Team Ontario in the competition. Whoever won the tournament had the opportunity to represent Ontario in a province-wide competition. Everything was paid for. Players were flown out from Pearson.

It was his first taste of something professional. It's also when the Toronto Mets elite team took notice of him.

Khan signed for the Mets in the fall of 2017.

Last year, with the U-17 Mets team, Khan was learning from head coach Rich Leitch and pitching coach Paul Spoljaric. The Kelowna native and former Toronto Blue Jays pitcher taught everything he knew about pitching, things he may not have known before. Khan came into the program playing multiple positions and it was the Toronto Mets who transformed him into a full-time thrower.

Now, heading to UBC, Leitch believes this is the right fit for him.

"Early on with Adam, he commands his pitches, knows how to work his own. His best attribute is his attitude. He's a bright kid," Leitch said.

"His best days are ahead. It's going to be fun to watch him develop. I know they do a great job in developing pitchers at UBC for sure."

Now, under the president of the Toronto Mets in this COVID-ridden year, Ryan McBride shares what he has seen from Khan in his final year with the club.

"He's a high energy guy. Passionate about the game. He's a good teammate, he's always in a good mood. Likes to keep things light when he can. A lot of teammates gravitate towards him," McBride said.

"One thing that's really impressed me about coaching Adam is he doesn't shy away from competition at all. He wants the ball and wants the ball in big situations."

And competition is exactly what the doctor ordered for Khan at UBC. The Thunderbirds, uniquely compete in the NAIA division. The baseball program competes against the likes of the College of Idaho, Corban, Lewis-Clark State and Oregon Tech.

Last season, the Thunderbirds finished 12-8 and ranked in the top 10 in at bats per game, putouts per game, innings pitched per game and fielding.

Khan says he is excited to compete against teams south of the border. He is also excited to play against international teams from Japan. All of this, of course, post-COVID.

For now, he is gearing up to finalize his commitment. UBC is currently sending over a letter of intent for Khan to sign and he is currently training with Mets teammate and Florida State University commit Mitch Bratt.

STREET CRIME UNIT ARREST SIX IN DRUG INVESTIGATION

Continued from Page 4

a firearm; Possession of a prohibited or restricted firearm/ammunition; and Possession of a firearm, prohibited or restricted weapon obtained by crime.

The charges have not been proven.

The accused party is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on March 29, 2021 to answer to the charges.

"The investigation is continuing and additional suspects and charges are expected," say Police. "If you have any information in relation to this case, please contact Caledon Detachment Community Street Crime Unit at (905) 584-2241 or toll-free at 1-888-310-1122. You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at www.peelcrimestoppers.ca. When you contact Crime Stoppers you stay anonymous, you never have to testify, and you could receive a cash reward of up to $2,000 upon an arrest."

STUNT DRIVING CHARGES

On January 24, officers from the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) charged two drivers for excessive speed/stunt driving while they were conducting speed enforcement along Highway 10 in the Town of Caledon.

