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FREE | Thursday, April 22, 2021 | Volume 41, Issue 16



HOSPICE HIKE GOES TO THE DOGS (AND THEIR HUMANS)

Ariel, a fashionable miniature Australian Shepherd, is ready to hit the trails for the upcoming Virtual Hike for Bethell Hospice, which runs from May 2 - 8. This is the second year Bethell Hospice has spearheaded a virtual hike and, this time around, they are making things extra special for participating canines and their humans. For more, see Page 7.

PHOTO BY JULIE HYMERS

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Peel cracks down on workplaces as COVID cases soar, recommends paid sick days

BY ROB PAUL
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

As COVID continues to hit the Peel Region hard, Peel Public Health has issued an updated Section 22 Order on workplaces that will direct businesses with five or more cases of COVID-19 in the previous 14 days to close for 10 days where the cases could have reasonably acquired their infection at work or no obvious source of infection has been identified outside of the workplace.

The amendment will go into effect Friday, April 23.

The updated provision of the Section 22 Order will be in effect whenever Peel is in the shutdown or Grey-Lockdown zones of the provincial framework.

Businesses essential to the well-being of the community will be exempt from full closure. This includes healthcare, first responders, critical infrastructure, emergency childcare, education, and others.

The complete list is being developed and will be included in the Order.

All affected employees must self-isolate. Employees who are isolating are not permitted to work in any other workplace. Peel Public Health strongly recommends that employers directed to close under this Order provide paid leave for impacted employees.

Peel Region Medical Officer of Health Dr. Lawrence Loh made the decision to update the Section 22 order to help slow the spread with variants becoming an increasing issue in the region.

Continued on Page 3

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Business as usual is not an option, say environmental advocates

BY ROB PAUL
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

At the Caledon Town Council general committee meeting on April 20, Lucrezia Chiappetta from ecoCaledon—a local not-for-profit organization that works on environmental projects in the Town—and resident Jennifer LeForestier delegated on the Resilient Caledon Community Climate Change Action Plan Update.

On behalf of ecoCaledon and residents of Caledon, Ms. Chiappetta requested Council approve and begin the implementation of the action plan update as the climate crisis continues to pose a threat to the future

"The evidence is clear, there's now more carbon dioxide in the air than at any time in the last three million years," she said. "Each day, we're faced with a number of stories about environmental risks and disasters, vanishing wilderness, and endangered species. We have

Continued on Page 2

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Caledon can't afford to "sit back and wait for others to act" on climate emergency: Mayor

Continued from FRONT

reached an unprecedented moment in planetary history. Humans now change the Earth and its processes more than all natural forces combined. No challenge poses a greater threat to future generations than climate changes. No one is immune to the effects of climate change; the climate crisis effects every corner of our planet—from the poles to the tropics and from the mountains to the oceans. People and nature worldwide are already feeling the effects. Everything we do has an impact on our planet."

With the current way the climate change crisis is trending, ecoCaledon is concerned with how it could impact the Town in the near future if a plan isn't executed soon, but is thankful for the environmental leadership the Town has shown for the policies, programs, and partnerships they've undertaken to protect and enhance Caledon's environment.

"We know from the action plan update that Caledon's future climate is projected to be warmer, wetter, and more unpredictable," said Ms. Chiappetta. "Business as usual is not an option. In the words of Mayor Thompson, 'we cannot afford to sit back and wait for others to act.' Municipalities such as Caledon have direct or indirect influence over half of Canada's emissions and are responsible for decisions around land use, planning, new development, transportation and transit that are crucial to achieving zero emission."

Council declared a climate change emergency in Caledon in January 2020, asking staff to report back on the scale of actions required by the Town to align with the international target to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. In June 2020, they adopted a community-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction target of net zero by 2050.

"The targets mean we need to act quickly," Ms. Chiappetta said. "The 60 actions outlined in the action plan update not only aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but also improve air quality, preserve habitat and biodiversity, improve health and sustainability, create jobs, and prepare community members for increased climate impacts. We at ecoCaledon look forward to supporting the Town's initiatives and helping residents and businesses to reduce their carbon footprints. We can still escape the worst impacts of climate change and build a safer future for all."

LaForestier shared her concerns regarding consultation with indigenous groups and issues focused on land and water protection within the action plan asking for more effort and thought be put towards allowing land to be displaced or built on.

"As a resident surrounded by pit applications concerned about future impacts to wells and drinking water, the action plan does not address the communities needs to be resilient nor mention aggregate," she said. "The Community Climate Action Plan is timely as the COVID pandemic has highlighted a critical need for food security from local sources during crisis periods and is one of the key factors in the subsequent economic recovery.

"Ontario has some of the best agricultural land in Canada, much of which isn't protected by current land use planning policies. I formally request that every aggregate license issued in the Town of Caledon undergo consultation and written permission from the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, that the Town require cumulative social and health impact studies before approving zoning or licenses to represent public interest—as is done in Waterloo region—that the plan audit and omit aggregate resource areas that are harmful to the Credit River, that the official plan review include cancelling approvals for extraction below the water table and review the plan to address fully the impact of water extraction in Caledon and adopt more stringent requirements for aggregate licensing like other regions."

In response Chief Planner Sylvia Kirkwood explained that they've been meeting with the Mississaugas of the Credit to build an approved strategy and protocol by both sides for how to move forward with land development. Kirkwood mentioned October 2021 as a timeline for when these protocols will be brought forth.

The implementation of the Resilient Caledon Plan will require investments from the community and town with preliminary estimates of Town costs over the next 10 years in the range of $24 to $31 million. Establishing a Resilient Caledon Task Force to support community-wide implementation has also been proposed.

"There is no doubt that Caledon is feeling the impacts of climate change firsthand," Mayor Thompson said. "In March 2019, the Bolton ice jam saw more than 200 people being forced to evacuate their homes due to flooding. Every year we're seeing more storms, higher temperatures and changes to the flora and fauna around us. The Town acknowledges the challenge of climate change, and we recognize the threat that it poses to our residents, businesses, farmers, and the Town's own operations. That's why earlier this year Council unanimously declared a climate change emergency and committed to taking serious action on climate change, including adopting a target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050."

"This Plan builds on Caledon's achievements as an environmental leader, including being one of only 30 municipalities across Canada to complete all five milestones of the Partners for Climate Protection Program, pioneering a Green Development Program to encourage commercial developers to construct energy efficient buildings, installing 22 publicly available electric vehicle charging stations, running the Green Fund and Tree Seedling programs to help the community take environmental action in their own neighbourhoods, and leading by example with energy and emissions reductions in our own Town facilities and operations. But the challenges are becoming greater.

"Warming around the world and especially in Canada is increasing every year, leading to more frequent and severe impacts. These impacts are most often felt locally. As a municipality, we can't afford to sit back and wait for others to act. We also know that Caledon is a growing community, with the population expected to double over the next 20 years. How we accommodate that growth will be critical to not only meet our climate change targets, but also to ensure that all Caledon residents live in safe, sustainable, and accessible communities now and into the future.

"In this way, the Resilient Caledon Plan places a strong emphasis on maximizing the many co-benefits of climate action, including for local economic development, public health and air quality, preservation and enhancement of our natural and agricultural areas, and the well-being of all our diverse residents.

"It's clear that many Caledon residents are already taking action on climate change, from improving the efficiency of their homes or switching to electric vehicles, to farmers using innovative measures to improve soil health, to businesses installing solar panels, to young people getting involved in local climate advocacy and solutions. The Resilient Caledon Plan aims to raise the ambition of what the Town and broader community can do to embrace a more resilient, low carbon, and livable future. I want to thank all the staff, stakeholders and residents who contributed to the development of this plan, and I look forward to working together with the entire community to achieve a Resilient Caledon."

The updated plan has a total of 60 actions organized into five categories: "smart growth" which focuses on Caledon's new communities being low carbon, resilient to climate impacts, prioritizing energy efficiency, walkability, effective stormwater management, and green space; "sustainable communities" to prepare residents for climate impacts and have the capacity to reduce emissions and build resilience in their own homes, businesses, and neighbourhoods; "agriculture and natural systems" ensuring they're protected and enhanced to maximize carbon sequestration and resilience to climate impacts like flooding, invasive species, and pests; "low carbon transportation" that allows for residents and businesses to use low or zero-carbon options for transportation through more accessible cycling, walking, and transit with the expansion of safe and efficient infrastructure; and "resilient infrastructure and energy" with core infrastructure assets that are better able to withstand major weather events like storms, flooding, and freeze-thaw cycles.

Temporary changes to garbage collection coming in response to pandemic

BY ROB PAUL
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, residents are advised of temporary changes to garbage collection in Peel.

Starting May 3-June 25, every household can place up to two extra garbage bags at the curb on their garbage collection day, without requiring bag tags.

Note that collection staff will only pick up a maximum of two additional bags. Residents who have purchased bag tags are advised to hold on to them until further notice.

Excess garbage must be placed at the curb in black plastic bags only. Excess garbage in containers will not be collected.

Peel Region advises residents that the spring garbage exemption period (June 14-25) is suspended. This is being done to ensure the continued health and safety of waste collection staff.

Residents are reminded that they can place their bulky items every garbage pickup day all year round. If residents must leave their home to dispose of extra garbage bags, they can take it to any Peel Community Recycling Centre.

Check peelregion.ca/waste for locations, hours of operation and disposal fees.

Expect collection delays as a result of these changes. Collectors might also collect regular garbage and pick up garbage bags at different times during the day.

Leave garbage bins and excess garbage bags at the curb until 8 p.m.

If neither are collected by 8 p.m., report a missed collection at web.apps.peelregion.ca/waste/onlineservices/missed_waste.







Loh recommends paid sick days amid crackdown on workplace outbreaks

Continued from FRONT

"Workplaces that remain open continue to be a major driver of COVID-19 cases in Peel, as they have been throughout the course of our emergency response," Loh said. "With variant spread we are also seeing transmission occur more quickly and widely. At this critical juncture in our pandemic response, the updated provisions in this Section 22 Order are necessary to quickly stop variant transmission in workplaces, support rapid workplace investigations, and protect our essential workers and our community.

"In the absence of legislated paid sick days, we also call on all employers impacted by expedited closure to provide paid leave for all employees impacted by COVID-19 or these new safety measures, and to consider moving as many operations as possible virtually to reduce risk."

At the Caledon Town Council meeting on Tuesday, April 20, Loh provided an update on the ongoing COVID-19 situation in the region.

"We are seeing a significant resurgence with the third wave of COVID-19 across all three municipalities in the Region of Peel, including Caledon," said Loh. "The latest numbers for Caledon, a test positivity of 13.3 per cent and an incidence rate of 362 cases per 100,000 population—these are the highest numbers we've seen in Caledon, as well as throughout the Region of Peel since the pandemic began. The numbers and trends at this point in time do not seem to be resolving.

"We are also quite aware of significant stress and strain on our hospital system. As of today, William Osler has over 200 COVID-positive patients that have been admitted and their ICU is in the upper digits of capacity. Patient transfers are occurring as far as Windsor, Ontario at this time—which is a really quite significant situation and an unprecedented situation at William Osler. We're also drawing in Health Human Resources to assist with the effort from across Ontario, it's a very significant situation that we're facing at this time."

