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An Easter ride to raise awareness



Environmental activists put in some pedal power on Easter Sunday to highlight the environmental impacts of the Province's proposed Highway 413. Anne and Jim Purvis (middle) were joined by daughter Fran Westwood and son-in-law Kristen Westwood (left) along with members of Bike Brampton (right) during their bicycle ride highlighting opposition to the plan. For more, see Page 11. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

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Peel's Schools shuttered for at least a month as COVID variant cases rise

BY ROB PAUL
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

On the heels of Ontario Premier Doug Ford announcing the entire province will be in lockdown for at least the next month, schools in the Peel Region have been closed and are moving to remote learning due to the increase in COVID-19 cases in the area, specifically involving variants.

The shift of all K-12 schools in Caledon, Brampton, and Mississauga to remote learning began April 6 and will continue through April 18. Spring break is slated for April 12 to 16. Licensed childcare programs will remain open for children under six years old who are not attending school.

Peel Region Medical Officer of Health Dr. Lawrence Loh made the decision to exercise his ability to order for school closures through the Health Protection and Promotion Act, under Section 22.

"This closure is a necessary step to protect staff and students in Peel Region," said Loh. "With increasing case counts and the presence of variant of concern, we need to break chains of transmission and keep our schools safe. I know this will be challenging for parents to navigate and we appreciate all the sacrifices parents continue to make as we continue to fight COVID-19 in our community."

With the increased risk of variants and their more severe impacts on younger people, Dr. Loh and the Region of Peel felt something needed to be done before further damage was done.

Continued on Page 6

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Stay-at-home orders in effect for four weeks

BY BROCK WEIR

A third wave has brought a third stay-at-home order from the Province.

Premier Doug Ford and Health Minister Christine Elliott announced the four-week stay-at-home order, effective just after midnight on April 8, on Wednesday afternoon.

Under the new restrictions, which go hand-in-hand with the measures announced last week as part of the Province-wide "emergency brake," all businesses must ensure that any employee who can work from home does so rather than coming into the workplace and individuals are urged to restrict travel outside their home region and only leave their homes for essential purposes such as going to get groceries or pharmacy items, and to attend medical appointments.

Additionally, new rules address retail with grocery stores and pharmacies allowed to continue in-person shopping with restrictions and capacity limits, while big box retailers will be restricted to selling essential items such as groceries, pharmaceutical items, healthcare and personal care items, and pet care supplies.

Continued on Page 4

TOWN OF CALEDON

TOWN NEWS See Page 7





"Emergency brake" will provide more time to get vaccines in arms: MPP Jones

BY ROB PAUL
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

On Thursday, April 1, Caledon Mayor Allan Thompson held a virtual town hall meeting for the public and was joined by Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones and Peel Region's Medical Officer of Health Dr. Lawrence Loh.

The focus of the town hall was to discuss the current state of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Caledon area and how the provincial lockdown announced by Premier Doug Ford will affect the coming weeks.

Mayor Thompson opened the town hall meeting by reflecting on the last year and thanking Dr. Loh and his team, MPP Jones, and the front-line workers who have worked to keep everyone safe during these difficult times."It always seems like the last mile is the hardest to run in a marathon or in anything you go to do, that last thing you do is always the hardest," said Thompson. "I really believe we're here as we can see the vaccines at the finish line as we go to pick up our prize. It just seems that last hill seems to be the long one to get over. We're in a Grey (lockdown) and now the rest of the province is joining us. I continue to be very grateful to the many people who have be on the frontlines in these challenging conditions over this last year. I'm looking forward with hope on the work being done to get everyone vaccinated."

Dr. Loh thanked Thompson, Caledon Council, and the people of Caledon for their support, leadership, and recognition of this unprecedented situation.

He also touched on the tough decision he has had to make for Peel Region but knows it's for the greater good.

"It goes against every fibre of my being to recommend what I recommend, but I'm ultimately a scientist first and foremost and I'm guided by the data, the evidence, and the science," said Dr. Loh. "I enjoy a nice night out and dinner with family and friends and socializing with people in three dimensions and not in a constant world of squares. The sacrifices of our town have saved lives and has made a difference, especially when we compare what has happened elsewhere in the world. We're fortunate that the measures that have been taken have ensured that once this is through, while we all might be picking up the pieces afterwards, at least we're there, and many of us will be there to ensure we're able to rebuild and build stronger."

Since the town hall meeting, Dr. Loh made the decision to close schools in Peel through April 18 due to the variants in the area spreading quicker and having more critical effects on the youth.

"We're in a situation in the Region of Peel where the previous declines we had been seeing following the Christmas holidays have essentially all been erased," said Dr. Loh. "We're now starting to see that the variants of concern are spreading. The reason why you're starting to see this surge is because they (the variants) are more transmissible at baseline. When an exposure occurs, it's more likely that people are actually going to end up infected with COVID-19.

"We know we need to continue doing what we're doing, but we need to do it that much better to ensure that the precautions are keeping ourselves, our loved ones, and each other safe. We're increasingly seeing in the halls of our hospital that they're more deadly. We're seeing younger people showing up at hospitals sicker and needing intensive care sooner. The transmissibility is what's explaining the surging cases, but it's the severity and the increasing demands on our intensive care in our hospital system that's really pushing the significant burden and what brought around the provinces decision to move the entire province back into broader closure."

Although the current situation with the provincial lockdown and school closures in Peel can seem grim, Dr. Loh remains positive as he sees the substantial difference being made with increased vaccine availability.

"It's exciting," said Dr. Loh. "We had very limited vaccine supply throughout the first quarter of this year, now that we're heading into the second quarter, we're seeing our supplies go up, which means more and more appointments and opportunities for our residents to access this protection. We're finally in a place where we've got the allocation, we've got the appointments, we just need folks who are eligible to step up and get their shot. If you're over 60, now is your opportunity to get the vaccine and I highly encourage it."

As a member of the Ontario Legislature, Jones commented on the decision for the province to swiftly enter a lockdown and acknowledged it can be shocking, but the quicker these decisions are made, the more lives that can be saved.

"This four-week emergency break is going to give us and our health units sometime to get more vaccines into people's arms," said Jones. "We're at 2.3 million Ontario citizens who have been given at least their first dose. All we have to do is look at how few long-term care outbreaks and retirement home outbreaks there have been, which speaks to us doing the right thing by vaccinating our older most vulnerable first.

"Now, four weeks as challenging as it is for us personally and our businesses in particular, it really will give us the opportunity to get more vaccinated. The positive news is we are starting to see the quantity and inventory increase. I know that many public health units across Ontario have had capacity to give a lot more vaccines out than they've had inventory—we're now starting to see that turn around. If there's anything we have learned with this pandemic, it's when you act quickly and react quickly, you can lower the incidence rate."

Both Mayor Thompson and Dr. Loh closed the town hall by asking that all Caledon residents continue to be diligent by following all guidelines, keeping their distance, and wearing masks while also staying informed on when they're eligible to get vaccinated.

"I think it's absolutely vital for our Caledon residents to remember that this is not over yet, we absolutely need to ensure that we are sticking to the precautions and staying safe," Loh said. "When your turn comes, make sure you're making an appointment and getting vaccinated without delay—that's the quickest way for us to get out of this all together."

For more information regarding COVID-19 vaccine eligibility and booking, visit peelregion.ca/coronavirus/vaccine.







Spring brings "fresh, new excitement" for Caledon Community Services

BY ROB PAUL
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER



Participants brought in big numbers for this year's distanced Coldest Night of the Year event. PHOTO COURTESY OF CCS

With the holiday season behind us, Caledon Community Services has been overwhelmed with the support and generosity this year from local residents.

Both their marquee holiday events—Coldest Night of the Year (CNOY) and the Home for the Holidays Gala—were hits despite the pandemic leading to some changes this year.

Due to the pandemic, the registration fees were waved for CNOY this year, but COVID-19 didn't slow people down from supporting their neighbours in these trying times by getting out for a COVID-safe walk in support of people experiencing homelessness, hurt, and hunger.

Caledon's CNOY 2021 had 21 teams with 124 walkers and raised over $44,000—easily surpassing the original goal of $26,000.

While the Home for the Holidays Gala had to go virtual this year for the first time, it was still able to raise $124,364—close to 50 per cent of the live gala's fundraising in recent years.

Proceeds from the fundraising event directly support programs, services, and activities in Caledon that feed the hungry, ensure senior independence, help people find sustainable employment, assist businesses grow healthy workforces, provide transportation, encourage and train youth, welcome newcomers, and lift the self-esteem of hundreds of children by providing tangible supports including organized recreational and camp opportunities.

"We were blown away as an agency by the level of community support for both our gala—it was our first time ever as a virtual gala and it went really well—and our Coldest Night of the Year. It exceeded the first goal and then the goal was increased, and it exceeded that again. It was phenomenal. People just wanted to do stuff to help others in their community. It's all so heartwarming," said CCS Director of Communications Donna Cragg.

CCS also runs their EVOLVE Stores in Bolton, where proceeds help fund community programs and services and as they open—the stores are located at 109 Industrial Road and 4 Industrial Road – Cragg wants to remind people that EVOLVE is a great and convenient way to help those in need whether donating or shopping.

"The spring is really kind of a fresh new exciting time for us," she said. "Certainly, the things we have on the horizon—we just opened both of our thrift stores and 100 per cent of the net proceeds from those stores go back into the community programs and services. For spring, people that are doing their spring cleaning, if they can think of our local places to donate that would be phenomenal. They've got great deal and it's a very easy way to make a significant difference."

Now that the spring has arrived, CCS has seen a growth in need with more families than ever reaching out for the support CCS is able to provide thanks to community residents and businesses.