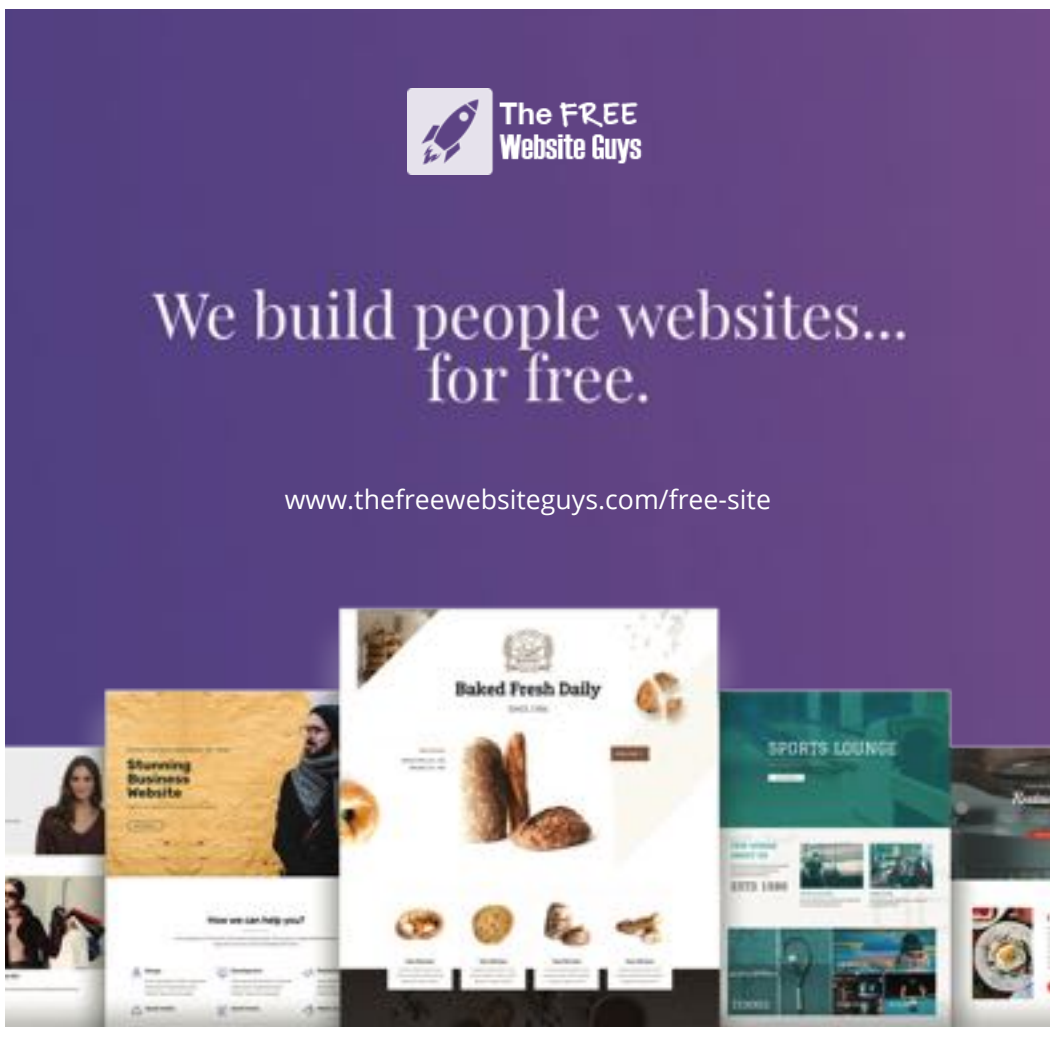
"At approximately 1:10 a.m., on Highway 10 near Charleston Side Road, a 24-year-old from Mississauga was stopped for going 108 km/hr in a 50km/hr zone," said Police. "At approximately 2:17 p.m. on Highway 410 and Hurontario Street, a 28-year-old from Orangeville was stopped for going 154 km/hr in in an 80 km/hr zone.

"Both drivers were charged with Stunt Driving and received an immediate seven-day vehicle impound and driver's license suspension. They are scheduled to appear in Caledon East Provincial Court to answer to the charges."

He charges have not been proven.

Stunt Driving/excessive speed is a charge for drivers travelling at a rate of 50km/hr or over greater than the posted speed limit.

"Winter driving conditions are a factor in many collisions," said Police. "Slow down, especially when driving on snow or ice."





Headwaters staffer steps down after family member gets vaccinated without appointment

BY SAM ODROWSKI

Headwaters Health Care Centre is apologizing to the community following an incident where a staff director had one of their elderly relatives vaccinated against COVID-19 at a recent clinic solely designated for health care workers.

The incident happened on January 12 and the staff director in question retired on January 19, after being on paid leave while an investigation was carried out.