With the severity of workplace outbreaks playing a major factor in Peel Region's dire numbers, Loh explained the reasoning behind the update to the Section 22 Order and the additional measures that have been taken by both the provincial government and Peel Public Health.

"The provincial government has instituted a number of measures and we have coordinated stricter measures in respect of workplace outbreaks," he said. "We do know workplace outbreaks are moving faster and further upon introductions into workplaces which is really limiting our ability for our investigations to effectively control spread in those settings. In the course of that closure, we will publicize which workplaces have been closed under these provisions and it's our strong recommendations employees impacted by these closures will be paid by their employers.

"This is a significant measure and a lot of people have asked why is it coming now? We have had significant workplace outbreaks throughout the Region of Peel and our investigations have previously been able to keep up; however, at the height of this third wave we're seeing so many workplace outbreaks that by the time we are actually able to get into workplaces and determine if there is a connection between the cases and the clusters that have been identified, it's already quite late and we already have significant numbers of workers that have been sickened because of how quickly this variant has spread in these settings. It's similar to schools, where something is detected, we'd dismiss the cohort and send people home so they can be safe—that's essentially the parallel that we're drawing with workplaces."

After last week's update from Premier Doug Ford and the provincial government, including a province-wide extension to school closures, Loh remains hopeful the situation will begin trending in the right direction if everyone stays diligent and vaccines continue to come in.

"The learning at home for the school system will continue indefinitely," he said. "I think those taken together with the stricter measures on workplaces and schools, and also, everyone else who has the ability to stay at home is going to help get us through this third wave. I'm also excited because our vaccination efforts have really hit a stride. Across the Region of Peel, we're now delivering nearly 100,000 doses a week and 400,000 doses a month. We have already passed the threshold of 400,000 doses delivered in the Region of Peel since our campaign began. If we keep pace with where things are at, we will likely exceed the Premier's plan to vaccinate 40 per cent of our community by May 5 (first dose) and 40 per cent of our 60-plus population is already vaccinated (first dose).

"We are hopeful we'll continue to move quickly through the age groups and continue to vaccinate the priority populations. While it won't be happening fast enough to get us out of this third wave, it will hopefully stop a fourth and reduce hospitalizations and mortality to a point that we can maybe start to gradually exit measures with confidence in the way that other countries went."

Between the increased school and workplaces measures, continued precautions with masks and distancing, and consistent vaccinations in the Region of Peel, Loh believes the third wave can be flattened.

"This is sort of the dark before the dawn," he said. "We just really need to try and reduce our contact and interactions to bring this third wave under control. It needs to flatten out again and I'm hopeful that the measures that have been taken with schools, closures, and an enhanced workplace response will help us in the next few weeks to do so and our vaccine coverage rates will continue to eventually move us into a modification with the patterns of transmission we're seeing in our community, and hopefully a confident and gradual exit from the pandemic."

For more information on COVID-19 vaccine eligibility and to book a vaccine visit www-origin.peelregion.ca/coronavirus/vaccine.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Achill Choral Society releasing free virtual spring concert

BY SAM ODROWSKI

The Achill Choral Society is warmly inviting all of you to attend their virtual spring concert titled, "Journeys", an uplifting performance, celebrating the beauty of our earth.

The show goes online at 7 p.m. on April 28 and will run until May 12, with tickets available for free at achill.ca.

The concert features the choir's favourite selections from recent spring concerts and their Canada 150 performance of Missa Gaia, with guest soloists, accompanists and Nancy Sicsic on piano. A special virtual piece made with the Eglinton St. George's Choir will be included as well.

Achill Choral Society director Shawn Grenke said the concert will be focused on Mother Earth and the human spirit, featuring the classical sounds of Mozart, Maritime Celtic music, pieces from The Sound of Music, and much more.

"A lot of the theme of the music is to inspire, words of beauty, and that type of thing," Grenke said. "It's going to be an uplifting concert."

The musical performances may also provide some positivity to those who watch it, while the stay-at-home orders remain in place throughout Ontario.

"Hopefully we can put a smile on people's faces because we're still in this horrible mess of COVID which is very difficult for a lot of people," Grenke noted. "There's a lot of loneliness that's set in and isolation and that and we're just hoping that the concert will uplift people spirits."

The concert is one hour and 10 minutes long, with eight songs performed during that time.

One of the new and exciting pieces is called "Voices of Earth" and Grenke joined Achill up with his church choir from Toronto for a virtual recording.

"You get to see all 70 people sing from their computers at home. It's really quite neat," he said.

Achill's winter concert was watched over 1,500 times and Grenke told the Citizen he is hoping to hit the 1,000 views mark on their spring show.

Achill's spring concert is free to attend and can be enjoyed by patrons anytime from the comfort of their own home. Free tickets can be obtained at achill.ca.

Achill is made up of 75 members and has been performing in the Caledon and Orangeville areas for 39 years.

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IF YOU SEE AN OVERDOSE, CALL 911: POLICE

The OPP would like to remind residents - if you see an overdose, call 911.

In the last week, uniformed members from the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) responded to a report of an overdose in the Town of Caledon.

The call for service was placed by an anonymous complainant who had left the scene prior to first responders' arrival.

Upon first responders' arrival, the individual suffering from a drug overdose was unconscious, had extremely shallow breathing and had a very faint pulse. First aid was provided by the emergency services responding; the individual was transported to hospital in life-threatening condition.

Emergency? Call 9-1-1

Most overdose incidents occur inside a residence, making it difficult for police and emergency services personnel to provide the necessary assistance unless they are called. The Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act (GSDOA) provides some legal protection for individuals who seek emergency help during an overdose.

The GSDOA does provide protection against charges such as:

- Possessing drugs for your own use;
- Violating conditions of your parole, bail, probation or conditional sentence for a simple drug possession charge.

The GSDOA does not provide protection against charges for:

- Trafficking illegal drugs;
- Offences other than drug possession;
- Any outstanding arrest warrants;
- Violating conditions of your parole, bail, probation or conditional sentence for an offence that is not simple possession.

Need Help?

Many services in Ontario offer support if you are suffering from substance use disorder, including:

- 24.7 Crisis Support Peel Dufferin at 905-278-9036
- ConnexOntario
- Government of Ontario Health Services
- Drug and Alcohol Helpline - 1-800-565-8603

For more details, visit opp.ca/overdose.

DRIVER ON PHONE "FLEES" FROM POLICE: OPP

On Friday, April 16, at approximately 8:36 p.m., uniformed members from the Caledon OPP were on patrol in the area of Mayfield Road and Dixie Road in the Town of Caledon.

Police say they observed a driver of a silver SUV holding and using a hand-held communication device while driving.

"The officer attempted to conduct a traffic stop, however, the car in question failed to stop and fled the area."

As a result of the police investigation, the driver of the suspect vehicle was identified. Arjun Khera, 30, of Oakville, was arrested and charged with:

- Flight from peace officer, and
- Drive - hand-held communication device

The accused is expected to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on June 24, 2021 to answer to the charges. The charges have not been proven.

While you are driving, including when you are stopped in traffic or at a red light, it is illegal to:

- use a phone or other hand-held wireless communication device to text or dial - you can only touch a device to call 911 in an emergency;
- use a hand-held electronic entertainment device, such as a tablet or portable gaming console;
- view display screens unrelated to driving, such as watching a video; and
- program a GPS device, except by voice commands.

SEMI-TRACTOR DRIVER CHARGED

On Saturday, April 17, at approximately 2:19 a.m., uniformed officers from the Caledon OPP located a white semi-tractor in the ditch in the area of Old School Road and Airport Road in the town of Caledon.

"The driver was observed within the cab of the truck," say Police. "Upon further investigation, police formed a suspicion the driver was operating a motor with excess blood alcohol and made an Approved Screening Device demand, which resulted in a 'fail' reading. The driver was arrested 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, Manjit Singh, 40, of Brampton, has been charged with Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration 80 mg plus. The accused is expected to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on June 24 to answer to the charge.

The charge has not been proven.

Drivers of commercial vehicles must not have any presence of alcohol and/or a drug in their system when driving a commercial vehicle. If a commercial driver has alcohol or a drug in their system, they will face serious penalties, including licence suspensions and administrative monetary penalties.

Commercial vehicle drivers (classes A to F) have a zero- tolerance sanction for drugs and alcohol impairment when behind the wheel of these types of vehicles:

- Those that require a class A to F licence;
- One requiring a Commercial Vehicle Operator›s Registration (CVOR);
- Road-building machine.

TWO ARRESTED FOLLOWING "SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY" CALL

On Wednesday, April 14, at approximately 11:53 p.m., uniformed members from the Caledon OPP Detachment responded to reports of a suspicious vehicle on Treeview Crescent in the Town of Caledon.

"The complainant indicated that earlier in the day the local residents had alerted them about suspicious activity in the neighbourhood," say Police. "Later that night, the complainant saw a rental truck occupied by two individuals they did not recognize, parked on a dead-end street for some time. They found the activity suspicious and immediately called the police.

"The responding officers located the rental truck and its occupants and conducted an investigation. The officers located break in tools, as well as drugs inside the vehicle."

As a result, two individuals were arrested and charged with the following offences:

Jason Barber, 32, of Toronto:

- Possession of break in instruments;
- Failure to comply with release order;
- Possession of a schedule I substance - opioid, and
- Possession of a schedule I substance - methamphetamine.

The accused was held for a bail hearing and will appear at the Ontario Court of Justice on a later date to answer to the charges. The charges have not been proven.

Ismael Medeiros, 39, of Brampton:

- Possession of break in instruments;
- Possession of a schedule I substance - opioid, and
- Possession of a schedule I substance - methamphetamine.

The accused is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice on June 28, 2021 to answer to the charges. The charges have not been proven.