Cragg says she is hopeful people will continue to donate to the Exchange—a nutritious food and community program run by CCS, located at 55 Healey Road in Bolton.

"The Exchange is collecting—it's normally this time of the year that things start to go low in the food pantry because we're starting to run out of the generosity that was experienced over the holiday season—that's ongoing," she said.

Gardens are a beloved part of enjoying the outdoors during the spring and summer and another easy way to give back to the community is by thinking of the Exchange when planting a garden.

"If anybody is starting [to think] of planting a garden and they want to do a row of fresh veggies for the Exchange, they're in dire need of that stuff year-round. We don't like to just give the traditional boxed goods or dried goods products when people come into the Exchange; we have prepared foods and fresh foods that we like to have available for them also. Right now, they're still getting hampers prepared for them with pickup times because we're not clear of COVID yet, but even those hampers [are not] all the same, they're customized to the families because we know our clients well enough."

On June 19, CCS will be holding their annual Velocity Bike Ride for Seniors with a virtual spin on it—registration fees will be waived this year— and they've set a goal of raising $50,000.

"Another thing we're doing for all the cyclists that are hitting the roads right now, we have another event that people are starting to gear up for," she said. "[For] the Velocity cycle ride in support of Caledon seniors, spring is a time where cyclists flood the roads and it's such a great sport. This will be the fourth year, but the third event because it was cancelled last year. This year we'll be holding it virtually, so people will do their ride safely within their own family group or individually and they'll compile a bunch of finish line photos for a virtual event to celebrate the final outcome of the event."

Cragg says the CCS is always welcome to new volunteers and volunteering is yet another way for Caledon residents to give back.

"Watching for volunteer opportunities as they start of open up is another vital way to help," she said. "Our volunteers have been sorely missed and we look forward to welcoming them back and to new faces as public health safety guidelines permit."

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FATAL COLLISION ON HIGHWAY 10

Officers from the OPP's Caledon Detachment are investigating a fatal motor vehicle collision that occurred on Highway 10, south of Old School Road, in the Town of Caledon.

On Tuesday, April 6, 2021, at approximately 1:13 p.m., OPP responded to a three-vehicle collision on Highway 10. The collision involved a white pickup truck, a green Sport Utility Vehicle (SUV) and a dump truck.

Initial investigation revealed that the white pickup truck was travelling northbound on Highway 10, when it entered the southbound lanes of Highway 10 and collided with the dump truck and the SUV.

The driver of the pickup truck sustained fatal injuries in the collision.

Ryan King, 22, of Orangeville, has been identified as the deceased driver.

Other involved parties sustained non-life-threatening injuries and were treated by Peel Emergency Services at the scene.

The investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information or dash camera footage of this collision is asked to contact the Caledon OPP Detachment at (905) 584-2241 or toll-free at 1-888-310-1122.

You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at www.peelcrimestoppers.ca. When you contact Crime Stoppers you stay anonymous, you never have to testify, and you could receive a cash reward of up to $2,000 upon an arrest.

Highway 10 was closed for several hours while the Traffic Collision Investigation Unit (TCI) attended to assist with the investigation. The road has since been reopened.

If you witnessed the collision and wish to speak to victim services, Caledon/Dufferin Victim Services can be reached at 905-951-3838.

NOTTAWASAGA OPP LAY SEXUAL ASSAULT CHARGES

Members of the Nottawasaga OPP Crime Unit have laid charges in connection to a sexual assault investigation involving two 17-year-old victims.

"The accused owns two food businesses, one in Alliston, New Tecumseth and a second in Barrie, where the incidents occurred," say Police. "The two victims were both employees and the accused is the store owner. The incidents took place between December 2020 and February 2021."

As a result of the investigation, Kultaran Singh Mann, 50, of Brampton, has been charged with:

- Sexual assault, four counts; and
- Sexual exploitation, four counts.

The accused was released from police custody, and is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Barrie on April 29, 2021. The charges have not been proven.

Police are requesting anyone who may have additional information or believes that they were a victim of a similar circumstance to contact the Nottawasaga OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). When you contact Crime Stoppers you remain anonymous, you will never have to testify and you may be eligible to receive a cash reward of up to $2,000.

"The members of the Nottawasaga OPP Crime Unit work with victims to encourage reporting of serious crimes," said Detective Sergeant Sarah Vance of the Nottawasaga OPP Crime Unit. "Victim impact and understanding is a primary goal when investigating a crime against a person. Officers are committed to assisting victims during what is often the worst experience of their lives, providing support throughout criminal investigations and pending court proceedings. The Unit strives to thoroughly investigate serious criminal offences, while being mindful of victim needs and the overall needs of the community we serve."

In addition to the Crime Unit, the OPP has a team of dedicated officers within the Victim Response Support Unit (VRSU). Members of the VRSU provide oversight and guidance to investigators throughout domestic violence and sexual assault investigations to ensure a victim-centered and trauma-informed approach.

SEATBELTS: WHY THAT THREE-SECOND CLICK MATTERS

With lack of seatbelt use attributed to 55 people dying on Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) patrolled roads last year, the OPP is giving seatbelt skeptics a few scenarios to consider that could save their lives.

Unbuckled crash survivors are not common to collisions: At any given second, an aggressive, impaired or distracted driver can collide with your vehicle, subjecting the body of an unrestrained driver or passenger to a level of crash force from which few people survive. You may not be able to stop a dangerous driver from crashing into your car, but by wearing a seatbelt, you can greatly reduce their chances of killing you.

Can a seatbelt hurt you? In a crash, your seatbelt is one of the few things that can actually save you. Reliance on an airbag alone is not enough. If you don't wear your seatbelt during a crash, you could be thrown into a rapidly opening frontal air bag, the force of which could seriously injure or even kill you.

Don't skip due diligence when choosing a child car seat: Keeping your child safe at all times includes the time they spend travelling in a car (or booster) seat. A recent national roadside study found that close to 75 per cent of car seats were used or installed incorrectly. The safest car seat for your child is one that accommodates your child's age, height and weight, has a National Safety Mark label and is properly installed.

In Canada, motor vehicle collisions are one of the leading causes of death in children.

Children under the age of 13, regardless of their size, are safest in the back seat of a vehicle, away from active frontal air bags.

Province sets new vaccine targets for hotspots following stay-at-home order

Continued from FRONT

Further restrictions are applied to non-essential retail limited to delivery and curbside, while malls will be restricted as well.

"As we ramp up our vaccine distribution, we also need to make sure we take the steps necessary to slow the spread of the virus and protect our ICU and hospital capacity," said Premier Ford, noting that mobile vaccinations will soon come online for eligible residents 18+ in high-risk neighbourhoods while all education workers in the high-risk areas of Toronto and Peel will be brought forward in the vaccine rollout.

"The reality is despite everything we have done so far, the COVID-19 situation in Ontario is getting worse as these new variants continue to spread," the Premier continued. "Our hospitals are reaching capacity and patients in the GTA must now be sent to other parts of the Province for care. Right now, above all else, our plan is to get needles into arms and protect our hospitals. That is why…on the advice of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, I am declaring a state of emergency with a Province-wide stay-at-home order.

"To boil it down as simple as possible, unless it is for an essential reason, please stay home because the situation is extremely serious and we just need to hunker down right now. We need to limit mobility. Non-essential retail stores will go back to curbside pickup with delivery allowed from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Big box and discount stores will be allowed to sell essential items only such as food, medicine, cleaning supplies, and personal care items. During the stay-at-home orders, residential evictions will once again be suspended because no one should live in fear of losing their homes.

"I know this is tough on business, but I promise we will continue to have your backs."

Added Solicitor General – and Dufferin-Caledon MPP – Sylvia Jones: "I cannot stress enough how important the actions of each individual in Ontario will be today, tomorrow and in the coming weeks as we confront this threat to the health and wellbeing of our communities. It is critical now more than ever that people adhere to the orders and follow public health measures. These measures will be enforced.

