

Mailing Registration No. 40032702

Caledon Citizen

Your Community Newspaper

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Combined Thursday Circulation: 36,816

FREE | **Thursday, February 18, 2021** | **Volume 41, Issue 7**

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Beginning March 1, the White Birch Special Needs Day Program launches a new initiative that will promote Shop Local while providing opportunities in the process. The Birch Shoppe features locally-sourced products, including grocery items, which will be sold by White Birch participants, including Michael Summaria, above. For more, please see Page 12.

PHOTO BY CARLO SUMMARIA

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Winners
Open up this issue to the Centre Spread to see the winners of our Whose Door contest.
$1,000 IN GIFT CARDS
from local businesses!

Resident presses Council to reverse support on proposed highway

BY ALYSSA PARKHILL
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Caledon resident and environmentalist Jennifer LeForsetier spoke out to Council on Tuesday night about the implications the proposed Highway 413 will have on the community.

Leforestier has been involved with the proposed GTA West Corridor highway since 2014, along with several other community members.

The new 400-series highway is being planned to travel from Milton through Brampton and Caledon until it reaches Vaughan. Talks and plans of the new highway have been around since 2006 until all was halted in 2015 for further review, which later got cancelled by the Liberal government in 2018.

It has since been brought back to life by the current Progressive Conservative government where a preferred route was approved by Queen's Park this past August. This route will reach communities in not only Caledon, but Georgetown, King Township, Brampton, Milton and Vaughan.

The new highway shows to be an extension of the Highway 400 into the east of the 401 and 407 interchange area.

Continued on Page 19

TIRE JUNCTION
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Food club continues to provide healthy meals

BY ALYSSA PARKHILL
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

A local program is providing healthy and local meals for students through various programs in the community of Dufferin and Caledon.

The Headwaters Local Food Club is one of the Headwaters Food and Farming Alliance's (HFFA) Farm to School programs. Parents as well as staff can sign up for a membership which will allow them to receive a "meal-in-a-bag", which are delivered to the students at their school for them to take home.

HFFA is supported through their registered charity, Headwaters Communities in Action.

All meals are locally sourced from different distributors in the Headwaters region.

"It encourages families to explore nutritious, local and often novel foods together, helps get kids in the kitchen to learn essential food skills and connects families directly with the people who grow their food," says Allison Whitten, Registered Dietitian and Farm to School Coordinator.

Continued on Page 6

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Ontario lifts stay-at-home order for 27 regions, Peel not among them

BY ALYSSA PARKHILL
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The provincial government has officially released 27 regions from the lockdown and stay-at-home order and back into a new and improved COVID-19 Response Framework.

The remaining four regions including Toronto, York, North Bay Parry Sound and Peel Region will continue in the shutdown and stay-at-home order and following the necessary health and workplace safety measures until at least February 22.

"The health and safety of Ontarians remains our number one priority. While we are cautiously and gradually transitioning some regions out of shutdown, with the risk of new variants this is not a reopening or a return to normal," said Minister of Health Christine Elliott.

Though these four regions continue to be the hotspots of the province, numbers are continuing to decline.

Ontario has reported fewer than 1,000 cases both Monday and Tuesday this week. Monday's tally reported 964 new cases, followed by 904 cases a day later. Toronto reported 320 new cases, 118 in York and 154 in Peel Region.

Peel Region has reported a total of 58,460 cases with 587 deaths. Caledon has hit over 2,000 cases in total with 11 deaths.

The Provincial government has established that each Public Health Unit will remain in the level they are directed in for two weeks at a time, allowing the government the time to decide if they are to remain, or move to a higher or lower level.

The framework, like before the lockdown, includes five colour-coded tiered levels, beginning with Green-Prevent, Yellow-Protect, Orange-Restrict, Red-Control and Grey-Lockdown.

Green-Prevent provides standard health measures focusing on maintain public health and workplace safety measures in place. Yellow-Protect introduces increased measures with targeted enforcement and fines to limit transmission. Immediate measures and restrictions are implemented in the Orange-Restrict level followed by broader restrictions in the Red-Control.

Grey-Lockdown is the most severe level which includes closures in order to stop all transmission.

In following these guidelines, the province has also introduced an "emergency brake" allowing Chief Medical Officer of Health Dr. David Williams to immediately move a region into the Grey-Lockdown level if high volumes of transmission occur.

"While the trends in public health indicators are heading in the right direction, we still have work to do," said Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health. "Everyone is strongly advised to continue staying at home, avoid social gatherings, only travel between regions for essential purposes, and limit close contacts to your household or those you live with."

Each Public Health Unit was put into a level based on COVID-19 transmission numbers, health system capacity, public health system capacity, local context and condition and testing capacity. Though the stay-at-home order has been lifted for many, the province continues to discourage travelling outside of your region and staying at home as much as possible.

"As we begin to safely re-open more businesses, it's critical that Ontarians remain vigilant in the fight against COVID-19 and variants. Wash your hands, wear your mask and avoid non-essential trips," said Premier Doug Ford on social media.

Peel Region will continue to in the shutdown and follow the guidelines for the stay-at-home order until February 22, where further direction will be given.

For further information, visit peelregion.ca or Ontario.ca for provincial updates.



Ontario Expands Eligibility for Main Street Relief Grant

The Ontario government is expanding the number of small businesses that can apply for the Main Street Relief Grant to help offset the costs of purchasing personal protective equipment (PPE) to cautiously and gradually reopen in parts of the province.

Small businesses with 2 to 19 employees in all eligible sectors - expanded from 2 to 9 employees - including those in the arts, entertainment, and recreation sector, can now apply for up to $1,000 in financial support.

The expansion is being made as more parts of the province enter the strengthened COVID-19 Response Framework, which allows for the gradual and safe reopening of in-store shopping at non-essential retail stores.

"This funding will help even more main street businesses stay safe, keep people employed, and continue contributing to our communities," said Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. "By expanding the accessibility to the Main Street Relief Grant our government will provide up to 60,000 small businesses with support to help them cover the cost of PPE and protective supplies. We continue to encourage businesses to apply and learn more at ontario.ca/COVIDsupport."

This one-time grant reimburses main street businesses for up to $1,000 in PPE costs incurred since March 17, 2020.

Eligible businesses for the Main Street Relief Grant now include those with 2 to 19 employees in the following sectors:

- retail trade;
- accommodation and food services;
- repair and maintenance;
- personal and laundry services;
- gyms and yoga studios; and
- arts, entertainment, and recreation.

"Expanding eligible sectors for the PPE grant that have been significantly affected by COVID-19 is another way we can support our small business community," said Prabmeet Sarkaria, Associate Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction. "These businesses often require frequent, in-person contact with coworkers and they have the least space to accommodate physical distancing. They need a steady supply of PPE to function in a sustainable way."

The grant can be used to help cover the costs of a variety of PPE, including installing plexiglass or purchasing gloves and masks. Eligible businesses can apply for this grant and other COVID-19 financial supports - like the Ontario Small Business Support Grant and property tax or energy cost rebates - through a simple online application.

"Ontario's heritage, sport, tourism and culture industries were hit first, hardest, and will take the longest to recover post-pandemic," said Lisa MacLeod, Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries. "Expanding eligibility of the Main Street Relief Grant to include more business-owners within these sectors will cover added costs and help us explore all that our province has to offer when it's safe to do so."





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March Break delayed due to COVID-19: Ministry

BY BROCK WEIR

Peel Region students were due to head back to school this week after their expected return on Tuesday was thwarted by snow. Now, they and their families will have to wait a little bit longer for the start of March Break.

Last Thursday, Ontario Education Minister Stephen Lecce announced that March Break would be postponed to April 12 – 16 following advice from Dr. Dave Williams, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health.

We appreciate the hard work of students and staff in the education sector and I want to be clear: March break is being postponed, not cancelled. To keep schools open, we must keep them free of COVID-19

"It is critical we follow public health advice to protect schools and avoid a repeat of the concerning spike in youth-related cases over the winter break, when students and staff were out of schools for a prolonged period of time," said Minister Lecce in a statement. "We are taking this precaution based on advice from health experts, including the province's Science Table and the Chief Medical Officer of Health, to help protect against the emerging COVID-19 variants of concern.

"We appreciate the hard work of students and staff in the education sector and I want to be clear: March break is being postponed, not cancelled. To keep schools open, we must keep them free of COVID-19. The actions announced today serve to limit opportunities for congregation - while reaffirming the evidence that schools are safe for students. By continuing to follow public health advice, and by introducing additional safety measures and more testing, we are supporting our collective efforts to keep COVID-19 from entering our schools."

Last week's delay was also a chance for the Provincial Government to underscore its position on international travel, noting that this is still inadvisable due to present health concerns.

"Ontarians should refrain from travelling, particularly given the increase in new variants that pose a direct risk to our country," said Lecce. "Please stay home as much as possible and continue following the direction of public health officials so that we can keep schools open and protect our seniors, frontline health workers, and all families."

But the decision to postpone March Break received a swift response from stakeholders, including the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (EFTO), who said keeping break plans in place would have been a "much needed" respite for students, teachers, education workers and families alike "who have been under tremendous pressure" throughout the pandemic.

"The government's decision to postpone March Break does not take into consideration the mental health and well-being of those involved," said the EFTO in a statement. "The postponement of March break shows, yet again, the inadequacies of the Progressive Conservative government's planning. If there are concerns related to travel and gatherings during March Break, these should be addressed by the government through other means. Why did Premier Doug Ford reopen the economy when it is clear risks remain? Is he concerned that his stay-at-home orders are ineffective? If so, he should address the real issue: this government's ongoing failure to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

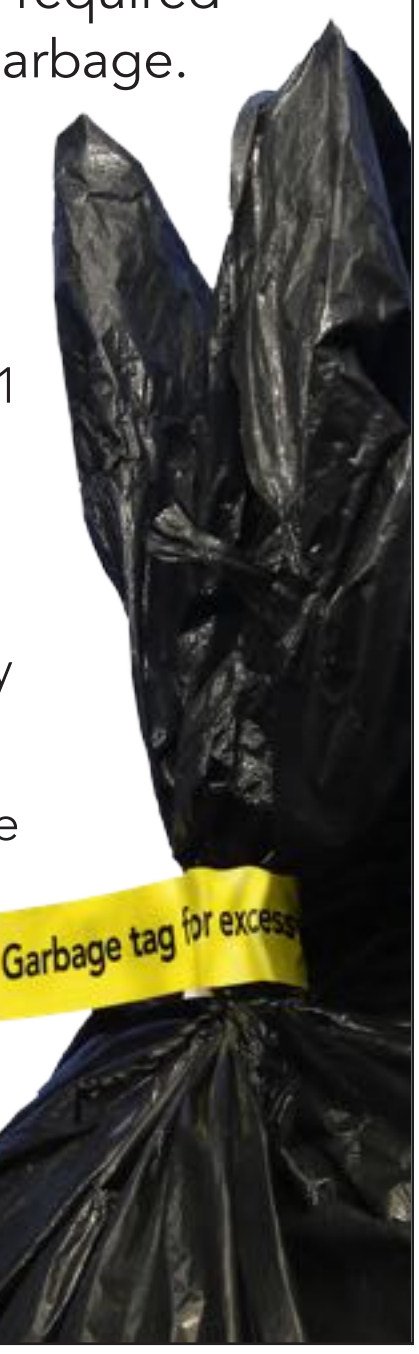
"Their decision to postpone, despite unanimous opposition from unions representing educators and other stakeholders in the sector, including all school board associations and the Ontario Principals' Council, is another example of this government ignoring experts and making decisions that are reckless and baseless. The pattern the government has shown in making decisions while ignoring experts and the front-line workers that are most affected has only served to compound challenges.

"This decision demonstrates their lack of understanding about the stress and pressures of learning and working in a pandemic. Teachers and education workers have gone to extraordinary lengths to teach and support students every day since the start of the school year, whether in person or online. Their efforts should be applauded not diminished."

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PRESCRIPTION FRAUD INVESTIGATION

On December 31, 2020, officers from the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) were contacted by a local pharmacy to report a forged prescription to obtain a large quantity of Oxycodone. The investigation, which included surveillance footage, revealed a suspect.

On February 11, the Caledon Community Street Crime Unit, with the assistance of the Central Region Emergency Response Team (ERT), assisted Caledon OPP by executing a search warrant. One person was taken into custody.

The following items were seized from the residence:

- 18 credit and bank cards owned by other individuals;
- A forged Government of Canada cheque;
- Laptop;
- 3 cell phones;
- Cocaine;
- Fentanyl; and
- Stolen property/mail

As a result of the investigation, Desmond Asemota, 21, of Caledon, was charged with the following offences:

- Fraud under $5000;
- Use, deals, acts on forged document;
- Cause or attempt to use a forged document;
- Possession of a forged document with intent;
- Possession of a schedule I substance - cocaine;
- Possession of a schedule I substance - other drugs;
- Possession of property obtained by crime under $5000;
- Possession of credit card data - 17 counts;
- Possession of a credit card - 17 counts;
- Possession forged document; and
- Forgery

The accused is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on April 26, 2021 to answer to the charges. The charges have not been proven.

