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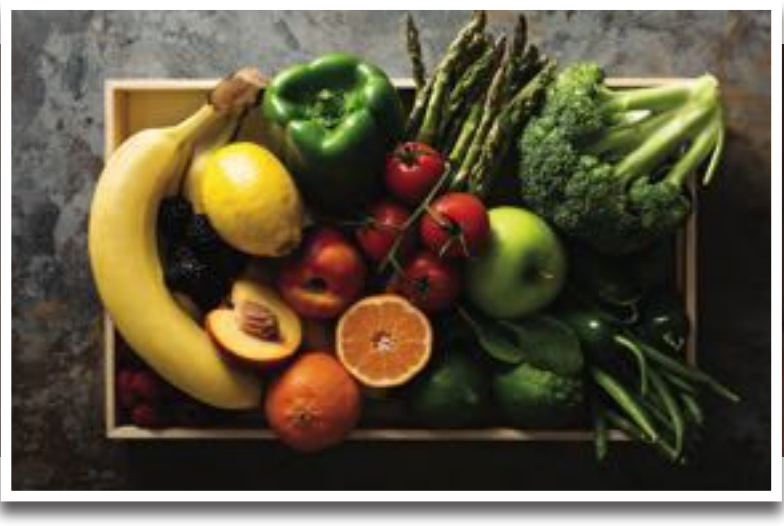
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FREE | **Thursday, June 10, 2021** | **Volume 41, Issue 23**



KEEPING CALEDON CLEAN – Caledon resident Janice Reed is pictured ready to begin yet another trek down the Caledon Trailway armed with her 73rd garbage bag of the year. Frustrated by the mounting garbage she has seen on her travels, Ms. Reed has taken it upon herself to make a difference – hoping her efforts inspire others to do the same. For more, see Page 5.

PHOTO BY ROB PAUL

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Peel continues to aim for 75% vaccination rate as businesses prepare to re-open Friday

BY ROB PAUL

As Ontario approaches Step One of its re-opening on June 11, Peel Region is continuing to deal with concerns surrounding the rising Delta variant.

To deal with the variant growing in Peel, the Region opened up second-dose booking early to residents 70 years of age and older, and to those who received the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine on or before April 18.

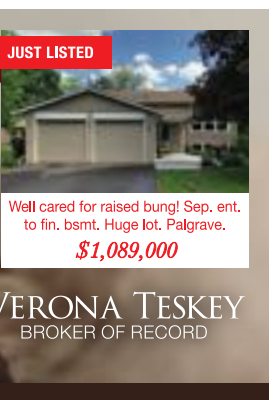
Appointments for those eligible became available on June 7 through Ontario's vaccine booking system (covid-19.ontario.ca/book-vaccine) or by calling 1-833-943-3900. First doses for anyone 12 and older who has not already booked are available this weekend at Peel clinics. Some pharmacies and primary care providers in the region may offer eligible residents access to their second dose this weekend if supply allows.

According to projections from the Ontario Science Table, the Delta variant (B.1617) will replace B.117 as the dominant strain of COVID-19 in Peel in under four weeks. In addition to vaccination, adhering to safe public health practices remains a priority for Peel in reducing transmission of all variants of COVID-19.

"The Peel community has worked too hard to lose what we have regained to yet another variant," said Peel's Associate Medical Officer of Health Dr. Monica Hau. "We need to move quickly to provide second doses to residents to stay ahead of the new Delta variant and prevent a fourth wave in Peel, which ultimately helps prevent a fourth wave across Ontario. Two doses of vaccine are our best defence and significantly increase protection from B.1617."

In total, the Region has seen 110,297 cases of COVID-19 and 771 deaths—up 854 cases and six deaths since last week. Currently, 59.6 per cent of cases in Peel are in Brampton with 36.1 per cent in Mississauga and four per cent in Caledon.

Continued on Page 7



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Victory House ready to invite residents to take "Victory Lap"

BY ROB PAUL

When women find themselves in an impossible situation, they need the ability to feel safe and the support to push through. That was the basis for the idea for Victory House, to provide women in need with a place to go when they needed it most.

After living in Caledon for nearly 40 years and aiding other women when they were at their most vulnerable, Patricia Valliere, Victory House founder and Executive Director, knew more could be done to help with the healing process while providing an opportunity for meaningful change.

That's how the story of Victory House began.

It was a vision that is now leading to the creation of a transitional home for women and children in a time of crisis.

It has grown into a reality and attained charitable status thanks to the board that makes up the Victory House Association of Dufferin Caledon

Continued on Page 11

TOWN NEWS

See Page 7

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Council approves increase in funding needed for Rotary Place senior centre project

BY ROB PAUL

With the current Rotary Place expansion in Bolton—home to the Caledon Seniors Centre—it was identified by staff last month there was a budget shortfall of $1,627,056 for the project.

As a result, Council passed an amendment to a motion to provide the project with the additional needed funds to move forward, with a final report for the project set for the fall.

The building was constructed in 1995 and the Town has been operating it since 2011. It's the only dedicated seniors' facility in Caledon. There are over 900 members and, as the Town grows, so too does that need for space at the facility.

As part of the recent Age-Friendly Caledon Action Plan, it was forecasted that Caledon's senior population will increase by more than 10,000 by 2031, making the expansion of the Seniors Centre a priority.

The current facility is approximately 6,000 square feet with two program rooms, a kitchen, office space, washrooms, and storage. Staff reports have shown that based on expected growth, the expansion will be required to keep seniors in Caledon.

Mayor Allan Thompson was adamant that the Town has to do everything they can to continue with this project the way it was originally intended despite construction costs increasing as a result of the pandemic.

"We need to try and find the money," said Thompson. "I don't want to cut back and bastardize this thing. What we laid out originally was a plan and the seniors will even be at capacity with what we're building, and they need it now. My biggest concern is that we know we need this; it isn't that we're wasting money. We need to find the funds somewhere. We need to keep this on track and on schedule. I know construction costs have gone up, I get it, but I just don't want to be cutting. This is going to be well used so let's make sure we do it. We can find the funds without the taxpayer paying on this, we need to get this done."

Councillor Annette Groves, who sits on the Seniors' Task Force, has been working with the seniors on the expansion project for multiple years and thinks the pandemic has made it even more clear that this project needs to be completed the right way.

"The seniors are very concerned," Groves said. "This is very critical. Given the situation with the pandemic, many of the seniors haven't been given the opportunity to participate in any physical activities and anything social. They truly need this; I think they needed this 10 years ago."

Groves provided an amendment to the motion that the Council passed, which asked that the $1,627,056 for the project be funded and pre-approved as part of the 2022 Budget and any of the shortfall from the Town's current Development Charges (DC) Background Study be recovered from a future DC Background study.

Council was in agreement that keeping an eye on the future and making decisions based on what will be needed down the road is far more important than assessing based on the current situation.

"I think it's important to echo Mayor Thompson's statement," said Councillor Nick deBoer. "Currently with the situation we're in economically, we're far better off to support plans that we need and find the money than decide to chop and reduce the size of the facility. History in Caledon has shown that when we do reduce the size of facilities, we really do back ourselves into a corner. We need to build what we need, even if we have to pay for it over time. These facilities are going to be in our inventory until the end of time, essentially. When you look at Inglewood Arena, we've owned it for well over 60 years probably. These are facilities we will have for a long time to invest income into to pay off any debt. I support building what we need and figuring out a way to fund what we need. This should provide staff with the confidence when they come back in the fall to know we're going to support what we need."

Given the rare circumstances of the pandemic, Council made it a point to look at how important having top-notch senior facilities are based on difficulty many seniors in Caledon have had over the last 15 months.

"This is something we definitely need to have happen and need to support," said Councillor Tony Rosa. "During the stay-at-home order over the last year, the limited engagement of seniors has effected people's physical and mental health with the inability to get out and socialize and do expanded programs. I think the seniors deserve an opportunity here as we get out of this pandemic to have a facility where we can expand programming and promote social gatherings. We can engage our seniors and get them out of their homes because they've been locked up way too long. I truly believe this is a need in our community."

One concern that was brought up based on the growth in Caledon is whether this project alone will be enough for the senior community.

"We've all seen what our growth trajectory is going to be and how important it is to support our aging community," said Councillor Jennifer Innis. "We've seen the great work with our age-friendly community work that's come forward and this is a key priority within it, ensuring that there is a space for our seniors to continue to be active and engaged. I hate to say it, but it's already probably too small for what's coming. We're going to have to look at future spaces for our seniors. That's something we can discuss as we move forward. I hope this is a strong message to our senior community that this Council stands behind them in giving them their space."

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Local Food Week showcases the importance of supporting farmers

BY JESSICA LAURENZA

June 7 – 13 is Ontario's Local Food Week – an opportunity to celebrate, appreciate and support fresh, healthy, home-grown food.

Ontario is home to about 49,600 farms and 4,400 food processing facilities, contributing over $47 billion to the provincial GDP, according to the 2021 Local Food Report.

Out of all the food produced in the province, 60 per cent of it is consumed here too.

A large part of supporting local farms and food businesses is understanding what local foods are available, as well as how and where to obtain them. The Ontario government is aiming to increase involvement in local foods through a variety of initiatives.

"Local farms are at the heart and soul of the good things that grow in Ontario," explains Ernie Hardeman, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has taught us just how critical local food is to our province," says Hardeman. "Our agri-food sector has kept grocery store shelves full over the past year and Ontarians have become more aware of the role farmers play in our daily lives and in our economy."

Pfisterer Farm's Farm School Agrication in Wellington County is an online platform with short videos to teach students from grade one through three about local agriculture, making it easy for teachers to tie this into their curriculum. You can visit pfisterer-farm.com to engage in different educational farm-based videos.

Jim and Leslie Forsythe of Durham Region take children on a virtual field trip to highlight the sights and sounds of their farm. They've developed interactive videos that allow kids to virtually visit farm animals and investigate the journey of food.

You can visit forsythefamilyfarms.com to download activity sheets to accompany each educational video.

Tyler Brooks, Director of Communications and Stakeholder Relations at the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA), encourages everyone to reflect on the reliability and strength of Ontario's agri-food sector.

The OFA is also working on a project called Six by Sixteen, a food literacy initiative which aims to help youth prepare six locally-sourced meals by the time they turn 16 to ensure their generation of consumers understands the value of local products.

The campaign will educate youth of where their food comes from, how to cook it and the importance of supporting locally. It will be aired on CTV and recipes can be found at sixbysixteen.me.

When you support local farmers, you not only support employment opportunities within the sector, you support the economic growth and prosperity that the industry brings to the province. There are more than 650 agri-food businesses in Ontario and most can be identified by a green Foodland logo.

Shop local and celebrate Local Food Week the first week of every June.



Leaders call for implementation of TRC Calls to Action

BY SAM ODROWSKI

Following the tragic discovery of a mass unmarked grave site containing the remains of 215 Indigenous children at a residential school in Kamloops, British Columbia, leaders and Indigenous rights advocates across the country have been calling on the federal government to properly respond.

Indigenous Watchdog, which tracks and reports on Canada's progress in the 94 Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) on its website Indigenouswatchdog.org, is calling on the federal government to do what should have been done years ago – honour the missing and undocumented Indigenous children and repatriate their remains for proper burial and remembrance.