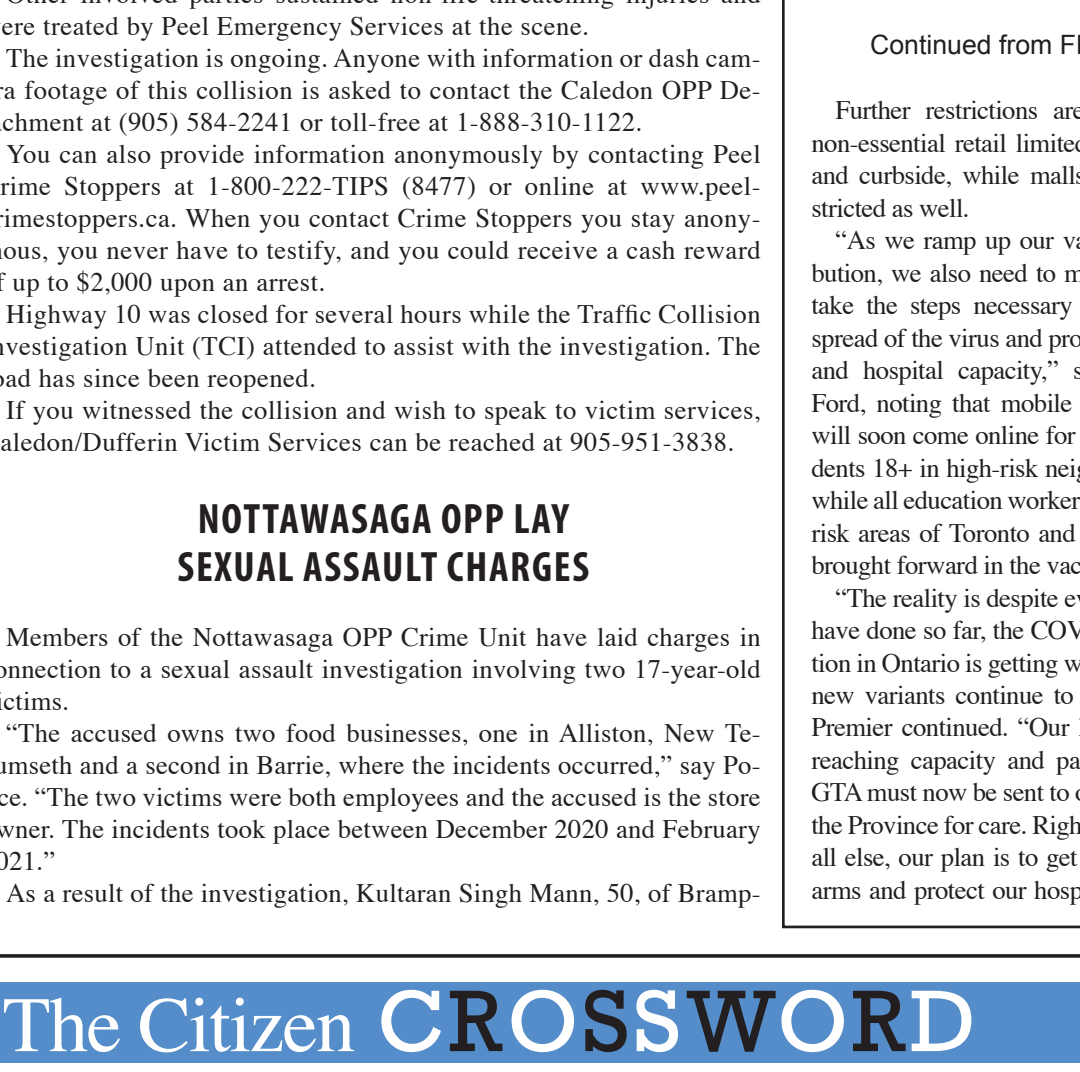
"We know it hasn't been easy and nothing about this pandemic has been. We need to do more to make a difference and to help keep people safe extraordinary action is needed from every single one of us. This is about saving lives. Stopping the spread of COVID-19 can only be done by taking the necessary precautions and following measures that will protect our families, neighbours and our communities."

Meanwhile, in Peel, vaccination efforts will soon take a significant step forward.

The Region announced Tuesday that residents aged 50+ living in select postal codes will soon be able to book their COVID-19 vaccine. Further information will be made available in the coming days at peelregion.ca.

The Citizen CROSSWORD

Solution on page A10



CLUES ACROSS

1. One who manufactures
6. Science degree
9. Database management system
13. Desert
14. Inventor Musk
15. Welsh valley
16. Round Dutch cheese
17. Saying
18. Comedian and TV host
19. Uppermost portions of the brain
21. City in Transylvania
22. Where astronauts go
23. Men's hairstyle
24. Indicates position
25. One point east of due south
28. Businessmen may have one
29. Grass part
31. Running back Gurley
33. Unwavering
36. Options
38. Annoy
39. Greek mountain
41. Pastas
44. Fishes
45. Wrap
46. Potentially a criminal (slang)
48. Seize
49. The Constitution State
51. Upset
52. 1991 men's Wimbledon champ
54. Central Chinese province
56. Predisposition
60. A notice of someone's death
61. One-time Kentucky Rep.
62. Swiss river
63. Dried-up
64. Finger millet
65. __ Allan Poe
66. German river
67. Brew
68. Kenyan river

CLUES DOWN

1. Millisecond
2. Acts as military assistant
3. Knot in a tree
4. Husband-and-wife industrial designers
5. The Ocean State
6. Point the finger at
7. Parts in a machine
8. Midway between northeast and east
9. Portray precisely
10. Blister
11. Mental illness
12. Nose of an animal
14. What students receive
17. Semitic peoples
20. Beats per minute
21. Family of drugs
23. Atrocious
25. Type of microscope (abbr.)
26. __ or bust
27. Icelandic poems
29. A citizen of Pakistan
30. Very pale
32. Metric linear unit
34. Sea eagle
35. Biblical judge of Israel
37. Isaac's mother (Bib.)
40. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
42. Cool!
43. Large hotel room
47. Type of boat (abbr.)
49. Picked
50. Type of hookah
52. Attack
53. Directs
55. Belgian WWII resistance fighter
56. Finished negotiation
57. Heroic tale
58. Middle Eastern country
59. Protein-rich liquids
61. Malaysian Isthmus
65. Spielberg's alien

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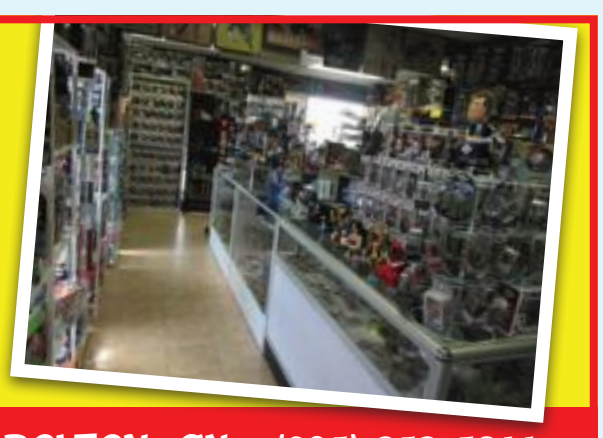


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Peel schools shuttered for at least a month as COVID variant cases rise



PHOTO BY ROB PAUL

Continued from FRONT

"Late last week and through the weekend, Peel saw significant increases in case counts and the spread of variants in the community. This closure will allow students and staff at least two weeks out of school to break any chains of transmission and protect from exposure," said Region of Peel in a statement.

Last week, Loh spoke the Caledon Town Council about the dangers of the variant despite the protocols in schools being strong. He mentioned that with the variants accelerated ability to spread, it could lead to more dramatic outbreaks even if schools are following all health and safety protocol.

"Peel Public Health continues to work closely with our school board partners to prioritize the health and safety of staff and students," said the Region of Peel in a statement. "Schools in Peel already have strong measures in place to prevent transmission in their settings. This opportunity will keep the rising spread of variants across Peel from entering school settings from the community. Further decision on extending the second order will be based on the disease picture in Peel."

Peel District School Board Director of Education Colleen Russell-Rawlins fully backs the decision by Dr. Loh to temporarily return to remote learning with the variants now in play.

"The Peel District School Board respects the decision made by Peel Public Health today to move schools in Peel Region to online learning for all students K-12, beginning Tuesday, April 6, 2021," said Russell-Rawlins. "Spring Break will carry forward as planned the week of April 12 to 16, 2021. We remain grateful to staff, students, and families who have taken extraordinary efforts to change their routines and carry out collective actions to limit the spread of COVID-19 and keep our school communities safe. The health and safety of students and staff in schools, along with a strong commitment to student learning, continue to be our main focus."

Having been updated by Dr. Loh last week, Mayor Allan Thompson understands the severity of the situation with the variants in the Peel Region and supports closing schools for the time being to help keep students healthy.

"The decision by Peel Public Health to close our schools across Peel was necessary to protect the community from the spread of very concerning variants of COVID-19," said Mayor Thompson. "One thing that troubles me is how more and more young people are contracting COVID-19, and the cases continue to accelerate across the Region. I understand this decision is hard for us, the health and safety of our communities continues to be our number one priority."

For more information on the COVID-19 situation in the Region of Peel, visit their website www.peelregion.ca.



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Caledon Public Library offers programming for April Break, Spring

BY ROB PAUL
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Libraries are generally full of people of all ages looking to take advantage of their numerous books and programs to learn and connect with others. The COVID-19 pandemic has changed how libraries in Caledon operate, but that doesn't mean they aren't offering residents something to do.

Caledon Public Library has worked hard to ensure people from across the area are still able to enjoy their programming, just through a different lens with their shift to the online world.

Although the province is still dealing with the pandemic and widespread closures, Caledon Public Library has a jam-packed spring to keep people busy while they're in lockdown at home.

"Next week is April Break and we have a week packed with activities for children and families," said Caledon Public Library Manager of Communications and Community Development Mary Maw. "They've tried to balance it out between kids, families, and teens. On May 1, we're doing a comic expo. We've had great success with our comic expos in the past when it was in person and this year, we're going to try it virtually.

"They've divided up the day where the kids' programs are happening in the morning and the teen programs in the afternoon—it's kind of two separate expos. Halfway through, they'll have a graphic novelist do a special guest appearance—it's something we're really excited about. Leading up to it, they're doing a teen fan art contest; they're encouraging teens to create their fan art and send it in and the Friends of the Library are sponsoring it, so you can win $100 for first, $75 for second, and $50 for third. We're excited to see what kind of creations we get."

Over a year into the pandemic now, Maw says they've had plenty of people taking advantage of the different options they've been offering, and they're pleased with the success of remote programming.

"We've hosted quite a number of contests," said Maw. "We started with a short story contest when we first went into COVID. That's been engaging and for each of those, we hold a virtual award ceremony. We did a photography contest where you had to have a book in the photo and we got [around] 55 submissions. People are getting really creative with it. April is Poetry Month, and we have a poetry contest that we're hosting, and at the end of April we have Harry Posner—the Dufferin Poet Laureate—as our guest speaker. People love to get engaged."

Something the Caledon Public Library has prioritized is providing options in their virtual programming to appeal to a broader range of residents.