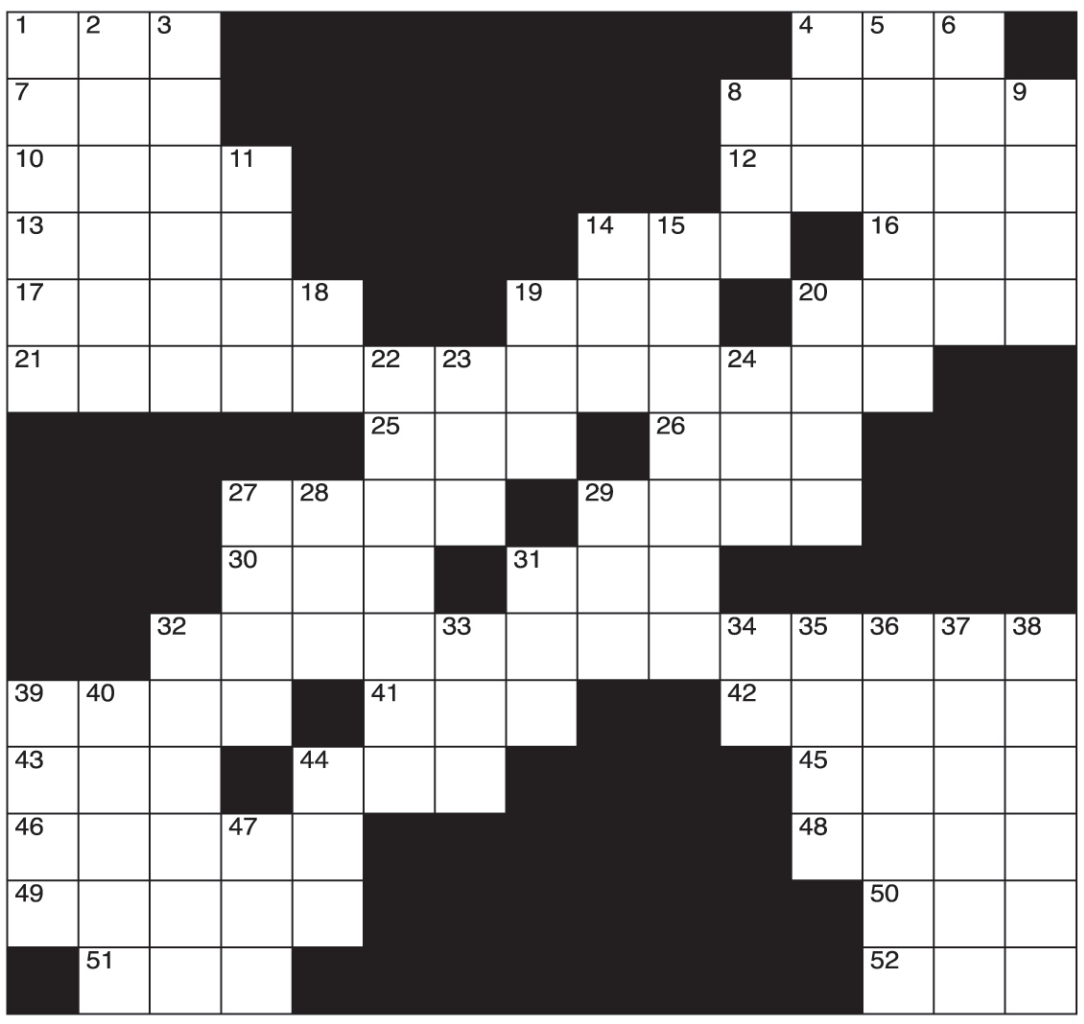
The investigation is ongoing. Caledon OPP is asking the residents of the above neighbourhood to check their security cameras for suspicious people, vehicles or activity. If you have any information or video surveillance footage in relation to this investigation, please call the Caledon OPP Detachment at (905) 584-2241 or 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.

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The Citizen CROSSWORD

Solution on page A10



CLUES ACROSS

1. Ocean surface indicator (abbr.)
4. American time
7. Satisfaction
8. Diving duck
10. Very small amount
12. Metrical units
13. An ignorant or foolish person
14. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
16. It may sting you
17. Turn outward
19. Perform on stage
20. "CSI" actor George
21. Localities
25. Make a choice
26. Indicates position
27. One of Thor's names
29. Indian musical rhythmic pattern
30. "The Raven" author
31. Take in solid food
32. Legendary QB
39. Sorrels
41. Organization of nations
42. Texas pharmaceutical company
43. Mathematical term
44. Expression of disappointment
45. Abba __, Israeli politician
46. Hide away
48. Salad restaurant
49. Daughters of Boreas (mythology)
50. Men's fashion accessory
51. Political action committee
52. Unhappy

CLUES DOWN

1. Make unhappy
2. Heard the confession of
3. Capital of Taiwan
4. Fiddler crab
5. Brazilian dances
6. Fit with device to assist breathing
8. Brother or sister
9. Pastries
11. "Lone Survivor" director Peter
14. Boat type (abbr.)
15. Apertures (biology)
18. Suffix
19. Creative endeavor
20. Icelandic poem
22. Spanish dances
23. Town in Central Italy
24. Cars need it
27. Mimics
28. Rocky peak
29. Cigarette (slang)
31. One point south of due east
32. Soap actress Braun
33. Large domesticated wild ox
34. Island nation
35. Appear
36. Addictive practices
37. Loss of control of one's body
38. Type of poster
39. Greek mountain
40. Funny person
44. One and only
47. Pouch

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

Abbeyfield

National Volunteer Week Spotlight:

Abbeyfield volunteers help facilitate affordable housing options for seniors

BY ROB PAUL
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

National Volunteer Week (April 18-24) is a time to recognize the dedicated volunteers we have in Peel Region.

This year's theme, The Value of One, the Power of Many, highlights the impact individuals working together can have in our community, and at non-profit organizations like Abbeyfield Seniors' Residences.

Abbeyfield Caledon was founded in 2010 and provides affordable housing, nutritious meals, and 24-hour emergency assistance to seniors in need who aren't yet ready to move into a long-term care home, but it wouldn't be possible without its dedicated volunteers.

"Volunteers were vital to the creation of Abbeyfield Caledon and continue to play an essential role today," said Gerry Merkley, member of the Board of Directors. "In turn, supporting the residents of Abbeyfield gives our volunteers a tremendous amount of personal satisfaction. It's truly a win-win."

Abbeyfield homes are non-profit residences for seniors that provide, in addition to affordable accommodation and good nutrition, companionship. Each Abbeyfield location around the world follows a similar housing model that relies on local volunteers.

In Ontario there are currently four Abbeyfield houses (Caledon, Durham, Ottawa, and Toronto) and more are in development (Lakefield, Kitchener).

"I started volunteering with Abbeyfield Caledon because I love the idea of different housing options for seniors," said Alison Bambury, a volunteer at Abbeyfield. "I keep donating my time to support the people who live at Abbeyfield, and because I believe we need more places like this in our community."

This year's theme for National Volunteer Week was chosen to shine a light on just how much one volunteer at a place like Abbeyfield bring to the table and how critical every individual is in making things run smoothly.

"I think the value of one and the power of many really describes the people I currently work with at Abbeyfield," said Merkley. "We have a very small group of volunteers and they're essentially the board at this point and have been throughout this COVID pandemic. The amount that each one individually contributes is quite remarkable and together we just support each other in our independent tasks and what that results in for Abbeyfield is a magnification of success. That's the way we look at it."

Although Merkley knows the seniors appreciate the efforts of the volunteers at Abbeyfield, she understands that people who are willing to give their time to others need to be praised more often and that's why National Volunteer Week is a perfect time to thank community members who are involved.

"It's really important (to give the volunteers recognition), because it's a voluntary board—I wouldn't say it's thankless because the residents and their families appreciate it—it can be taken for granted," said Merkley. "And because our volunteer board members are very humble and go about their business without any fanfare, I think it's very important to every once in a while—especially when this time of the year rolls around—to take stock in the really important value that they bring to a place like Abbeyfield. We would not be able to run and provide affordable housing in this amazing home if it weren't for the volunteers, there's just no way, it would exorbitant. If we had to replace the cost of everything that they do with a fee for service, it would probably defeat the whole purpose of affordable senior housing within a community."

Every community that has a senior housing option like Abbeyfield is lucky because it gives these community members a place where they can keep their independence and can socialize, but none of it is possible without volunteers.

"It is absolutely critical (to have affordable senior housing)," Merkley said. "There's so many interesting positives about the Abbeyfield model and we're really lucky to have on in Caledon. The reason it's so important is, there are so many seniors in smaller communities that perhaps are finding their homes to be a little bit too much or maybe they're suffering from some loneliness or isolation or poor nutrition—it's hard to cook for one. We know about seniors who deal with these things and often it gets to the point where they have to begrudgingly move somewhere else. Often, they're fiercely independent and where are they to go? They're not ready for a long-term care home and they don't need that level of care.

"This type of home is sustainable for them and its affordable right in their own little community. They don't have to move out, they can find a place to comfortably live until they need more care. It's for independent seniors and it's definitely not a long-term care home, but it's a hybrid between independent living and long-term care."

Merkley thinks volunteers, not only at Abbeyfield, but throughout Caledon, are the key for boosting tight-knit community driven feel and are the heartbeat of the town and she worries about need for an increase in younger volunteers.

"I think volunteering is so important and somewhat overlooked," she said. "If you did a study on the per capita contribution per volunteer, so many of these organizations simply could not function without them. It actually keeps me up at night because the average age of volunteers is creeping up—many and most are seniors themselves or retired. You do see some youth, but if you looked at the overall demographic it's definitely skewed to the older crowd and understandably so in the sense that when you're younger you're busy with your career, your own life, and your own family. Perhaps in retirement you have more time on your hands, but I think the whole notion of volunteering needs to be much more mainstream and engrained. What keeps me up is what happens when our aging volunteers start to get to a point where they can no longer serve as volunteers, if that drops off then what happens to all these organizations? We need to step back and think about that, it really concerns me."

Spreading awareness that organizations need help to function at their highest level and the entire community has a better understating of the importance of community volunteering is a must going forward.

"Not just a one-time event with volunteering," said Merkley. "I know they do volunteer for school credits, but it would be really great to see a more sustained thread of volunteering in one's life. It's just got to be something you do in your life, rather than it being a one-time event."

Volunteers at Abbeyfield provide support in many ways including minor repairs and maintenance, photography, party planning, social media support, public relations, financial oversight, fundraising and so much more.

Anyone interested in volunteering is encouraged to reach out online at abbeyfield-caledon.org or by calling 905-860-0181.

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Ontario

View from Quebec City:

The people retake a stake in former Peoples' airline Air Canada

BY PETER BLACK
OPINION


PETER BLACK

We Canadians, all 37.5 million of us, are now shareholders of Air Canada, thanks to the $6 billion financial support package the Federal government negotiated with Canada's dominant airline last week.

Don't run out and demand free corporate tickets just yet. The package includes the requirement – and up to $1. 4 billion in loans – for the airline to refund ticket-holders grounded by the pandemic.

The equity deal the Canadian government gets for some $500 million in taxpayers' money is a bit complicated (at least to me), but it apparently works out to a minimum of six per cent and a maximum of just less than 20 per cent ownership if Ottawa exercises all its options.

For those who are either revolted or delighted by this development, it should be known this kind of government stake in a strategic national airline is pretty normal.

The French government, for example, last month took a 30 per cent stake in Air France-KLM and Germany acquired 25 per cent of Lufthansa last year. The pandemic, obviously, was the prime motivation for both these acquisitions. That said, partial, majority or full ownership of "flagship" airlines by national governments is still very common, with Air India, Aeroflot and Alitalia just a few examples.

Folks with memories pre-dating the internet will recall it was not that long ago that Air Canada was wholly owned by the Canadian government, leading to it being sarcastically dubbed the Peoples' Airline, plagued as it was by the money-hemorrhaging inefficiencies of Soviet-style enterprises.

The Progressive Conservative government of Brian Mulroney sold off the country's remaining 57 per cent stake in Air Canada in July 1989 – coincidentally only four months before the fall of the Berlin Wall.