The investigation is ongoing. Anyone with additional information regarding this incident is asked to contact the Caledon OPP Community Street Crime Unit at 905-284-2241 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.peelcrimestroppers.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.

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ARRESTS FOLLOWING MAILBOX THEFTS

On February 8, the Caledon and Dufferin Detachments of the OPP responded to reports of thefts from a number of community mailboxes, where individual mailboxes were forced open and their contents taken. Video surveillance obtained by police during the investigation provided a vehicle and suspects' descriptions.

On February 10, at approximately 3:49 a.m., an officer from Caledon OPP located and stopped the suspect vehicle in the vicinity of Mayfield Road and Hurontario Street. Police arrested four suspects and recovered stolen mail, identification, credit cards, and break-in tools. The suspect's vehicle was also seized.

As a result of the investigation, three of the four suspects were charged.

Dharminder Grewal, 22, of Brampton, was charged with:

- Possession Break In Instruments;
- Possession Property Obtained by Crime under $5000;
- Theft from Mail - sent by post;
- Mischief Under $5000; and
- Possession of a Schedule I Substance - Heroin

Navjot Sidhu, 29, of Brampton, was charged with:

- Possession Break In Instruments; and
- Possession Property Obtained by Crime under $5000

Udhambir Singh, 22, of Brampton, was charged with:

- Possession Break In Instruments;
- Possession Property Obtained by Crime under $5000;
- Theft from Mail - sent by post; and
- Mischief Under $5000

All three accused are scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on April 22, 2021 to answer to the charges. The charges have not been proven.

The Caledon and Dufferin Detachments of the OPP would like to thank the community for their assistance in identifying the suspects, which led to a quick arrest. Anyone with additional information regarding these incidents is asked to contact the Caledon OPP Community Street Crime Unit at 905-284-2241 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.peelcrimestroppers.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.

Caledon and Dufferin OPP would like to remind area residents:

- Empty your mailboxes daily and do not allow your mail to accumulate.
- If you are expecting and did not receive a cheque or other valuable in the mail, contact the issuing agency immediately.
- Do not send cash in the mail.
- If you see suspicious activity, vehicles, or people at your mailbox, get the parties' descriptions, licence plats, and call 911. For non-emergencies, call 1-888-310-1122.

IMPAIRED DRIVING

Over the Family Day long weekend, officers from the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) charged two drivers with impaired driving in the Town of Caledon.

"On February 14, at approximately 10:20 p.m., officers responded to a report of a vehicle into the ditch in the area of Old Base Line Road and Bramalea Road," say Police. "As part of the investigation, the driver was asked to provide a sample of their breath into an Approved Roadside Screening Device, which resulted in a "fail" reading. The driver was then placed under arrest for Operation while Impaired - Blood Alcohol Concentration over 80 mg, and transported to the Caledon OPP Detachment, where further breath tests were conducted."

As a result, Andrew Malcolm, 26, of Caledon, was charged with:

- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (B.A.C.) over 80 mg;
- Driving while under suspension;
- Driving while suspended under the Criminal Code;
- Driving while under suspension - while suspended under HTA; and
- Fail to comply with probation order.

The accused is expected to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on April 20, 2021, to answer to the charges. The charges have not been proven.

"On February 15, 2021 at approximately 12:48 a.m., an officer was conducting speed enforcement on Highway 9. A vehicle was stopped for speeding and signs of impairment were observed. The driver was asked to provide a sample of their breath into an Approved Roadside Screening Device, which resulted in a "fail" reading. The driver was then placed under arrest for Operation while Impaired - Blood Alcohol Concentration over 80 mg, and transported to the Caledon OPP Detachment, where further breath tests were conducted."

As a result of the investigation, Oreita Holmes, 51, of Orangeville, was charged with:

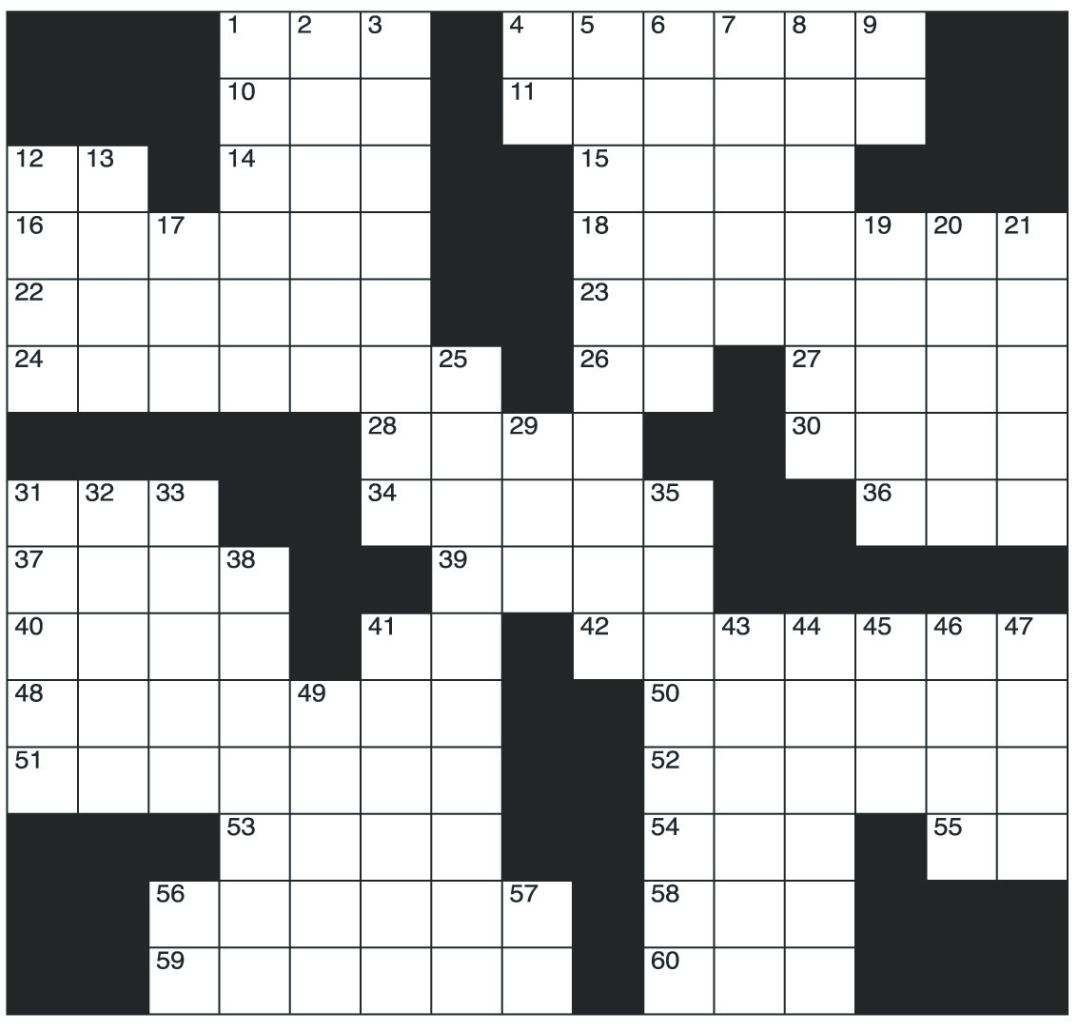
- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (B.A.C.) over 80 mg; and
- Speeding.

The accused is expected to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on April 29, 2021, to answer to the charges. The charges have not been proven.

"Winter and impaired driving can be a deadly combination. Winter weather conditions can change quickly, placing extra demands on your vehicle and your driving skills. Caledon OPP reminds motorists to slow down, stay alert and stay in control."

The Citizen CROSSWORD

Solution on page A14



CLUES ACROSS

1. Big tech firm
4. Picked
10. Type of whale
11. A woman of refinement
12. New England state
14. Common gibbon
15. Tall coniferous tree
16. State capital
18. Making a liquid muddy
22. Vinegary
23. Peninsula
24. Thee
26. Atomic #55
27. Used in units of measurement
28. Welsh female name
30. Arab ruler title
31. One's mother
34. Trap
36. Soviet Socialist Republic
37. Assn. of oil-producing countries
39. Holy fire
40. Emit coherent radiation
41. Atomic #81
42. Orthodox Jewish college
48. Herbs
50. Ran after
51. Begin again
52. Named
53. Barbary sheep
54. Unwell
55. Postscript
56. Drivers
58. One point east (clockwise) of due north
59. Prim
60. A facility equipped for sports or physical training

CLUES DOWN

1. Small islands
2. Skullcap
3. Unexplained events
4. One hundredth of a meter
5. Beloved baseball announcer
6. Repulsive
7. Northern European languages
8. Match or surpass
9. Northeast
12. Chew the fat
13. Innovative industry
17. Land to put down to grass
19. Products
20. Nostril
21. Surprise Icelandic politician
25. Conclusive acts
29. Inform on
31. Grinding tooth
32. Keep up
33. Tablelands
35. Raising
38. Mythical creature
41. Hums
43. Mountain in Antarctica
44. Neighborhood in Manhattan
45. Distinctive practice
46. Vice president
47. Contributes to
49. Small bones
56. Oil company
57. Empire State

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

Human Trafficking Awareness – time to understand the danger

BY CONSTANCE SCRAFIELD

February 22, 2021 is National Human Trafficking Awareness Day in Canada. This day is meant to bring into focus the devastation that human trafficking imposes on its victims and the people who love them; to raise awareness, and to give those agencies who can help the support they need.

The Region of Peel has Anti-Human Trafficking Service provider table, representing 40 agencies.

There are so many levels to being saved from this crime that a victim could enter or exit this situation through a variety of organizations, the police, Caledon/Dufferin Victim Services and many more.

A Caledon Councillor told the Citizen, "Often the victims don't even realize the extent to which they are being involved."

They don't always realize how far into the dangers of human trafficking they are.

The nuts and bolts of human trafficking is the money. A woman working for a pimp can make him a great deal of money, enticing teenaged boys, still going to high school, they can be recruited to start on the path. They begin by engaging younger, vulnerable teenage girls, wishing to be popular, maybe looking for a little excitement.

What if she gets invited by a boy she admires to go to a party? While there, she drinks too much and is later told she owes the host money for her visit. It can start as easily as that. Embarrassed to complain to the boy she admires or to tell her parents, the girl goes with a man for money to pay the debt, a cycle of extortion that never ends.

She can be trapped unless someone notices something is wrong: in her demeanour or studies or health. A parent, a counsellor at school, a friend or a friend's parent.

It is not just boys from high schools that are involved in the corruption of young women, as there is far too much to be gained. Other men come here also, looking for vulnerable girls, whom they might meet in the malls or walking along the streets. There is evidence to show that young women who have "developmental issues" or live in group homes are particularly at risk from these predators.

This systematic victimization of (mainly) women is a trade, a profession, corrupt, demeaning, ruinous.



However, as soon as help is sought, it is available and any person, with a connection to young people should know the telephone numbers that can be called at any time for immediate assistance. The truth is, that while there are a lot of trained volunteers at the other end of telephones, while there are accommodations and help, the problems need to be recognized by people associated with the victims or, possibly, those at risk of becoming victims.

The strategy of Peel Anti-Human Trafficking is three tiers: first, prevention by increasing awareness within government employees, shelters, schools, private corporations, parents and guardians.

Second is Intervention, in the way of providing core services including trauma counselling, navigating the system and coordinating social services.

The third deals with Exits/Housing, which means emergency housing, then transitional housing and a connection to Peel Access to Housing (PATH) for a long-term place to live.

Exits means getting out from under trafficking.

The pressure for successfully involving a young person in being captivated and victimized on the Internet cannot be overstated. The stay-at-home policies imposed by the COVID-19 restrictions have made it much worse.

With the proliferation of platforms, many of which carry sexual content, the perils of an easy acquisition are increased.

Said the Caledon Councillor, "Now, with the prevalence of social media platforms, it's that much scarier. Every platform has that in it. My daughter and I have had very serious conversations about the pitfalls. I think parents should tell their teenagers what the dangers are and equip them to deal with it."

"From my prospective," she added, "I'd rather my daughters know how to recognize it and know enough to delete."

Online, it can happen this way: an online flirtation and the boy asks for a photograph, a bit risqué - "just for him" but later he threatens to broadcast it online and she is trapped in her own embarrassment, and the vicious circle begins.

Peel has developed a task force. If a victim or survivor winds up in home care, the care provider could say, "I am there to help them for a clear path to getting that individual housing."

Even with immediate housing, very often survivors are in and out of survivor housing until they finally get out on the path: there are psychological elements of self-blame, feelings that a person can't leave: families are threatened, life is a mess...

It was important to Councillor Johanna Downey to become involved after she "... met Constable Joy Brown who chairs the Peel Anti-Human Trafficking and I asked to sit on committees," she told the Citizen.

"Oftentimes you need the political input. So, agencies are vying for the same funding – this table in Peel works together. I was working on getting the group in front of the miniseries of the province."

Bringing it home to this neighbourhood, Ms. Downey talked about Bob Burnside, Chair of a new organization, CryNot.

"This has come together from different bodies," she said. "It is a group of concerned men and women.