"We know we can't be all things to all people, but there should be something within our services that will resonate with everybody—from toddlers to seniors," said Caledon Public Library CEO and Chief Librarian Colleen Lipp. "The programs that have been incredibly popular have been the ones where we've been able to partner with experts in the community. We had a really popular event with the TRCA (Toronto and Region Conservation Authority) that filled up and we've done some fantastic [partnerships with] Bethell Hospice.

"Some of the programs that we have coming up are leveraging on that community expertise; we've got sessions coming up about how to get the most out of your broadband, destigmatizing mental health, and a focus on green initiatives like bringing in experts to talk about climate change. We're finding that in addition to some of our fun programs—we've done a lot of trivia nights—people are really seeking information from an organization that they trust and that's a place where we feel we can fill that gap."

The key to keeping the programming fresh and people engaged is to give them an avenue to make connections and chat with others in the community, the way they normally would at the library.

"In mid-April, our information services are starting a conversation circle," Maw said. "It's Wednesday afternoons at 2 p.m. and people are invited to get together to join in a casual community conversation."

"That's one of the areas we've seen the most impacted," Lipp said. "What happens in libraries is that people connect and meet up without any prompting from staff and that can't happen right now. We're trying to facilitate those connections in a way that we never had to before. Before we just provided the space and they just happened, and we look forward to a day when that can happen again."



The Great Quarantine Cook-Off is just one of the fun virtual programs offered by the Caledon Public Library. There will be more where that came from for April Break and throughout the Spring.
PHOTO COURTESY OF CPL

While the youth services librarians are leading kids' programs with story times and many of the activities that had previously been in person, Lipp says it can provide parents with a bit of a break after such a tough year.

"I think the parents are very grateful for that moment of being able to take a breath," said Lipp.

It hasn't been easy and the unknown ahead can be daunting, but Maw and Lipp are adamant it's all been worth it and the experience is rewarding to be able to give the people of Caledon those moments of normalcy, even if it's through a computer screen.

"The hardest part is that we don't know what the next few months hold," said Lipp. "We've moved to different stages seven times and with each of those stages comes different regulations that apply as to who can come in and what they can do when they're in our branches. What has actually remained fairly consistent is that our programs can only continue to be delivered virtually—that's made it a little bit easier. I'm really proud of our staff and how quickly they pivoted when all of this hit a year ago to offer our services online and I'm equally impressed with residents and how quickly they've embraced that new format.

"I think what's been the biggest struggle for us is that we took such great pride in our programs as a way for people to connect with each other and that's not always as easily done in a Zoom format. Even if you've been to a department meeting in Zoom, you don't get to have those side conversations and those organic topics don't come up in the same way—that's a bit of a struggle. In Caledon, where broadband connectivity isn't a given, we aren't able to bridge that digital divide with virtual programming as much as I would like."

For more information regarding Caledon Public Library programming, online events, and contests, visit caledon.library.on.ca.

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



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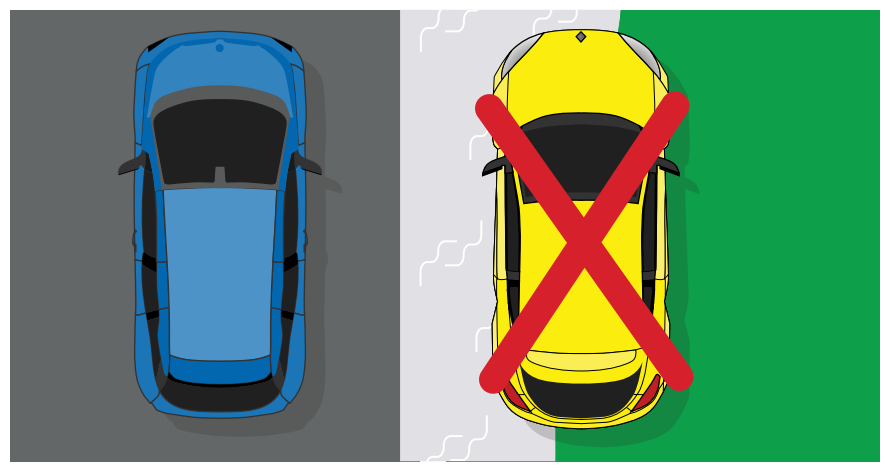
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Learn more: **caledon.ca/roads.**





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Brock's Banter

Going "viral" in a viral world

BY BROCK WEIR

Do you remember when "going viral" meant something completely different?

While that phrase is not one to be thrown around lightly these days, it wasn't all that long ago when it was applied with reckless abandon.

Filming yourself and your colleagues trying to pull off an awkwardly choreographed – and awkwardly executed – dance solely for the purposes of social media? Best left forgotten.

Going through a McDonalds drive-thru, front seat passenger at the ready, cell phone in hand, camera rolling, ready to capture that oh-so-hilarious moment where you reach for your ice cream cone only to grab it directly by the soft-serve? Inexplicable and wasteful, sure, but another attempt at viral infamy.

Snapped a photo for the 'Gram of yourself holding a garishly and artificially-coloured frozen whipped coffee with a caption along the lines of, "Sorry, I just had to?" Did you? Well, as they say, an attempt was made.

Then, of course, there was the ice bucket challenge which, although benefiting a good cause, not only saturated clothing but social media as well.

Nowadays, after more than a year of "viral" taking on an alarming and sad tone, there's a relatively new kid on the block: those who are getting "likes" depending on the vaccine they get.

As a person with many friends living south of the border, I'm guilty of experiencing more than a few pangs of envy as my peers post photos of themselves getting their second doses. It not only highlights how slow and problematic Ontario's vaccine rollout has been compared to other jurisdictions, but the fact there seems to be a certain degree of social clout depending on what jab you get.

Posts of a Pfizer-loaded needle sticking out of an arm are usually greeted with huge enthusiasm and relief – along with emojis to underscore this point – with Moderna doses close behind. Johnson & Johnson, a relatively new kid on the block with the added benefit of being a one-and-done shot, appears to be greeted with just slightly less enthusiasm accompanied by almost an apologetic resignation that something is better than nothing.

And AstraZeneca? As it is not yet fully approved in the United States and some of their doses are just coming our way, I don't yet have anything concrete to compare it to, but rightly or wrongly, enthusiasm for this concoction is taking a backseat to worry and anxiety.

One friend in the GTA posted eloquently about this situation over the weekend. As she is eligible to receive the AstraZeneca jab in an ever-expanding number of Ontario pharmacies, she is weighing her options. The personal conflict she is going through on the principle of "something is better than nothing" and the social responsibility she felt to get the vaccine not only for her family but the Province as a whole is a face-off she likened to an intense internal tennis match and is reflective of many conversations I have been hearing – even in my own bubble.

By the end of last week, both of my parents had secured an appointment for their first dose – my mother's being booked for Easter Monday at York Region's Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital and my father, a resident of Simcoe-Muskoka, an appointment in Barrie next week.

Both have expressed similar concerns about their vaccine options and finalized their metaphorical ranked ballot fairly early on. In fact, in my 35+ years of life, it was one of the few times their views were in perfect alignment.

Since the beginning of the vaccine rollout, there have been a number of opportunities for people in my position to do media walk-throughs of local vaccination centres yet, speaking solely for myself, few chances to see them in action.

Monday helped dispel some of the mystery as I accompanied by mom to get her first shot in Vaughan.

The process itself couldn't have been better organized, nor could it have gone smoother.

Although she wasn't informed until she sat down in her chair, the syringe sitting on the table just to her left waiting to work its magic, which brand it actually contained, I could see the relief pass her face, even with most of it covered by a disposable blue mask, when the nurse said Pfizer was ready to be injected.

And so it was – as it was with the 40-odd other individuals who were subsequently waiting in the hospital's auditorium ready for their requisite 15 minutes of wait time to be up before being let out into the wider world with an extra layer of protection that so many people in my age bracket – and those a decade or two on either side of it – are chomping at the bit to get.

With little else to do for these 15 minutes, it was interesting to observe the others who were waiting for their time. That same look of bemasked relief was clear on faces of those sitting down. As it was with family members and caregivers who were accompanying the lucky ones.

In my immediate vicinity, no less than five people picked up their phones, greeting whoever it was with almost the same refrain: "I got the Pfizer!" they almost uniformly exclaimed, perhaps exhaling more than they have in 13 months.

Chances are, when they got home, selfies of needles in arms and/or the shiny, new digital certificate they received were flooded out to their circles and justifiably so.

If this is what constitutes going viral these days – you know, without actually having a virus – I can live with that and, truth be told, whichever of the Big Four I ultimately get when my time comes, I'm more than eager to get in on the action. And no innocent ice cream cones will be hurt in the process… well, unless it's a prize I give myself at the finish line.



Smiles and chuckles are amazing gifts to share

by Mark Pavilons



Congratulations if you're reading this! It means you're alive and if that's not reason enough to smile, I don't know what is!

I'm smiling as I write this.

As stressful as the world is at times, I make it a point to laugh several times a day. It's a known fact that daily bouts of laughter decrease stress hormones and increase immune cells and infection-fighting antibodies. The bottom line is you feel good when you laugh and your body thanks you!

This is part of my physical fitness regime! I find it much more pleasing than doing sit-ups or jumping jacks. Give me a huge dose of daily laughter anytime.

Lately, given the circumstances, we've been given only two options in our daily living – to laugh or to cry. I choose chuckles.

Even Shakespeare believed the wrinkles (laugh lines) were well worth it.

It's a weapon in our arsenal to combat everything from fear, anxiety, depression, frustration and anger.