Headwaters CEO and President Kim Delahunt said that the vaccination of a non-health care worker was an isolated incident and procedures are in place to prevent it from happening again.

"This was an error in judgement by one staff director and is not part of our hospital's protocols. We have implemented additional processes to ensure that we follow provincial and public health guidelines," she noted.

"We are engaging leaders, staff and physicians in supplementary education about our Ethical Decision-Making Framework to ensure similar situations never arise in any future vaccination clinics that we may have the opportunity to partner in."

Since news first broke of the non-health care worker being vaccinated at a designated clinic, the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU), which represents more than 25,000 healthcare workers in the Province, released a statement saying Headwaters response is too accommodating for such a grave breach of protocol.

"She had to go," said OPSEU President Warren Thomas. "But the hospital leadership must take this more seriously. When someone in management commits such a serious breach in protocol and then walks away with a retirement deal, it won't send a strong enough message to other managers who may decide to exercise their retirement or severance option."

"The same people who got passed in the vaccine queue are some of the same taxpayers who are paying for her severance package," he added.

It's important to note the staff director who's stepped down did pay into a provincial pension plan during their career at Headwaters.

A total of 47 staff and physicians at the local hospital have tested positive for COVID-19 since the start of the pandemic.

On January 14, 220 doses of COVID-19 vaccine were provided to Headwaters Hospital staff and additional doses have been offered at different vaccination clinics.

Headwaters has a team of over 800 staff and 160 physicians.

The vaccine program is currently voluntary, so health care workers make the choice for themselves if they should get vaccinated.

Delahunt reiterated her regret for the incident happening and said she's glad the issue was addressed.

"We apologize on behalf of the hospital. This was an isolated incident and not within our protocols. We have implemented additional processes to ensure we do things differently going forward," she noted.

"This incident reinforces that in a healthy workplace culture it's good and appropriate for people to speak up, either in the moment or after the fact. We appreciate staff raising the concern so we could investigate it."