As Pina Marino of the Caledon/Dufferin Victim Services (DCVS) says, you have people – there is a demand. Without the demand, the [human trafficking] service wouldn't be provided."

In a follow-up conversation with Bob Burnside, he told the Citizen, "I heard of Joy Smith, from Calgary –she's the mother of anti-human trafficking. She was responsible for forming human trafficking laws in Ottawa as an MP. She's become a resource person, training police and giving information to judges."

Further, he explained, "I went to a National Prayer meeting in Ottawa. She was speaking and she was the one that grabbed my interest and grabbed my heart. She's really making a difference. She's a grandmother and she just really stirred me up."

Once Mr. Burnside had heard Joy Smith speak, he "took part in a webinar and spoke to her on the phone. There had to be something we could do about just making people aware of this – just let people know.

"Actually, there are cases within Caledon and Dufferin."

Determined to help, Mr. Burnside interested the Orangeville Rotary Club in a zoom meeting with Pina Marino. He also invited Compass Church.

"I'd like to have them involved because they are a long-standing presence in the community."

Coming from the combination of the Compass Church and Rotary, now is the Compass Rotary Youth No Traffic: CryNot.

"There are 17 on the committee, plus resource people – we have to get on social media," Mr. Burnside elaborated. "We're just talking to anyone who will hear us. There's no judgement on the victims. It's very evil. Johanna was a real blessing to me when I first contacted her. There are numerous groups, slowly coming to work to defeat this."

Mr. Burnside outlined the inception of the CryNot group: "We started formally to meet as a group last August, maximum six months. Primarily, we want to help and stand by other groups, like DECAF. A lot of people are doing the work and we all know a lot of people. We have a lot of different talents among our groups; people want to help and dive into this and we're making progress. We've been soaking up information for the last six months."

Indeed, Caledon and Orangeville are this this week issuing proclamations to the effect that these municipalities will stand against Human Trafficking and support such agencies working to support victims and bring forward public awareness of the problem.

If you or anyone you suspect is involved with human trafficking on any level, you can call authorities 24/7 for very quick and local response at 1-833-900-1010

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OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
Hours: 7am-10pm

Locally sourced food club continues to provide healthy meals for Dufferin-Caledon community

Continued from FRONT



PHOTO COURTESY OF HFFA

The Local Food Club was developed shortly after HFFA. Members of the community sought a program that would provide their children and families with healthy food options, while strengthening the local food system in Headwaters as well.

Additionally, educational programs and workshops followed after to teach children where food comes from, how to grow and cook it in a way to connect to the farming communities in Dufferin-Caledon.

"We started providing Education Workshops, where farmers visited classrooms and students experienced hands-on food and farming activities. The Local Food Club extended the learning and farmer connections to the home and brought parents and caregivers into the conversation," said Jennifer Payne, Executive Director, Headwaters Communities in Action.

According to the Local Food Club they aim to "create connections between families and the food growers, value-add processors and retailers in their neighbourhoods, to make healthy local foods more accessible to busy families in Headwaters, to grow food literacy in our communities and to promote awareness about our local food system."

The standard price is $25 per bag, with the opportunity to pay more to donate towards the program and memberships. Members are able to select a price that works better for them if unable to pay the full standard amount.

The Local Food Club runs all year round, and provides one healthy family meal along with recipes, nutritional information about the ingredients, information about where the food came from and the locally sourced ingredients. Each bag has enough food to feed a family of four.

"Local Food Club, and cooking with foods literally grown in our backyards, has such a positive impact on children's relationship with food. When they see where the food comes from and have the education and skills to grow it and then use it to make a meal, they are much more interested and open to trying new foods and exploring the bounty of what is available here in Headwaters," says Whitten. "It really is an all-round win."

The program is funded through revenue made from the Farm to School programs, but additionally from a grant provided from the province called the Local Food Grant and fundraising through the Headwaters Communities in Action, The Children's Foundation of Guelph and Wellington and other fundraising efforts.

The Local Food Club continues on amid the COVID-19 pandemic, with the necessary adaptions to follow the provided safety guidelines.

"Now more than ever, local food and food skills are a vital part of our community. Even within the pandemic – and, to a degree, because of it - there has been a substantial growth in interest and concern of where our food comes from," explains Whitten. "People are simply looking to buy locally and to be more conscientious with their food purchases."

"Not only does eating local promote economic stability within our community, but it has an impact on our ecological footprint, not to mention our health," she says.

The program has seen significant growth since the beginning. From one or two schools, they continued to expand to 13. Through supporting and creating relationships with local farmers and schools, the Local Food Club has been able to expand their platter and develop and encourage food activities, education and fundraisers.

"COVID has made us rethink how we can run Local Food Club. Without access to schools, it actually presented an opportunity to partner with the Orangeville Food Bank as our base, which allows us to serve to the broader community and offer add-on donations to OFB through our order form," says Payne.

She adds, "We look forward to seeing our school friends again when that is possible, but for now, we feel we are feeding an even bigger and growing appetite for local food."

Packs for February are completed, but those scheduled for April, June and August are available. For more information or to place an order, please visit hffa.ca.

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*Certain conditions apply. All images were taken prior to Covid-19.

PUBLIC NOTICE

HAVE YOUR SAY

NOTICE OF COMMENCEMENT

Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Structure Improvements

As part of the Town of Caledon's Asset Management Strategy, improvements are being considered for bridges and culverts. This is due to the wear and tear on existing infrastructure due to increased traffic and use.

The Town has initiated a Schedule 'B' Class Environmental Assessment (EA) to consider options for improvements to the following bridges. The approximate location of the project is shown on the map.

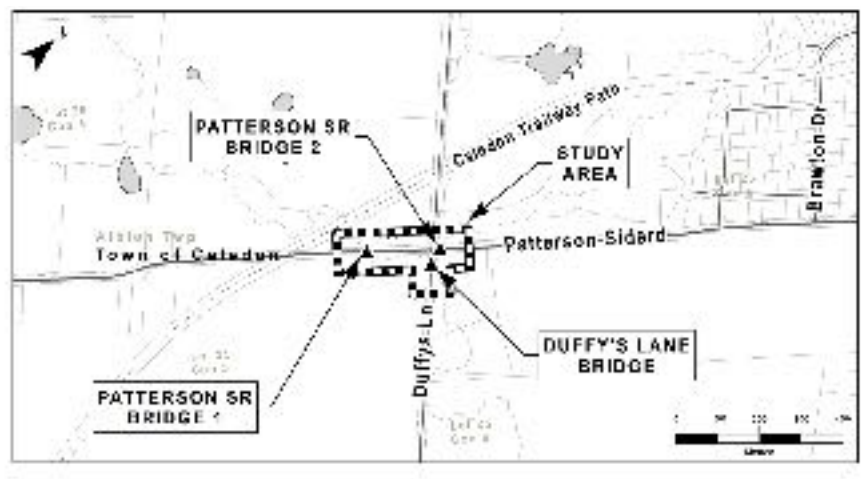
PATTERSON SIDE ROAD BRIDGE (1)
For improvements to the existing 2 lane, T-beam reinforced cast-in-place structure constructed in 1950 and located approximately 0.1 km West of Duffy's Lane over the Humber River.

PATTERSON SIDE ROAD BRIDGE (2)
For improvements to the existing 2 lane, rigid frame, vertical leg reinforced cast-in-place structure constructed in 1950 and located approximately 0.03 km East of Duffy's Lane over the Humber River.

DUFFY'S LANE BRIDGE
For feasibility investigation to determine future management of the existing 2 lane structure. The structure is located approximately 0.03km South of Patterson Side Road over the Humber River.

THE PROCESS:
The project is being planned under the Municipal Class EA process (October 2000, as amended in 2007, 2011 & 2015), which is an approved process under the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act. Further information about the project and planning process can be found at **caledon.ca/notices**. At the end of the study, the process will be documented in a Project File Report (PFR), prepared for public review.

PUBLIC INPUT:
The public is invited to provide comments for consideration in the planning and design of the project. .A virtual Public Information Centre (PIC) is planned for Spring 2021. Further notice will be provided closer to the date of the PIC. Subject to comments received and obtaining the necessary approvals, the Town of Caledon intends to proceed with the planning and design of the project, with a construction date to be determined dependent on funding.



To provide comment or to request additional information concerning this study or if you would like to be added to the project contact list to receive future project notices, please contact either of the following project team members:

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Project Manager
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Collingwood, ON L9Y 4J6
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Project and notice information will be made accessible upon request in accordance with the Accessibility Standard for Information and Communication under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005.

Information will be collected and maintained to meet the requirements of the Environmental Assessment Act and for the purposes of creating a record that will be available to the general public as described in Section 37 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. With the exception of personal information such as name, address, telephone number and property location, all comments will become part of the public record that is available to the general public.

This Notice First Issued on February 18, 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

TOWN OF CALEDON | News | Subscribe: caledon.ca/enews



COVID-19 update

Virtual Town Hall February 24, 7 p.m.

Join Dr. Lawrence Loh, Medical Officer of Health for Peel Public Health and Mayor Allan Thompson for a virtual town hall to discuss the latest COVID-19 updates for the Town of Caledon.

To participate, dial **1-833-311-4101**, access code **132 947 5450#** or access the live stream at **caledon.ca/agenda** .

Have a question about COVID 19?
Send in advance to mayor@caledon.ca





CALEDON COVID-19 TESTING SITES

- **CALEDON CENTRE FOR RECREATION AND WELLNESS**
  14111 Regional Road 50 North | Bolton, ON
  Hours: Mondays 2 to 7 p.m.
- **SOUTHFIELDS COMMUNITY CENTRE**
  225 Dougall Ave, Caledon
  Hours: Wednesdays 2 to 7 p.m.

  *For the above locations call **905-796-4922** to book an appointment.*
- **HEADWATERS HEALTH CARE CENTRE**
  100 Rolling Hills Drive, Orangeville
  *Visit **headwatershealth.ca** to book an appointment.*

Winter pet safety

Here are some tips to protect your pet from ice, snow, freezing temperatures and other hazards.

- Never leave your pet unattended in a cold car.
- Keep your pets warm. If it's too cold for you to stay outside, it's too cold for your pet.
- Provide your pet with a warm cozy bed.
- Keep your pet away from puddles or large bodies of water.
- Wipe your pets' paws and underside after being outside.
- Beware of cats seeking warmth under vehicle hoods.
- Dress your pet appropriately for winter outings.
- Prepare an emergency pet survival kit for possible power outages.

caledon.ca/animalservices
#CaledonAnimalShelter



PUBLIC NOTICE

HAVE YOUR SAY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Columbia Way Environmental Assessment

A Public Meeting will be held to share information and receive public input on the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA) for Columbia Way between Highway 50 and Caledon King Townline. The EA will improve traffic conditions and enhance the safety of all road users, including pedestrians and cyclists, and to identify road drainage and stormwater management improvements.

Due to continuing efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19 and to protect individuals, Town Hall will not be open for community members to attend Public Meetings until further notice. This meeting will be held electronically.

Date: **February 24, 2021**
Time: **5 p.m.**

To listen to the Meeting, you may call 1-833-311-4101, Meeting Access Code: 132 982 6233#. You can also watch live from the Town's website. Members of the community are encouraged to submit questions in advance to transportation@caledon.ca to be answered by the consultant during the meeting.

For more information on how to access the meeting details, including background on the project, please visit **caledon.ca/notices.**

CONTACTS:

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Andrew McGregor, MCIP, RPP
Senior Planner, EA & Approvals
R.V. Anderson Associated Limited
AMcGregor@rvanderson.com
905.685.5049

ACCESSIBILITY:

If you require an accessibility accommodation in relation to this Public Meeting, or to access any materials related to this project 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: February 11, 2021

2021 Interim Property Tax Bills have been mailed out

Be sure to pay your taxes by March 4 and May 6 to avoid late payment fees.
Still going through financial hardship because of COVID-19?
Apply for one of the COVID-19 property tax relief programs.
caledon.ca/tax

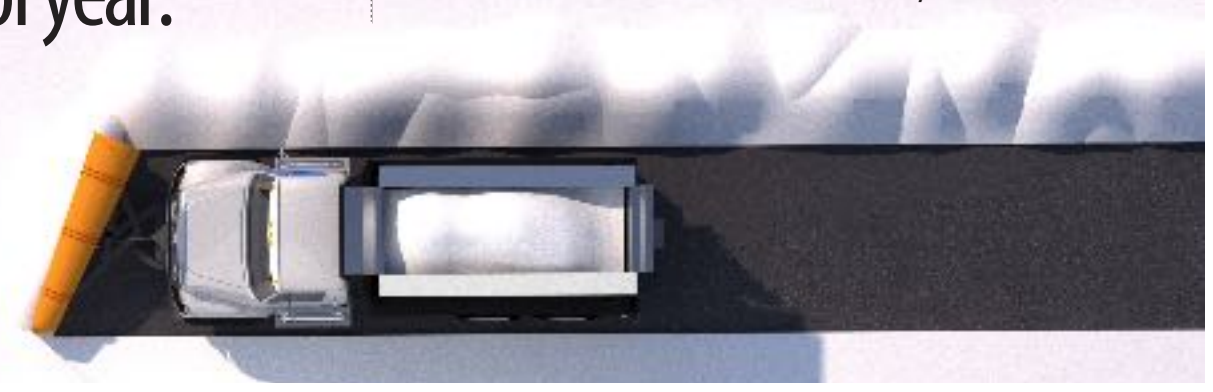
Support local businesses

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#shoplocalcaledon

Snowplows are busy this time of year.