Indigenous Watchdog's focus is squarely on implementing TRC Calls to Action 71 through 76, which directly relate to missing children and burial information. Three of the calls have not even been started by the federal government, six years after the TRC report's release.

Locally, Dufferin–Caledon MP Kyle Seeback says his party has put forward a list of meaningful actions to assist families in Indigenous communities at this time, with "developing a comprehensive plan to implement TRC Calls to Action 71 through 76 by July 1, 2021" at the top of the list.

"The time for talk on reconciliation and the time to talk about the recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission is over – it's time for action," said Seeback.

"[Calls to Action] 71 to 76, they deal with finding grave sites, cataloguing, getting information from corners and historical records, to really try and make sure that this gets properly documented… so Indigenous families can get the information, the closure, and all of the things that they should have had."

Other items on the list of meaningful actions to assist Indigenous families include funding investigations at all former residential schools in Canada where unmarked graves may exist, including the site where 215 children have already been discovered; and ensuring that proper resources are allocated for communities to reinter, commemorate, and honour any individuals discovered through the investigation, according to the wishes of their next of kin.

The last item on the list involves developing a detailed and thorough set of resources to educate Canadians of all ages on the tragic history of residential schools in Canada.

To date, 13 of the 94 Calls to Action from the TRC have been fully enacted and some steps have been taken on 60, while no real steps have been made on 21 of them.

Seeback says more needs to be done to have the Calls to Action implemented.

"No government's track record has been very good in with Indigenous peoples in this country, but in the last six years, there's been very little action on the recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission," he said. "I hope it's a wakeup call for the government, that they need to move faster."

A non-binding NDP motion proposed on Opposition Day, calling on the federal government to stop taking Indigenous children and survivors of residential school to court passed 271-0 on Monday (June 7).

The federal government has also committed $27 million to "assist Indigenous communities in locating and memorializing children who died at residential schools" out of a $33 million budget. Prior to the discovery of the mass grave site on the traditional territory of Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc, only $3 million of that budget was spent.

Going forward, Seeback told The Citizen he hopes the list of meaningful actions his party has brought forward will be adopted and that all Canadians take some time to honour and remember the indigenous children who never made it home.

"I just think that all Canadians should take a moment to think about the really dark stain on the soul of this country that residential schools are, and how we have to work very hard towards reconciliation," he said.

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Spring garbage exemption period is suspended

This is to ensure the health and safety of essential workers, while maintaining services for the long term.



As a reminder:

- Only up to 2 excess garbage bags allowed from May 3 - June 25. No tags needed.
- Additional bags beyond the 2-bag limit will not be collected.
- Bulky item collection will continue every garbage pick up day.

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

WMG-0942 21/03

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Grass clippings no longer accepted.

Grass clippings are no longer accepted at the curb or at Peel Community Recycling Centres.

Residents are encouraged to:

- Leave grass on the lawn after mowing. This is called grasscycling.
- Grasscycling takes less effort, saves time and money.
- It also helps build an environmentally sustainable community.

For grasscycling tips, check peelregion.ca/waste



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CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGE

Members of the Caledon OPP Detachment Major Crime Unit have arrested and charged an individual following a lengthy investigation into child pornography offence.

"As a result of the investigation, Louis Cauz, 88, of Caledon, was arrested on June 4, 2021 and charged with one count of Possession of Child Pornography," say Police. "The accused was held for a bail hearing and is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on a later date to answer to the charge."

The charge has not been proven.

If you have any information in relation this investigation, please contact Caledon OPP Major Crime Unit at (905) 584-2241or toll-free at 1-888-310-1122.

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

"The Ontario Provincial Police will continue to aggressively identify and pursue individuals who use technology to exploit children. Parents are reminded to take a proactive approach to help protect their children from online sexual exploitation by speaking with their children regarding internet safety. Parents can find resources to assist them at www.cybertip.ca."

As of June 4, a publication ban was issued by the Court and Police say no further information will be released regarding this investigation.

IMPAIRED DRIVER NARROWLY MISSES CRUISER: OPP

On Sunday, June 6, 2021, just before midnight, uniformed officers from the Caledon OPP Detachment responded to a traffic complaint of a possible impaired driver on Mayfield Road in the Town of Caledon.

"Information was received that a grey pickup truck was not able to maintain its lane and was travelling at inconsistent speeds," say Police. "As police patrolled Mayfield Road in an attempt to locate the suspect car, the grey pickup in question made an improper left-hand turn from a business plaza, almost colliding with the OPP cruiser.

"The officers immediately conducted a traffic stop and investigated the incident further. The driver was asked to provide a sample of their breath into the approved roadside screening device, and as a result, the individual was arrested and transported to the Caledon OPP Detachment for further tests to be conducted."

As a result, Amrinder Singh, 30, of Ottawa, stands charged with:

- Failure or refusal to comply with demand
- Improper left turn
- Disobey sign

The accused is expected to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on August 19, 2021 to answer to the charges.

The charges have not been proven.

In circumstances involving possible impairment by a drug or a combination of alcohol and a drug, police can require a driver to:

- provide breath samples
- perform standardized field sobriety tests
- conduct a drug recognition evaluation
- provide oral fluid, urine or blood samples for screening

If you fail or refuse to comply with any of these demands, you will be charged under the Criminal Code for failure or refusal to comply with a demand.

If you are 21 years of age and under, you must not drive if you have been drinking alcohol. Your blood- alcohol level must be zero.

For more information on impaired driving measures in Ontario, please visit the Ministry of Transportation website at: www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/safety/impaired-driving.shtml

COMMUNITY RESPONSE HELPING TO KEEP ROADS SAFE: POLICE

On May 28, at approximately 8:20 p.m., a member of the Community Response Unit (CRU) from the Caledon OPP Detachment was on patrol along Highway 9 in the Town of Caledon, when the officer observed a vehicle travelling more than 50 km/h over the posted speed limit.

"A traffic stop was conducted in the area of Highway 9 and Highway 50," say Police. "The driver was asked to provide a sample of their breath into the approved roadside screening device, and as a result, the individual was arrested and transported to the Caledon OPP Detachment, where further tests were conducted."

As a result, Arthur Tateishi, 69, of Tottenham, stands charged with:

- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (BAC) over 80 mg
- Race a motor vehicle - excessive speed
- Driver fail to surrender licence

The charges have not been proven.

On May 29, at approximately 10:00 p.m., CRU officers were conducting a Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere (RIDE) spot check on Escarpment Side Road.

"The driver of the first vehicle stopped was suspected to have consumed alcohol," say Police. "A Mandatory Alcohol Screening demand to provide a roadside breath sample was made. As a result, the driver was placed under arrest for Operation while Impaired and was transported to the Caledon OPP Detachment, where further tests were conducted."

Continued on Page 17

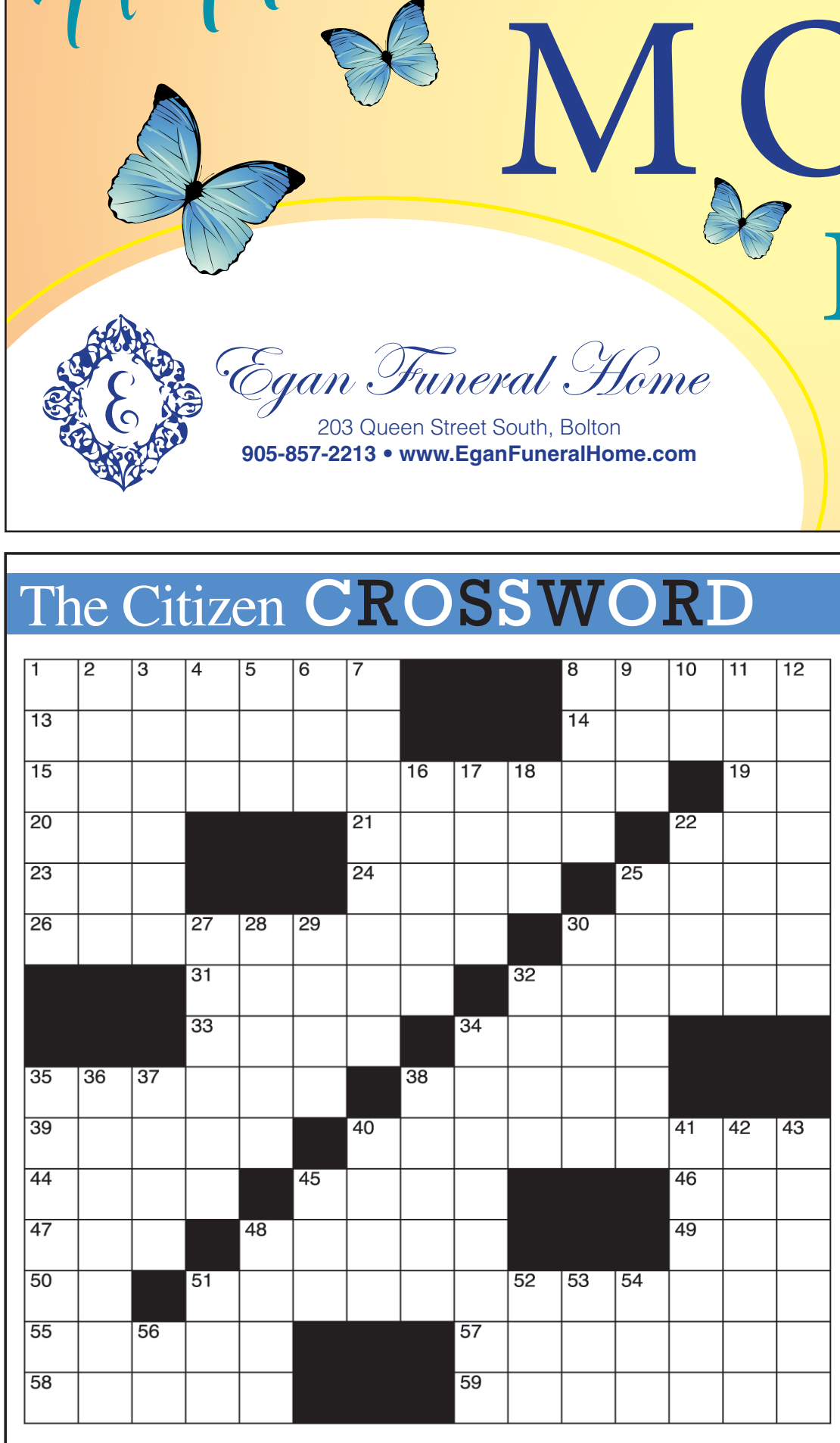


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The Citizen CROSSWORD

Solution on page A12



CLUES ACROSS

1. Most courageous
8. Insurance giant
13. Small trace left behind
14. In a way, signals
15. The same letter or sound at the beginning
19. The Great Lakes State
20. Engage in a contest
21. Drinks served to celebrate a birth (Spanish)
22. Manpower
23. Undivided
24. Strong, magnetic metal
25. People of Tanzania
26. Sorts
30. Cop car accessory
31. Trade
32. Sullen and ill-tempered
33. Distinctive practices
34. Motor vehicles
35. Electrodes
38. Polish river
39. Human feet
40. Make very hot
44. Toppin and Kenobi are two
45. Blackbird
46. One point west of due south
47. Large beer
48. Third stomachs
49. Rare Korean family name
50. Hectoliter
51. Aquatic invertebrate
55. Where we live
57. Poked holes in
58. Partner to ways
59. __ Ann

CLUES DOWN

1. Expressions of approval
2. Replace the interior of
3. Not awake
4. Roman numeral 7
5. Sun up in New York
6. Institute legal proceedings against
7. Bugs homeowners don't want
8. Maltese-Italian composer
9. Very long period of time
10. Touchdown
11. Agents of downfall
12. Complacently or inanely foolish
16. Argentina capital Buenos __
17. County in New Mexico
18. An electrically charged atom
22. New Zealand conifer
25. Type of brandy
27. Comments to the audience
28. Tears down
29. Gifts for the poor
30. More painful
32. Good friend
34. Lying in the same plane
35. Line in a polygon
36. Clouds of gas and dust
37. Norse god
38. Health care pro
40. Close tightly
41. One's holdings
42. Became less intense
43. Wilco frontman
45. Woman (French)
48. Expresses delight
51. TV channel (abbr.)
52. Beverage
53. Unit of work or energy
54. Cleaning accessory
56. Dorm worker

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

Caledon resident hopes her efforts to keep the community clean inspire others to do the same

BY ROB PAUL

Children are taught from an early age not to litter and to make an effort to pick up garbage to help keep the planet healthy. For many people, there are few things more upsetting than trying to embrace nature and get away from the stresses of everyday life than seeing a beautiful setting ruined by garbage.