Mayors push for business "equality" during shutdown

BY BROCK WEIR

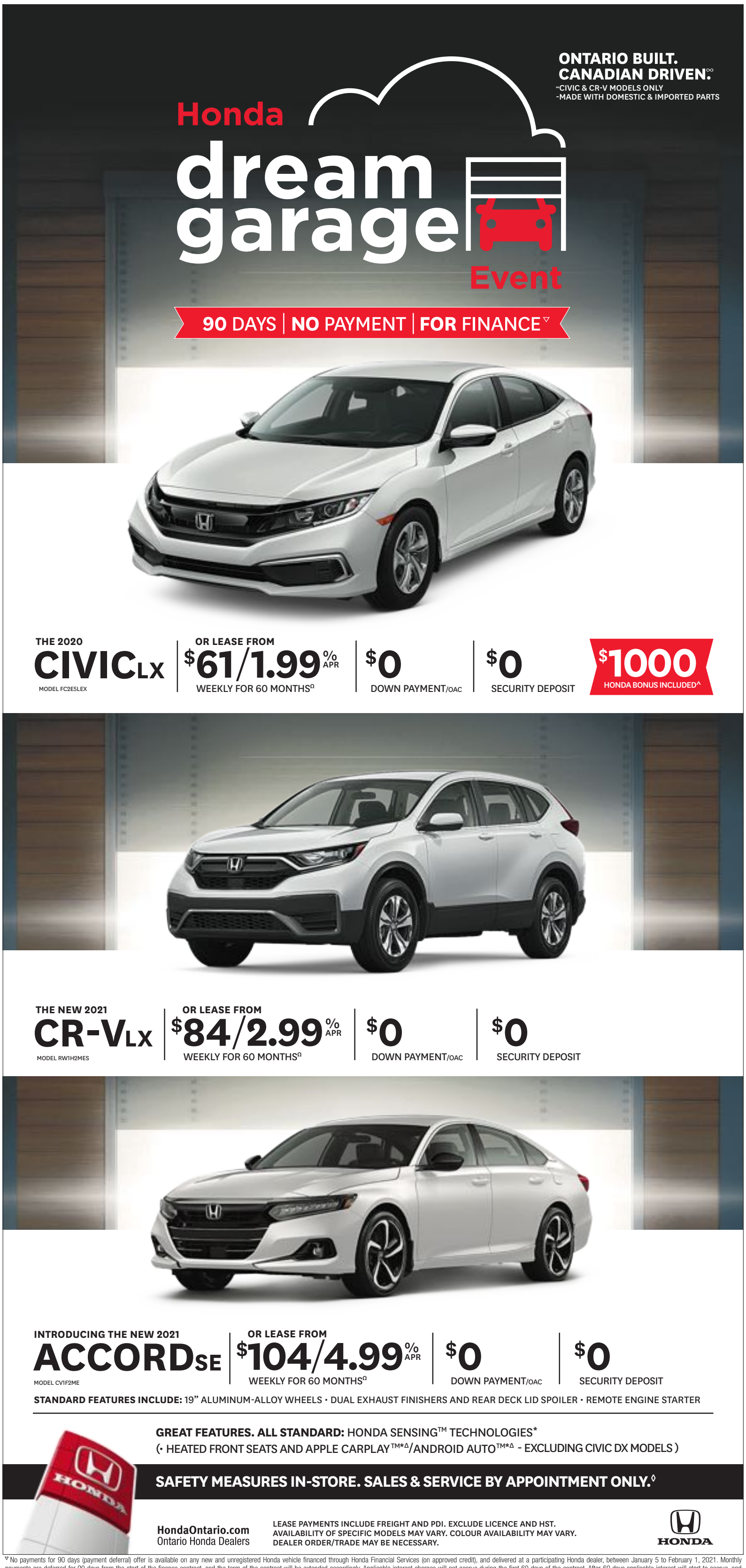
Mayors of many of Ontario's "small urban" communities are calling on the Province to be fairer on businesses during the Province-wide shutdown.

Meeting on January 20, Small Urban GTHA Mayors, a collective of lawmakers from Aurora, Bradford West Gwillimbury, Caledon, East Gwillimbury, Georgina, Halton Hills, King, Newmarket, Orangeville, Scugog, Uxbridge and Whitchurch-Stouffville, said that small businesses had been disproportionately impacted by the shutdown compared to Big Box stores and it was time to address the balance.

"We informed the Minister [Minister of Health and Deputy Premier Christine Elliott] that our communities remain ready to spring into action to help roll out the vaccine to our general population," said the Small Urban GTHA Mayors in a statement. "With our facilities currently closed, set up should start immediately so we will be ready to get our residents vaccinated without delay once supply is available.

"We also echoed the concerns of our local small businesses who have been disproportionately impacted and call on the Provincial Government to level the playing field and only allow essential items to be sold in big box stores during the lockdown. Also, that they consider implementing shopping by appointment and/or revisiting capacity in local businesses based on building square footage. We hope to see these measures considered at the earliest appropriate time to ensure equality for all businesses.

"On behalf of the Small Urban GTHA Mayors, we reaffirm our commitment to our government partners, residents, and small businesses and remain committed to supporting and promoting the public health guidelines currently in place and at all times following the data and science."



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The family of Ray Bottoms wish to express our gratitude to relatives, friends and neighbors, from near and far, for their words of comfort, cards, food, flowers and support during the sad loss of our husband, father and brother. Your acts of kindness, your calls and messages, and memorial donations are appreciated and of great comfort during this difficult time.

Special thanks to Ray's Masonic Brothers, past volunteers of Bolton Ambulance Service, the childhood classmates and fellow circus and train modellers who remember him fondly. We are grateful to Dr. Meghory and the hospital doctors, nurses and many caregivers who cared for Ray during his illness.

We would like to thank the Rev. Jeremy Lowther and Egan Funeral Home for their caring and comforting service.