Keep roads, driveways and sidewalks free of obstructions so that they can do their job quickly – and safely!
caledon.ca/snow #CaledonWinterSafety





Get funding for your "green" idea!

The Town invites not-for-profit or volunteer groups in Caledon to apply to the Community Green Fund to undertake environmental projects.

DEADLINE: Submit a letter of intent before February 19, 2021 for the project funding stream (see chart).

Unsure if your idea fits? Contact the Energy and Environment Division by email at environment@caledon.ca.
For more information, and to find the Letter of Intent template, visit **caledon.ca/greenfund**

Community Green Fund has two streams		
Maximum Grant Request	***Project Funding Stream***	***Fast Track Stream***
	$5000	$1000
Requirements	Two - stage application	One - stage application
Deadlines	Letter of intent: Feb 19 Full Application: Mar 26	Full Application: Mar 26

COMMUNITY GREEN FUND

Brock's Banter

Strengthening and redefining family bonds

I don't know about you, but I've always had a love-hate relationship with Family Day.

Don't get me wrong; I love my family, but a whole day to celebrate it? Taking religion out of the equation, isn't that the one thread related to Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas we can generally all agree on?

Family Day just doesn't have the same gravitas. How could it? A holiday borne out of an election promise by Dalton McGuinty for some extra time off during the winter, a promise which certainly played no small part in his election victory in 2007 just doesn't carry the same heft as a holiday steeped in custom and tradition.

And, let's face it, the name "Family Day" was not particularly out-of-the-box thinking. At least the August Civic Holiday is backed by our heritage, being formally known in Ontario as "Simcoe Day" in honour of John Graves Simcoe. Uses of that formal title these days, and chances to underscore Simcoe's influence on the development of what is now the Province, are few and far between.

As Family Day often approached, I'd sometimes laugh to myself remembering a scene from The Simpsons where the Board of Directors of Costington's Department Store are sitting around the table spit-balling potential new holidays to scare up customers and profits.

Executive 1: Okay, people. We need to cook up a new holiday over the summer. Something with gifts, cards, assorted gougables.

Executive 2: How about something religious. We had great penetration last spring with "Christmas II."

Executive 3: I know! "Spendover" like "Passover." Less talk, more presents.

Executive 1: No, it's got to be warm and fuzzy. Something like "Love Day" but not so lame.

Smash cut to The Simpsons family observing "Love Day" with the same reverence as, say, Canada Day, with Marge excusing herself from the conversation to go out to the front yard to "dismantle Love Land." Love Land? Why, a collection of large, mechanical teddy bears in questionable outfits, rubbing bows against violins, presumably to a "traditional" Love Day song, of course. Even if said observance was born out of committee just a few months before.

Maybe it is that Family Day doesn't have enough years behind it for the development of any significant tradition. People can freestyle it and make Family Day what we want it to be. As I write that though, I realize it is not strictly true, at least for those of us in the newspaper industry.

Almost since the advent of the holiday itself, I have spent the day following a nearly invariable routine. Charging up the camera and all other tools of the trade the night before, it would be off to cover any variety of Family Day events – often those involving snow and ice.

There is never any shortage of images to capture but, perhaps most importantly, it is the first real chance to get out of our winter hibernation and interact once again, face to face with our neighbours.

These events never fail to underscore the fact that Family Day can be celebrated on the theme of "family" writ large, well beyond the nuclear unit to a whole community.

Reconnecting with our community family this year is still a way's off. Instead, this Family Day we were, whether we like it or not, closer to our nuclear units than maybe we have ever been before.

Sticking to our households, we have very little choice than to make the best of it. The past eleven months may have been a challenging time for families on many fronts. Perhaps for the first time there was an opportunity for Family Day to live up to its name, or even its intent, and help families reconnect, reconsider the ties that bind, consider new traditions, and find renewed gratitude in family, however you define it.

Not everyone is so lucky.

Over the course of the pandemic, I have often thought that no matter how claustrophobic it might feel to see the same four walls and the same familiar faces day in and day out, we are lucky we not only have that sense of "family" but also the reality of fellowship.

For the most vulnerable members of our community, opportunities to find this sometimes elusive but invaluable sense of fellowship have become even fewer and further between.

Chances to have a sit-down meal with others beyond our family units was something many of us took for granted, but for others it is anything but. For people in need, community meals facilitated by such organizations as Welcoming Arms, an ecumenical organization churches in Aurora, ON, united by a common mission, have stepped up more than ably to provide this – as long as circumstances have allowed.

Welcoming Arms, co-founded by Aurora resident Beverley Wood, who died Saturday after a brief illness, successfully made a nearly seamless pivot to make sure stomachs were fed in a drive- or walk-thru format, but what hasn't been able to be retrofitted to our new reality is the chance to foster the face-to-face fellowship that only sitting down together to break bread can offer.

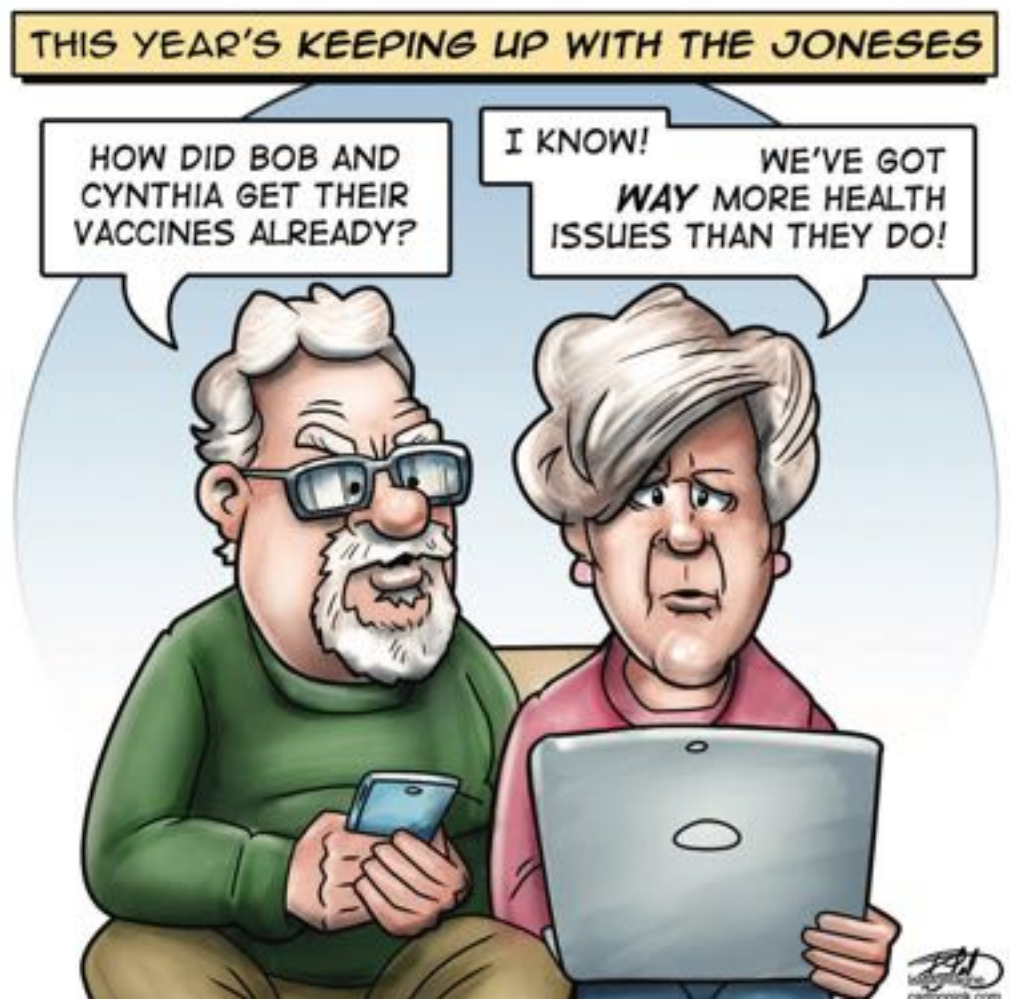
As the light at the end of the tunnel grows ever brighter with vaccination programs being brought back on track, I believe getting these programs back up and running as quickly and safely as possible, and as close as possible to how they were before, should rank high on our collective to-do list for post-pandemic recovery.

The last eleven months have been hard on everybody, but particularly the vulnerable who have been more isolated than ever before.

This Family Day, I was at home with my family, capping the night binge-watching classic programs that never fail to make us smile. I also raised a glass to Beverley not only in honour of our friendship formed over the last eleven years, but the invaluable community bonds she worked tirelessly to promote over her decades of volunteerism.

The idea of celebrating the families we are born with as well as the people we have brought into our circles as "chosen family" might be a relatively new concept, but it is no less valuable. I hope the number of chosen families facilitated by Beverley and the team she helped assemble over the years brought comfort and joy during this winter celebration.

What a wonderful and enduring legacy she has left behind.



The rich bounce back, others never will

by Mark Pavilons



"Life is a dream for the wise, a game for the fool, a comedy for the rich, a tragedy for the poor."

– Sholom Alechem

John F. Kennedy once said that "if a free society cannot help the many who are poor, it cannot save the few who are rich."

The "mega-rich" will recoup COVID-losses in record-time, yet billions will live in poverty for at least another decade.

A recent report by Oxfam revealed that the 1,000 richest people on the planet recouped their COVID-19 losses within just nine months, but it could take more than a decade for the world's poorest to recover from the economic impacts of the pandemic.

Aptly titled "The Inequality Virus," the report shows that COVID-19 has the potential to increase economic inequality in almost every country at once, the first time this has happened since records began over a century ago. Rising inequality means it could take at least 14 times longer for the number of people living in poverty to return to pre-pandemic levels than it took for the fortunes of the top 1,000, mostly white male billionaires to bounce back.

The rich get richer, and the poor get poorer, is a cry heard throughout the civilized world, said Friedrich Schiller.

In Canada, the fortunes of the country's 44 billionaires have increased by almost $63.5 billion (CAD) since March 2020. Oxfam estimates this would be enough to give every one of the 3.8 million poorest people in Canada a cheque for $16,823.

Let's do it!

"We stand to witness the greatest rise in inequality since records began. The deep divide between the rich and poor is proving as deadly as the virus," said Diana Sarosi, director of policy and campaigns for Oxfam Canada.

Women and marginalized racial and ethnic groups are bearing the brunt of this crisis.

"This kind of extreme inequality is not inevitable, it is the result of policy choices. Canada and governments around the world must seize this opportunity to build more equal, more inclusive economies that end poverty and protect the planet."

A global survey of 295 economists from 79 countries, commissioned by Oxfam, shows that 87 per cent of respondents, including Jeffrey Sachs, Jayati Ghosh and Gabriel Zucman, expect an "increase" or a "major increase" in income inequality in their country as a result of the pandemic.

Oxfam's report shows how the "rigged economic system" is enabling a super-rich elite to amass wealth in the middle of the worst recession since the Great Depression, while billions of people are struggling to make ends meet. It reveals how the pandemic is deepening long-standing economic, racial and gender divides.

The world's 10 richest men have seen their combined wealth increase by half a trillion dollars since the pandemic began – more than enough to pay for a COVID-19 vaccine for everyone and to ensure no one is pushed into poverty by the pandemic.

At the same time, the pandemic has ushered in the worst job crisis in over 90 years with hundreds of millions of people now underemployed or out of work. These figures are just astounding and when you equate them to real human circumstances, it's crazy. I encourage you to watch the Netflix film, White Tiger. It centres around a man from a small town in India who eventually rises out of servitude to become an entrepreneur. I learned a lot about the Indian culture in this film, most notably that the caste system locks people in to a certain social status, one that is next to impossible to move out of. Millions of Indian citizens simply aspire to be servants to wealthy families.

It really put things in perspective, almost like a punch to the gut.

Many of us have no idea of the struggles and tribulations of people in other lands, and in other cultures and other socio-economic groups. We're sheltered.

We have it so very good here and yet we're also keenly aware of the division between rich and poor.

What's worse is this massive inequality is costing lives. Afro-descendants in Brazil are 40 per cent more likely to die of COVID-19 than white people, while nearly 22,000 black and Hispanic people in the United States would still be alive if they experienced the same COVID-19 mortality rates as their white counterparts.

Infection and mortality rates are higher in poorer areas of countries. Oxfam noted that if a temporary tax was placed on excess profits made by 32 global corporations (that have gained the most during the pandemic) it could have raised $104 billion in 2020. This is enough to provide unemployment benefits for all workers and financial support for all children and elderly people in low- and middle-income countries.

The World Bank finds that if inequality increases by 2 percentage points annually, and global per capita GDP growth contracts by 8 per cent, 501 million more people will still be living on less than $5.50 a day in 2030.