In a Town like Caledon, known being full of hiking and biking trails, outdoor amenities, and its connection to the Greenbelt, most would assume it doesn't have an issue with people throwing their garbage out.

That hasn't been the case, in local resident Janice Reed's experience. In fact, the garbage problem on the Caledon Trailway has gotten so bad she's taken it upon herself to try and make a difference.

This isn't something new for Reed; she's been doing it for a handful of years and is worried because she's noticed that it's getting worse and, from her perspective, it seems like people are caring less and less about how the community looks.

"I've been doing it for a good three years," she said. "I started because three years ago I was walking in the winter and there was so much garbage, so I'd just take a garbage bag and then I'd have to take another—sometimes up to three garbage bags with me for a walk. Then when the season changes, and it's bike riding season, and now you're looking for garbage. I thought to myself that I can't just ride by it. So, I'd stop and pick up the garbage and now my bike has garbage bag on the pack.

"I was fed up with looking at it and I thought, well if I'm walking, I'll just take a bag with me."

Noticing the uptick in garbage she was collecting in recent months, Reed began tracking how much she was picking up in conjunction with her kilometres of exercise.

The numbers floored her.

"I started checking the numbers and, for instance, starting in January 2021, I walked 240 kilometres up until April 5," she said. "On April 5, I started bike riding and so far I've ridden 610 kilometres. At a total of 850 kilometres, I've picked up 73 bags of garbage on my walks and bike rides. On average, it's about 12 pieces of garbage per kilometre. I drag my bike around and load the garbage bag on to my bike and I take it to the next garbage bin, and I take out another garbage bag and I pick up more garbage.

"My bike routes take forever because I stop so much and sometimes I'll leave the garbage and come back because I know it'll still be there. The garbage doesn't disappear, people don't pick up garbage—they toss it, and they leave it and it'll be there the next day and the next day until I pick it up.

"I've thought, 'my gosh if the people who are walking would just pick up what they see,' but they don't and they walk right over it and I watch them. I'm the only one I've seen pick up the garbage."

Seemingly being the only one putting in the effort to cleaning the trails, it can be frustrating for Reed that she's been doing it for so long and it hasn't gotten better.

"It's terrible," she said. "It's like putting garbage in your living room. It's personal. Don't litter our Caledon Trailway. You can bike on it and walk on it, but clean up the trail on your route and don't just step over it."

It can be jarring to hear about the treatment of the trails in a community like Caledon that's known for its natural beauty, and Reed's as shocked as anybody that it continues to be an issue.

"It's ghastly how disrespectful it is," she said. "If people knew how much garbage one person picked up, then maybe they'd start to look down and pick it up, too. That's what I'm hoping for; I'm hoping to inspire one person to pick something up—even just pick up what you threw yourself."

The most prevalent pieces of garbage Reed finds herself picking up aren't shocking. It's plastic bottles, beer cans and liquor bottles, takeout food containers, coffee cups and lids, but there's also some major head-scratchers.

"I can easily pick up a bag full of those items on one trip. There's even dog poo in the bag," she said. "So, they're picking up the dog poo, but just leaving the bag on the ground? It's ridiculous, I just wonder why. I've picked up rubber blowup river rafts twice and I've picked up a whole set of car brakes. I've seen bags of shingles—which I can't pick up, so I email the Town. I email them at least every week for the stuff I can't lift on the trails."

Though she has kept in contact with the Town about bigger items that need to be taken care of, she's beginning to think the Town won't be able to keep up with the amount of garbage if people don't start caring more.

"The Town has got to be concerned because the amount of garbage being tossed all over Caledon is increasing all the time," she said. "Even on the roads, there's couches, chairs, construction material, and I email the Town and they're very good and always come and pick it up, but surely they must be getting frustrated themselves."

All Reed wants is for each person who takes advantage of all Caledon's outdoor beauty to take the time to understand how hurtful even one piece of litter can be and, if they did, she wouldn't have to be taking the initiative to be the unofficial custodian of the trailway.

"There's a lot of garbage and there's more coming and people need to stop littering and just walking over it," she said. "It's an insult to the environment and it's an insult to Canadians who care about the earth. This is the place we live; don't throw garbage around the place we live."



PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER!



The time for apologies is over: Action on reconciliation for Canada's Indigenous peoples is needed now

BY KYLE SEEBACK, MP
DUFFERIN-CALEDON
OPINION

Our country is grieving following the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation's devastating discovery of a mass grave with the remains of 215 children at a former residential school outside Kamloops, B.C.

This national tragedy has brought unimaginable heartbreak for First Nations communities across Canada and for all Canadians. It's also a terrifying reminder of a dark chapter in Canada's history with the residential school system and the need for immediate, meaningful action on reconciliation.

While communities and families grapple with this unthinkable revelation, we must come together to provide whatever assistance is necessary to aid in the healing process, including the resources needed to protect, honour, and identify the children of this tragedy. The legacy of the residential schools is a national shame and has had a profoundly lasting and damaging impact on Indigenous culture, heritage, and language. Words and apologies are not enough for the survivors of residential schools and for the families who've lost loved ones. We must take meaningful and immediate action now to address this horrific chapter of our Canadian history.

In 2008, then-Prime Minister Stephen Harper delivered a historic apology to former Residential School students, their families, and communities for Canada's role in the operation of the schools and set up the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (the "TRC"). The TRC recognized that the Indian residential school system had a profoundly lasting and damaging impact on Indigenous culture, heritage, and language. Sadly, little has been done to implement the 94 calls to action in the TRC since it was released six years ago.

This unspeakable discovery of the mass grave demonstrates much more needs to be done to address the outstanding recommendations in the Report and must be done quickly to ensure we can focus on the necessary work of tackling the issues to improve the lives of Indigenous peoples across Canada.

The Conservative Party has put forth a list of meaningful actions that can assist families and Indigenous communities during this time:

1. developing a comprehensive plan to implement TRC Calls to Action 71 through 76 by July 1, 2021;
2. funding the investigation at all former residential schools in Canada where unmarked graves may exist, including the site where 215 children have already been discovered;
3. ensuring that proper resources are allocated for communities to reinter, commemorate, and honour any individuals discovered through the investigation, according to the wishes of their next of kin; and
4. developing a detailed and thorough set of resources to educate Canadians of all ages on the tragic history of residential schools in Canada.

We are calling on Canada's Parliament to share in our commitment to reconciliation and for the Trudeau government to take immediate action to address this national tragedy to support Indigenous communities, and our country, in mourning.

Meaningful action must be taken now by the government, and all Canadians, to heal the gaping wounds for Canada's Indigenous peoples. You can support this essential process by contacting the Prime Minister at PM@pm.gc.ca and urge him to promptly act on the outstanding recommendations in the TRC. We must come together to not only acknowledge this dark part of Canada's history, but also learn from it to ensure it never happens again.



KYLE SEEBACK, MP

FOCUS ON WOMEN IN BUSINESS

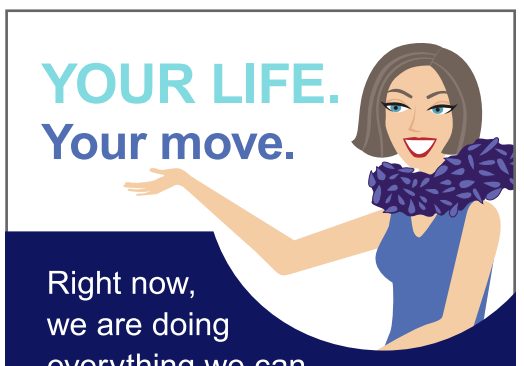

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Ontario enters Step One of reopening plan Friday

Continued from FRONT

Caledon continues to see its weekly case count decrease and have seen zero additional deaths since mid-May while sitting at 4,415 total cases and 18 deaths—31 more cases since last week.

On top of opening second booking eligibility to more residents, Peel has revised the Section 22 Order for workplace closures that is currently in place. The updates include explicit addition of eye protection as part of personal protective equipment requirements where physical distancing cannot be maintained at all times and revised isolation and testing requirements for asymptomatic workers to state that public health will provide specific direction during investigations.

Peel has experienced more than 550 workplace outbreaks since March 1, 2020, and with the Delta variant increasing risk, the Region wanted to implement additional safety measures for operating businesses.

After surpassing a million vaccine doses administered last week, Peel is now up to 1,212,884 doses administered in total with 99,664 coming in the last seven-day cycle (May 31 to June 7). Of the total doses, 1,124,036 are first doses with 88,848 residents having completed their vaccinations.

As Peel continues to strive to cross the threshold of 75 per cent of residents being vaccinated that Dr. Lawrence Loh, Peel's Medical Officer of Health, is aiming for, the Region is at 62.4 per cent of all residents being vaccinated with 73.8 per cent of adults being vaccinated.

With the Region's efforts to reach vaccine milestones, Peel established the Hockey Hub vaccination centre at the CAA Centre in Brampton. Peel partnered with Bruce Power and a coalition of organizations, unions, and businesses to establish and support the Hockey Hub, which is now open to the public.

The facility is operated by Peel Public Health and is providing the region the capacity for thousands of daily vaccines in an area of the province that was particularly hard hit by the pandemic.

"We are thankful to all of the partners who have come together to make the CAA Centre clinic a reality and to the Province for continued support to vaccinate all of Peel, as we push towards widespread two-dose coverage," said Dr. Loh. "Every vaccination administered is an essential action in combatting COVID-19."

Last week, Ontario Premier Doug Ford visited the facility and thanked Peel, the patterning organizations, and the hundreds of volunteers for the effort in getting the Hockey Hub up and running.

"I want to thank our public health units, hospital partners, and frontline health care workers for their leadership throughout this pandemic, as well as organizations like Bruce Power and their many partners, who have committed to supporting Ontarians through this vaccination effort," said Ford. "These organizations coming together with public health to establish this hub is a demonstration of the true Ontario spirit."