The shares were snapped up, netting the federal government $473 million in cash. Liberated from government control, Air Canada literally took off as an ambitious, competition-driven carrier in an industry then populated by multiple airlines.

One of its biggest moves as a fully private corporation was in 2000 when it swallowed its largest competitor, Canadian Airlines, which in turn had swallowed CP Air, Nordair and Wardair, among others, and had at the time 40 percent of the domestic passenger market.

Twenty years later, Air Canada's main competitor is Westjet, which, though it says it is solvent, is still negotiating its own pandemic rescue deal with the Trudeau government, as are other smaller carriers, such as the truly troubled Transat, which Québecor boss Pierre-Karl Péladeau still may be interested in buying.

It is one of the ironies of this odd-ball country that what is now Air Canada was created by the federal government in 1937 through Canadian National Railway, a Crown corporation. Eventually, the post-war boom in air travel brought about the decline in rail passenger service. CN and Air Canada were corporately uncoupled in 1978, both remaining separate Crown corporations.

The feds would privatize CN in 1995 – current largest shareholder, Microsoft's Bill Gates – and it would go on to become a fabulously profitable colossus of freight traffic.

Ottawa, meanwhile, was compelled to rescue and subsidize rail passenger service, through the creation of Via Rail in 1977. The new boss of Via, it may be worth noting, is Cynthia Garneau, whose background is in the aerospace industry.

In the dubiously bilingual spirit of Canada at the time, the national airline was called Trans-Canada Air Lines (TCA) in English, but Air Canada in French. That bizarre situation was rectified in 1964 by then rookie Liberal MP Jean Chretien, who introduced a private members' bill to change the name to Air Canada.

Through clever manipulation of House of Commons procedure, Chretien managed to get the bill passed and the rest is aviation history, though Air Canada still consistently faces turbulence over the quality of its bilingual service.

How long the federal government and Canadian taxpayers will remain major shareholders of Air Canada 32 years after getting out of the airline business is anyone's guess. Market watchers say it's a win-win situation for Canadians, with airline revenues destined to soar once general passenger traffic is cleared for take-off when the pandemic releases its grip.

Bethell Hospice continues care in challenging, uncertain times

BY ROB PAUL
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Bethell Hospice is a staple in the Caledon community providing care for those dealing with an illness while allowing them to live their best life.

Its services help make the best of it for residents and their families, and it comes at no cost.

For essential community programs like Bethell Hospice to remain at their best, fundraising is a constant and major factor, but COVID-19 has made it more difficult to keep the community engaged.

"Every family who has been touched by Bethell Hospice has a different story," says Julie Hymers, Associate Director of Marketing and Communications for Bethell Hospice. "In the nine years I have worked there, thousands of people have spent their final days at Bethell Hospice, and thousands more have received support through our community programs. Every year, we must raise over $1,000,000 to ensure that all hospice programs and services are available throughout our community at no cost to those who need them.

"While my role is to raise the profile of Bethell Hospice, and the money to allow its doors to stay open, I also have the chance to see firsthand how families are wrapped in the warmth and compassion of our nurses, PSWs, social workers and volunteers. The care they provide is, in a word, exceptional. Since the onset of COVID-19, fundraising has been a particular challenge. We are now in our second year of virtual-only events, ever-changing restrictions, and creative solutions."

Losing the personal and social touch of fundraising without members of the community being able to gather for events has made it more difficult for Bethell Hospice over the last year while dealing with the impact of the pandemic.

"The reason fundraising has been hard is because, pre-pandemic, so many of our fundraising events were things that were held in-person, either events we organized ourselves or events people in the community organized on our behalf and then donated the money to the hospice. With limitations on gatherings cutting down, it's very difficult to do fundraising in the traditional way. We've had to become really creative in terms of thinking of ways to allow fundraising to continue and thrive in the pandemic."

The human connections that have been built over years of work at Bethell Hospice between families and staff is one of the most difficult losses from fundraising events due to the current situation with the pandemic.

"A lot of our events have always gained a lot of energy from people coming together and supporting each other," she said. "That's been something in our hike in year's past where a lot of teams that sign up for the hike are formed by family members of former residents of the hospice and for those family members it's always been a really wonderful time for them to come back and re-connect with other families that they met during their time at the hospice. It also allows them to re-connect with some of the caregivers that had meant so much to them. That's an element that we really miss with the events we're doing now."

Without being able to spark passion and goodwill through live events, Bethell Hospice is trying to keep people involved through virtual events like their upcoming Hike for Bethell Hospice and their monthly raffles.

"We've tried our best to pivot and come up with some creative things. One of the newest things that has happened since the pandemic is we've done a monthly 50/50 online raffle. People can go online to our website and buy tickets with 50 per cent of the proceeds supporting Bethell Hospice programs and services directly and the other 50 per cent is the price for the individual. It's been going really well and last [month's winner] even decided to donate her winnings back to the hospice, which was pretty incredible."

In terms of how things have changed at Bethell Hospice, Hymers says the hardest part has been for families unable to be with the residents in the same way and losing the ability to embrace one another.

"Probably the biggest change is, normally in pre-pandemic times the hospice would be abuzz with family members visiting residents and friends coming and going, and there's family gatherings and special dinners and last moments together," said Hymers. "Unfortunately, during the pandemic, we've had to go to a model where there are only a couple of designated visitors who are able to come for each resident. It's been a difficult change, but essential to keep everyone safe.

"Our nurses, personal support workers, and volunteers who continue to work with our residents and their families would probably say the hardest thing right now is not being able to give a family member a hug when they need it. Everyone continues to do the absolute best they can through this and we're very hopeful that it won't be for too much longer that we're in this pandemic mode. Our nurses and personal support workers are specialists in the area of palliative care so they're the best people you could possibly have in this situation," she said. "I'm sure none of us expected a year ago in March that we'd still be in pandemic mode now. It's something that we'd all love to see the other side of for sure."

As the pandemic continues, Hymers remains hopeful the community will show support through fundraising efforts to make certain Bethell Hospice can continue long into the future with its programs and services.

"It's an ongoing challenge coming up with creative ways to move forward, but we're all really committed to this place," she said. "We all want to do everything we can to ensure that it remains the important element of the community that it has been for so long."

Those who wish to donate to Bethell Hospice can do so at bhf.akaraisin.com/ui/bhfdonations/donations/start and for more information on the monthly 50/50 raffle and upcoming fundraisers visit foundation.bethellhospice.org/category/upcoming-events.





Hike for Hospice goes to the dogs – in the best possible way

BY ROB PAUL
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER



In previous years, such as 2019 above, the annual Hike For Bethell Hospice, has attracted outstanding community support.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

For the last 11 years, Bethell Hospice has been hosting the Hike for Bethell Hospice fundraiser.

In 2020, they had to pivot to a virtual hike due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but still managed to raise over $95,000.

The virtual hike is back for 2021 with online registration now open.

The official date of this year's hike is Sunday, May 2 to coincide with the beginning of National Hospice & Palliative Care Week and participants can complete their own virtual hikes anytime and anywhere until May 31, 2021.

Over the last two years, the hike has raised a combined total of over $265,000 for Bethell Hospice Foundation and its one of its largest annual fundraising events.

"All of the proceeds go to support the programs and services at Bethell Hospice so that anyone accessing either the residential care or any of our community programs can do so at no cost to themselves or their families," said Julie Hymers, Bethell Hospice Associate Director, Marketing and Communications.

Shifting to a virtual event hasn't been easy, but this year Bethell Hospice has decided to incorporate dogs to build buzz and get more people and pups involved in the hopes of raising more money.

"This is unfortunately our second year of having to do it virtually and last year we were sort of feeling our way through it with a last-minute shift to a virtual event," she said. "This year we've been planning for the virtual event right from the get-go.

"One of the major changes we've made this year was we reached out specifically letting them know if they'd like to bring their dog for the hike or sign their dog up for the hike, we've got some sponsors who are putting together some pet packs for the dogs with treats and goodies. We thought if everyone was out doing the hike on their own—we've always had a strong contingent of dogs who have come to the hike with their families when we hold the event in-person—the dogs could have something fun to do as well.

With the addition of dogs to this year's hike, Hymers has jumped at the opportunity to get her own pooch Ariel out and about by putting together a sponsor page (bhf.akaraisin.com/ui/hikebh2021/team/340163) for her to raise money for the Paws for Palliative Care Team with a goal of $500.

"We've had Ariel in our family for the last 13 and a half years; she's a Miniature Australian Shepherd and she's a wonderful little dog," she said. "I've worked at the hospice myself for the last nine years so Ariel on many occasions has come with me and it's a great place for her to be able to support. She's a great dog who loves the outdoors and playing, she really loves people so that's she's been a wonderful fit over the years at the hospice. Through the years, Ariel has come with me to the hospice many times, and this is just one more way that a little dog can make a big difference. When we've held the event in-person in the past, I've been busy at the event and so it hasn't been something I've been able to participate in and therefore neither has Ariel. This year, given it's a virtual event, it's something that she and I could do together, and we could put on her hike t-shirt when she goes for walks around Bolton to spread the word about the hike."

Major fundraising is more important than ever for Bethell Hospice with COVID making it more difficult to consistently connect with the community on a grand scale and events like these are what keep the services running.

"Fundraising has gone really well," she said. "Ariel's team is up over $500 now which is great. The goal for the entire hike this year is $125,000 and we're starting to get close, and we're really excited about that. It's really important to keep the doors of Bethell Hospice open and all the services available in the community. We need to raise over $1 million a year and that doesn't stop just because the pandemic has come. Our service have actually been in even more demand through the pandemic. Things like our virtual supportive counselling, where people can speak one-on-one with our social workers if they're having difficulty with feelings of isolation during the pandemic or dealing with loss. Through the pandemic, families continue to experience loss and it continues to be a really important to have resources available for people in the community, even if they're virtual. We continue to have many residents at the hospice who are spending their final days being cared for and we really want these services to be able to continue."

For the who would like to register for the Hike for Bethel Hospice, they can do so online at foundation.bethellhospice.org/virtual-hike-for-bethell-hospice.

The registration fee is $25, and participants are encouraged to raise at least $50 in pledges or donations.



Rob Payne
Financial Advisor

18 King Street
Unit K7
Bolton, ON L7E 1E8
905-857-0874

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COVID-19

Due to the latest Provincial announcement all in-person services at Town Hall have been suspended until further notice.
Details: **caledon.ca/COVID.**

For the latest information on vaccinations, visit **peelregion.ca/covid19vaccine**.

If you have symptoms or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, get tested!

Find a testing location near you at **peelregion.ca/coronavirus/testing**.

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TOWN OF CALEDON



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Brock's Banter

Addressing a pandemic by committee

BY BROCK WEIR

Coming home from work last Tuesday, I felt a little more cantankerous than usual after a long day.

I couldn't put my finger on just what made it more difficult to digest. There was a heavy workload to be sure, but not extraordinarily so. Given the volume, how things proceeded couldn't have gone smoother; there were fewer last-minute changes to be made and the evening meeting I had to cover in tandem was mercifully brief.