The International Monetary Fund's worst-case scenario does not see GDP returning to pre-crisis levels until the end of 2022.

We need to remove the "us" and "them" mentality entirely from our way of thinking.

It's been said over and over, we're all in this together. Let's prove it!

Our Readers Write

Open letter to Mayor & Council on highway proposal

As a Caledon resident who lives very close to the route of the proposed Highway 413, it is becoming more difficult to contain my steadily increasing disappointment and frustration with the Town's unwavering and blinkered support for this ill-conceived project.

This letter is in support of Jenni Le Forestier's presentation to Caledon Council asking (A) the town to reverse that support, (B) request the Federal Government to conduct an environmental assessment on both the proposed Highway 413 and Bradford Bypass projects and (C) to ask the Auditor General's office to conduct a cost/benefit analysis.

Continued on Page 19



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

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

Caledon Citizen

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

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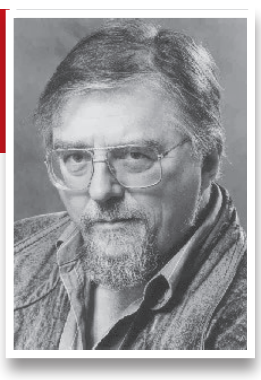
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Iran: Another Nuclear Bungle?

GWYNNE DYER
OUR WORLD TODAY



The self-esteem of two-year-olds and nation-states is too fragile for them to admit they were wrong, which makes it hard for them to move on from blunders. That's why the toys don't get picked up and the broken treaties don't get fixed, and why there may be a tantrum (in the case of two-year-olds) or a nuclear war (in the case of the United States and Iran)

The latter contingency is implausible, but there is a bipartisan effort in the United States to make it more likely. Until a few weeks ago it was widely believed that a Biden administration would move fast to repair the damage Donald Trump did by withdrawing from the 2015 treaty in which Iran promised no work on nuclear weapons for fifteen years, but not necessarily so.

Why did Trump pull out in the first place? Sheer spite, really.

All the world's intelligence agencies, including the American ones, agreed that Iran was meticulously obeying the terms of the Obama-era treaty, but Trump was systematically destroying every achievement of the "black, foreign imposter" who preceded him in the White House. If Obama had granted Americans eternal life, Trump would have tried to undo it.

Iran isn't even asking for an apology, although it certainly deserves one. It just wants the United States to revoke the international sanctions that were ended by the treaty of 2015, but that Trump unilaterally re-imposed, against the wishes of all the other major powers (Britain, China, France, Germany, the European Union and Russia), in 2018.

That could be done in a day, and as soon as it was, promised Iran's President Hassan Rouhan, Iran would return to compliance within hours. "Return", because to motivate all the other signatories to press the United States to return to the treaty, Iran itself started a slow-paced series of departures from the treaty terms in mid-2019.

Iran didn't rush into retaliation. It waited a year first, telling the European powers that it would go on observing the letter of the treaty if they allowed Iranian banks and oil companies to go on trading with them. The Europeans didn't dare, knowing Trump would punish European banks and companies if they did that, so Iran was left holding the bag.

When Iran did start breaching the treaty terms, it did so slowly and with plenty of warning, one provision at a time, letting the inspectors watch what they were doing at every step: first raising the level of uranium enrichment from the treaty-agreed 3.67% to 4.5% in November 2019, then going to 5% a year later.

However, when the United States and Israel resumed their campaign of assassinations against senior Iranian military and scientific personnel last year – General Qassem Soleimani in January and the country's top nuclear scientist, Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, in November – Iran's parliament took a hand.

Iran is a partially democratic country, and the parliament is currently dominated by conservatives who are fed up with President Rouhani's long patience on this issue. Three months ago, they legislated a series of deadlines by which Iran would have to breach more serious aspects of the treaty if the United States does not rejoin it.

The first of those deadlines, when Rouhani's government will be obliged to block short-notice inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency, is less than a week away: 21 February. The Biden administration could head that off simply by declaring that it will return to the treaty without conditions, but it appears that the Trump stupidity is catching.

"Will the U.S. lift sanctions first in order to get Iran back to the negotiating table?" CBS News asked Joe Biden a week ago. "No," he replied, and US State Department spokesman Ned Price later elaborated: "We continue to urge Tehran to resume full compliance with the [nuclear deal]...because that, for us, would open up the pathway for diplomacy."

Trump may be gone, but realism has not yet found its way back to Washington. When the United States breaks a treaty for no good reason and plunges tens of millions of Iranians into poverty, it is not the victim's duty to rescind all its countermeasures first in order to prove its good faith.

It would be easy to choreograph a dance in which Iran and the United States undo this confrontation step by step in unison, thus saving America's face by never mentioning who caused it. But insisting the Iranians move first, as if they were the guilty ones, is a non-starter: they may not be two-year-olds, but they have their pride. They aren't fully grown-up either.

What Biden really must not do is demand that Iran make more concessions beyond the 2015 treaty before he agrees to end sanctions. That was Trump's game, and with all this talk about "opening up the pathway for diplomacy" Biden is edging dangerously close to that.

The Carrot and the Stick

SHERALYN ROMAN
TALK CALEDON



We'll start today's column with a brief history lesson.

At some point or another in life, regardless of your place or origin, you've likely been exposed to the theory of motivation based on the carrot and stick. It might go by other names, perhaps a different vegetable (turnips, in one example we found) is the motivator; but the concept remains the same. It is a metaphor for the use of a combination of reward and punishment to induce desired behaviour.

The carrot, of course, assuming one is motivated by vegetables, is the positive motivator, and the stick, it should be self-evident, is a negative motivational tool. It's a simplistic model of human behaviour that pays little attention to other factors. (intrinsic motivation or Maslow's model comes to mind.) Yet, I can't help but feel there is a whole lot of the "carrot and stick" philosophical approach to motivation going on right now at the Provincial government level.

I don't know about you, but I'm getting pretty tired of being the donkey, flogged by the stick while attempting to keep up with the carrot dangling in front of me.

What follows is my general assessment of the carrot and stick philosophy that seems to be guiding the current Provincial government through their decision-making process. I hope you'll indulge me.

- Carrot: Good news, the Province is opening!
- Stick: Bad news, the Province might decide to close at any time!
- Carrot: The good news is only good news for certain public health units – you folks are the lucky ones, for now.
- Stick: The bad news is some of us have been "very, very bad" and must remain in lockdown.
- Carrot: The good news is most of you small business people can open again so go ahead and staff up, buy lots of food if you are in the restaurant business or invest in new stock for Spring if you're a small business owner.
- Stick: Don't worry about "the stick," trust us, we're working in your best interests. Sure, we might pull the plug at any moment and close you back down. If we do, it's for your own good.
- Carrot – not followed by a Stick: In more good news, for all you "average citizens" – don't worry, we'll never shut critical services like big box retailers and coffee shops located on every corner. We know how important your morning cup of "Joe" is while you're driving towards these "essential" destinations.

I could continue along those lines but it might make for a lengthy use of column space and I'm sure you get the general idea. So back to paragraphs it is.

There is more good news; this time for parents and children everywhere, school is opening back up. Lucky us, it appears COVID doesn't spread in schools at all. The bad news is Mr. Lecce has postponed your March Break. Who needs a reward for all that hard effort navigating a crazy school year, online learning, or working or learning in "safe" schools that have yet to see one of the hundreds of nurses hired to support them? Certainly not students and teachers!

Finally, in the best news of all – the Province is opening most of the province. We may have said that already. BUT folks – beware the new variants. The new variants are here. They are spreading at an alarming rate. We could be staring down case numbers in the thousands by early April!

"It's a precarious time," says Dr. David Williams, and we could be facing a third wave. But also, don't be too afraid because we're letting you have your March Break – in April – right after Easter. Because that makes perfect sense, letting us all roam freely just as we anticipate that third wave of COVID-19 and most of us still have no idea if, or when, we'll be receiving the vaccine.

By the way, here was the reasoning for postponing March Break for those of you who missed it: "to protect schools and avoid a repeat of the concerning spike in youth-related cases over the winter break, when students and staff were out of schools for a prolonged period of time. We are taking this precaution based on advice from health experts, including the province's Science Table and the Chief Medical Officer of Health, to help protect against the emerging COVID-19 variants of concern."

Wait, what? I don't know about you but now, I'm not only confused, I'm also beginning to hate both carrots and sticks in equal measure.

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Hometown Guess Whose Door of Caledon Contest

Winners List

Four weeks ago Caledon Citizen took pictures of the front doors for participating businesses in our

"Guess Whose Door Contest"

published for 3 consecutive weeks.
All submissions were entered into a draw to win one of three prize packs.

Thank You

to all who entered and for the overwhelming responses! A big THANK YOU to all of the participating businesses for taking part in this fun feature.

Congratulations

to our winners.

First Prize: $500 Local Gift Card Bundle — Sandeep Singh
Second Prize: $250 Local Gift Card Bundle — Chrissy Leslie
Third Prize: $250 Local Gift Card Bundle — Mary-Grace Micieli

Thank You for Participating!



Answer Key

Match the doors to the businesses below:

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20. NATURALLY BULK

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It is more important than ever to support one another and our local community businesses. We would like to once again say Thank You to all of the participating businesses. It was a proud moment for everyone here at Caledon Citizen to purchase 20 different local gift cards to fill the prize pack.

Congratulations to our winners!

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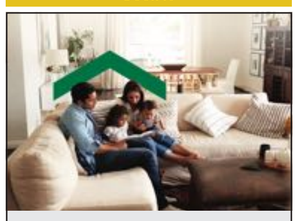
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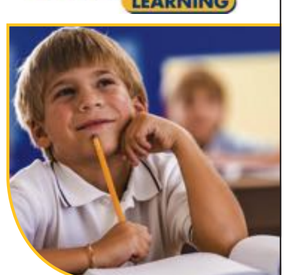


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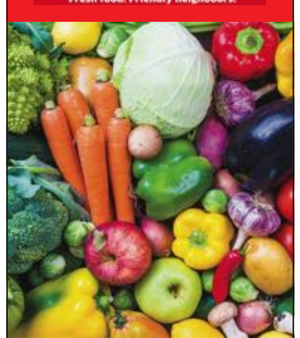
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Birch Shoppe encourages "shop local" and provides opportunities



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BY ALYSSA PARKHILL
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

White Birch Special Needs Day Program is introducing a new and exciting feature to their building for members of the community to enjoy – the Birch Shoppe.

The White Birch Special Needs Day Program was developed in 2014 by Carlo Summaria as a space for all adults with special needs to attend and enjoy classrooms set up with computers, books, crafts and other activities for each individual.

Located in Palgrave, the program treats each and every person as family, and aims to create a warm and welcoming environment for all those with special needs.

The day program runs from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 a.m., five days a week, where activities are presented throughout the day to allow for mental and physical interaction. Alongside the Day program, transportation is available for participants to and from. One on one support is also provided if wanted.

Once a month, a movie respite night is held for participants to join the staff at White Birch for dinner, activities and a movie. How fun!

White Birch, like many other organizations, has had its share of challenges since the pandemic began, but an opportunity arose for an ongoing thought to become a reality.

"I was sick and tired of watching what I created over the past seven years die because of the pandemic," said Carlo Summaria. "I have been racking my brain since July to try and come up with something different. The store idea, actually, I've had for a few months now, and I was just trying to find the right location."

Fortunately, he found that perfect spot inside their own building.

"In the midst of finding that, I got word that we had a room in our building that was still zoned under a retail zoning from a few years back," he continued.

The room was in much need of sprucing up, which allowed not only staff, but White Birch participants to come lend a hand, allowing them to become a part of the process.

"I'm always trying to do more [with] these guys," said Summaria. "We thought, we've had a good group of participants stick with us during the pandemic, we're going to reward them with giving them a little bit more purpose and something to do, and to finally give back to their community instead of always benefitting from it."

White Birch participants have been joining staff and helping with organizing locally sourced products and renovating and building furniture needed for the shop.

"It's going to be a farm store, so we're going to be catering more towards groceries than gifts and stuff like that. It's all local suppliers, stretching maybe an hour or two from Caledon," explained Summaria. "The idea is that everybody's going to have a hand in the shop, whether it's stocking shelves or working behind the cash register. It's going to be friends helping friends."

Because of the pandemic, the program has been continuing on and doing well, without the help from the province.

"I didn't want to see what we've done together dissolved because of low numbers," said Summaria.

Alongside allowing participants an opportunity to have further purpose and to give back, the store itself aims to give back to the community by collaborating with local business owners by featuring and encouraging customers to purchase their products.

Because the pandemic's restrictions don't allow gatherings, the Birch Shoppe isn't able to host an official grand opening. Instead, the team organized and sold Birch Boxes for customers that were packaged and organized by White Birch participants. Staff and participants just can't officially open and bring something new and exciting to the community.

"We're opening up something real. Our goal here is to keep that local feeling going. I don't want people to come shop because we're a daycare for adults with special needs," said Summaria. "I want them to come because they want to try the products and know they're going to see some great smiling faces behind the counter."

Located at 17090 Regional Road 50 in Palgrave, the Birch Shoppe will officially open their doors on March 1.