On Monday, Ford moved the initial re-opening of the province up three days to Friday, June, 11 due to the province-wide vaccination rate and continuing improvements in key health sectors.

"Thanks to the ongoing success of Team Ontario's vaccine rollout and the ongoing improvements in public health trends, we are able to enter step one of the Roadmap and begin to safely and cautiously lift restrictions," Ford said. "The only reason we're able to do so is because of the enormous sacrifices made by individuals, families and communities across Ontario. As we begin to enjoy the benefits of the first step in our roadmap like meeting friends on a patio or visiting your favourite local store, please do so safely by continuing to follow all public health guidelines."

For Step One of the re-opening, Ontario needed to have 60 per cent of adults with at least one dose of the vaccine for two weeks or longer and as of June 6, 72 per cent of adults in the province had received a dose—over 10 million doses have now been administered in Ontario.

As part of the Step One re-open, Ontario will now allow: outdoor social gatherings of up to 10 people; outdoor religious services (including weddings) capped at the number of people that can maintain a physical distance of two metres; non-essential retail is permitted at 15 per cent capacity with no restrictions on goods that can be sold; essential and other select retail is permitted at 25 per cent capacity; outdoor dining with up to four people per table, with exceptions for larger households; outdoor fitness classes, outdoor groups in personal training and outdoor individual/team sport training is to be permitted with up to 10 people; overnight camping at campgrounds and campsites.

The province will have to remain in Step One of the re-open for at least 21 days to evaluate the situation. If after 21 days the province has 70 per cent of adults with one dose and 20 per cent with two and sees improvement in key areas, it will move into Step Two.

"While we have reached the point where we can safely move into Step One, now is not the time to get complacent," said Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health. "We must all remain vigilant, as the fight against COVID-19 is not over. By continuing to follow public health advice and measures we can continue to reduce transmission, safeguard health system capacity and save lives."

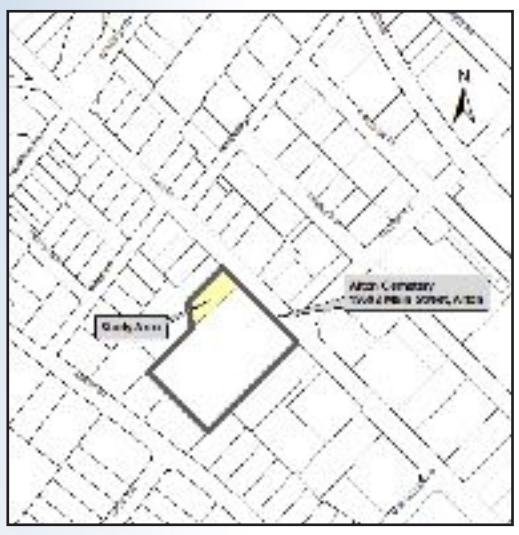
For more information on vaccine eligibility and booking a vaccine appointment in Peel visit peelregion.ca/coronavirus/vaccine/book-appointment/default.asp.



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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Alton Cemetery Study



The Town of Caledon is planning to replace the timber retaining wall at the Alton Cemetery located at 19692 Main Street, Alton.
The retaining wall is located at the north east boundary of the property and near cemetery plots.

In consultation with the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO), further information is needed, to be collected through a Stage 3 Archaeological Assessment (S3AA) to determine the actual location of the burial plots, as well as any unmarked plots that may exist.

The information will be used to better understand if any of the burial plots will be impacted as result of the project. The Town has identified 17 cemetery plots contained within the study area. However there may be additional unmarked burial spots.

This work is needed prior to the replacement of the retaining wall. Further notices will be issued which is dependent on the findings of this study.

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

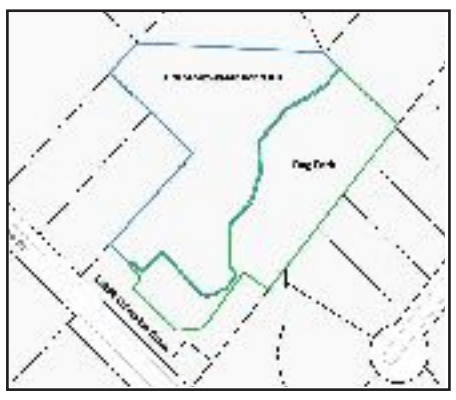
Ian Todhunter, P.Eng.
Senior Project Manager,
Town of Caledon
T 905-584-2272 x 4065
ian.todhunter@caledon.ca

This Notice Issued on May 27, 2021.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Bolton dog park and stormwater management facility design

Online public information centre



THE STUDY:

The Town of Caledon has initiated the rehabilitation of a stormwater management facility (Pond #16) and design of an adjacent dog park located at 12889 Coleraine Drive, Bolton.

A key component of the study is to have consultation with key stakeholders including the public, landowners and regulatory agencies to inform the preferred design.

Date: Thursday June 24, 6 – 7:30 p.m.
Attend the meeting online: Details coming soon

CONTACT:

Cassie Schembri
Senior Project Manager, Stormwater
Engineering Services
647-327-0060
cassie.schembri@caledon.ca

The study is following the Class Environmental Assessment Schedule A/A+ process in accordance with Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (October 2000, amended 2007, 2011, 2015). Information collected will be used in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection Privacy Act. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.



Missed Council?

Council Highlights are published on our website after every meeting, at **caledon.ca/councilhighlights**.

Coming Soon

JUNE

14 | General Committee, 6 p.m.
15 | General Committee, 2:30 p.m.
15 | Planning and Development Committee, 7 p.m.
16 | Committee of Adjustment, 1 p.m.
22 | Council meeting, 6 p.m.

For agendas, minutes, live stream and call-in details, visit **caledon.ca/agenda.**

Apply for a: Patio Permit

To help businesses open and recover, the Town has an expedited approval process for businesses who want to install a patio on their premises. If all conditions are met, approval can be as fast as 2 - 3 days. As well, Council has directed that regular permit fees for patios (and tents) be waived.

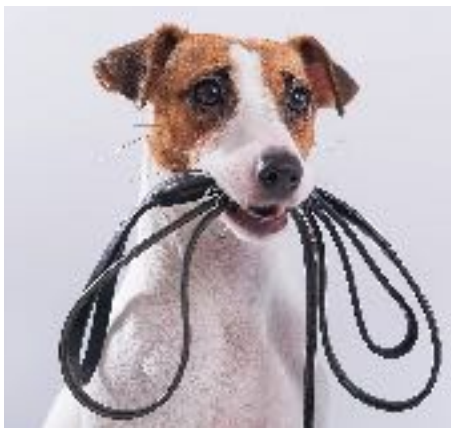
Apply now or call the Planning Department for more information: 905-584-2272 x.7338.

caledon.ca/patio

Take care of each other



Keeping your dog on a leash ensures safety for everyone



A friendly reminder from Animal Services: please keep your dog on a leash (unless they are on your property).

Visit Caledon's leash-free park at 12889 Coleraine Drive, just south of Healey Road in Bolton, right next to the Caledon Animal Shelter.

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Brock's Banter

Answering Calls to Action

BY BROCK WEIR

Since the discovery of the remains of 215 Indigenous children in the grounds of a Kamloops residential school, reaction from coast to coast, from First Nations and settlers alike, has been one of horror – but also of raising questions about what happens next.

Some were looking for words from the Prime Minister and the Pope to act as the next stone on a path to healing, but were undoubtedly left disappointed when their words offered little more than what has already been said.

"The sad discovery further raises awareness of the pains and sufferings of the past," said Pope Francis on Sunday. "May the political and religious authorities of Canada continue to collaborate with determination to shed light on that sad story and humbly commit themselves to a path of reconciliation and healing.

"These difficult moments represent a strong appeal for all of us to move away from the colonizing model and also from the ideological colonization of today, and walk side-by-side in dialogue, in mutual respect, and in the recognition of the rights and cultural values of all daughters and sons of Canada."

While the Government of Canada said the Pope's words were not enough, the Prime Minister offered some of his own just a few days earlier to mark the start of National Indigenous History Month.

"The recent, distressing news… is a painful reminder that the impacts of residential schools are still felt today," said the Prime Minister. "Sadly, this heartbreaking discovery is not an exception or an isolated incident. Over decades, thousands of Indigenous children were taken from families and communities, and everything was stolen from them. We must all unreservedly acknowledge this truth and address these historical and ongoing wrongs so we can build a better future.

"The government continues to work with Indigenous peoples to build a true nation-to-nation, Inuit Crown, government-to-government relationship – one based on the affirmation of rights, respect, cooperation, and partnership. We must continue to learn about and support various existing governments, laws, and traditions that govern Indigenous nations to help Indigenous peoples build capacity to implement their vision of self-determination."

While Mr. Trudeau noted investments made to "close gaps in housing, health and education" for Indigenous communities, the simple fact is it is not enough. One only needs to look as far as the lack of clean water in many Indigenous communities as well as lack of mental health care in the face of soaring suicide rates and other markers.

We saw several demonstrations take place over the past weekend in solidarity with our Indigenous peoples – some organized by First Nations individuals themselves and others by settlers – each with an individual message under a unified umbrella.

Images and videos depicting the topping of the statue of Egerton Ryerson from the Toronto university which currently bears his name might be the ones that stick in our collective consciousness from the last few days, but others had a simple message for everyone:

"We ask you to step forward and do something in solidarity with us," said Traditional Anishinaabe Grandmother Kim Wheatley of Turtle Clan, who carries the Spirit Name of Head or Leader of the Fireflower. "We need Canadians to become familiar with the TRC (Truth & Reconciliation Commission). It gave you 94 calls to action, something to do. If you haven't read it, I encourage you. It's free. Learn what was suggested in there because we knew this time would come. This is one of many discoveries that are going to turn up across the country."

The calls to action should be, at minimum, required reading to both spur action and also the asking of very important questions that need to be posed to the elected officials we task with providing the answers.

If you're a settler, finding some way to have a positive impact on reconciliation can seem like an overwhelming task, but it doesn't need to be.

Contained within the Calls to Action are several things individuals and governments can do to forge a better path ahead, including developing age-appropriate curriculum so students can learn what is so vital to know about residential schools, treaties and the historical and contemporary contributions Indigenous peoples have made to Canada.

That just one example offered by the Commission.

The development of youth programs with appropriate government dollars to deliver programs and services on reconciliation, along with the development of a national network of such groups to share best practices, is another.

Business leaders have been called upon to go into "meaningful consultation" to build "respectful relationships" with Indigenous peoples before going forward with economic development projects; to ensure that Indigenous peoples have equitable access to jobs; and provide education for management and staff on the realities of Indigenous history, including residential schools, for intercultural skills, conflict resolution, human rights and anti-racism policies.

Not exactly re-inventing the wheel.

But the gears in our governmental machinery move slowly – and needlessly so.

Was a Commission required to call on the Feds to acknowledge that Indigenous rights include language rights?

How about to recommend all levels of government to "enable residential school survivors and their families to reclaim names changed by the residential school system" by waving the costs currently in place for the name-change process?

Or that sustainable funding just might be needed to address the "physical, mental, emotional support, and spiritual harm" caused by ripping children from their families' arms to be placed in the residential school system?

Or that Indigenous healing practices might just have a place in determining the best health care path for Indigenous persons, should they request it?