Our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to all.

The Bottoms Family

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OBITUARIES

ATKINSON, Lois Ola Isabelle (nee Smith)
Aug 22, 1925 – Jan 25, 2021



It is with great sadness that the family of Lois announce her passing at Headwaters Health Care Centre on Monday, January 25, 2021. Lois will be lovingly remembered by her daughter Carol (Paul Agar), son Robert and daughter Helen (Dave Kellow), grandchildren Michael and Deborah (Steve); Robin (Susan) and Jamie; and great grandchildren Cassidy, Quinton and Alexis; Sadie and Nathan. Lois was predeceased by her loving husband Harold. She is survived by her much loved siblings and their spouses along with numerous nieces and nephews. A private family service has taken place.
In memory of Lois, donations may be made to the Knox Presbyterian Church Memorial Fund, Grand Valley. Online condolences may be left at www.simesfuneralhome.com.

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How the pandemic has impacted households and relationships

BY ALYSSA PARKHILL
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought hardships in various aspects of people's lives for the past year, significantly impacting individual's mental health and relationships.

The pandemic has led to self-isolation away from friends and family, creating a void and deprivation of social contact.

Whether it be not seeing your parents, siblings, grandparents, partners or friends, humans rely on social connections.

According to the Centre Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), people self-isolating or quarantining may experience a series of different emotions including anger, fear, sadness, irritability, guilt and confusion.

Families and couples as well endure challengers when being cooped up together for large quantities of time, which can lead to conflict.

Trish McLean, founder of psychotherapy and counselling group The Story Isn't Over, located in Bolton, shared issues that families', couples' and children's mental health goes through while coping in a pandemic.

"The tension on relationships, the tension on marriages during this pandemic has been intense," she said. "Very early on in the pandemic there was awareness of an increase of domestic violence, and then as times carried on, the impact on marriages where there isn't domestic violence going on is being felt as more people are getting divorced, more and more people are experiencing significant stresses and conflict that are leading them to seek help or separate."

A major concern this brought for individuals stuck in domestic violence relationships or households, is the ability to leave being lessened due to health restrictions.

"People who were in domestic violence situations, who were being abused in any way at all, were pinned inside the house, kept inside the houses and couldn't get out again," said McLean. "If you take away that little freedom, they have to get outside the house and make or to go to an appointment, they lose that contact."

As the pandemic seemed to worsen as time went on, provincial and federal instructions told residents to remain at home, work remotely, and the majority of children to begin online classes at home.

With the entire household together consistently day to day, the attempt to retain a sense of normalcy can create dramatic impacts and stresses within the home.

"You've got the initial pressure on the marriage of everyone being together, then you add the stresses of job loss, loss of income, financial stresses, social pressures," explained McLean. "Then you've got the whole anxiety related to the pandemic."

"Some people," she added, "pull together in pressure and some people make it, but some people who were ticking along or who already had tensions, it just escalated through the roof."

People begin to seek help who've never needed it in the past. Individuals who have never experienced mental health issues in their life begin to experience waves of depression and anxiety because of these pressures and stressors that have pushed them.

With schools consistently changing and adapting to the level of severity the pandemic is at, students are struggling to keep up with school, not socializing with their peers, and not fully understanding the severity of the pandemic.

Due to many classes switching to online, students fail to get the proper help they need which leads into falling off the edge. But McLean sees children bouncing back and catching up when they need to and should focus on taking care of their mental health.

"Kids are very resilient and especially these kids who are very young, that the priority is the family," she said. "The priority is the wellbeing of the family, the health of the parents, and not the education of a young child, because they'll catch up."

The Children's Mental Health Ontario (CMHO) reported over 60 per cent of youth stated feeling different emotions such as worried, upset, sad and angry about the constant changes of the school year, not socializing with their friends and peers and the uncertainty of the future.

CMHO also reported 59 per cent of parents noticed behavioral changes in their children which included extreme irritability and downwards mood changes, trouble sleeping, sadness and different personality changes.