For further information on the Birch Shoppe or the White Birch Special Needs Day Program, please visit whitebirchdp.com.

South Asian domestic violence victims face barriers during pandemic

BY FATIMA BAIG

Many South Asian women who are victims of domestic violence face hurdles such as language and social barriers. Since the pandemic started, places like Indus Community Services are having to adapt the way they provide services for South Asian Women.

South Asian women face barriers when it comes to domestic violence and, as a result, many have a hard time coming forward and gaining access to services and resources available to them.

According to Rupi Muitanti, Family Court Support Worker of Indus Community Service, South Asian women face language barriers, systemic barriers, family pressure, financial support challenges, a lack of knowledge about services and resources available to them, immigration status, shortage of shelters and housing wait times, ineligibility for Legal Aid Ontario, Ontario Works, child care subsidy and transportation when it comes to domestic violence.

Indus Community Services had to change the way they are providing services during the pandemic.

One of these changes involves doing virtual or telephone meetings instead of face-to-face sessions, and, as a result, they are having a hard time building a rapport with clients.

"The barriers workers are facing when providing services to South Asian women during a pandemic is that sometimes workers find it difficult to build a rapport with women as face-to-face meetings do not take place anymore." said Muitanti

According to Mutani, ever since they switched to telephone meetings Indus Community Services have a hard time reaching clients and providing support to individuals as many are not tech-savvy, as well as women who have children since they often have a hard time focusing on the conversation.

Due to the telephone meetings, there is a greater chance of miscommunication as well.

"South Asian women during a pandemic cannot be able to connect with the client since the main way we are doing this is by telephone and at times they are not able to pick up or call us back. If this happens, it makes it difficult for the service provider and the client as well, since it creates the barrier of miscommunication." said Multani.

According to Multani, since the pandemic has hit many women are hesitant and worried about going into a shelter or a congregated space and fear they will get exposed to COVID-19. As a result, many women are choosing to stay where they are.

Financial insecurity is also a big reason why women don't want to leave their families.

Many immigrant women are stay at home mothers or newcomers to Canada and don't have experience in the job market.

"During the pandemic, employment is challenging and they do not want to separate from their family and financially struggle. They fear the uncertainty during the pandemic and this can create a strain on their mental health as well," said Multani.

The services and programs offered by Indus Community Services include Family Court Support Services Crisis intervention, counselling and risk assessment safety planning and transitional support women's groups to support health and wellness educational workshops, advocacy and referrals to community resources mental Health Counselling Support Child, youth and parenting support.

To access these services, please contact Indus Community Services Head Office at 905 275 2369





Alex Lim

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hills of Headwaters Collaborative announces new Transformation Lead

BY ALYSSA PARKHILL
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Dufferin-Caledon Ontario Health Team has introduced a Transformation Lead to the Hills of Headwaters Collaborative Ontario Health Team.

Established in 2019, the Hills of Headwaters Collaborative was one of the first of its fellow 24 Ontario Health Teams across Ontario dedicated to enhancing the delivery of health care through new models. Ontario currently has 42 health teams covering 86 per cent of the population.

A Transformation Lead creates and implements "organizational framework" in order to improve the treatment and care for patients and providers with models that are said to be more patient-centered and efficient.

Alexander Lim is excited to begin this position within the Hills of Headwaters Collaborative Ontario Health Team.

Lim has over a decade of regional, provincial and national levels of experience within the health sector. With a Masters of Public Health from the University of Waterloo, along with a Masters of Law from Osgoode Hall Law School, the team saw Lim as the perfect fit.

"I am very delighted to be joining the Hills of Headwaters Collaborative Ontario Health Team and look forward to leading the OHT as we embark on this next phase of planning and implementation," said Lim in a statement. "My first priority will be meeting as many members of the collaborative as I can to get a full picture of the community and how I can serve it best."

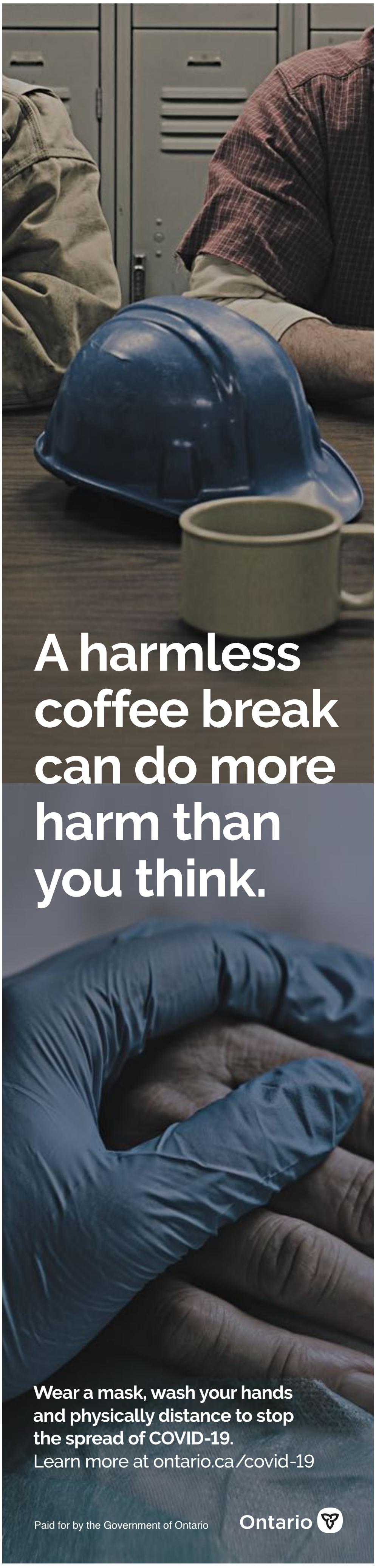
The Hills of Headwaters Collaborative is a group of health care providers and organizations who have come together to contribute to the overall wellbeing of the Dufferin-Caledon community. The group is consistently working at developing new and efficient ways of improving the health care system within the region.

"While it certainly is an unusual time to be joining a new team, we look forward to supporting Alex in his transition. We have full confidence in his ability to help us navigate our collaborative response to the pandemic and connect our regional health and care systems," said Lianne Barbour, Executive Director, Dufferin Area Family Health Team and Co-Chair, Hills of Headwaters Collaborative.

"This is a tremendous first step in establishing a dedicated team to support the efforts our working groups, committees and councils. Alex will help us continue to build on the important work already underway," added Kim Delahunt, President and CEO, Headwaters Health Care Centre and Co-Chair, Hills of Headwaters Collaborative.

For further information, please visit hillsofheadwaterscollaborative.ca.





SPORTS

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How are our athletes from Caledon? Hometown stars coping with the pandemic

BY ROBERT BELARDI

Sometimes we ask the curious question, how are our athletes from Caledon doing in their respective leagues? Especially since all professional and semi-professional leagues continue to be hampered by COVID protocols and the 'what-ifs' when a team and/or player come down with the virus.

Let's take the Vegas Golden Knights, for instance. Last week, against the Anaheim Ducks, Knights forward Thomas Nosek was yanked midway through the game because of a positive test.

That, of course, raises a few eyebrows. Not only is COVID a cause for raising concern, but the Knights have already had three games postponed thus far this year.

Who knows what will transpire out of all of this. But, for now, let's take a look at some of our hometown athletes and how they've been doing in their respective situations.

Brendan Jacome

In March of last year, French Ligue Magnus side Gothiques Amiens began contacting Jacome in the same month the Caledon native won the Randy Gregg award at the University of Ottawa.

"I decided I wanted to join Amiens after seeing how successful they have been over the past few years, and after hearing about how well they treat their players (especially imports)," Jacome said.

He walked into a hockey culture without any expectations. He is there, pleasantly surprised. He loves the passion from the fans (when fans were able to be there) and the love people have for the game of hockey.

"And with the hockey, I was surprised by how good all the local players are. They all have great skillsets and are high level players."

In the past three seasons in Ligue Magnus, Gothiques Amiens have lost in the semi-finals subsequently before the season was cancelled last year.

Jacome brings a competitive edge to the team and, with hopes of winning it all in France, he is humbled to be playing hockey in a great country for a little while longer.

"For me, I came over here to travel, see different sights and continue to play hockey for a little longer," Jacome said.

"I was fortunate that I was able to visit the majority of the Canadian war sites like Vimy Ridge, Juno beach, Dieppe, etc.… and that is something I will always remember and really made me appreciate the sacrifice that so many young men and women made to protect our freedom."

Jacome is currently alongside other Canadians on the team including captain Joey West, Alexandre Boivin, Skylar Pacheco and Dan Gibb.

In 13 games, Jacome has five goals in northern France.

Jack Jacome

Brendan's brother Jack, in his final year at Clarkson University in Potsdam, New York, is also enjoying his hockey season in the NCAA.

The 22-year-old has recorded 14 points in 20 games thus far, three points shy of his season total last year.

"I think the main thing is we (our team) just feel extremely fortunate to be playing.... There are plenty of hockey players still not playing right now. Obviously, it is a year like none other," Jacome said.

In this season unlike any other, there have not been fans in the stands, of course. And, in college, with passionate fans and bands playing throughout games, Jacome said this is something taken for granted.

"This is something you definitely take for granted when you have fans in the stands. It is such an important part of the game. Specifically, the fans of college hockey are what makes playing so much fun. It's an atmosphere that you don't even see watching an NHL game (with the bands, student section, etc.)"

As of now, Jacome loves the group this year. He believes Clarkson has plenty of depth and can be very dangerous moving forward in the year.

His best memory at the school and with the team is winning the ECAC championship in his second year. He believes this group has that opportunity to repeat that same feat.

Andrew Mangiapane

The 24-year-old forward has four goals and three assists on the year (as of Monday night).



PHOTO BY KEVIN DEVIGNE

Since his 17 goals and 15 assists in 68 games last year, technically you might say, he is having a pretty good start to the year.

And the Flames in this rivalry-ridden North Division, got a nice win Monday night against the Canucks in overtime after allowing Brock Boeser to score in the final seconds of the game.

The Flames have been fairly competitive for the most part and, in a division that seemingly doesn't play defence, it looks like Mangiapane might have the chance to record, roughly around the same number of points as he did last year.

If not, maybe one or two more if all goes well.

Disc Golf proponents look for opportunities to expand

BY ROBERT BELARDI

In 2014, while mountain biking on the trails behind the Ontario Science Centre, Jeff MacKeigan stumbled on a new sport. He saw people throwing a frisbees (discs) into a chain holder attached to a metal pole.

"It was a really snowy year, so we said, let's give this disc golf thing a try," MacKeigan said. "Fast forward a few weeks later and we're talking on the phone…about where we were going disc golfing next."

It's how most people find this game. MacKeigan says this isn't a sport most people grow up with. It is one to be found.

Disc golf is a sport that began unusually with students throwing pies around in New Haven, Connecticut. Ed Headrick, the owner of Wham-O – a toy company in California –was intrigued by this as word spread swiftly across the country. He developed a plastic version of these pies and that's how disc golf was born.

Similar to the way golf works, the objective is to throw your frisbee into this metal basket in the least amount of throws as possible. You "tee-off" with your frisbee and play each hole as you would on a golf course.

In 2018, he was a full-time employee with a consumer packaged goods company. MacKeigan was awarded employee of the year by the company – an honour he still holds in high esteem to this very day – but his passion for the sport of disc golf and the community of people within it, continued to grow.

MacKeigan made the call to pursue disc golf full-time and quit the consumer-packaged goods company in 2019.

Later that year, he and his business partner Cara Hovius, installed a beginner-friendly disc golf course at Marilyn Bell Park in Toronto. In the Fall of 2020, he opened at Scarlett Woods in the city as well.

"Seeing the passion this game instills in other people, is amazing. We launched Scarlett Woods Disc Golf Course in November (2020). It's really cool. The Mayor of Toronto (John Tory) made the announcement. That weekend, we were at the course both days to ensure everything flowed smoothly," MacKeigan said.

"And the opening weekend went by in a flash. What was most remarkable, were the emails that were sent to the Mayor giving thanks for the course. Some people included us in their notes. They were incredibly heartwarming.

"There are people going through unbelievable challenges in their life. It's really quite amazing, you see people out there, throwing frisbees into metal baskets and you can tell this is one of the best parts of their day. It's hard to describe but easy to experience."

In the past 31 years, the City of Toronto had three-disc golf courses in total. MacKeigan and Hovius have doubled that to six in the past three years.

And they are working on many more.

One player, Aurora resident Todd Billo, invited MacKeigan and Hovius to speak to the Town of Aurora's Council this month to propose the construction of a disc golf course.

They shared the disc golf community concept with metrics on how the game is growing in popularity and how cost effective the sport is.

According to the PDGA, disc golf courses in Canada, grew by 18 per cent in 2017, 11 per cent in 2018, 12 per cent in 2019 and 9 per cent in 2020.

Membership increased by 17 per cent in 2018 and again by 28 per cent in 2019. This past year, even though COVID was a reality, disc golf membership has increased by a whopping 33 per cent.

MacKeigan also says he will work with the Town of Aurora and build a course in a location which best meets the Town's planning criteria. One of his biggest concerns is safety. Courses are designed to peacefully co-exist with other park users.