It's also unique to our species. While some animals have been known to crack a smile, it's not proven that they laugh. But I have a sneaking suspicion that dolphins have a sense of humour.

That's really interesting if you think about it. In all of creation and the massive design of all things in the universe, we were given the ability to smile and laugh. There's no real practical use for it, and it does little in terms of survival of the fittest.

But laugh I will, all the way to my final resting spot.

At times, I think laugher is the only thing that keeps me going. It's fuel for my tank. I'd like to think my weird sense of humour and constant laughter is a bit of a bright light for others around me. We all know laughter can be contagious.

And yes, I have some rather well exercised lines around the edges of my mouth. Well worn, indeed.

Lately, I've burst out laughing and keep it going for several seconds, to the point of watery eyes. My better half looks at me with eyebrows raised, but refrains from pointing out how weird I am. Well, almost always refrains.

I am just letting go, letting loose and opening up. Maybe the past year has caused pressure in my corked bottle and it's time to burst.

I find laughter to be a bit of a roller coaster – the faster it goes and rolls, and more enjoyable it is. If we could only bottle the stuff!

As soon as the vision of newborns improves, around 6-8 weeks, smiles develop. It's a response to seeing mom and dad making those goofy, but reassuring faces.

Most babies will start laughing around three or four months. They respond to touches, funny noises and games.

It's so weird when you think about this evolution. Newborns are helpless. They can't survive on their own. Their lives consist of eating and pooping.

And yet, for some mysterious reason, they have the inherent ability to smile and laugh. Some researchers believe it's inherent and not learned behaviour. Cool.

I don't always understand cat videos on the internet, but I can watch babies laughing all day long.

Smiles and laughter do seem to be dead giveaways for human emotions. They're signals, not just between fellow humans, but to the whole planet. They say talking to plants helps them grow (likely due to carbon dioxide emissions), so imagine what laughter does.

My dogs always respond when they see me smiling. They will begin to wag and often get up and approach me, without a single word being spoken. They also "huff" when playing or having a good time. I find that strange, yet comforting. Maybe they do, too.

I recently discovered, via videos on the internet, that some animals display a sense of humour. I've seen an elephant purposely take and hide a woman's hat. A dog and turtle were actually playing with a ball in someone's back yard. Scientists have measured laughter in rats, especially when tickled. Chimps and bonobos, our closest relatives, boast the most laughter-like kind of panting.

So, my fellow human beings on Planet Earth, one could extrapolate from this that laughter is a constant in our universe! Yes, I know that's quite a revelation. What if laughter and a sense of humour are innate, deep-rooted and even genetic? Then deep space, and our fellow creatures in the universe are laughing at us right now!

OMG, can you imagine an alien version of The Three Stooges? I'm smiling just thinking about it.

Maybe it's a yin and yang kinda thing – opposing and complementary cosmic energy. It's all about balance. If we have pain, suffering and dread, why not balance it all out with joy, happiness, laughter and slapstick?

Many of us human specimens look for the deeper meanings in all things. We unravel the complex, trying to decipher weird cosmic forces. We create over-the-top mathematical formulas and space-time theories.

What if it all comes down to that proverbial "kick me" sign on the back? What if our entire reality is contingent on creating laughter, and sending these sound waves out into space?

God gave us many things and our sense of humour is one of his most precious gifts. Mother Teresa said peace begins with a smile.

Use it daily, and use it often. It will do you a world of good!

And take some of Roy T. Bennett's advice: "Spend your life with people who make you smile, laugh, and feel loved."



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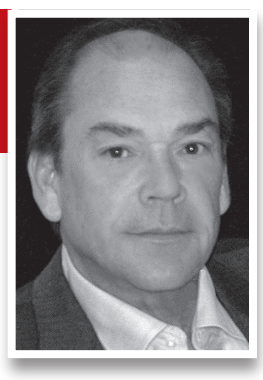
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Justice served?

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.

In a way, that phrase is the basis for punishment in most places when a person commits a crime.

Although in some societies is taken to the literal extreme – which is not a good thing.

The phrase means – the punishment should fit the crime.

For the most part, our society is doing a good job of punishing criminal behaviour.

You can argue that some crimes aren't punished enough, the justice system is woefully slow, and some judges routinely make questionable decisions, but all in all, I'd rather be in the Canadian justice system than stand accused in a lot of court systems around the world where sentences are handed out at the wave of a hand based on how the judge is feeling that morning and what bribes have come their way.

Prisons around the world vary from relatively lax systems with rehabilitation programs to chain gangs and hard labour, hard core penitentiaries, and other worst-case scenarios.

The most extreme punishment meted out is, of course, the death penalty.

While most modern western countries have abandoned the idea of dropping someone at the end of the rope as a way to pay for their crime, there are still over 30 countries around the world that carry out executions and several more where the death penalty is still a legal option.

Our neighbours to the south have held on to the death penalty in some U.S. states.

It's hard to believe that in one place you can be sentenced to a prison term for a crime, but the same crime committed 100 yards down the road across a state line could result in a trip to the death chamber.

Although most, if not all states have started using the "more humane" method of lethal injection, the result is the same as if you are hanged, gassed, or electrocuted.

That always reminds me of the movie The Green Mile, set in the death row section of a prison with Tom Hanks as the head guard.

After an execution goes horribly wrong, the prison Warden is furious because the prisoner didn't die in a nice manner – despite being jolted with several thousand volts of electricity.

Warden: "What in the hell happened?"

Head prison guard: "An execution – a successful one."

Warden: "How can you call that a success?"

Head prison guard: "Eduard Delacroix is dead."

I have been following the case of a Canadian man who is on death row in a prison in Montana.

Ronald Smith, originally from Red Deer Alberta, deserves to be in prison.

In 1983, he and an accomplice while high on LSD and alcohol, murdered two men in cold blood. They wanted to steal their car, and Smith admitted he just wanted to see what it was like to kill someone.

Smith was convicted and sentenced to death.

That in itself wasn't a big surprise. If you're going to commit a crime in a foreign country, especially a serious and brutal crime, you will be subject to paying the price by the laws set out in that land.

Smith's execution date has been set, then postponed five times.

Currently there are some political ramblings going on in Montana that will likely get the execution schedule back on track.

Whether or not Smith deserved to get the death penalty is up for debate.

Some people believe there shouldn't be a death penalty at all, while others are all for it.

However, in this case, they are planning on putting a man to death – 38 years after he committed his crime.

In any other modern western country, 38 years for a murder is considered a life sentence and the accused would most likely be up for parole.

Executing a man almost four decades after his crime, when has spent those years already serving a sentence behind bars, definitely falls under the "cruel" side of "cruel or unusual punishment."

Ronald Smith's case is not isolated. There are people routinely being executed in the U.S. decades after they were first charged with a crime.

Time changes people. By all accounts Smith has been a model prisoner.

That doesn't excuse his crime, but after 38 years of confinement, surely he has paid for his mistake.

Good News!

SHERALYN ROMAN
TALK CALEDON



Today's submission was not an easy one to write and that's for two reasons: first I am attempting to modify last week's submission (originally written as an April Fool's joke) but which couldn't be printed as the content might have hit a little too close to home with the Provincial "lockdown" that immediately followed.

The second reason is because we finally have some good news to share. Or do we? I'm not always curmudgeonly, honestly. When there is red wine in unlimited supply, I'm the life of the party and even though I haven't been to a party in over a year now, I'd be more than happy to share actual good news if only there any to share.

Written tongue in cheek, my original column mentioned Justin Trudeau (whom we don't talk about much) and his Federal Minister of Public Services and Procurement, Anita Anand, had finally secured enough doses of the COVID-19 vaccine for "everyone in Canada who wants one."

Now I know you've heard this before, but this time apparently it's true! This means a steady supply of all the major vaccines* are on their way to Canada, and therefore Caledon, any day now.

Unfortunately, according to our Provincial overlord Doug Ford, this just isn't true. It's the Feds, he claims, that are holding up his stellar, "rock solid" vaccine distribution plan, which would be running perfectly if only he had all the vaccines promised him by Mr. Trudeau.

The fact that we now know there are over a million vaccines currently sitting idle in refrigerators somewhere in Ontario is also not Mr. Ford's fault. So, the good news is there ARE vaccines, the bad news is we just don't really know where.

*Women aged 55 or less may want to avoid however!

Now this next paragraph I pretty much should have deleted altogether. Clearly meant as a joke, I wrote that Education Minister Stephen Lecce was finally giving teachers the respect they deserved and moving them to the front of the line for their vaccine.

Instead, it appears I might have been clairvoyant. Just this week, there has been much discussion about ACTUALLY moving teachers farther up the queue, possibly even starting to vaccinate them during the "March" break. (For those who are confused, the "March" break was moved to April, it's not clear why, and to make matters worse, was not scheduled to immediately follow the Easter holiday because that would have made sense.)

I'm not sure we can give Mr. Lecce any credit for this good news, however. To me, all credit for any recent changes in education should now go to Dr. Lawrence Loh who finally stood up to the Provincial government, and to Mayor Patrick Brown, with his announcement to close to schools effective immediately for the next two weeks. Thank you Dr. Loh!

A little notice might have been helpful, but still good news. Citing an attempt to #BreakTheCycle, something I tweeted about last week, Loh invoked a Section 22 order, as is his right, thus potentially saving scores of people throughout Peel Region from contracting COVID.

No, I don't think that's an exaggeration – even though Stephen Lecce continues to insist schools are not super-spreaders. In a related story, not to be outdone, Mr. Lecce (who has zero authority in this regard) is encouraging the study of vaccinations for children under the age of 16 so that all students can be vaccinated on the first day of school in September.