So, what was the X factor that made me feel I had been kicked in the proverbial butt without any bruises to show for it?

It took about 30 minutes of decompression to suss out the root cause: the walls felt like they were closing in.

I jest when I say I came home from work. Actually, coming home from work is a pretty short trip, as I suspect it is for most of us these days. Doing so around here consists of opening a door and descending the set of 15 stairs to the living room, just far enough away from the computers and devices but, in many respects, not nearly far enough.

Part of that decompression was venting to anyone who cared to listen. The subtle joy of going to and from the office, a concept which would have felt decidedly alien 15 arduous months ago, is something I've subconsciously been pining for. Or, maybe it was just longing for a change of scenery. Whatever it is, the upstairs room wasn't cutting it and I felt the need to bust out.

How quickly things change. By the time Friday came around, I couldn't have had more gratitude for the window and four walls that have allowed business to remain as "usual" as possible during these very challenging times because they're my own, more or less. I'm working from the comfort of home, and I have the luxury of staying home until that light at the end of the tunnel so many of our elected officials keep talking about breaks into clear blue sky.

What caused this turnaround?

It might have a little something to do with our healthcare system here in Ontario which, if you take the word of medical experts and the doctors and nurses who have walked the walk and talked the talk for the last 400 days or so, is now essentially on the verge of collapse under mounting cases of COVID-19.

Those same people who have walked the walk and talked the talk were once the individuals that people rallied behind at the start of this pandemic. The people we applauded at the end of their shifts each evening. The people for whom we emblazoned our lawns and windows with signs, decorations and other shows of solidarity. The people who were the subject of grassroots movements to provide hot lunches and dinners while they worked tirelessly to save the lives of our loved ones.

The same people whose cries for help, and help in a way that is far from earth-shattering, seem to be falling on the deaf ears of the decision-makers who can ultimately make a difference.

Their cries have rarely shifted a note. Their message has been fairly simple. Providing paid sick leave for essential workers across Ontario in a global pandemic just might provide people living from paycheque to paycheque the means to stay home, stay isolated and keep themselves, their families and coworkers safe when they display the signs and symptoms we now know all too well.

Rather than heeding this advice – no, I'm sticking with that "cry for help" – the Premier has said floating the very concept is playing politics and has forged ahead with his floundering approach to tackling a horrendous third wave that is now here. A horrendous third wave that we knew was coming. A horrendous third wave that we knew was coming because those same medical experts told us so and had the data to back it up.

Now, here we are, the health care system teetering and our leaders ending the week by rebuffing offers of help. Awaiting a response to a request for more "hands on deck" from the healthcare systems of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Quebec, the Ontario government Friday turned down other "hands" ready and able to get in the trenches of this seemingly never-ending fight to make… a political point?

"While we appreciate the Prime Minister's offer [for members of the Red Cross to aid in Ontario's vaccine rollout], unless it is matched with an increase in supply, we do not need the Red Cross at this time for administration of vaccines in Ontario," said the Premier's office in a statement. "We do not have a capacity issue, we have a supply issue."

There's no doubt there's a supply issue, but more "hands on deck" to distribute the vaccines we have now could free up our public health nurses and others whose skills might be more useful in hospitals while the burden of administering the vaccine rollout (such as it is) can be lifted off the buckling healthcare system we depend on.

Yet we're now staring disaster in the face and our essential workers having to trudge into work day in and day out knowing that just one symptom could make or break their family, leaving them with no choice but to keep calm, carry on, and unable to do their part to flatten the curve if it means being unable to put food on their tables or, at worst, unable to keep their homes.

"As the latest modelling confirms, without taking immediate and decisive action, COVID-19 cases will spiral out of control and our hospitals will be overwhelmed," said the Premier on Friday. "That's why we are making difficult, but necessary decisions to reduce mobility and keep people in the safety of their own homes."

Unfortunately, those measures to reduce mobility and keep people in the safety of their own homes only went as far as revised capacity limits for retail and, until negative blowback over the weekend from all corners of Ontario, new powers handed to the police to come down on Ontarians like a pack of 800 pound gorillas going for a walk in their neighbourhoods without carrying proof of address, from speaking with their neighbours from a safe distance on their front lawns, or, after cleaning up after a day of work in a factory or warehouse with a few hundred coworkers left standing, taking their son or daughter out for a quick swing at the local park.

It seems this far more aggressive third wave is being fought by throwing a raft of possible solutions of various efficacy at the wall and, first, seeing what sticks, second, seeing what will test Ontarians to the limit with their dismay and frustration and, third, walking things back when those lines have been crossed.

If that continues to be the case, all one can keep saying is God bless the people of Ontario.



Canada should take a stronger stand on PS752

by Mark Pavilons



Like any dutiful Canadian, we put our toonie into the coin slot, make our selection, and watch the fattening snack creep along, and fall to the magical tray below.

We feel rewarded, and head out on our way.

We pay our taxes, try to stay ahead of our bills and take our car in when the engine light comes on.

We follow the rules and even give up our rights and freedoms faithfully in times of need.

Most average Canadians have followed all the rules and regulations, and yet many have lost their jobs, their security, and have been stressed out to new levels. We get tested and when our time comes, we get our vaccinations. And through it all, we remain proud and loyal citizens.

As a journalist, I have learned a great deal about our democratic system over the decades. I have received some first-hand accounts of how things "really work" and yet I too, remain optimistic. I still firmly believe that the ultimate goal in any government bureaucracy is to serve the public good.

Despite my years of getting inside peeks at some of our closed-door systems, I still remain in the dark about many of our society's inner workings.

I'm still blind and naive at times.

We try to track a host of current events and cover them in a common-sense chronology that's easy to understand and portray.

A tragedy takes place. Governments, emergency personnel, volunteers and aid organizations respond.

Boots and shovels hit the ground and work begins. In time, the rubble is carted away, people are given food, shelter and clothing. And in more time, life carries on, the world continues to spin, and the attention moves on to something else, something more current.

It's sad in a way, but that's the reality of today's modern media. Given the lightning-fast pace of information spread these days, it's vital to be up to the minute.

In more visual, descriptive terms, media types pounce on a story, beat the heck out of it, get up and move on. Some pat themselves on the back for a job well done. Seldom do they look back.

But that's the mistake. Looking back, gaining more insight and hindsight, can be invaluable.

There are literally thousands of minor stories being told each and every day. And, there are a couple of biggies, too. But all have their own shelf life.

I've been revisiting one of Canada's biggest tragedies in decades, and yet there seems to be fleeting coverage and concern over it.

The shooting down of Ukrainian Flight PS752 by the Iranian military is a huge story, filled with human tragedy, politics, draconian control, cover-ups and legal entanglements. It's really a fabulous tale of international intrigue.

But ask any Canadian if they recall the details, or victims, of this crime. I doubt it's front and centre on many people's minds.

And yet it has become one of the saddest events, the greatest loss of Canadian lives, and one of hottest political potatoes of the time.

Safety investigators from Iran's civil aviation authority conclude the Boeing 737-800 passenger plane was shot down accidentally in January 2020 after being "misidentified" by an air defence unit as a "hostile target."

All 176 passengers and crew members – including 138 people with ties to Canada – died in the crash.

"Their families deserve answers to important questions, including on the series of events that led to these missiles being launched in the first place," said Marc Garneau, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Omar Alghabra, Minister of Transport.

The Association of Families of Flight PS752 Victims strongly rejects the submissions of Iran in its final technical report on the downing of Flight PS752, "which appear to be mere fabrications and a continuation of a lie. The contents published in this report, as with their previous reports, contain countless inconsistencies and are grossly inadequate to justify Iran's claims about the causes of the downing.

"Given all available information, the families of victims cannot accept Iran's claims that Flight PS752 was shot down due to a human error or that it was mistaken for a cruise missile. The available evidence, as well as inconsistencies in Iran's claims, point to the opposite direction: that Flight PS752 was shot down intentionally."

The Iranian report is also being reviewed by the International Coordination and Response Group for the victims of Flight PS752. The group includes ministers representing Afghanistan, Canada, Sweden, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom.

They all lost people, but our country lost the most.

One would think we would be going after the culprits with teeth bared.

But that's not the Canadian way. We approaching things subtly, diplomatically.

And yet we have no diplomatic relations with Iran.

We have some of the brightest minds on the planet. We have friends in the G7, UN, NATO, etc.

Canadians have been among the bravest soldiers, and top-notch peace-keepers throughout history.

And yet, a few harsh words and fist-shaking is all we produce.

Not what I expect from our leaders.

The victims' family members, some of who reside locally, are shattered. Their lives forever altered. A year after the horrific event and there's no resolution, no settlement, no penalties.

Even millions in potential damages, lawsuits and payouts will not change anything. These won't bring back the dead and won't bring closure or absolution.

From the confines of that military missile launcher, right up the ladder to heads of state, this issue merely floats around the desks of bureaucrats, given a neatly bound cover and set off to the side.

That's not right.

All democratic governments around the world, especially Canada and our largest ally the United States, need to force this issue. We need to press upon everything that this is not acceptable and acts of terrorism will not go unpunished.

Our bureaucrats need to get out of their offices, run down the hall and make some noise.

The world needs to know what happened. We need to go down in history as a country that took decisive action, not sat on our hands.

Our Readers Write

All of us deserve criticism if we aren't responsible: reader

I read a letter to the Caledon Citizen dated Thursday, April 15 from a Citizen reader.

In summary, I agree with three of his main points in that letter.

We are indeed in unprecedented times and struggling with a pandemic that we have never faced in our lifetimes. We are all figuring it out.

Pointing fingers of blame is not the answer in our fight to get out of this pandemic.

And yes, I too (aged 72) received my first shot of Pfizer vaccine at William Osler Hospital in Brampton. And yes, that whole process was conducted in a seamless, efficient, and professional manner by caring people-oriented personnel who made you feel for just a few moments in time that you were the most important person in the room.

So, who is to BLAME for our circumstances? No one!

Who is RESPONSIBLE? We all are. Justin Trudeau's Liberal government for efficient procurement of vaccines from research labs around the world. Provincial governments for an effective and reliable distribution/rollout of those vaccines. We, the general public to follow clear and well-laid-out guidelines for our behaviours as set out by the Public Health units of Ontario. For the people who work in Public Health and all frontline medical professionals and employees in the health system, too much praise is not nearly enough praise.

All of us deserve criticism when we do not fulfill our responsibility in this fight against this dreadful disease. Whether is a lack of steady procurements, or efficient distribution/rollouts or due diligence in following public health guidelines. We are all responsible.

It is how we handle that responsibility that has the most impact in this fight.

Doug Ford claims to be spending hours in cabinet meetings taking HUNDREDS of phone calls from his Science Command Table and advice from highly trained medical professionals. After these meetings, he calls a news conference to report on findings and decisions made. Within a matter of hours, we find that many of his decisions made are in direct contradiction of the scientific and medical advice he had been given by his advisors.