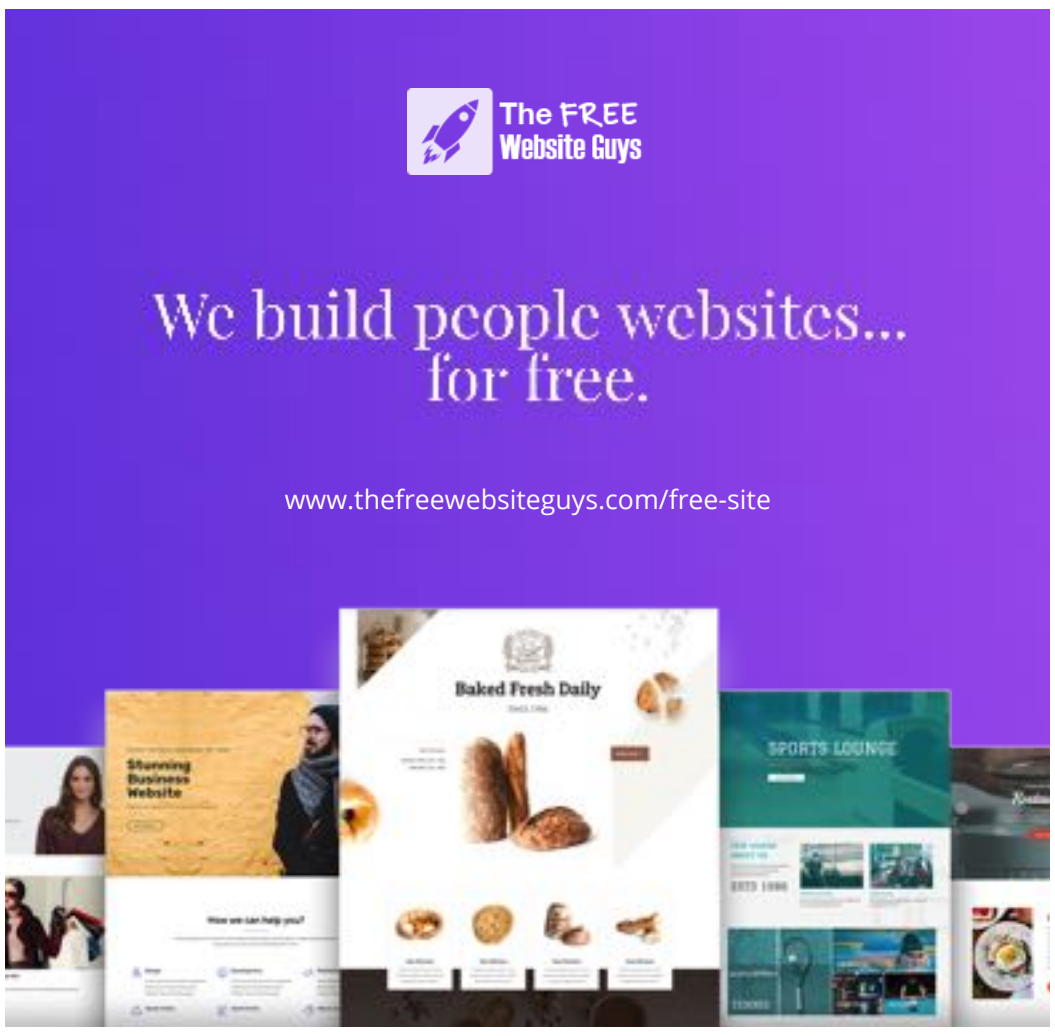
He awaits Aurora's response.

What a disc golf course would bring is inclusivity, he says. Anyone can show up to play. No matter who you are, or what your background is, it doesn't matter. It is a place where everyone is welcome.

Disc golf brings a wide range of people together. In its first year, their Marilyn Bell Park Disc Golf Course has seen a marriage proposal, new players learning the game, pro disc golfers honing their skills and even a father and daughter team who try to get in a round every day after school.

This game is for all ages and there is a sense of camaraderie between those that play. New players will often find disc golfers willing to share some starter discs and tips on improving their game.

During this time of uncertainty and anxiousness, a disc golf course and community seems to offer exactly what so many of us are looking for right now, they say. This sport can be played at any time (day or night) through all the seasons and is often free to play.



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Pandemic has caused decline in education quality according to new poll of university students and faculty

BY MARK PAVILONS

Pandemic stress has not only affected businesses and individuals, but post-secondary students are suffering, too.

University students, faculty, and academic librarians are struggling with social isolation, stress, and a lack of institutional support, according to the results of a new poll. It also finds that those working and studying at Ontario's universities believe the shift to online education has negatively impacted quality.

Without immediate action from universities and the Ontario government to address these concerns, it is likely that quality will degrade even further.

"These results demonstrate that meaningful engagement between students and faculty is fundamental to the learning process," said Rahul Sapra, president of the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations. "As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the scramble to move courses online, we have lost that human connection and educational quality has suffered."

The poll of 2,700 Ontario students, faculty, and academic librarians was commissioned by OCUFA and conducted by Navigator Inc. It reveals that 62 per cent of students and 76 per cent of faculty and academic librarians believe that the adjustments universities made to move teaching online have had a negative impact on education quality.

Financial security, care demands, and work-life balance are significant stress points for both groups. A third of students and two thirds of faculty and academic librarians revealed that they have care-giving responsibilities that they are struggling to balance while working or studying.

When asked about the impacts of the pandemic, a majority of students said they are concerned about their education quality and academic performance, their financial security as a result of high tuition fees and fewer opportunities to earn income, their mental health, and their ability to manage non-academic responsibilities, including caregiving, while studying.

"Since the beginning of the pandemic, students have raised concerns about the quality and affordability of their education," said Kayla Weiler, Ontario Representative of the Canadian Federation of Students. "These results further indicate that universities and the Ontario government must take action to improve learning and working conditions."

Faculty and academic librarians, who have been working harder than ever during the past eight months to deliver the best education possible online, feel they are still falling short of their own expectations.

With many universities making unilateral decisions about course delivery, a majority of faculty and academic librarians said they are concerned about their ability to teach and support students, their professional development, their mental health, and their ability to manage non-academic responsibilities, including caregiving, while working.

Financial security, mental health, and the challenges of balancing work and care responsibilities are of significantly higher concern to contract faculty. Most of these faculty work contract-to-contract with little job security, while receiving much lower pay than their securely-employed colleagues.

"Since this pandemic began, we have been hearing heart-wrenching stories from contract faculty across Ontario." said Kimberly Ellis-Hale, a contract faculty member at Wilfrid Laurier University. "As dedicated instructors, we are committed to providing our students with exceptional educational experiences, but the reality is that, because we are contract faculty, we are not getting paid for the enormous amount of work it has taken to put these courses online and deliver them remotely, or to provide the additional support our students need and deserve. All this extra work and overtime is taking a heavy toll."

The results of the poll also make it very clear that, even once the pandemic has ended, online education will not see the enthusiastic adoption that many have claimed. On the whole, neither students nor faculty view online learning as a desirable approach to a university education.

It is clear that most students, faculty, and academic librarians will not be returning to campus any time soon. However, there are still important actions Ontario's universities can take to address these concerns. Reducing class sizes by hiring additional, securely employed faculty will ensure students receive more one-on-one support and a better educational experience. Lowering tuition fees will help students struggling to make ends meet, now and after the pandemic.

Finally, investments in better resources for students, faculty, and academic librarians – especially technology supports – would improve educational outcomes and address the mental and emotional burn-out many are feeling.

However, Ontario's universities will have difficulty making these changes without additional support from the provincial government, which made substantial cuts to postsecondary education funding prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

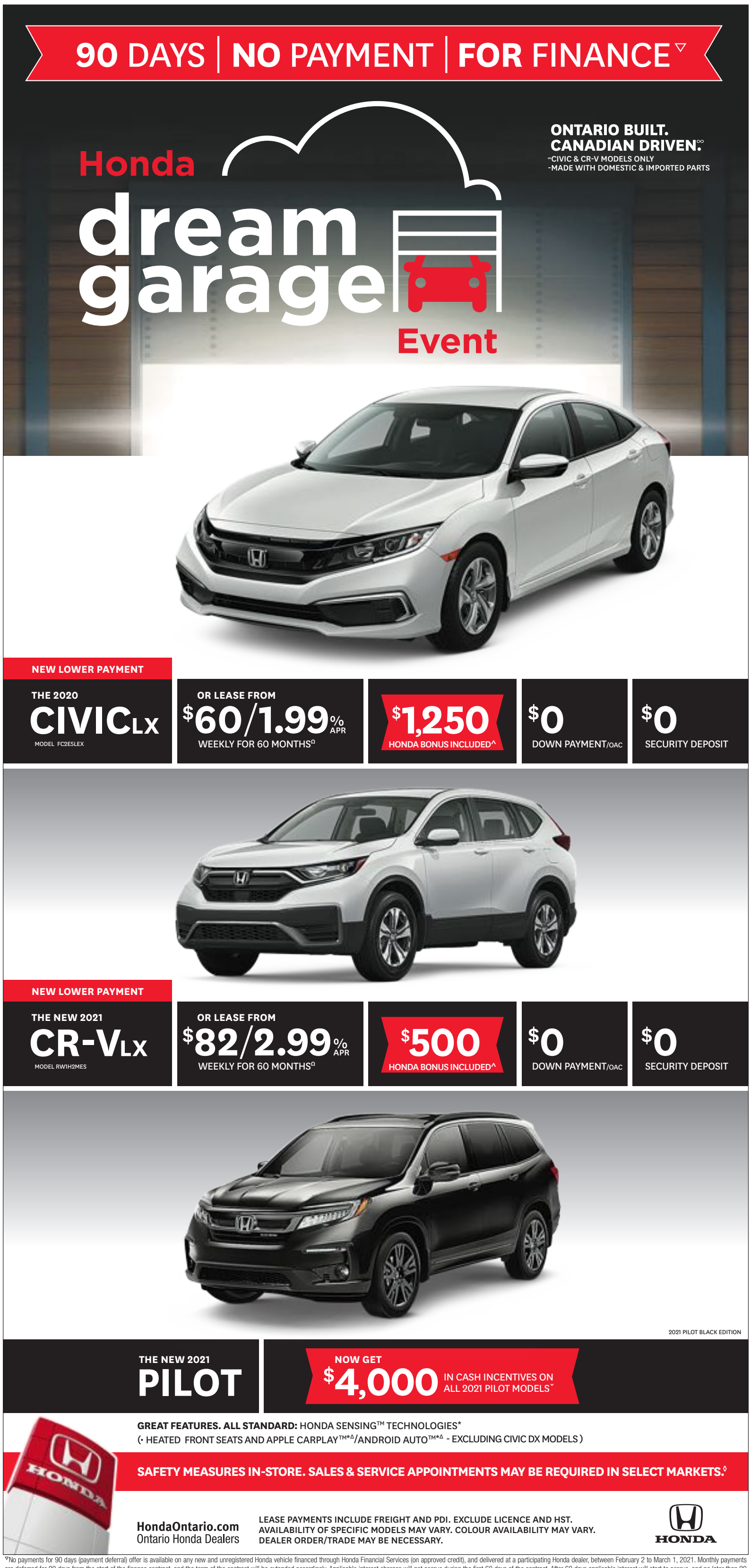
The Ford government, critics say, has displayed a pattern of behaviour by consistently ignoring those working on the front lines of Ontario's public education system. It is not too late to change course.

"Throughout the pandemic, the Ford government has stood on the sidelines and watched as university students, faculty, and academic librarians struggle," said Sapra. "Even in the middle of the pandemic, the top concerns for students and faculty are fees and funding. It is time for the provincial government to step up, set an example, and invest in Ontario's underfunded universities so that they can improve the educational experience and help students and faculty succeed."

Reversing cuts to education by investing in smaller classes, good jobs, and lower tuition fees will not just help Ontario's universities during the pandemic, but will lay the foundations for students, faculty, and academic librarians to effectively pivot back to the in-person educational experience they say is most effective.

Founded in 1964, OCUFA represents 17,000 professors and academic librarians in 30 faculty associations across Ontario. It is committed to enhancing the quality of higher education in Ontario and recognizing the outstanding contributions of its members towards creating a world-class university system.

For more information, visit the OCUFA website at www.ocufa.on.ca.



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NOTICE is hereby given that the annual meeting of the Shareholders of The Orangeville Area Forest Lawn Cemetery Company (Formerly Forest Lawn Cemetery Company) will be held in the office of The Orangeville Area Forest Lawn Cemetery Company at 14 Cemetery Road Mono ON, at 7:00 p.m. on Monday February 22, 2021. (Tentative Date – Please call Forest Lawn Cemetery at 519-941-0910 if you plan on attending.)

Neil White - President

Andrea Stoddart - Secretary-Treasurer

NOTE: All owners of two or more grave lots are shareholders (each lot representing one share) and are entitled to attend and vote at such meeting either in person or by proxy for an owner who is a shareholder.