Had the Calls to Action regarding education, calls that were not new to the TRC list, been heeded some time ago, the Commissioners might have had significantly less work cut out for them with education begetting action.

Perhaps, with sufficient education programs in place, vocal demonstrations over First Nations communities still being without a reliable supply of safe drinking water, not to mention tragically high suicide rates in these communities, would have been as loud and prominent as those related to getting fuel from Alberta's oil sands from Point B.

At the very least, a 10-minute read of the 94 Calls to Action – a lengthier read time if you choose to delve deeper, and you should – will indeed make you better equipped to ask questions, make informed decisions on the governments you want to represent you, and even inspire your own ideas on how, if I can borrow an expression born out of the pandemic, to build a nation of nations better.

For more, visit trc.ca/assets/pdf/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf.



Drastic changes coming to our vehicles



by Mark Pavilons

Innovative, luxurious, curated interiors.

Automated everything, sensors that sense, well everything.

There's no precise definition of "luxury car" and it all depends on personal taste. Some say it's an "indulgence that provides pleasure, satisfaction or ease."

I don't know if executives or designers at the major car manufacturers poll drivers about their wants and needs. Sure, it's a no-brainer that people want something stylish, even distinctive. But when it comes to the automobile, how much is flash, and how much is practical performance? How much is too much?

Personally, I need a dependable car that's safe, has good resale value and checks all the boxes.

Do I need a heated steering wheel? No. Do I need moving headlights that turn as I turn? I certainly don't need the $2,500 price tag to fix one! Do I need sensors that detect road noise? No. A panoramic sun roof that changes colour?

Here's a GM advertising blast from the past, since I actually owned this car, a 1970 Camaro RS: "... deeply contoured front buckets ... road-hugging stance ... more glass for super visibility ... with enough dials to make you think you're piloting a 707."

I would happily give up one of my non-vital organs for one of these again.

Classics like this had nothing in the way of technology. Front disc brakes were as good as it got. But these were steel machines, with strong, made-in-North America parts. You could creep into the engine bays and change anything you wanted. They had carburetors. Few had air conditioning. I rolled up my windows.

One of my cars, a 1973 Dodge Dart, had standard steering and brakes. Wasn't a big deal.

I always wondered why auto-makers have to revamp every make and model each year. I guess if you're buying a new car, you want it to be well, "new."

But just how many more options can car-makers squeeze into a four-door sedan?

I have a 2005 Buick Century with 52,000 km on the odometer. It's clean and solid. It still has a cassette deck, but also has a CD player! It's strong and dependable, and repairs are fairly reasonable. It's a decent size and boasts a V6 engine. It's safe.

Strangely enough, my son's 2004 Acura TL has more bells and whistles than I thought were available at the time. It has a leather interior, a sunroof, power everything and an innovative (for its time) navigation system. It even has bluetooth – unheard of back in 2004!

Automotive technology will continue to evolve exponentially in the next decade.

Almost every manufacturer around the globe is aiming to go fully electric within a decade.

That will change the personal transportation landscape forever.

And, with technological innovations comes private ingenuity, too.

Already, smaller electric vehicle producers are popping up, offering their spin on things. Those making electric bikes, scooters, even electric unicycles will get into the car game. There's no limit to what engineering, coupled with smaller, stronger batteries, can produce.

Also, many EV makers are already toying with flying vehicles – electric hovering craft and cycles; cars that turn into airplanes, car cabins that get snatched from their bases and taken across the city via electric helicopters.

We will likely not recognize the world by 2035, but we will have a lot of fun exploring it!

By end of the decade, I doubt we'll be seeing much in the way of 10-seater SUVs and monstrous pickup trucks.

No, my friends, we will no longer have fine Corinthian leather as an alternative (okay, that was a shout out to Ricardo Montalban).

No more horsepower giants and supercars that suck you back in those fine racing seats.

Our new electric people-movers will go back to basis. They will be much simpler.

I see them as larger, open cabin spaces, with seating for five or six, some with seats facing one another. They may have TV screens, wifi outlets and individual headsets. They will take you where you want to go with a simple voice command. They may even stop on the way and get you a drink at your favourite drive-through.

These quiet rides won't be spewing fossil fuel byproducts out of dual exhaust pipes. They won't growl and they won't blast music for the entire neighbourhood to hear.

They will be quiet, comfortable, safe and reliable.

Sure, they can be stylish but what's the point? Maybe one day we all join together in a bit of a conveyance revolution of sorts. We may all join the conga line of bubble-top people movers. Our roadways may resemble conveyer belts rather than actual hard surface lanes.

The gas-powered luxury imports and 1970s muscle cars will be even harder to get and maybe even less desirable. Why would someone want a 400-hp Chevelle SS when you can sit back, relax and be driven to work in your plexiglass hamster ball?

Okay, I will admit that car shows and drag strips may become quite boring in the distant future.

Maybe it's time to hide away any current gas-powered vehicle and bring it out of mothballs after the apocalypse.

Mad Max would be proud.

Our Readers Write

Let's turn down the temperature, says reader

In the 40s, 50s and 60s, Canada saw many immigrants coming from Italy, Portugal and the UK. And they immediately wanted to "fit in" with our Canadian ways, and they did.

In the past 40 years, most of the immigration is coming from Pakistan and various parts of India and these new Canadians are doing the exact same thing and wanting to fit in and are doing a great job.

They have incredible non-stop work ethics and are very friendly people.

Many of my friends are from various parts of India and they are great people that are so proud to be Canadian and real assets to Canada.

They also make us realize just how good we have it here in Canada.

But there was something else happening inside our own borders in the past 30 plus years; as we become more and more hi-tech, we are using social media to talk to a lot more people than ever, and sometimes not in a good way. So, we start hearing groups suggest we do not say Merry Christmas as it may offend some, then the wording of things being changed to be more inclusive to all, including our National Anthem. And as a Canadian with immigrant grandparents, I totally agree we need to welcome everyone, always.

And lately "cancel culture" – well, at 67, I have to say I am wondering if this isn't going a little too far.

As an ex-Peel Policeman, I realized things are never or rarely as they first appear. So, let's not point fingers so fast, wanting people to quiet or be fired where the media becomes the judge and jury without any facts or investigation yet.

I remember an Aboriginal Canadian saying the following: "Trees of every type grow side by side and under ground all the tree roots hold hands, so why can't we do the same?"

Let's all turn down the temperature a little, breathe, get to know your neighbors regardless of how they appear and stop pointing fingers and blaming people just because they are not exactly like you. Truth be known, they are possibly better than you!

BRIAN PERRAS
CALEDON

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Kudos to Caledon

SHERALYN ROMAN
TALK CALEDON



It's been a week of mostly good news from the front lines of the battle against COVID-19 and one could almost hear the collective sign of relief (and perhaps even a few whoops of joy) when the news of the slightly earlier reopening of patios was announced. It is, after all, patio season so to be able to actually leave our homes, head outdoors and enjoy a great meal and a beverage is long overdue. Given the short notice, however, and the fact that our poor personal services friends are STILL nowhere near opening, I predict a few of your friends might look a little different from the last time you saw them, please be kind! More importantly however, is the fact that so many of us can now go out and get our "second jab" and for most of us, that's the best news of all. Thanks to the Caledon East Community Centre vaccination clinic for once again rising to the occasion.

On the first day appointments were available for certain eligible groups, I had reason to be at the Caledon vaccination clinic twice. The fact that neither visit resulted in a vaccine dose for me was ok because two of the people I love most in the world needed it more and were able to get an appointment thanks to the computer prowess of the teenager in our house and having multiple browsers open on multiple devices! The results were appointments mid afternoon and later evening and a chance to see firsthand how the Caledon team was doing at delivering doses. Given the challenges faced on the first day of opening, kudos to the team for doing a great job.

Our first visit was a little more chaotic but we survived.

In the intense heat of the day, the line-up stretched beyond the borders of the building, around the back and was moving quite slowly. The multiple staff and volunteers we spoke to shared that the response to the online booking portal reopening was overwhelming. Visits based on registrations projected at a reasonable and manageable number suddenly skyrocketed to well over 1,000!

Despite the challenge this presented and what may have appeared frustrating to some, staff and volunteers wandered up and down the line offering water bottles to those who needed it, pre-screening folks and doing their best to ensure everyone was a comfortable as possible under the circumstances.

Inside was the same story.

We were directed every step along the way, by polite, smiling faces despite the significant degree of heat inside the building as well. Most of us felt some relief coming in from the outside, but once there and still standing (as a "caregiver" on both occasions I think I stood for about 4 ½ hours that day!) you began to realize it was pretty hot inside too. The nurses and clinic staff and volunteers all had on masks and face shields (obviously) and for each new injection were donning and doffing gloves that are hard to pull on even in ideal conditions. Perhaps some of you already work in these kinds of conditions but I was impressed that everyone was still so pleasant despite the heat, the challenges and the unexpected crowds.

The evening visit went a little smoother.

The line-up still stretched beyond the back of the building, in fact it was actually a little longer than in the afternoon but it was also moving a little faster. As I stood in line this time, I noticed first the cheerful voice and face of one of the same individuals I had seen earlier in the day, still walking up and down the line with a case of water, still joking and laughing with people and stopping to answer their questions. I had returned home, enjoyed some quiet time in the AC while I quickly had a bite to eat and travelled back again – but she was still there in all that heat and still pleasant! Inside we asked for a wheelchair to make the wait more comfortable and someone was quickly dispatched to find one. I could complain that one wasn't found but some WERE available. They were simply already in use and frankly, probably by folks who needed them more than we did. Thanks to a lovely lady right behind us in line however, a seat was found and she helped us again a few minutes later too – thank you kind lady, it was appreciated!

As I stood alongside the "patient," I had a chance to watch the same team of nurses, staff, security and volunteers who had been there all day working in the stifling heat, still provide great service with a smile. You can tell when people are smiling, even behind the mask. I watched as the poor nurse who came to us, struggled to put on her gloves in the sticky heat. While I'm not good at math, at 20 chairs per row and an average "time in the chair" of about 20 minutes per person you can imagine the turnover and how many times she had already taken those gloves on and off throughout the day and yet she still happily joked with us about it.

In the end, what struck me most is that while we have no doubt all been thinking about our health care workers throughout this crisis, chances are in our minds eye we focus on the critical ICU teams, the nurses and doctors in the emergency room and those caring for COVID-19 patients in hospital wards. What we may not think about is the many other teams of people who are doing their best, day in and day out, to aid in the fight. There are so many other nurses and doctors and paramedics and health care workers who are working at clinics like this one across the country, sometimes in the stifling heat like we experienced and for long, tiring shifts.

Locally, this team of health care workers are supported by Caledon town staff and management personnel, most of whom have likely never worked in this kind of environment before. These are town staff and management who have risen to the occasion and embraced a role they had no prep or training for and if you ask me, are doing a pretty darn good job under the circumstances. Kudos Caledon!

UFOs: The Silly Season Comes Early

GWYNNE DYER
OUR WORLD TODAY



The Silly Season has come early this year.

Normally it happens in August, when wicked people all over the northern hemisphere temporarily stop doing evil things to take their children to the beach and enjoy the last of the summer. With no bad news to report, desperate journalists will run any story, however silly.