"We're going to have to give them a lot of support through this. There will always be some kids who are more impacted than others," said McLean. "The high priority is their emotional and mental health and facilitating as far as possible for them to have as normal a life."

The Story Isn't Over remains open for individuals, children and couples to reach out to seek help. With the necessary safety measures in place, their services have been able to continue to help those who are struggling drastically.

The team at The Story Isn't Over does significant work providing supports for couples to have a healthy relationship and to resolve conflict, as well as if separation is happening, they provide help that prioritizes the children.

"Keeping life as normal as possible, keeping a regular schedule, making time to get dressed, get a shower and get up, going outside has to be the number one thing at this point. Keeping a routine is going to be very helpful," said McLean. "Build into structure regular mealtimes, regular study times and a lot of outside time."

To learn more about different ways to cope amid the pandemic, or if in need of support, please visit thestoryisntover.ca or call (416) 616-2207 to book an appointment.

Community offers input on 2021 Budget

Continued from FRONT

"Senior leadership has worked really hard to ensure that the impact of the pandemic has not resulted in a 2021 tax increase or had any significant effect on the 2021 Budget. However, we are in a different stage of growth than Brampton and Markham, so, therefore, we have different budget pressures," explained Treasurer and Acting Director of Finance Heather Hare.

Another resident asked the Town what is being done to bring affordable transit options to Caledon.

The Town currently has local transit, the Bolton Line, that runs along Highway 50 to Highway 7 which was implemented in December of 2019. In addition, some routes travel in the Southfields areas with Brampton Transit.

"As we go forward, the Town's transportation staff will continue to work closely with other levels of government to advance transportation initiatives, including expanding transit services in Caledon as ridership and demand increases," said Director of Engineering Services Andrew Pearce.

Other questions included how the proposed Budget impacted the current state of affairs, the broadband levy, the state of Caledon's rural roads, tree limb removals, an increase of seniors' homes, additional bylaw officers, delay in court services as well as the fire masterplan done by the Caledon Fire Department.

Pearce also provided details on new parks coming in the future, which includes three new parks and four new parks through the recent development of the Mayfield West area, as well as an additional community park that has just been registered.

Improvements for nine parks across Caledon are being funded through the Budget, as well as the completion of the ice track at John Clarkson Park in Mayfield West.

Bolton will receive two new baseball fields in the future.

Council will be debating and further discussing the 2021 Proposed Budget on February 9 at the General Committee Meeting.

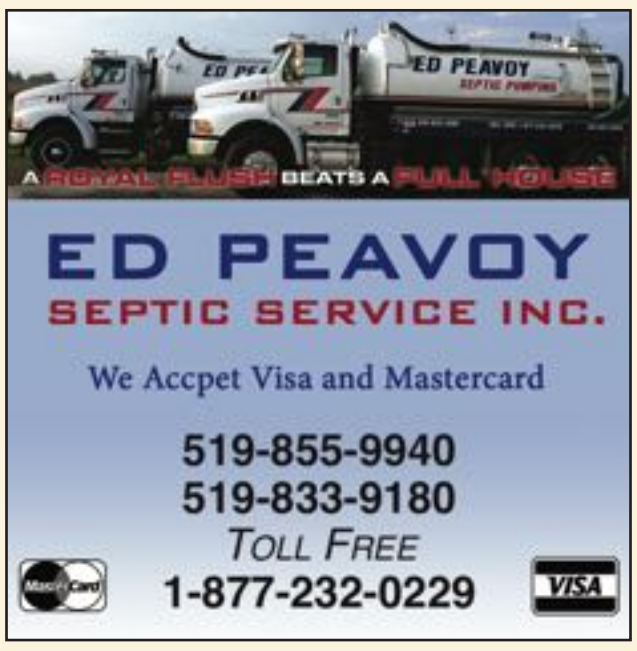
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