Continued on Page 15

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zach@lpcmedia.ca

EDITOR
Brock Weir
brock@lpcmedia.ca

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR
Mary Speck admin@caledoncitizen.com

REPORTERS
Rob Paul
rob@lpcmedia.ca

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Heather Erwin
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robert@lpcmedia.ca

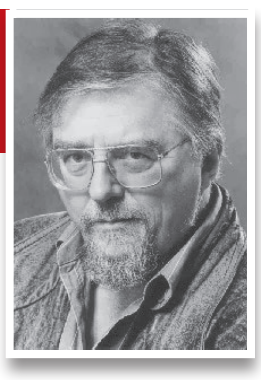
DISPLAY ADVERTISING
Erin Luckett
erin@lpcmedia.ca
Vicki Meisner
vicki@lpcmedia.ca

PRODUCTION
John Speziali

30 Martha Street Suite #205, Bolton L7E5V1 • Ph: 905-857-6626 • Toll Free: 1-888-557-6626 • Fax: 905-857-6363 • www.caledoncitizen.com • www.facebook.com/caledoncitizen1

Climate Leaders' Summit: The Last-Chance Saloon

GWYNNE DYER
OUR WORLD TODAY



You can tuck your head between your knees and kiss your target of "not-more-than-1.5-degrees-Celsius-warming" good-bye.

Trump is out and Biden is in, and you will hear a lot of talk about meeting that never-exceed +1.5°C limit. The blather starts today (Thursday), when the US president convenes his "Climate Leaders' Summit" (virtual), and ends in November in Glasgow with COP-26, the five-yearly United Nations climate meeting where the commitments actually get made.

But it is already clear that the Glasgow meeting cannot keep the warming under +1.5°C. That target was close to impossible when they adopted it at the last big climate summit in Paris in 2015, and that train has now left the station.

This is not a license for despair. Cutting greenhouse emissions is still important and urgent, but the issue is now also how to deal with much more dangerous warming. We will need new strategies and new technologies to contain the damage, but first – how can we know for sure that we will go through +1.5°C by 2035, or possibly even by 2030?

By the numbers. The scientific consensus is that 430-435 parts per million (ppm) of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere will commit us to +1.5°C. We are now at 415 ppm, and in an average year we put about another 2.5 ppm into the atmosphere. So, we have at the most 20 ppm left to play with before we commit to +1.5°C, and we will cover that distance by 2029.

Or rather, we'll get there by then if we don't cut our emissions very fast. In fact, we have to cut them by half in 2030 if we want to be safe. But even in the plague year of 2020 we only cut our emissions by 7%. Most years we don't cut them at all.

It's the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) that tell the tale. NDCs were an innovation of the Paris summit in 2015, designed to break the deadlock that had paralysed previous summits.

Instead of arguing endlessly about how much each country should cut, every country was just asked how much it was willing to cut. They'd presumably be too embarrassed to say "nothing", so at least that way we'll get something done.

By the way, this was why Donald Trump looked so foolish when he demanded to renegotiate the US emission cuts that Barack Obama had promised. There was no negotiation in 2015. Each country's obligation was whatever it offered. The only person Trump could have renegotiated with was Obama, and only if he had a time machine.

Anyway, here we are in 2021, and theory was that at this summit (originally scheduled for 2020) every country would raise its target for emissions cuts. We need 50% emissions cuts by 2030 to stay below the +1.5°C limit. How's that working out?

Well, Russia and the United Kingdom are the stars among the major countries, respectively promising 70% and 68% cuts in its emissions compared to 1990 (but that's only because they massively de-industrialised in the 1990s). The whole European Union is going to do 55%. If everybody else did the same, we'd be home and dry by 2030.

But Canada says its target is 30% cuts below its 2005 level. (Not the 1990 level, you'll note – and so far it has only cut 1%). Japan, Mexico and Australia are all in the mid-20s, India and Indonesia won't set a number, and China says it will try to "peak" its emissions by 2030 (i.e. they will continue to grow every year until 2030).

The US promise under Obama was 26%-28% cuts, but Trump pulled out of the deal. Even if Joe Biden says the new American NDC will be 50%, and even if everybody keeps their promises, we will end up in 2030 with a global cut of 30% at best. So, wave good-bye to "no more than 1.5°C of warming."

What do we do now? Starting with COP-26, we start developing ways to get carbon dioxide back out of the atmosphere (Carbon Dioxide Removal – CDR), and to hold the heat down while we work on that (Solar Radiation Management – SRM). And we work as fast as we can to get our emissions down, because the other stuff is just short-term techno-fixes.

CDR and SRM were both discussed at the 2015 summit, but now we need to start spending serious money on them. We're going to need them in the 2030s, and neither the science nor the technology will be ready overnight. Ten years might be enough. It had better be enough.

On The World Watch

SHERALYN ROMAN
TALK CALEDON



Over 15 months ago, we watched with some trepidation and a few dismissive thoughts as a new virus emerged in China. Surely, we thought, this isn't good but we remained confident China would get things "under control."

Quite quickly it appeared this would not be the case and we watched with more fear and fewer dismissive thoughts as Italy stared down COVID-19, by then a raging out of control monster that saw life and death triage decisions being made in the Italian ER. South Korea, Iran, the list continued to grow and still we watched.

Now – the world is watching us and with good reason. They are watching the abject failure of a nation to handle a crisis that has truly reached epidemic proportions. We've gone from watching, to the watched, as the world (and our fellow Ontarians) ask how it's possible we've learned nothing from the countries that came before us and are now at grave risk from a virus that knows no borders?

As has become glaringly obvious, despite the best efforts of the people with actual experience in managing deadly diseases, you know – doctors and scientists – our ICUs are overflowing and field hospitals (field hospitals!) have been set up outside of several major health centres. Canada, and specifically Ontario, has become the new epicentre of a really bad episode of M*A*S*H with Doug Ford assuming the role of Klinger. The only problem with this analogy is Klinger was smart and faking it, while with the Premier it's becoming increasingly more challenging to decipher.

In a blog released by the Broadbent Institute last July, the difference between – and the importance of – paid sick days, particularly for minimum wage workers, was explained. These are the folks we are calling "front line heroes," but treating like disposable Lysol wipes, needed in the moment but quickly used up. They are who keep our manufacturing facilities open, the grocery store shelves stocked and our products shipped. They are also the folks who are disproportionately falling victim to the virus. Demographics suggest these too are the people who may live in multi-family homes or in other similar group circumstances such as renting a room in a house with others, who in this case are strangers. In other words, they can't work from home, can't afford to take time off and yet potentially put family, housemates and co-workers at risk if they're ill.

The report rightly went on to explain how the current federal sick benefits (CRSB) don't adequately address the needs of these frontline support workers because of qualifying periods of employment, wait times (up to 4 weeks processing) and wholly inadequate income replacement, not to mention concerns around job security. The only thing that has changed since last July is the virus has gotten worse, significantly so. When Toronto Mayor John Tory says "there is a desperate need for paid sick days, "and critical care doctors point out that 'it would cost $114 to cover one day of paid sick leave for a minimum wage worker, [vs.] the cost of caring for one critically ill COVID-19 patient for one day in intensive care [at] anywhere between $3,500 and $5,000" it shouldn't be that hard to figure out the math.

If Conservatives generally hold themselves to be "fiscally responsible," whether or not they care about our health, from a monetary perspective paid sick leave just makes good sense. Who are the Conservatives really answering to during this pandemic? Why, in just in the past few days, did Peel Region Mayors, including our own Allan Thompson, have to publicly plead for assistance with helping to manage this crisis? Peel Region isn't just a hot spot, it's on freaking fire!

Meanwhile, the world watches.

In a Washington Post piece, David Moscrop wrote that Premier Ford's latest actions (including the closing, since retracted, of playgrounds) implied "a seesaw is a greater threat than a fulfillment center — or, at least, that outdoor recreation and the physical and mental health that comes with it are less important than moving goods." He called for the Premier to resign.

Al Jazeera quotes Canadian palliative care specialist, Dr. Naheed Dosani as saying, "this entire humanitarian catastrophe should never have happened, [it] was entirely preventable," and not too long ago the US actually issued a travel advisory about Canada! There are no adequate words! Remember when we watched what was happening south of the border with disdain and smugly pontificated, "that could never happen here?" Looks as though much like Ford has had to backtrack on closing playgrounds and granting special powers to the police (that's a whole other article) the average Ontarian will now have to backtrack on our assumption that the provincial government would never let us flounder. The world is watching us, and our Premier should be ashamed.

This notice was approved by the Ontario Superior Court of Justice

NOTICE OF PROPOSED SETTLEMENT IN CPRI CLASS ACTION

To all persons who were admitted to the Child and Parent Resource Institute (CPRI) during the period from September 1, 1963, until July 1, 2011 exclusive of any time for which an individual was an inpatient and resided in the Glenhurst or Pratten 1 units, and who were alive as of February 22, 2014.

A proposed settlement has been reached between the parties. While no admission of liability is made and none of the allegations have been proven, this settlement, if approved, will make compensation available to class members who allege they suffered certain sexual assaults or physical assaults while admitted to CPRI.

If you opted out of the class action, the settlement will not impact you.

There will be an online court hearing on **June 23, 2021** to decide whether the proposed settlement of the lawsuit should be approved. The hearing will take place virtually.

Compensation to Class Members is not yet available. If the court approves the settlement and you are part of the lawsuit as a Class Member, you can then make a claim for compensation.

To obtain further information, please visit https://cpriclassaction.ca or contact Epiq at 1-866-640-9989, or by email at info@cpriclassaction.ca.

The lawyers acting for the class are Koskie Minsky LLP. You may also contact Koskie Minsky LLP at 1-844-819-8523 or by email at cpriclassaction@kmlaw.ca.

If you approve of the settlement and want it to proceed so you can claim money, you do not need to take any steps. If you want to object to the settlement, you must send an objection to Epiq by **May 26, 2021**.

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SPORTS

News | Classifieds Service Directory

Bolton resident can't wait to help soccer players when the time is right

BY ROBERT BELARDI

It's never easy to find a soccer player but for Bolton resident John Horvath, he knows exactly what to look for.

"If I want to represent them, the first thing [is] I have to look into their eyes and I have to look into their heart to see if they have the heart," Horvath said. "You have to have the heart first in order to be a pro player."

Second comes the mind and third comes the talent. It's a quick, three-step examination within yourself to know if you have what it takes to make it as a pro. Soccer isn't the easiest of sports to make it into. On the bright side, there are plenty of opportunities.

And for a guy like Horvath, his expertise on the sport isn't quite like other players. He has been surrounded by soccer his entire life since his family escaped the revolution in Hungary in 1956.

He emigrated to London and after the passing of his father Janos when he was 10, Horvath began to dive deeper into his father's soccer career and he made some very interesting discoveries.

"I found out through old friends he had, one guy told me, 'Your father played for a second division team called Kispest Textile.' Sure, enough lo and behold, there was this one website in Hungarian that has every stat since 1901."

Through his search, he found his father played a friendly match against the Hungarian team in 1954. He went up against one of soccer's most formidable talents at the time and his childhood friend Ferenc Puskas.