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OBITUARIES

WOODLAND, Jeremy John



It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Jeremy on February 11, 2021 at the age of 41. He will be forever loved and missed by his soulmate, wife Dawne and his son Joe who was his pride and joy. Jeremy, loving son of Helena and Steve Woodland and loving big brother to Melanie (T.J.) and Nathan (Sam). Adored grandson of Joan Westenbrink (predeceased by John Westenbrink), and Harry and Betty French. Loving uncle to Elliott, Charlie, Myles and Shelby. Cherished son in law of Helen McDaniel and Neil Lucking. Jeremy always had the deepest love for all of his family and friends. He was an avid and exceptionally talented musician, enjoyed hitting the links with his friends and colleagues, and was a dedicated and devoted employee of Integricon Property Restoration. Jeremy had a larger than life presence and could always captivate a room with his humour, wit, and endless life stories. Memorial Service will be livestreamed on Sunday, February 21, 2021 at 1:00pm. Link for livestream to be provided on funeral home website. In lieu of flowers donations can be made in Jeremy's memory to the Juravinski Cancer Centre - Hamilton, ON. Online condolences can be left at www.cresmountfennellchapel.com

" You were one of a kind Jer, and we will miss you beyond which any words could describe. Till we meet again."

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CLARK, Andrew Blake



It is with great sadness we announce that Andrew Blake Clark lost his battle with cancer at the Orangeville Hospital on Tuesday, February 9, 2021.
He was predeceased by his parents, Blake and Lillian (nee Ward) Clark; his first wife, Janet (nee Tate); and his brother, David. Andrew leaves behind his loving wife, Cynthia and his daughters Kathryn (Jason), Rachel, Gretchen (Jonathan), Lara (Michael) and his stepchildren Maya (Steve) and Derek. He was Papa to Liam, Aidan, Evan, Keeley, Eileen, Isaiah, Audrey, Noah and Oliver, as well as Aidan, Hannah, Zoe, and Ronan. He is survived by his siblings Geoff (Nancy), Judi (Andrew), and Christopher. He will be missed by many cousins, in-laws, nieces, nephews and their children.
Andy will be remembered as a man who worked with his hands, sharing his love of building with all of his grandchildren. When he wasn't in the workshop, he could be found puttering around in the garden with Cyn, or sitting with his feet up reading a book.
Memorial donations in memory of Andy may be made to St. Mark's Anglican Church, Orangeville or a charity of your choice would be appreciated by the family.
Condolences may be offered to the family at www.dodsandmcnair.com

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Our Readers Write

Open letter to Mayor & Council on highway proposal

Continued from Page 8

As was noted by an Expert Panel in a review conducted for the previous Liberal government, Highway 413 would only have a few benefits. Those conclusions were the reasons that government placed a moratorium on the project in 2015 and then killed it in 2018.

Highway 413 will be a monstrously expensive 50-kilometre-long highway that would pave over farms, forests, wetlands, portions of the Greenbelt and have injurious impacts on the small headwater streams which feed the Humber, West Humber, Etobicoke, and Credit Rivers.

There are alternatives to the highway. The estimated $6 billion to $10 billion to build the mega-highway could be better used to significantly increase public transit, especially new GO Transit train lines.

Another option would be to provide a subsidy, or even a 100-per-cent toll rebate, to encourage trucking firms to travel on the underutilized Highway 407. Having a dedicated and provincially subsidize truck lane on Highway 407 was one of a number of strategies suggested by the Expert Panel.

That would eliminate the argument Highway 413 is needed as alternative transportation route. Of course, that's not the point is it? The real purpose of resurrecting this project, which should have remained buried, is to open the parallel lands along the corridor to development.

In a February 13 article in the Toronto Star's business section, the head of a real estate development firm was quoted as saying the highway "would be a slam dunk for us."

Opposition is steadily increasing throughout Caledon and neighbouring municipalities to Highway 413 which will wreak significant environmental damage and saddle Ontario residents with the cost for generations. The Town is on the wrong side on the issue and, if this project proceeds, will be eventually judged as being on the wrong side of history.

DAN O'REILLY
CALEDON

(Editor's Note: Mr. O'Reilly's letter to the editor was submitted to the Citizen prior to Council's Tuesday night meeting.)



The preferred route for the proposed highway the GTA West Corridor was approved by the provincial government this past August.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Council pressed reverse support on proposed highway

Continued from FRONT

"We're now facing an ever-changing world within a global pandemic and a global climate crisis, which you yourselves declared on January 29, 2020," stated Leforestier to Council.

Caledon Council showed their support for the proposed highway back in 2018, stating that it has been a priority for the community in previous years.

"My requests are that Council reverse support and endorsement for Highway 413," said Leforestier, "officially request the Federal government conduct an environmental impact assessment of the proposed highway, as has been done by Echo Justice Canada on behalf of Environmental Defence and the Town of Halton Hills. I request and consider a cost benefit analysis from the Auditor General's office on the GTA West Corridor and the Bradford Bypass."

The Bradford Bypass is another proposed highway project extending from Highway 400 crossing through Bradford West Gwillimbury, King City and connecting to Highway 404. Both the GTA West Corridor and Bradford Bypass will travel through the Greenbelt.

"Councils support for the Greenbelt and climate change is compromised," said Leforestier.

Ward 3 and 4 Regional Councillor and Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) Chair Jennifer Innis took the opportunity to bring forward a motion she had prepared for next month regarding this issue.

Innis brought forward a motion requesting that the TRCA's request for a voluntary project review (VPR) to be supported by the municipalities in Peel along with York Region.

"It allows Crown agencies to voluntarily engage in a process with the TRCA during detailed design stage where we can actually provide more of a comprehensive review based on our expertise and our watershed expertise," said Innis.

Council members unanimously agreed with the VPR, and the motion passed. The motion is to be brought forward at Regional Council, as well as York.

For further information, please visit Caledon.ca.

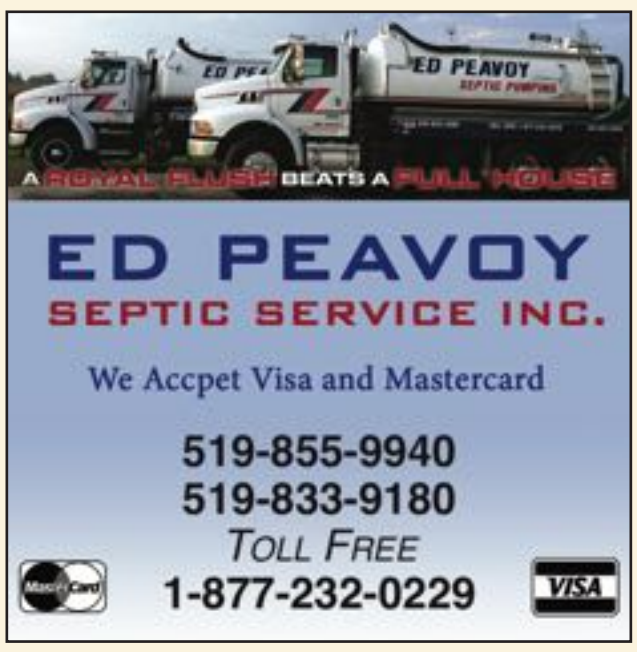
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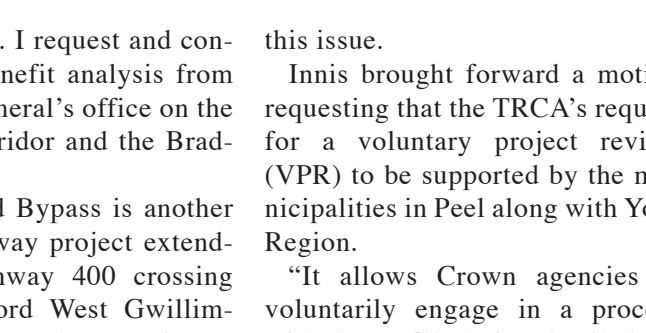
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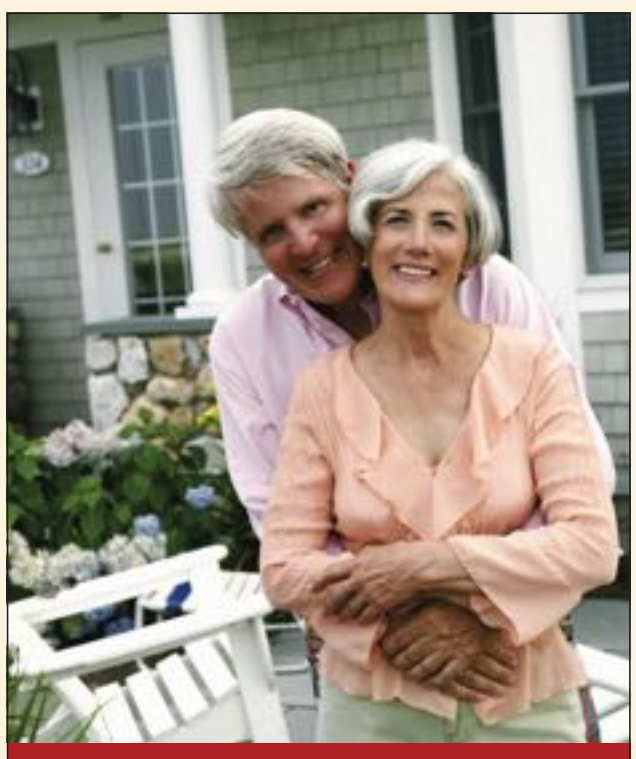
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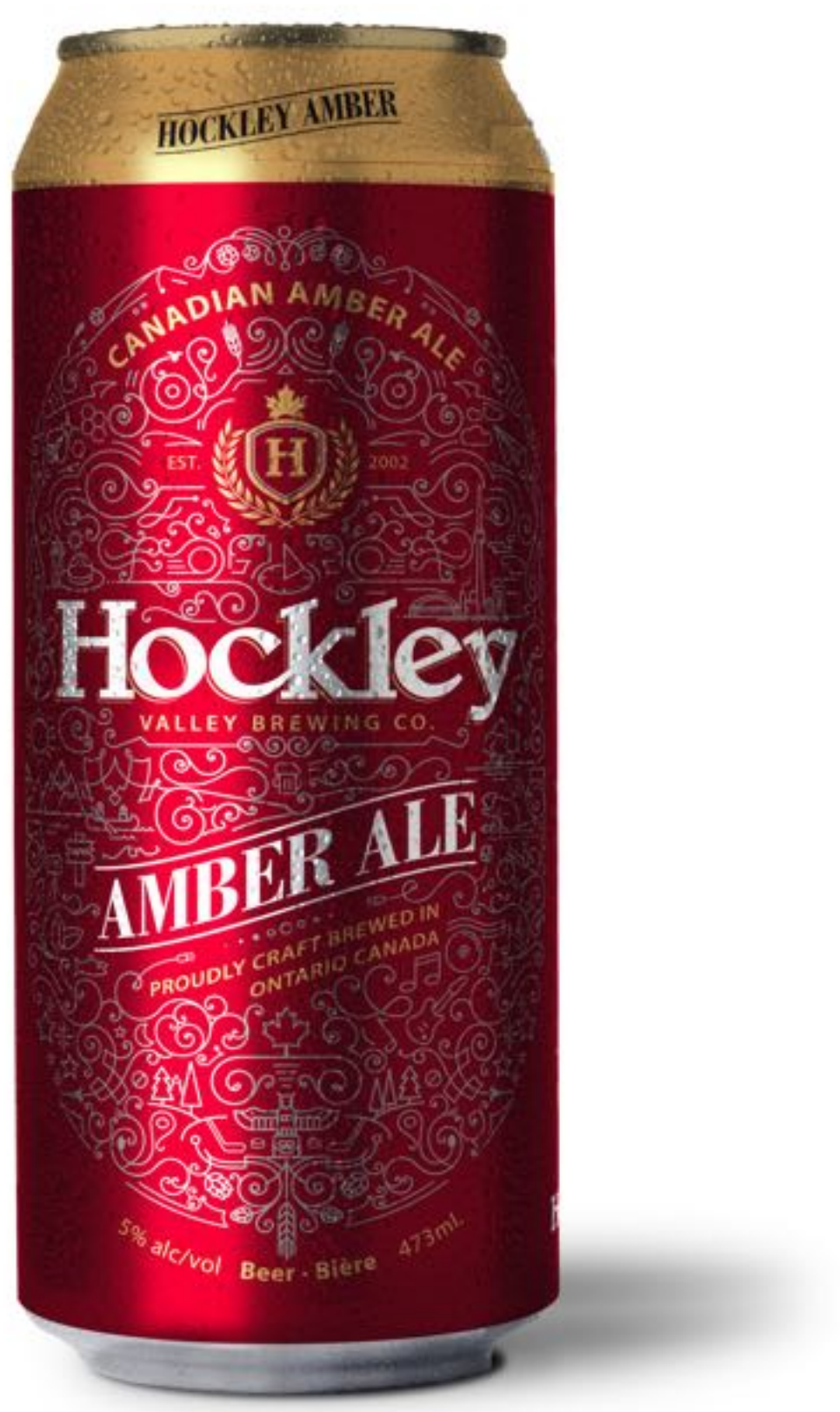
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