Why is it Silly Season in June this year? Because the US Department of Defence has announced that it will release a report on "Unidentified Aerial Phenomena" (UAPs), which is what people who want to sound grown-up say instead of "Unidentified Flying Objects" (UFOs).

The only reason that UFOs/UAPs were such excellent media fodder in their heyday in the 1950s, and that they are making a comeback now, is the hope and/or fear that "the aliens are among us." "Flying saucers", in other words, controlled by aliens who may or may not be friendly.

There are rival, non-alien-related explanations, of course, but they all fail. For example, there is the hypothesis that these mysterious flying objects are really ultra-advanced Chinese or Russian technology being tested over the United States, but that's utterly implausible.

"Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic," as Arthur C. Clarke's Third Law puts it, but at no time in modern history have the major powers of this planet been that far apart in technology. Besides, one does not test one's most advanced flight technology over what is potentially enemy territory.

Then there are all the suggestions that the UFOs are optical illusions, meteorological phenomena or electromagnetic events. Most alleged UFO sightings undoubtedly do fit into one of those categories, but there is a residue of cases where no obvious explanation is available. However, that does not entitle us to assume that we are being watched by aliens.

I'm not saying that "aliens" don't exist. The fact that life has emerged on this planet shows at least the possibility that it exists on other planets too. Same goes for intelligent life and technological civilisations. And there are squillions of planets in the universe, so in theory there could be at least a few zillion civilisations.

On the other hand, there is the problem of the Great Silence. As physicist Enrico Fermi put it back in 1950: "Where is everybody?" The universe is very old, so if civilisations were common, and long-lived enough to develop and sustain interstellar travel, then they would have spread throughout the universe by now. Their existence would be obvious.

That is Fermi's "Paradox". It's seventy years old, and still unanswered. However, there is one chilling possibility that some experts do take seriously.

Conditions in the universe have been suitable for life for at least the past ten billion years, so the first civilisations might have emerged that long ago. Not necessarily anywhere near our own galaxy, but if even one civilisation cracked the problem of long-term survival, it could have spread throughout the universe in less than one billion years even without faster-than-light travel.

Would it subsequently allow rival civilisations to emerge, some of which would certainly be dangerous to it? Or would it constantly monitor planets with life to ensure that if any such rivals do emerge, it can destroy them before they became dangerous?

It's a far-fetched hypothesis, but it's completely rational and it would resolve Fermi's Paradox. Yes, the universe is full of life, but no, there are not a lot of civilisations: one of the earliest ones has been strangling all the others in their cradles for billions of years. And, of course, it avoids communicating by means detectable to dawn civilisations like our own.

I don't believe this is true, but it COULD be true. It would certainly provide a justification for the presence of an autonomous monitoring system set to report to home base about any emerging civilisation problem on Earth (and on a bajillion other planets with life) – or just to destroy the new civilisation automatically once it has crossed a certain threshold.

What I find completely incredible is the notion that such a ruthless, universal, billions-of-years-old civilisation would be monitoring us with devices that we can actually see. That does not compute.

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Belfountain church retains Heritage status after completion of steeple restoration project

BY ROB PAUL



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In Caledon there's a historical building located in Belfountain that has stood for over 130 years and falls under the Ontario Heritage Act, it's the Belfountain Village Church—a congregation that has existed for nearly two centuries.

Like any building that has stood as long as it has, work has to be done to maintain it, but unlike any regular old building, the work must be specific to keep its Heritage status.

After years of wanting to begin a restoration project on the steeple, the church finally was able to get to work.

For the church to retain its Heritage status, the project had to ensure that it stayed as close to what it looked like in the 1880s as possible, which was no small task according to Pastor Fred Dykes.

But thanks to a resilient church committee led by David Reed and the Heritage Society's Sally Drummond, it went off without a hitch.

"We started talking about doing this about five or six years ago, but quotes were such that we didn't have the money at the time, so gradually we'd look at it every year," said Dykes. "Then this year Dave started looking at it.

"I joined the church board about a year ago (early 2020) and pretty much right away the board members were talking about the restoration of the steeple," said Reed. "I took it upon myself with other board members and we worked together to renew the quote, and then I just said, 'Let's get on with it.' We happened to have enough funds in the bank, and we agreed as a board to proceed."

The Town of Caledon helped out on the project as well through one of its financial inactive programs: the Designated Heritage Property Grant Program. The program helps to preserve heritage and history in Caledon's community.

The grant helps fund conservation of properties that are designated under the Ontario Heritage Act like the Belfountain Village Church. Through the program the Town matches 50 per cent of eligible costs of renovation up to $4,000 to assist property owners with small to mid-size conservation projects that focus on the maintenance and rehabilitation of existing heritage attributes or the restoration of heritage attributes that would contribute to the cultural heritage value of the property.

"We've got a good relationship with the Town and with the Mayor (Allan Thompson) and the community has always supported us," said Dykes.

The biggest factor in making sure the church was able to get the project done the right way was getting connected with the Heritage Society and Dykes knew he had a loyal member of the congregation that would be vital to that piece of the puzzle.

"One of our guys, Alf Dolan is on the board of the corporation, and he's had a good relationship with the Heritage Society," Dykes said. "It was about five years ago when we were deemed Heritage and about four years ago, we painted the inside of the church and Heritage gave us some help at that time. Between Dave and I talking to Alf, he contacted them again about this project—they'd actually approved the steeple project four years ago in principle, but we didn't have the funds then."

"They wanted it very specific," said Reed. "It had to be the exact type of shingle used back in 1889—the same shape and material—and the colour scheme had to be the same as well."

Though the project had its challenges, the group is appreciative that they got it done the right way and thankful for contractor Evan Whittington of C H I Construction Limited in his efforts, especially with the specific 1,000 shingles the steeple needed.

"It was a bit overwhelming at the beginning because there was a debate about whether we really need to copy the shingles exactly the way it was in 1889," said Reed. "There were discussions of using more modern materials and cutting our costs by thousands of dollars, but it all came back to Heritage. If we wanted to truly be a Heritage building, then we have to bring it back to the way it was. There was a lot of debate internally and finally we said that we have to do it right and make sure we have the right materials and paint.

Continued on Page 17



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Environmental Assessment Study

NOTICE OF STUDY COMMENCEMENT
SUPPLY CAPACITY INCREASE FOR PALGRAVE WELL # 4

Background

The Region of Peel owns and operates the Caledon East/Palgrave Drinking Water System, a groundwater-based system, supplying drinking water to the communities of Caledon East, Palgrave, Palgrave Estates, Mono Road, Albion, Centreville, and Cedar Mills, in the Town of Caledon. The system is currently supplied by six (6) municipal groundwater sources located in Palgrave and Caledon East.

Class EA Study Process

A Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) study is being initiated to plan for the necessary upgrades/modifications resulting from a proposed increase in water taking capacity of the existing municipal production well, Palgrave Well #4, located at 9 Buckstown Trail. An increase of water taking of Palgrave Well #4 will provide additional supply capacity to the existing Caledon East/Palgrave Drinking Water System to meet the long-term water needs of the serviced area.

The Class EA study is being conducted according to the requirements of a Schedule 'B' project of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment document (October 2000, as amended in 2007, 2011 & 2015).

The purpose of the study is to evaluate and identify the preferred infrastructure improvements to the water supply system in the Caledon East/Palgrave Drinking Water System, specifically related to the water taking capacity increase at the existing Palgrave Well #4.



We will consult the public, review agencies, Indigenous Communities and First Nations Groups throughout the Class EA study. A Public Information Centre (PIC) will be held in association with this study. Notices for the PIC will be published in local newspapers, on the Region's website at peelregion.ca/public-works/environmental-assessments/#current and distribute to all individuals who express an interest in this project.

How to stay involved

We are interested in hearing from you about this project. Please contact either of the project team members below if you have questions or comments, wish to obtain more information on the project, or would like to be included on the Project Contact List.

Erin Ihnat
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CIMA+
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This notice was first issued on June 10, 2021.

With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record of the study. This study is being conducted according to the requirements of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment, which is a planning process approved under Ontario's Environmental Assessment Act.

Victory House project making strides as its Victory Lap store prepares for re-opening

Continued from FRONT

(Valliere, Paul Reader, Debra Tigchelaar, and Al Tupper).

With over 50 volunteers, the goal is to provide each woman at Victory House with coaching and a program designed to their own personal needs in areas such as budgeting, housing, legal support, childcare, resume building, or further education.

Women at Victory House, and those who graduate from it, will also have the ability to support one another through group work that looks at each individual's personal journey.

The entire purpose is to be the shoulder to lean on for the women who need it most in the Caledon community while empowering them to change their lives.

To help with the fundraising for Victory House, the group purchased Victory Lap Emporium, hoping to use the store as a way for community members to lend a helping hand by donating household items to be sold to benefit the project.

It hasn't been easy getting the Victory Lap store up and running with the constant changes and restrictions during the pandemic, but when they are ready to open again, Valliere thinks they'll be rolling thanks to the donations they've been receiving.

"We picked up the keys and took possession of the store on November 11 and two weeks later we went into shutdown so we couldn't open," she said. "Then earlier this year we did open with curbside for a few weeks and then we started an online store, but it was just too difficult to do.

"People were concerned about coming to the store, so that time around with the online store it was a little tougher, [and] we didn't really get into that. We are looking to do an online auction in the meantime somehow. We're trying to get people who know what to do with that because the biggest part of putting on an auction is getting the goods to put in the auction, and we have a store full of them."

As Ontario begins to re-open with its first phase starting June 11, the hope is that people will be allowed to do in-store shopping at Victory Lap as soon as next week.

"We're hoping we'll hear in the next little bit that we'll be able to be back to being open and that we can perhaps have up to five people in the store shopping, as well as one or two in the store who are volunteering in the store, but we won't know for sure what we can do until they tell us," she said.

Valliere says she is excited for what they'll be able to offer shoppers at Victory Lap, especially considering it's all for a good cause at the end of the day and will help lay the groundwork for what they hope becomes a staple of the Caledon community in Victory House





Victory House's new Victory Lap Emporium is well-stocked and ready to welcome customers as soon as circumstances allow.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"The whole purpose of the Victory Lap Emporium is to support Victory House," she said. "The plan was to open the store after we were up and running, but last year we figured there's a store here and it makes sense to open it now. We opened it and filled it within two weeks. There's been so many generous people donating and all kinds of beautiful things. We don't have a lot of space, so we don't have a lot of furniture and it's more of a focus on clothing and upper end house wear things."

It's been nearly seven months since the official opening of the store and despite not being able to consistently make sales during the pandemic, Valliere says they've benefited in other ways thanks to all the donations from the community.

"We had to shut the doors so there was nothing we could do, and of course it's frustrating, but you know what, we've been able to do a lot of different things behind the scenes," she said. "We actually had to shut off taking any more donations, that's how full the store is. Normally it's not a big enough store to take furniture, but we've even taken some—we've got some beautiful antique benches. We've got lots of high-end things—dinnerware, crystal. Anybody that comes into the store can't believe it and they go, 'Oh, I didn't expect it to look like this.'"

As the Victory House project continues, they're making substantial progress and though there's no firm date of when everything will be up and running, the re-opening of Victory Lap will only help accelerate the work.