As our crack investigative journalism has uncovered, it will be the 500+ nurses first hired for schools during the first wave of the pandemic who will be administering the jabs as students report to school on the first day in September. If true, Mr. Lecce will take all the credit and if this proves false – well at least the teachers will have finally been vaccinated.

Last week it certainly seemed like some kind of April Fool's joke as we entered into yet another state of "lockdown" and, yes, the use of quotation marks is on purpose. It seems Doug Ford is taking his license plate slogan "OpenForBusiness" just a little too seriously, allowing big box retailers to stay open while everyone else, including hair and nail salons that never opened in the first place, had to stay closed.

I joked that Ontario was finally dismissing the convoluted colour-coded system of regional lockdowns acknowledging that Grey and the recent "modified" Grey were just too confusing, so he was asking everyone to just use their own common sense instead.

The trouble is – as we've already established – common sense is in precious little supply and that's just at the Provincial government level! It now appears, as of writing this week's column, that we are awaiting yet another announcement on closures and I'm hearing that everything from a stay-at-home order to, gasp, actually closing big box retailers is on the table.

Now that seems more like a real April Fool's joke to me than anything I've heard so far. Sadly, people dying of COVID because of government ineptitude aren't laughing.

Perhaps I'll really try to end on a positive note. No, really. In actual good news for Peel Region, we are finally getting a second hospital! It looks like the one the government tore down a few years ago, and then rebuilt as an "Urgent Care" centre on the exact same piece of land is now going to be turned back into an actual hospital again!

It appears an overlooked document of dubious provenance that predicted explosive population growth in Brampton, was apparently stapled to another document mandating Caledon grow its population exponentially by the year 2031. They were filed together under "Miscellaneous." Finally uncovered, Mr. Ford was prompted to act with some urgency as if both the visual cues and repeated calls to action by members of the public were not enough. The unconscionable number of COVID-19 cases in Peel had nothing to do with the timing of this media release, just like by the time this hospital is actually built, it will have nothing to do with helping to alleviate current COVID-19 ICU cases causing overcrowding at William Osler's Brampton location.

I don't know what's really going to be announced next, but I truly hope it's good news. Actual good news, like the vaccines that we know are here will now actually be made available, in particular to our teachers and front-line workers. But also, as we are in a hotspot, to everyone else.

It doesn't take much "common sense" to figure out that any region facing the numbers we're facing here in Peel should be moved to the front of the line to help curb the spread of the virus and the even faster moving variants of concern.

April Fool's is over, time to stop making fools of us all.



SPORTS

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Constable Adam McEachern completes record Murph Challenge in 24 hours

BY ROBERT BELARDI

Caleb McEachern has been on the autism watch since he was three-and-a-half years old.

Just around 10 months ago, Caleb and his father Constable Adam McEachern of the YRPA were training in the basement of their home. Caleb was inspired by the efforts from Canadian hero Terry Fox.

As Adam was running on the treadmill, Caleb asked him a curious question.

"He said, 'Dad, was Terry Fox alone?'" McEachern said. "I said 'Yeah, he had people with him, buddy, but most of the time he was on his own.'"

Caleb continued to ask questions. He wondered if what Terry Fox did was hard. He asked his father if it hurt what he did. Then he asked his father why would he do this?

"I said, 'well, Terry understood that by doing what he was doing it was going to help a lot of people just like him. It was worth it to be hard and all the hurt. He helped millions of people.' I said, 'You're going to go through some things that are going to be tough and hard, and you're going to have to push through it, pal,'" McEachern recalled.

A few minutes went by and Caleb asked his father if Terry Fox was a hero? Of course, Constable McEachern told his son that he was, and then he heard a resounding sentence that struck him like a bolt of lightning.

"Just like you dad, you're a hero."

He hit the jackpot with that one. The next day Constable McEachern stumbled on a challenge he had not known of from a colleague: The Murph Challenge named after a Navy Seals veteran Mike Murphy.

His colleague told him she had heard of a record being broken in 24 hours; someone completed the Murph Challenge 16 times in 24 hours.

To beat this feat, McEachern would have to complete 5,100 air squats, 3,400 push ups, 1,700 chin-ups and 34 miles of running.

McEachern didn't want to do this just for the fun of it. He planned to do this on World Autism Awareness Day. He planned to support Kerry's Place, which supports 8,000 people with autism. He set a goal to raise $10,000 and complete 17 rounds of the Murph Challenge.

And last Thursday, from 8:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Friday, Constable McEachern completed his Murph Challenge with half-an-hour to spare in the YRPA building in Newmarket.

He raised $22,922 in his efforts.

"If I could do something that is far off the charts as far as physical ability, I'm just a normal guy. I'm just a dad doing this for his son and people like his son," McEachern said.

"If we can raise the awareness [of] such a prevalent issue that there are so many people out in the world and in Canada that need our understanding – there's millions of great causes, this one is just mine."

Throughout the 24 hours, members of the YRPA supported McEachern by joining him throughout the Murph Challenge.

"His level of physical fitness he pushes other people as well," said President of the YRPA Rob O'Quinn. "In the summer time and the weather is nice, pre-COVID, he would take people to an open baseball field and do rope-pulls and tractor tires."

McEachern does it all. He inspires others around him. He supports a community of people to raise awareness. He dedicated 24 hours and numerous protein shakes to make a point that anything is possible as long as you put your mind to it.

Even if that means breaking some barriers for Kerry's Place.

"Absolutely unprecedented. I've never seen someone jump into a cause to raise funds and awareness much like Adam. Not only does he put his life on a line as a police officer but he decided to go above and beyond," said Travis Ambing, Fundraising Manager.

"We can't thank Adam enough for all that he is doing."

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PUZZLE SOLUTION



Robert's Rant: Baylor played with nothing to lose

BY ROBERT BELARDI
OPINION

In Monday night's NCAA men's national title game, you could tell one team competed as if they had nothing to lose.

The truth is, they didn't. The top seeded Baylor Bears (27-2) went up against the undefeated Gonzaga Bulldogs (31-0) on Monday night in a game where everyone was anxious to see if the Zags could become the eighth undefeated NCAA team to win it all.

Both schools did have one thing in common: they were both looking for their first school title.

The Bears came out flying with a 23-8 run to start things off. It was as if the Zags were winded by a swift punch to the side of the head. They've been used to dominating teams. Monday night was surely not the case.

The Bears shot 43 per cent from beyond the arc on the night. Bears guard Jared Butler came out with an insurmountable amount of confidence finishing with 22 points. The whole group did, while Gonzaga looked apprehensive and timid.

The Zags coughed up the ball 14 times and gave up 16 offensive rebounds. This team who normally look explosive on every given night with Aurora native Andrew Nembhard and Jalen Suggs leading the way looking bewildered when trying to set something up.

It's quite fascinating to see how a mentality takes a turn for the worst. When it's all on the line the pressure is on. I wanted to see Nembhard win the trophy. Since moving to the Zags, it was expected Nembhard would have had to sit out for the year. Just before the beginning of the season, he appealed the decision and was approved to play in this year's competition.

And what a difference he made on the court. Suggs loves how competitive he is and how good of a player he is to work with. He is surely one of the most underrated guards out there right now.

And simultaneously there is another story. The Baylor Bears basketball program was a mess in the early 2000s and since hiring Scott Drew back in August of 2003. Seeing where it is today, it's quite special. Drew sat in the driver seat and steered this franchise in the right direction.

The Bears haven't had anything to lose. They only had everything to gain. Watching Monday night's game was hard. The Zags had the potential of being one of the greatest NCAA teams to play in the tournament. But now, they will forever be remembered as the team that came close to having it all, losing to the Bears 86-70.

And that is perfectly okay. They shouldn't feel that way. It was an incredible year and going undefeated is a mental turbulence within itself.

It was an amazing championship in front of fans in the stands. Thankfully there was an NCAA season to begin with this year. Even though the Zags will be remembered as one of the teams that "could have been". They became the third undefeated team to lose in the finals. But that's not what we should remember. We should remember how good this team was while it lasts.

Because when players are drafted it will slowly evaporate into a distant memory.

Unfortunately, that is something nobody wants to lose.

Cycling to highlight impacts of potential Highway 413

BY ROB PAUL
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

There has been plenty of Caledon residents supporting the Stop the 413 campaign by placing signs in their yard in hopes the Provincial government won't move the project forward.

Caledon is known for its beautiful community and Greenbelt land and the highway would impact not only the people, but the ecosystems surrounding it.

Anne and Jim Purvis live in Toronto, but they know the beauty Caledon holds and the long-time environmentalists wanted to leave their mark and help spread the word as to why the highway must be stopped.

The Purvises love the environment and they love to cycle, so they thought there was no better way than to head outside on Easter Sunday and bike the path of the potential 413 to help spread awareness about the negative impacts it will bring.

"We follow environmental issues, and we just really love biking," Anne Purvis said. "We had followed the Duffins Creek issue in Ajax, and we thought, 'Geez, we've never even seen Duffins Creek,' so we went and biked it and it was gorgeous. Then we got back to Toronto and were thinking about our concerns with the 413 and thought, lets bike around the route of the 413, that's how it came about."

"We wanted to add our own voice—as well as all the other reasons to oppose this highway—and show this is beautiful country and we're privileged to bike along here on quiet roads, take in the fresh air and see the crops starting to grow in the fields," said Jim Purvis.

The day went perfectly thanks to the sunny weather on the weekend, the beauty of the Caledon area, and the residents who came out to support them.