That lead him to become a pro player himself. Horvath went back to Hungary in the early 90s to play for Ujpest FC. His head coach at the time, Lazlow Nagy was honest with his 24-year-old player that continuing his career in the first division with the reserve team wasn't going to work. So, Horvath, hung up his boots.

Shortly after, he received a call from Detroit and became a volunteer Office Administer at the FIFA World Cup in the USA in 1994. He met media requirements at events, he handled interviews and completed follow ups for the general public.

When he returned to London, everything fell right into place. He received a job with Rogers TV and hosted his own soccer show.

He was working out in London in the soccer scene before moving to Bolton in 2006. He has worked in the construction of turf field projects, he's refereed for the Bolton Wanderers club, he was a consultant for the Bolton Wanderers as well and even worked downtown Soccerworld at the Docks.

His influence across many other soccer clubs led him to create his own business called World Soccer World Management which he runs on the side today as a Soccer Advisor and Consultant.

"Ever since I did that it's good. I've helped a lot of people, grown a lot of projects. I hope to grow the business and get the staff that I need," Horvath said.

"I see a lot of coaches that are looking out for themselves and not the player. That's the problem we're having. The player is promised everything and the player gets nothing. He didn't even get scouted. He gets stuck in the gutter. That's why I like to stress that each club moving forward (after COVID) should get one agent or one manager to sell them abroad so the club can get a development fee."

Horvath, wants to be a part of that and ensure that players are being handled properly. With the Canadian Premier League and Major League Soccer right next door it's only fitting young and upcoming talents have that right.

Horvath just wants to give them the right keys to the right car to travel down the right road.

As an employee with Porter Airlines, Horvath has plenty of free time on his hands now. If you know anyone that is interested in seeking advice from someone who has travelled the world and met some of soccer's biggest stars such as Raul and Andrea Pirlo, you may reach Horvath at mrworldsoccer@hotmail.com.



John Horvath met former Canadian International and Toronto FC midfielder Dwayne De Rosario.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

OJHL season may be over, but support for players continues

BY ROBERT BELARDI

It wasn't a pleasant piece of news in a time where anything pleasant seems to be few and far between.

On April 13, the Ontario Junior Hockey League (OJHL) released an email declaring their 2021 season had been cancelled. Done. Finished. Relinquished. However you want to put it, there will be no official games from here on out.

The Board of Governors brought this to an official vote on which direction they found most suitable and during the current stay-at-home order this was the best fit.

Under normal circumstances the OJHL season would have officially ended on May 31 of this year.

"With Ontario currently in a 28-day Stay at Home order and the end of the Hockey Canada season fast approaching, the league's Board of Governors have made the very difficult decision to officially conclude the 2020-2021 OJHL season and turn our attention and planning for the upcoming 2021-2022 season," said league commissioner Marty Savoy in a statement.

For Junior A hockey, it has been turbulent few months on end enduring the current struggle of the pandemic. Since cancelling the season at the midway point in 2020, there have been numerous adjustments to get things back up and running with compliance to the provincial government's provisions.

On September 5, 2020, the OJHL had planned to begin the season at the end of October and November with alternative start dates. Teams were permitted to train and the commissioner Marty Savoy said at the time that the league wouldn't begin until the number of fans entering the arenas were to be determined.

Five days later, on September 10, the Ontario government was preparing to invest $21 million dollars into aiding athletes and coaches in the province.

Director of Communications Jim Mason confirmed this would not apply to the OJHL.

New five-on-five formats had been approved by the Ontario Hockey Federation. Playoff formats were being headlined. A deal with a disinfecting service had been made. But, of course, COVID got in the way. While these had been confirmed, the league began to target January as a new start date.

In December, the OJHL began offering COVID-modified mental health support began by the OJHL and the OJHL Foundation. The Foundation's First Assist Program provided an outlet for all 507 elite-student athletes across all 22 teams. It was also available for coaches and team staff.

Most recently, before the cancellation of the season, the OJHL had reportedly made major upgrades to their photography services.

"The OJHL has studied every possible scenario to get our players back on the ice and, unfortunately, with the current state of the pandemic and provincial guidelines, we are unable to conduct the 2020-2021 season," OJHL Chairman Marc Mercier said in the press release.

"As a Governor of a team within the league, I realize the disappointment and impact this decision has on our players."

Despite the frustrations and all of the disappointments for Junior A hockey players, it might be possible for teams in certain regions to play some exhibition games.

As stated in a press release the OJHL has said once the stay-at-home order is lifted, teams that are permitted to play with respect to the current provisions of their Regional Health Units may participate in exhibition games.

The release confirmed in total so far, only six teams have played in a total of 58 exhibition games.

King Olympian one of many to help with new bursary

BY ROBERT BELARDI

The Canadian Olympic Foundation (COF) formally announced the Olympians Supporting Olympians Bursary last week.

With less than 100 days to go until the 2020 Tokyo Olympics commences, notable alumni such as King City's Rosie MacLennan, Charmaine Cooks and COF member of the Board of Directors Mark Tewksbury inspired the movement according to the release.

"A group of Team Canada alumni (Including Rosie MacLennan) reached out to us at the Canadian Olympic Foundation looking to help. Through a broader outreach to our Olympian alumni, we have proudly launched a brand-new bursary," said Philantropic Strategist and Communications lead at the Canadian Olympic Foundation, Emmalee Nother.

"Fully funded by donations made by alumni, this bursary not only provides financial support to our athletes but is a vote of confidence from individuals who have come before them."

Nother said the bursary was born from the resilience and perseverance from Team Canada during these trying times.

As stated in the release, more than 80 athletes were nominated to receive the bursary and the final 30 winter and summer athletes were chosen last week to receive it. The COF said names will be kept confidential during this time.

Athletes were chosen based on their financial needs and how substantial the impact of the postponement of the 2020 Olympics was to their lives.

37 athletes have been nominated as of Monday, April 19 on Team Canada's website to head to Tokyo this summer.

Josh Su, Specialist, Public Relations for Team Canada, said there will be more announcements in the coming months.

Here are those who are on the list so far.

Athletics

Dayna Pidhoresky, Evan Dunfee and Trevor Hofbaeur.

Sailing

Alexndra (Ali) Ten Hove, Evan DePaul, Jacob Saunders, Mariah Millen, Nikola Girke, Sarah Douglas, Oliver Bone, Tom Ramshaw and William Jones.

Cycling – Track

Allison Beveridge, Annie Foreman-Mackey, Ariane Bonhomme, Derek Gee, Georgia Simmerling, Hugo Barnette, Jasmin (Glaesser) Duehring, Jay Lamoureux, Kelsey Mitchell, Lauriane Genest, Michael Foley, Nick Wammes and Vincent De Haitre.

Cycling – Road

Hugo Houle, Karol-Ann Canuel, Leah Kirchmann and Mike Woods.

Swimming

Kylie Masse, Margaret MacNeil, Markus Thormeyer, Penny Oleksiak, Sydney Pickrem and Taylor Ruck.

Sport Climbing

Alannah Yip and Sean McColl.

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HONDA GENUINE PARTS & SERVICE

Caledon East & District Historical Society sharing our past in unprecedented times

BY ROB PAUL
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

In Caledon, residents in the community are working to preserve the history of the town and spread their knowledge to others.

They're the Caledon East and District Historical Society (CEDHS), a group founded in 1984 by Anne Allengame and Pam McKinnon

Allengame and McKinnon wanted to ensure the heritage of Caledon would remain and grow, and the society was incorporated in 1987 and has been growing ever since.

Over its 35-year history, the society has been involved in many projects in the community and welcome those in the area to attend their events and meetings.

CEDHS events and speakers focus on a range of topics dealing with the history of Caledon, specifically in the Caledon East district. The three main objectives of the CEDHS are to promote and stimulate interest in the history of the people and places of Caledon East and District; to collect, classify, edit, and preserve information relating to the district; and to disseminate material so collected by publishing, by holding meetings for the presentation of papers and discussion, and by marking historic sites.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic has stalled some CEDHS events, on Wednesday, April 28, at 7 p.m., they'll be hosting a speaker via Zoom

The speaker is Zoe Lepiano and she'll be speaking about the history of local artist Rosemary Kilbourn of the Dingle Schoolhouse.

Through presentations and community involvement, the goal of the CEDHS is to keep the rich history of Caledon alive and to ensure the new generation is invested in it.

"We're very enthusiastic about our community history and we want to share it," said CEDHS President Robyn Innis. "We want to engage community members and have them care enough to tell people and have them understand why certain things matter and what they represent. We donate whatever funds we have back into the community in ways that will help and shape the community.

"At the same time, with our presentations, we're just gauging people's interests in wanting to talk about stories from the days in the past and what it used to be like. We try to grasp onto different types of speakers. For example, we have Zoe coming up and for June we have Dave Borrett from Sandhill Pipes and Drums. When deciding on a presentation, at the executive meeting the Board all gets together to discuss it and we schedule them a year in advance. Right now, there's not a lot we're doing in the community (other than presentations), but CEDHS has done many things in the past."

Innis says CEDHS is proud of their accomplishments in the community such as publishing award-winning books Settling the Hills and For Those Served—the latter of which they obtained a $25,000 grant, from Trillium to publish 1,500 copies; purchasing Canadian and provincial flags and installing them on the Main Street of the village and taking them down each fall and putting them back up each spring, replacing any that needed it; collaborating with Heritage Caledon to produce and place historical plaques on over 20 historical significant sites in the village; contributing money to school scholarships, local sports teams and to the Caledon East Revitalization Committee; publishing Revisiting History for their 25th anniversary project—a self-guided walking tour, of which they recently did a reprint of the booklet; donating $1,500 to the committee who published The Caledon Trailway: Building the Dream.

"Of course, for years we have done our best to obtain interesting, informative speakers and events to further educate our community on all aspects of history, local, national and international," Innis added. "Some accomplishments were on a no financial cost basis. The Society obtained a $10,000 MACG grant to assist in publishing The Caledon Trailway and we delivered our Walking Tour Guide to CE Public School so their history class could use them on a tour of the village."

The circumstances of the pandemic forced the CEDHS to cancel the majority of their 2020 plans, but they've adapted for 2021 by moving to the online world and for the time being are allowing people to engage in their meetings with no charge.

"We've only ever done it in the in-person platform so a few of us got together to figure out what we're going to do here, and we got our annual general meeting for January online to decide if we'd continue on with presentations—this is all new to us as well," she said. "Thankfully, we have a great bunch of workers and people that are eager, and the AGM went off successfully.

"With COVID, there was an interruption for us last year, but this year we're going to go with our same schedule of five meetings in the year, so we're kind of not interrupted anymore. Right now, it's a free membership so people can jump onto our Zoom meetings—we put the link online and the public is free to watch without any charge. Typically [when in person] there's a visitor charge of $5 or you join as a member."

Those interested in getting involved in the CEDHS, or wanting to learn more, are encouraged to visit the Facebook page (www.facebook.com/groups/cedhs/about) and those interested in Lepiano's presentation on Rosemary Kilbourn can watch it on April 28 via Zoom.