"We're hopefully close to coming to the final part of our construction at Victory House in the two-bedroom bridge house that we're doing," she said. "It's a two-bedroom apartment that we're renovating in the existing house on the property at Caledon Hills Fellowship Baptist Church before we get into the big stone building. This is a way to get it going and get a couple of women in to get it started."

Even if they haven't been to be open frequently throughout the pandemic, it's been a positive and overwhelming experience with the sheer number of volunteers who have been looking to help where they can with the store.

"When we were open for the few weeks, we could have two people in the store volunteering at a time and we were open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and we were so blessed with so many people coming in to volunteer. So many people wanted to volunteer in the store to be a part of it and help Victory House become a success.

"We have a woman who has taken on the responsibility of the volunteers, and she has people coming to us all the time asking what they can do to help—we've been very happy with the support. We just look at it as a gift from God that he knows when he wants this to happen and how, so if we just listen and wait and be patient it will happen."

For more information on Victory House or to volunteer visit thevictoryhouse.ca/ and for more information on Victory Lap Emporium visit victory-house.square.site/.

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Former Central York Panthers forward commits to Queen's University

BY ROBERT BELARDI

Maple native and former Central York Panthers forward Sophie Hudson confirmed on May 20 she will be attending Queen's University next year.

Hudson will be a part of the university's hockey program while studying both math and engineering, a discipline special to Queen's.

Hudson weighed out multiple options before confirming her decision to remain in the country.

"I had a bunch of other offers from schools, mostly in Canada. Before this past year I was deciding if I wanted to go to the United States and play in the NCAA. Ultimately, with COVID and a lot of uncertainty with eligibility with girls having to endure gap years due to lack of spots, I ended up choosing to stay in Canada," Hudson said.

"My sister goes to Queen's. I have gone to visit her many times and when I went I met with the coach and he showed me around the facility and the campus. I thought that was the place to be."

Growing up, Hudson initially began dancing along with her older sister. As she continued pursuing her love for dance, her younger brothers came of age to be enrolled in hockey.

She watched in the early hours of the morning her brother skate and practice. She knew she wanted to be enrolled in it, too. She skated with her brother's team a few times; however, she joined the Aurora Panthers (now Central York) shortly after to play the sport full-time in a girls' league.

Hudson most notably idolized one of Canada's most prolific hockey stars in Hayley Wickenheiser. She even took it upon herself to write her name on the back of a standard team Canada sweater.

"I wanted to be able to wear her number," Hudson laughed.

"I was walking around with a taped 'Wickenheiser'; I don't think I even spelt it right. It was the best I could get."

As Hudson continued to work on her game and as she approached the bantam years, she made an appearance for the Mississauga Chiefs in the PWHL scoring a goal in her lone spell.

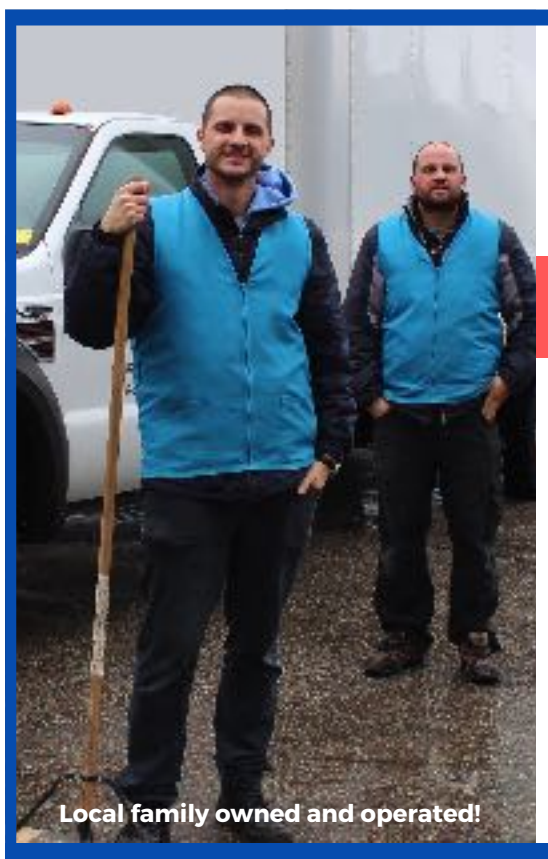
She stayed within the Mississauga Chiefs program honing her craft and eventually moved to the Toronto Aeroes Midget AA program under head coach Dave Gwyn. When Gwyn left the program most of the girls on his team followed and they all met up with the Durham West Jr. Lightning. There she knew what the best part of her game is.

"I'm able to be the biggest person on the ice. It's difficult to push me off the puck because of how tall I am. It's tough to do that without a long reach," Hudson said.

"The best part of my game is playing below the goal-line in the offensive zone with the puck. Just to stand in front of the net and be able to be in tight and pull the puck around the goalie. I think that's how I scored most of my goals last year," Hudson said.

Hudson says she needs to work on stops and starts in the defensive end. She loves playing on the penalty kill and blocking shots as well.

She says she can't wait to get to Queen's and go to university with her sister, who is at the university now.



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York United signs on four new players

BY ROBERT BELARDI

York United have brought on four new players ahead of the club's official roster for the upcoming season that was unveiled last week.

Brampton native Jordan Faria, Toronto native Terique Mohammed, Mexico native Osvaldo Ramirez and Dominican Republic player Gerard Lavergne were all announced to the team via Instagram.

Faria, a 20-year-old midfielder who has made international appearances with Canada is also a Toronto FC Academy product. With Toronto FC academy, Faria participated in 32 games scoring seven times. With Toronto FC II in the USL, Faria appeared in 32 games scoring twice.

Mohammed, a 21-year-old defender who grew up in Scarborough, carries over quite the resume coming to York United.

Another one of Toronto FC Academy's graduates, Mohammed was a part of Toronto FC III and II teams before joining FC Edmonton on loan in the inaugural season of the Canadian Premier League. He later joined Dundalk F.C. in Ireland this past year and saw a loan spell to Athlone Town before securing a move back home with York United.

Mohammed has also appeared for the national team at the U-17, U-20 and U-23 levels.

The 22-year-old Santo Domingo native Gerrard Lavergne will be a player with senior national team experience in the midfield. So far, Lavergne has made 10 appearances with the Dominican Republic national side since 2018.

He began his pro career with Cibao in the Dominican Republic from 2015-2018. Following a few spells with other local clubs, he landed a deal in 2021 with FC Tucson in the USL League One. Now, he officially signed with York United with a club option for 2022.

The final player who also has a club option for 2022 is Osvaldo Ramirez. The 24-year-old forward made appearances for Cancun FC and Liga De Expansion MX before signing with York.

With the roster being finalized and announced, there are a total of 18 Canadian players on the team and five international players.

Most of the roster remains the same as Michael Petrasso and Dominick Zator returned from their loan spells in Europe.

York did send off other players on loan for the time being seeing off Sebastian Gutierrez, Lisandro Cabrera, Mateo Hernandez and William Wallace to other clubs.

Last week, it was announced that Winnipeg, MB will be the bubble location for this 28-game schedule this season.

York United will take on Cavalry FC on June 27 at 5 p.m. EST.

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Caledon East Community Centre expansion project set to break ground in 2021

BY ROB PAUL



Artists' concepts of the CECC expansion.

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On Tuesday, Council met with Director of Community Services Heather Savage regarding the Caledon East Community Centre (CECC) expansion plan.

Council passed a motion to accept the plan presented by Ms. Savage.

On staff recommendation, the Town will enter into a Guaranteed Maximum Price Contract with Ball Construction Limited for $25,019,347 for the expansion of the CECC—the total addition to the expansion is 57,600 square feet.

The catalyst for the project was the Parks and Recreation Master Plan that was undertaken in 2010 by Caledon Community Service that recognized Caledon East as a growing area with a need for future expansion plans to the CECC to accommodate new residents.

In 2018, a capital project was approved by Council to expand the CECC, which began with renovation to the Centre—now completed—as its Phase 3 and, after consultation with residents, the final phase of the project was added to the scope in 2020.

The focus of Phase 3 was adding an active living component (fitness rooms, aerobic space, multi-purpose rooms) with Phase 4 looking at including an indoor aquatic centre.

"We're now at the point where the project is now ready for final Guaranteed Maximum Price Contract Approval," said Savage. "In the ground floor (plan) you'll see a library, gymnasium, work out room, a pool, change rooms, and prominent Caledon Service counter. On the second floor, there's a warm viewing area into the arena, multi-purpose rooms, and the Sports Hall of Fame will be in the corridor that lines the two arenas. In the lower level, there will be a food service area to support all of the activities that are going on. The building will be built out front of the two arenas that will be behind it. At this point 90 per cent of the design has been completed."

With feedback from Council, community members, and local stakeholders, the current expansion project was developed with a goal of providing recreational amenities for all ages, abilities, and interest. With the added amenities, the CECC will be able to support a wider range of recreational programs, services, events, and community groups as Caledon East continues to grow and diversify.

To help beautify the outdoor look of the CECC, Savage ensured improved landscaping through defined paths, more trees, and an outdoor reading garden.

"We want to line the entrance with sugar maples to provide a nice view of the landscaping coming into the Town Hall campus," Savage said. "There will be a pedestrian connection from Old Church Road to the Caledon Trailway and a pedestrian walkway connecting Town Hall to the complex."

An amendment to the motion regarding the CECC expansion was brought forward by Councillor Nick deBoer asking that there be consideration of adding a permanent rink, which could be used for lacrosse and ball hockey in spring/summer, to the project and the amendment was passed.

The amendment asks staff to determine the feasibility, costs and potential efficiencies associated with constructing an outdoor ice surface.

Councillors Jennifer Innis and deBoer said they had heard from members of the community about the potential of introducing a permanent rink as part of the expansion after recent successes of temporary rinks.

"Over the pandemic it was quite obvious that the two rinks we brought in on the site were very well used and very well appreciated," said Innis. "Nick and I have been asked by members of the community to bring forward the option of potentially putting a permanent outdoor rink there."

Additionally, Mayor Thompson asked about the potential of using the equipment from the two seasonal outdoor rinks that were part of the site for the use of more rural areas in Caledon.

"I think it would be a really cool thing to do," said Thompson. "I want to make sure we utilize everything."

"We would take the boards from the two outdoor rinks and travel them around to the rural communities, if they're not located here," said Savage. "We're looking at a few different options. We could take the boards and synthetic ice and travel them around Caledon."

With the emphasis being put on supporting local in Caledon, Councillor deBoer asked if as part of the expansion project as many local businesses are utilized as possible and whether a potential program could be put together to ensure it happens.

He used an example of making sure an electrical contractor who lives or works in Caledon knows about the tendering opportunity for electrical work on the project.

"We're currently looking at a social procurement policy that would look at some of those features, making sure that we are using local vendors and supporting Canadian content," said Town Treasurer Heather Haire. "We're bringing a memo forward this fall and we'll discuss it as part of the procurement process that we'll need more time to investigate and implement those policies. You need the overarching policy and framework in place before implementing it and we can certainly report back on if it's possible with this procurement."

Taking into account the goal of being carbon neutral by 2050, the project is designed in accordance with the new green building standard developed by Energy and Environment. This is something Mayor Thompson said he was glad to hear is being prioritized and added that there needs to be as much natural light use as possible in the facility.