"It was fabulous," said Jim. "It was a beautiful day and we really enjoyed seeing the countryside. It was lovely biking along Kirby Road, Healy Road, Old School Road, and Heritage Road. It was beautiful to see the Nashville Conservation area and we passed over the Humber River and the Credit River. We heard lots of frogs and song sparrows, and lots of friendly people met us along the way. We had lots of supporters and it was just a perfect day."

Not being from the Caledon area gives the Purvises a different outlook on what Caledon has to offer while understanding taking away the countryside will have a ripple that reaches down to where they are in Toronto.

"Coming from Toronto, we also have a very particular perspective," said Anne. "We live in a very densely populated area where there isn't really as much green space as Torontonians could use. During the pandemic, our ravines and parks have been just full of people out trying to be refreshed in nature and seeking a nature connection in their own area. We really understand the immediate need for green space that people have, and we feel Caledon has a real treasure up there that needs to be preserved.

"We're naturalists—I'm on the board of the Toronto Field Naturalists—so we're really trying to save habitat in Toronto, we have a lot of biodiversity and it completely depends on what goes on further north. We think of that area as the lungs of Toronto. I couldn't believe biking down Heritage Road and Meadowvale Road—that's the lungs of Mississauga. And another thing is the food; people want to eat local. Supply chains around the world are increasingly fragile."

They also found it pulled on their heartstring even more once they got out and met some of the people in Caledon who the highway will directly impact.

"We found it so interesting chatting with the local folks because for them it's the immediate loss of the farm or their acreage," said Anne. "For them, it's this thing that they love. We met a group, and a big interchange is supposed to go in right where they are to make it completely uninhabitable by people and they're just devastated by that."

Developing on the green space in the rural areas of Caledon isn't just taking away the land, it's taking away years of environmental growth that can never be replaced while providing housing that isn't supportive of a healthy growth plan.

"The soil in Ontario started to accumulate 12,000 years ago after the ice retreated," said Anne, "so the topsoil has taken 12,000 years to become the rich thing it is. Some people told us the soil up there (in Caledon) is better soil than the Greenbelt further north. It's very rich and deep, but it takes 12,000 years to create topsoil of that quality and developers just scrape it away. Once housing and roads are built there, it will never grow crops again.

"It can't be reversed. It's not that we're against development, but we're against sprawling development. As we biked along, we saw a lot of residential housing going in and it just looks like sprawling development, not that dense development that the Greater Golden Horseshoe Growth Plan called for around transit hubs that would allow land to be saved."

The Purvises aren't done yet; they plan to continue to do what they can to put pressure on the Ontario government to reverse the decision to build the 413.

"We plan on writing to all of the Conservative MPPs in all of the ridings along there," said Anne. "This Conservative government is pro-business, but they seem to be only pro one business. Agriculture is a multi-billion-dollar business, but farmers can't continue if the whole infrastructure to support agriculture is fragmented. Land has to be preserved in large chunks to support agriculture and we'd like to see this government investing in that business."

Southlake Run offers flexibility in supporting healthcare

BY BROCK WEIR

Since the start of the global pandemic, every day has been a marathon all its own for the doctors, nurses and staff at Southlake Regional Health Centre.

With a third wave and a third lockdown, support for the local hospital is needed now more than ever through the Nature's Emporium Run for Southlake Virtual Challenge.

The virtual Run for Southlake kicks off this Monday, April 12, running for four weeks.

This year's challenge is divided into sections for each of the four weeks.

The first week, Eat Well with Southlake, focuses on nutrition with professionals from Nature's Emporium providing programming on "foods that fuel you" while participants will be encouraged to set their own nutritional goal for the week.

The second, Make it a Habit with Southlake, builds on the lessons from the first week with a focus on "how often you want to move this week" working on "your long-term health by making fitness a consistent part of your routine."

"What the [sessions] are doing is reflecting on how this experience is a journey, a process, and that is where nutrition flows into consistency," says Melanie Osmond of the Southlake Regional Health Centre Foundation. "We start with getting our energy and our nutrition…on track before we look into being consistent. On our first day [of this segment] we have a session with the Sports Medicine Centre of Excellence (in Newmarket) where they are talking about activity-related injuries and prevention, running a session on how to make sure you're safe when you're getting back into exercise."

In addition to underscoring the staples of stretches and cooldowns, it is also about making sure "you're not going too hard too fast."

"Our second week will make sure the education is there, that people aren't looking to move mountains until they are ready to do so," says Ms. Osmond, noting the third week will have a focus on building endurance, setting fitness goals on what fits your schedule best. "We're looking at that end goal of fitness. Sometimes if you're running a marathon, they start by moving often and going for an hour at a time before looking at how far can I go? It is that sort of journey, but we're also looking at a comparison.

"Southlake is here every day; we are here for you as a hospital, as your community health care system, and we are there to support you when you need us. We're hoping that by spending time with us, that is a mindful time you're giving back and are able to reflect back on that experience; that is time that Southlake is open and available and building up that endurance is something our hospital had to do that entire past year… while ramping up with a growing community as well."

Participants can register for the 2021 Nature's Emporium Run for Southlake Virtual Challenge through the second week of the initiative. To date, more than $45,000 has been raised towards the Southlake Foundation's goal of $175,000.

For more information, including registration and sponsorship, visit runforsouthlake.ca.



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OBITUARIES

JACK TARVES MACDONALD



On March 29, 2021, Jack Tarves MacDonald, long time resident of Brampton, passed away in his 92nd year at Woodstock General Hospital. His best friend and beloved wife of 68 years Edna (nee Wilson) was by his side when he peacefully went to sleep. Jack was one of the founding members of the Chinguacousy Volunteer Fire Department where he went onto serve as a Fire Fighter for 36 years. He was a retired employee of 25 years with Canadian Tire and 20 years with the LCBO. He was a long time and faithful member of Mayfield United Church and Ionic Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 229, Brampton. Loving father of Andy and Erin O'Flynn, Wendy and Terry Empey. Nothing made him happier then to spend time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Cherished Granddad of Amanda Bruce (Kevin), Hayley Weszner (Kyle), Alannah Gillan (Michael), Bret MacDonald (Ashley Morrison) and Great-Granddad of Madison, Blake, Lucas and Ava. Dear brother of James (Shirley) (both deceased), Scott (deceased) (Joan), Shirley Townsend, and Doug (deceased). Half-brother of Colin (Marie, deceased) and Ian (deceased). Jack will be sadly missed by his brothers-in-law, Ken (Judy) and Herb and his sisters-in-law, Joanne and Helen. He will be remembered by his many nieces and nephews. A game of cards was sure to break out when Jack was around. He played regularly with the Snelgrove Seniors, Brampton Fairgrounds Group and the Friends at Rosedale Village and of course with his family and friends. Jack and Edna travelled extensively and visited 56 countries, many of them with Lorne and Joanne Wilson. He was also known for his home grown tomatoes and homemade raspberry jam.



A private family memorial service will be held at the Egan Funeral Home, 203 Queen Street S. (Hwy. 50), Bolton (905-857-2213) on Saturday morning, April 10 at 11 o'clock. The family invites those who wish to view the service to do so through live streaming at https://event.forgetmenotceremonies.com/ceremony?c=76f8c68a-ad7f-4154-a181-f66b3ee39d3f

If you experience any issues or have any questions in regards to live streaming, please feel free to contact Forget Me Not Ceremonies at 1-877-895-2739.

If desired, memorial donations may be made to Mayfield United Church or S.H.A.R.E. Agricultural Foundation.

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

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS

All claims against the estate of Annette Philomina Maria Giger, late, of the Town of Caledon, in the Regional Municipality of Peel, who died on or about the 4th day of July, 2019, must be filed with the personal representative on or before the 29th day of April, 2021, thereafter the undersigned will distribute the assets of the said estate having regard only to the claims then filed.

Dated at the Town of Orangeville, this 31st day of March, 2021.

Michelle Nicole McKay
Estate Trustee of the Estate of
Annette Philomina Maria Giger
by her Solicitor
Patricia L. Sproule Ward
Patricia L. Sproule Ward Law Office
30 Mill Street, P.O. Box 67
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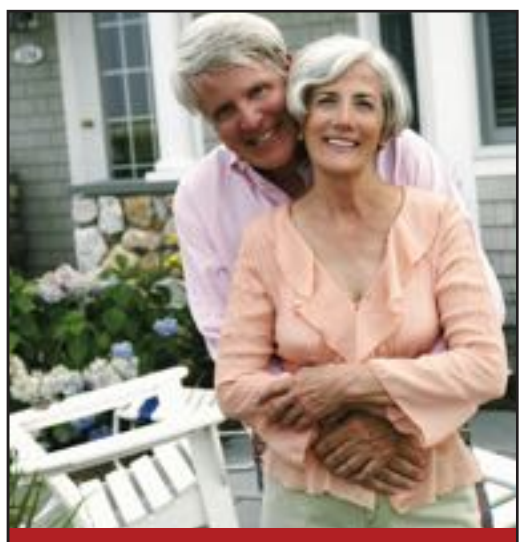


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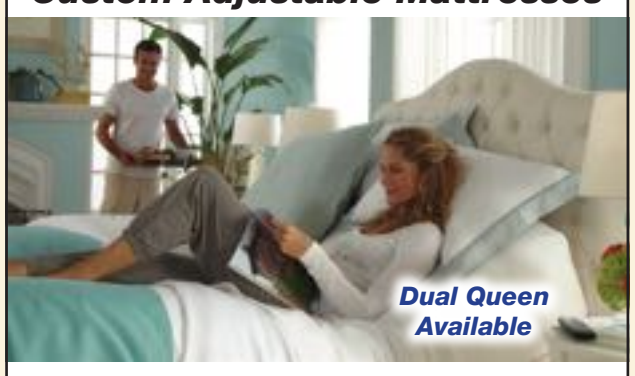
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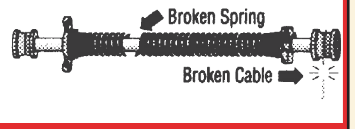
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Upcoming battery collection helps keep community, environment safe: Region

BY ROB PAUL
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Disposing of batteries safely can be a hassle, but the dangers of putting batteries into the regular garbage or recycling are too risky.