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Limited time lease offers available through Honda Financial Services Inc. (HFS), to qualified retail customers on approved credit. Weekly payments include freight and PDI (ranges from $1,700 to $1,870 depending on model), tire & environmental fee ($21) [This fee covers the cost to Honda Canada of collecting and recycling tires], A/C charge ($100), and OMVIC fee ($10). Taxes, licence, insurance and registration are extra. ΩRepresentative weekly lease example: 2021 Civic LX Sedan CVT (Model FC2F5MEX) // 2021 CR-V LX 2WD (Model RW1H2MES) // 2021 PILOT 5D V6 G LX (Model YF6H1ME) on a 60-month term with 260 weekly payments at 0.99% // 2.99% // 2.99% lease APR. Weekly payment is $61.38 // $81.16 // $99.00 with $0 // $0 // $5,213 down or equivalent trade-in and $0 total lease incentive included. CR-V LX 2WD // Civic LX Sedan CVT lease offers include the $750 Honda Bonus. Down payments, $0 security deposit and first weekly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $15,960.05 // $21,102.36 // $25,740.46. 100,000 kilometre allowance; charge of $0.12/km for excess kilometres. PPSA lien registration fee of $40.00 and lien registering agent's fee of $6.50, due at time of delivery are not included. 2021 Civic LX Sedan CVT // 2021 CR-V LX 2WD shown in Rallye Red // Platinum White Pearl. Additional charge of $300.00 applies for premium paint colour. 2021 PILOT 5D V6 G LX shown in Platinum White Pearl. Advertised price/payment includes charge of $300.00 for premium paint colour. ^Must be leased/financed through Honda Financial Services Inc. (HFS), on approved credit, and delivered by April 30, 2021. Honda Bonus: (i) will be deducted from the negotiated vehicle price after taxes; (ii) can be combined with lease or finance rates advertised by HFS; and (iii) cannot be applied to past transactions. No cash surrender or other value. Offer subject to change or cancellation without notice. Dealer order/trade may be necessary (but may not be available in all cases). See your participating Ontario Honda Dealer for details. For all offers: licence, insurance, PPSA, other taxes (including HST) and excess wear and tear are extra. Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price. Offers only valid for Ontario residents at participating Ontario Honda Dealers. Dealer may lease for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary (but may not be available in all cases). Colour availability may vary by Dealer. Vehicles and accessories are for illustration purposes only. Offers, prices and features subject to change without notice. See your Ontario Honda Dealer or visit HondaOntario.com for full details.



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ARE YOU A WOMAN living with abuse? For safety, emergency shelter, and counselling call Family Transition Place, (519)941-HELP or 1-800-265-9178.

FOR INFORMATION regarding **HEART and STROKE**, call Dori Ebel (519) 941-1865 or 1-800-360-1557.

IF YOU or a FAMILY MEMBER are struggling with gambling, Gamblers Anonymous is there to HELP. Call: 1(855) 222-5542 or visit www.gatoronto.ca.

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OBITUARIES

KONDRACHUK, WALTER

SEPTEMBER 4, 1948 - APRIL 16, 2021



It is with profound sadness that we share our loss. After a long and courageous battle with primary biliary cholangitis and chronic kidney disease, Walter Kondrachuk, 72, passed peacefully at his home in Guelph, Ontario on Friday, April 16, 2021. Born in Quaregnon, Hainaut, Belgium, September 4, 1948, Walter came to Canada at 5 years of age and became a Canadian citizen in 1960. He spent his early years in the west end of Toronto and later built a family in Bolton, Ontario, where he spent 30 years. He spent his final years in Guelph, Ontario close to family.

Walter leaves behind a devoted and beloved wife of 42 years, Bessie Kondrachuk. Loved father of Natalie (Scott) Green, loving grandfather of Clara Green and cherished step-grandfather of Emily and Kera Green. Dear brother of Kazimer Kondrachuk and the late Vera Kondrachuk. Predeceased by his parents Wasyl and Sofia (Kuzia) Kondrachuk.

Walter was a quiet and unassuming man. A member of United Association Local 46 for 55 years, he was hardworking and devoted to his career as a plumber. Walter didn't ask for much and was kind, loving, and generous to his family and those around him. At 38 years, Walter battled significant illness and received the gift of life with a liver transplant we are forever grateful to his donor and their family. Walter was a homebody and spent his years with his family, working on home improvements, listening to music, gardening, and enjoying the sunshine with his cats. He loved cake and excelled at armchair dancing his silly side, often reserved for those closest. At 65, significant illness struck again, resulting in the need for a multi-organ transplant. During this six-year battle, Walter kept on with strength and tenacity; lifelong characteristics. Walter will be deeply missed by his family and friends.

We want to thank all of the medical professionals who helped and supported Walter, particularly those at the Toronto General Hospital, who cared for him for over 30 years.

Cremation has taken place and a private family Celebration of Walter's life will be held at a later date. As per his wishes there is no visitation and no funeral. Memorial contributions to the Ajmera Transplant Unit at the Toronto General Hospital (when making your online donation, please select "Other" where it says "Direct my gift to:" and type in Ajmera Transplant Unit where it says "Other gift designation"). Canadian Transplant Association, or the Guelph Humane Society would be appreciated. Arrangements entrusted to the Gilbert MacIntyre & Son Funeral Home, Hart Chapel, 1099 Gordon Street, Guelph, ON N1G 4X9; 519-821-5077/ www.gilbertmacintyreandson.com.

Walter's life was blessed by an organ donor. Please consider registering your consent for organ and tissue donation at BeADonor.ca. A commemoration for Walter will be added to the kiosk in the Family Memorial Area of the Rockwood Memorial Trail. A tree will also be planted in memory of Walter.

"Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened". ~Dr.Seuss

MURIEL AILAIN MAW



We are saddened to announce the sudden passing of Muriel Ailain Maw, age 82 on April 12th, 2021 at Trillium Health Partners due to complications following surgery.

Muriel was born July 1st, 1938 in Kleinburg, Ontario to Elmer and Marjorie Mactaggart. She married William Maw on October 18th, 1958, her lifelong love and friend.

Muriel loved her family and the times we could all get together. During these days of COVID-19 she remained positive, reaching out to everyone with a call and a chat.

She enjoyed gardening, trips to Cuba and spending time at The Ranch. She very much missed her black Labrador "Maggie" who shared the same birthday.

Muriel may have been small and mighty, but her feisty spirit earned her the nickname "Rambo" with her family and close friends. She was a force to be reckoned with at times! She often reminded us that "Nice things come in small packages".

Muriel is survived by her husband of 62 years, William Maw who will miss her always. Also survived by her daughters Kelly Herder (William) and Tracy Laws (Thomas), grandchildren Daniel, Lauren, Drew (Herder) and Ryan and Sean (Laws). Deeply missed by her sister Shirley Davis (Kleinburg), predeceased by her brother Leonard Mactaggart. She leaves behind her sister-in-law Dorothy Simons, nieces, and close friends, especially her dear friend and confidante Colleen Phillips.

Mom enjoyed her garden. Please find a moment to go into your garden, plant a flower and think of her there.

The family wishes to thank everyone for their condolences and acts of kindness during this difficult time. If desired donations may be made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada or to the Caledon Animal Shelter.

Cremation has taken place. The family will hold a Celebration of Life at a later date. Arrangements by Egan Funeral Home, 203 Queen St. South, Bolton ON. Condolences for the family may be offered at www.EganFuneralHome.com.

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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
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by her Solicitor
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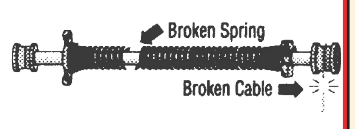
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Our Readers Write

SUBMIT YOUR LETTERS TO : brock@lpcmedia.ca

All of us deserve criticism if we aren't responsible: reader

Continued from Page 8

This has caused extreme delays in implementing plans and reversals in courses of action to be taken. Hundreds of phone calls? Day-long/evening-long cabinet meetings? In my mind, this is the most inefficient approach to handling a crisis of this magnitude I have ever witnessed. Total confusion!

It smacks of making plans on the back of a paper napkin to govern our province. But then again this should be no surprise as Doug Ford has operated his government on this basis since he began his campaign for his party's election in the spring of 2018.

He started out his campaign with the slogan "Ontario: For the People" and he then switched immediately upon his election to "Ontario: Open for Business". He has been caught in a communications nightmare (along with the COVID-19 pandemic) between two seemingly opposing poles ever since.

This became very clear to me when I read in The Star about Sylvia Jones' take on the present state of this pandemic. She said, "Look this is serious. People are dying." Are you just figuring this out now, Sylvia? You and your government have been warned of this dire situation since February/March of 2019. Are you to blame for "SNAFUs" in the procurement plans? No. Justin Trudeau's team is responsible for that and must take the heat of criticism for it. Are you responsible for the rollout and distribution of the vaccines? Yes, you are. If you had spent more time listening to what your science and medical experts were telling you to do you would discover that you had lots of opportunities to implement other effective strategies that could have held this pandemic at bay until vaccines arrived. You didn't listen and you didn't take advice.

Unlike your "Our Readers Write" letter, I say, "You, Doug Ford own the responsibility and you deserve the criticism. What do you do with that criticism? Blame the feds? We are all still waiting for answers/consistent actions." And as Sylvia says, "Look, this is serious. People are dying."

DAVID MCRAE
CALEDON VILLAGE

Will the punishment ever fit the crime?

Many months ago, we were told that COVID-19 is spreading at Super Spreader events like big house parties, big outdoor gatherings, etc., etc. And that anyone caught there would get a $750 fine and the organizers a $10,000 fine.

Well, now that we know where these events are happening and all the new positive COVID cases as a result of these gatherings, how come there are no $10,000 fines being handed out and the culprits published in the media?

This is the same "Punishment Not Fitting the Crime" problem that led me to quit Peel Police 40 years ago this month. Except this time the damage it is causing to the rest of us who are all playing by the rules is enormous and sometimes deadly.

So, here's an idea. Next time anyone is found at/or organizing such events, take away the most expensive and privileged card they own: their Health Card and let them fend for themselves going forward as they have no regard for the rest of us.

And then finally the punishment will fit the crime!

BRIAN PERRAS
CALEDON

Canada needs Climate Emergency Alliance

Do the NDP and the Greens agree on everything? No. But, both parties are supposed to care about people and the planet, and that means tackling the climate emergency.

That's why we need these parties to come together and form a Climate Emergency Alliance ahead of the next election.

Canada's broken voting system, coupled with toxic partisanship has locked us into a Liberal vs. Conservative paradigm for too long... but, with an NDP-Green Climate Emergency Alliance, we can change both the conversation and the balance of power in the House of Commons.

I'm not a partisan person and want to vote for whatever candidate has the best plan for tackling the joint social, economic and climate crises we're facing. Without a Climate Emergency Alliance, that candidate likely won't have a shot at winning. But, with this Alliance, more than 100 seats are winnable.

I want to vote for someone who gets the scale of the climate emergency and has a chance at winning and delivering bold action. To do that, I need the Greens and NDP to put partisan bickering aside and form a Climate Emergency Alliance.

ALESANDRA DI GIOVANNI
BOLTON

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