That's why it is imperative communities take the hassle and risk out of the equation by providing free battery collection days.

The Region of Peel will have a battery collection period from April 12 to 23 where residents can put all single-use and rechargeable batteries out for collection.

Residents are encouraged to check peelregion.ca/waste to find their pickup day or sign up to receive free waste collection reminders.

This collection service provides residents a convenient way to ensure that their batteries are disposed of safely.

When residents put their batteries out for collection, they're asked to place out all single-use and rechargeable batteries that weigh less than 11 pounds. Sealed lead acid and car batteries are not accepted at the curb—take them to a Peel Community Recycling Centre (CRC) for safe disposal.

On recycling collection day, residents must place the bag of batteries on top of their closed green bin. If you they don't have a green bin, they must place their bag of batteries beside their recycling bags. Residents can drop off all other batteries at any CRC year-round free of charge.

If batteries are improperly disposed of, they can leak harmful metals—nickels, cadmium, lithium—which contaminate local soils, groundwater, and streams. If batteries are destroyed, they can release toxic gases containing heavy metals into the atmosphere.

The importance of proper recycling of batteries is essential towards creating a safe and healthy community and the Region of Peel is working to make an environmental difference by providing a free battery collection pickup to all residents and they hope everybody takes advantage of the service.

"We want residents to know that batteries do not belong in the garbage or recycling," said Region of Peel Waste Planning Manager Erwin Pascual. "Single-use and rechargeable batteries weighing less than five kilograms are collected at the curb twice a year in the spring and fall.

"By participating in the Region's battery collection program, residents are helping to create a safe and healthy community by supporting waste diversion, ensuring that the batteries do not end up in the landfill, and avoiding potential fire hazards in collection trucks, Peel's sorting facility and at landfills. Through the battery collection program, we are giving residents a convenient way to ensure that their batteries are disposed of safely.

Thanks to residents' efforts, the Region of Peel has recycled 104.2 tonnes of batteries since 2016, helping Peel get closer to its target of 75 per cent waste diversion by 2034.

The Region of Peel works with residents and partners to create a healthy, safe and connected Community for Life for approximately 1.5 million people and over 175,000 businesses in the cities of Brampton and Mississauga and the Town of Caledon.

For more information about the Region of Peel, explore peelregion.ca and follow them on social media, Twitter @regionofpeel and Instagram @peelregion.ca.



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PUBLIC NOTICE

HAVE YOUR SAY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

0 McLaughlin Road, Ward 2

Proposed Draft Plan of Subdivision

FILE NUMBER(S): 21T-20005C
RELATED FILE NUMBER: MINISTER'S ZONING ORDER ONTARIO REGULATION 362/20

A Public Meeting will be held to consider proposed Draft Plan of Subdivision. Your input and insight will inform and shape plans that meet the needs of our community.

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

MEETING DATE: **MAY 4, 2021**
PUBLIC MEETING START TIME: **7:00 P.M.**

To listen to the Meeting (but not participate), you may call 1-833-311-4101, Meeting Access Code: 132 599 4888#.

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

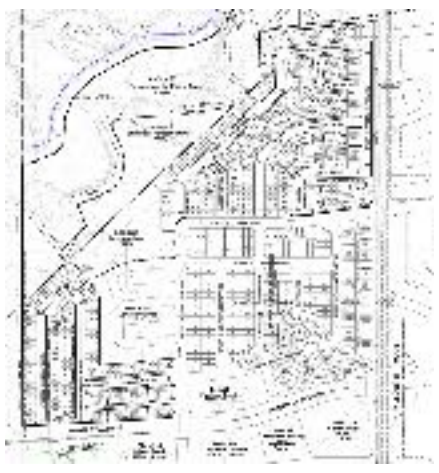
You can also ask questions or provide comments by:

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

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

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

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



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

LEAD PLANNER:
Toula Theocharidis, Meridian Planning Consultants On Behalf of Development Review Services, Planning Department, Town of Caledon
905.532.9651
toula@meridian-vaughan.ca

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
For more information about this matter, including information about appeal rights, a copy of the proposed Draft Plan of Subdivision, additional information and material, please visit **caledon.ca/notices** or contact the Lead Planner at Town Hall from Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

ACCESSIBILITY:
If you require an accessibility accommodation to attend or participate in this Public Meeting, or to access any materials related to this item in an alternate format please contact Records and Information Services by phone at 905-584-2272 x.2366 or via email at accessibility@caledon.ca. Requests should be submitted at least 10 days before the Public Meeting.

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

Notice Date: April 8, 2021

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PUBLIC NOTICE

HAVE YOUR SAY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

12259 Chinguacousy Road, Ward 2

Proposed Draft Plan of Subdivision

FILE NUMBER(S): 21T-20006C
RELATED FILE NUMBER: MINISTER'S ZONING ORDER ONTARIO REGULATION 362/20

A Public Meeting will be held to consider proposed Draft Plan of Subdivision. Your input and insight will inform and shape plans that meet the needs of our community.

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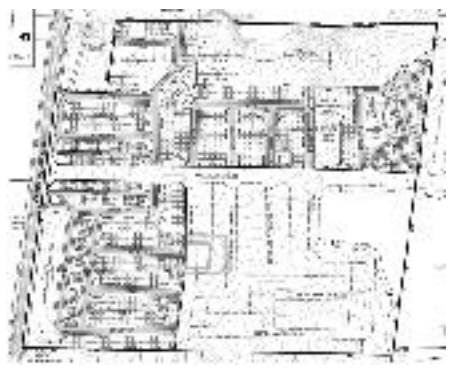
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- Contacting Planning staff or the Lead Planner during office hours by phone or email.
- Booking an appointment to visit Town Hall to speak with Planning staff. Visit caledon.ca/development for more information.

APPLICANT:
Mayfield Developments Inc.

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

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



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

LEAD PLANNER:
Toula Theocharidis, Meridian Planning Consultants
On Behalf of Development Review Services,
Planning Department, Town of Caledon
905.532.9651
toula@meridian-vaughan.ca

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
For more information about this matter, including information about appeal rights, a copy of the proposed Draft Plan of Subdivision, additional information and material, please visit **caledon.ca/notices** or contact the Lead Planner at Town Hall from Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

ACCESSIBILITY:
If you require an accessibility accommodation to attend or participate in this Public Meeting, or to access any materials related to this item in an alternate format please contact Records and Information Services by phone at 905-584-2272 x.2366 or via email at accessibility@caledon.ca. Requests should be submitted at least 10 days before the Public Meeting.

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

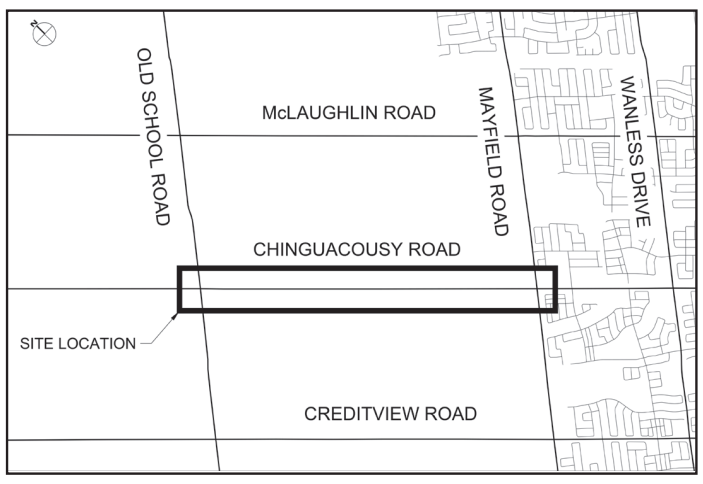
Notice Date: April 8, 2021

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Study Chinguacousy Road from Mayfield Road to Old School Road

THE STUDY:
The Town of Caledon has initiated a Schedule 'C' Class Environmental Assessment Study for Chinguacousy Road from Mayfield Road to Old School Road. The Study will investigate options to improve road capacity, connectivity, safety, and operations to meet the future transportation demand due to continued growth in the Town of Caledon.



THE PROCESS:
The Study will be conducted in accordance with the planning and design process for 'Schedule C' projects, as outlined in the *Municipal Class Environmental Assessment* (EA) document, (October 2000, as amended in 2007, 2011 & 2015), which is approved under the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act. Two Public Information Centres (PICs) will be held to discuss issues related to the study area, including alternative solutions, evaluation criteria, environmental impacts and mitigation measures. PIC dates and details will be advertised as the study progresses.

Upon completion of the study, an Environmental Study Report will be prepared and made available for public review and comment.

THE COMMENTS:
Public participation will form an integral part of the Class EA Study to ensure that the ongoing concerns of the public and affected groups within the study area are identified, documented, assessed and addressed. To be added to the project mailing list, and for any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact:

TOWN OF CALEDON
Caleb Blain, P.Eng.
Project Manager, Engineering Services
Tel: 905.584.2272 x 4220
E-mail: Caleb.Blain@caledon.ca

AINLEY GROUP
Nimit Mittal, M.Eng., P.Eng.
Project Manager
Tel: 905.452.5172 (Ext. 204)
E-mail: mittal@ainleygroup.com

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

Notice first issued April 1, 2021.

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