"We're spending a lot of money here and I just want to make sure we're meeting that carbon footprint while we're doing it," said Thompson. "We're encouraging industry to do it and we've got to lead by example."

Thompson also wanted to ensure that value added engineering would be included within the contract to help with reducing environmental impacts and cost.

"We will breakdown each of the pieces and determine what is the right fit for the building," said Savage. "If there's a way to maximize efficiencies or one amenity that will support another amenity—if something within the gymnasium or arena can support in the mechanical efforts in other parts of the building, then we will be looking at that and bringing it forward."

Seeing a large community project years in the making like the CECC expansion had Council excited for what's to come as Caledon continues to grow and develop.

"I think it's pretty exciting," said Councillor Christina Early. "I don't even think it's a Ward 3 project, it's a Town of Caledon community centre with everything. It's a campus that's just going to be phenomenal."

With the approval of the project by Council, building permits will be submitted in July, followed by the construction phase in August with the target of the final project completion in the first quarter of 2024.

"Hopefully by this summer we can have a groundbreaking ceremony, provided we can gather safely," said Savage.

Currently the CECC is being used as a mass vaccination clinic which will still be in use upon the start of construction for the project. The construction will be managed in a way that doesn't disrupt the use of the clinic or other recreational services that are open.

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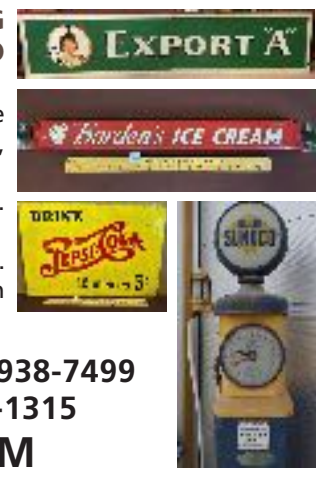
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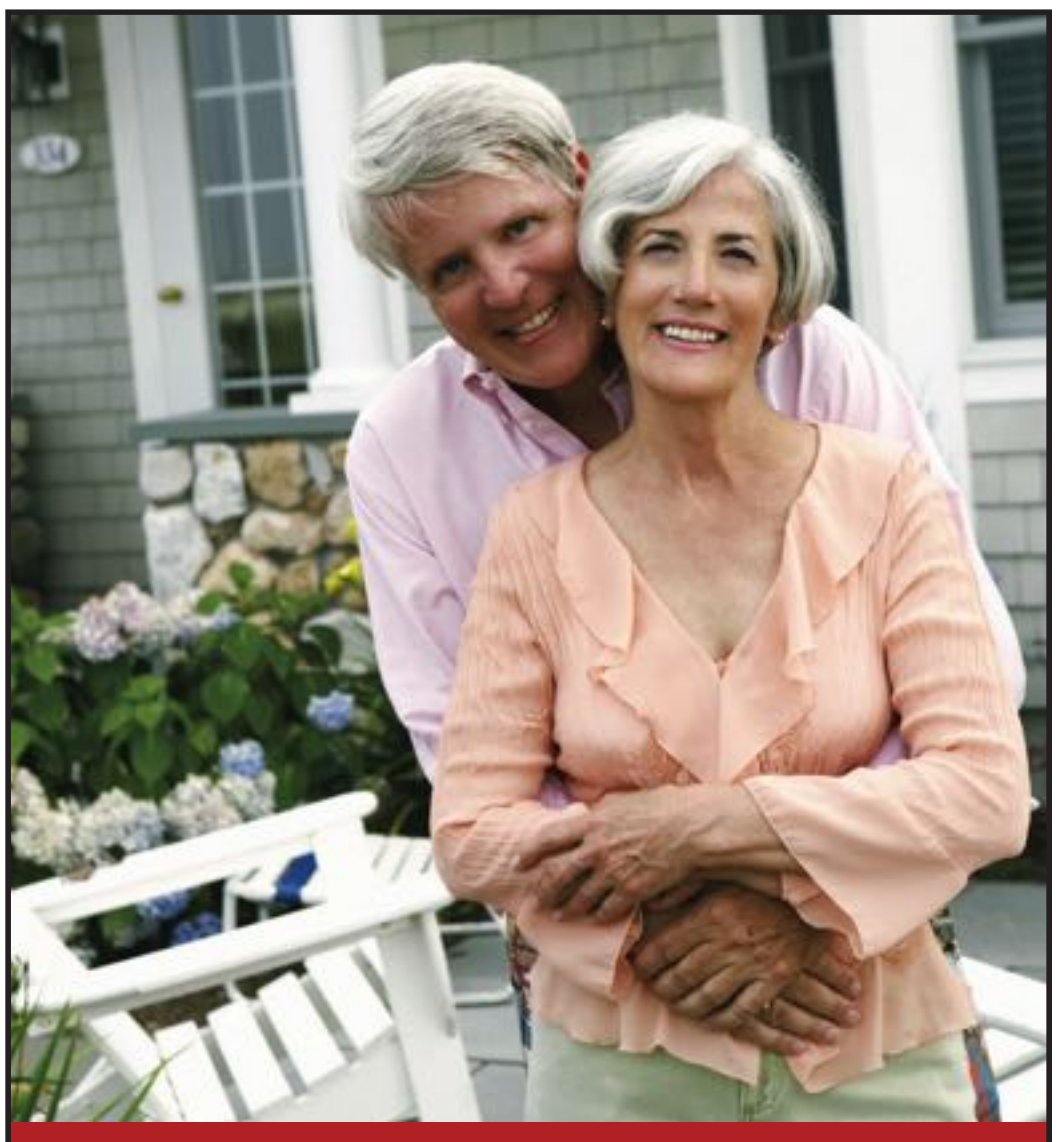
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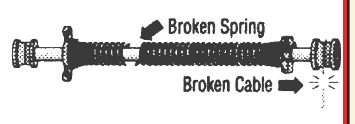
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COMMUNITY RESPONSE HELPING TO KEEP ROADS SAFE: POLICE

Continued from Page 4

As a result, Ramnik Bhullar, 25, of Brampton, was charged with:

- Operation while impaired - BAC over 80 mg
- Driving while under suspension
- Driving motor vehicle with cannabis readily available
- Driving motor vehicle with liquor readily available
- Fail to comply with an order made during a declared emergency

The charges have not been proven.

On May 30, at approximately 7:05 p.m., CRU officers were conducting another RIDE spot check on Forks of the Credit Road.

"While at the RIDE spot check, a Mandatory Alcohol Screening demand to provide a roadside breath sample was made on one of the drivers. As a result, the driver was placed under arrest and transported to the Caledon OPP Detachment, where further tests were conducted."

Jason McCutcheon, 51, of Aurora, stands charged with:

- Operation while impaired - BAC over 80 mg
- Driving while under suspension

The charges have not been proven.

All three accused parties are expected to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on August 12, 2021, to answer to the charges.

On Tuesday, June 1, 2021, a member of the Caledon Community Response Unit from the Caledon OPP Detachment conducted a traffic stop of a passenger van while on patrol along Highway 10.

Police investigation revealed that that there were 15 occupants inside the van; many of the occupants were not wearing seatbelts. The van had a maximum seating capacity for a driver and 10 passengers

As a result, a 61-year-old driver from North York, was charged with Driving a Motor Vehicle - Improper Class Licence and Unsafe Vehicle due to the fact that the van had inoperable brakes.

The charges have not been proven.

The licence plates were seized and the vehicle was towed from the road.

WATER THEFT

On Saturday, May 29, 2021, at approximately 8:20 a.m., uniformed members from the Caledon OPP Detachment, responded to a theft in progress call for service on Sloan Drive in the Town of Caledon.

The complainant in the matter advised that two individuals were pumping water illegally from an unpermitted and unmetered hydrant. The parties were wearing "Region of Peel" safety vests and operating a cargo van at the time. The complainant became suspicious and called police.

As a result of the police investigation, Gurdeep BAINS, 33, of Barrie, and Savraj GILL, 32, of Brampton, were charged with Theft under $5,000.

Both accused parties are scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on August 12, 2021, to answer to the charges.

The charges have not been proven.

Belfountain church retains Heritage status

Continued from Page 10

"So, we decided to stop talking about it and just get it done. The contractor was a great help and he had to hand-cut each shingle to make sure it was right. He started the process of cutting in mid-March and once he had them cut, he had to prime and paint both sides, it was a process in just all the prep work."

Keeping the Heritage status was always a goal despite the extra work that would go into the project says Dykes, because he knows just how important it is to uphold the history of the community.

"I think it was important to the community because it's a landmark in the community," said Dykes. "From that aspect, it was important because we didn't want it changed and there's a lot of nostalgia there The church has been a part of Belfountain for 187 years. It's a beautiful church and we didn't want it to be bought or torn down and we want to continue to be there."

For now, services are done online via Zoom every Sunday at 10 a.m., but Dykes has seen his effort in growing the church pay off in recent years and views the completion of the project as an exclamation point on the church's recent successes.

"It feels good that it's done," Dykes said. "It's a mission of accomplishment in many ways because six years ago the congregation itself wasn't very big – we were down to just a few people – and they were even thinking of closing the church. I came on board in 2015 and we started building the congregation. Prior to COVID, we were averaging about 60 or so on a Sunday. Well, five years ago we were averaging about 10 to 15. Since COVID, our congregation has actually expanded to about 100 with people joining online. So, the congregation is growing, and the church is growing.

"The restoration project is one of many [indicators] showing that the church is vibrant, and we give back by hosting many activities through the year. We host the annual Belfountain community organization fall fair every September, an end of the year picnic in June for the whole community, and we have a relationship with the school—we're the emergency spot for the school, so every year when they do a drill, we host a barbecue for them. I think we have a good relationship with the community and even though we didn't fundraise for this people did donate towards it. When we do get back into doing regular services after COVID, we'll do a dedication and celebration for the new steeple and the things we've accomplished in the past year."

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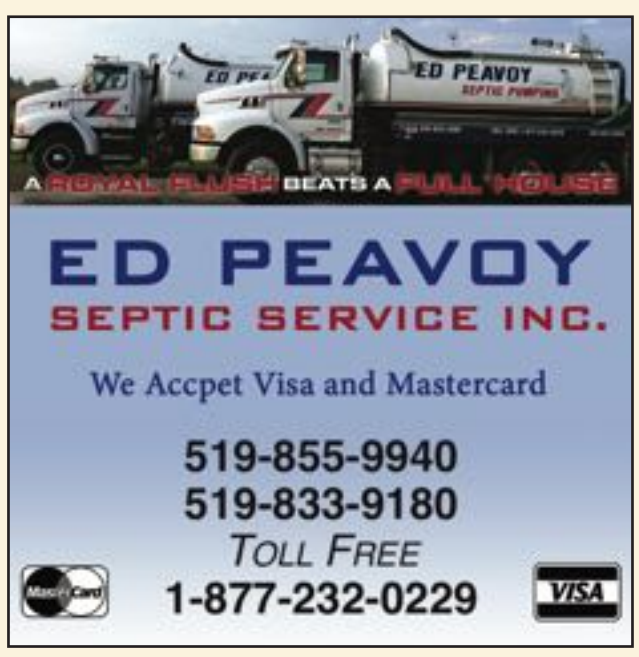


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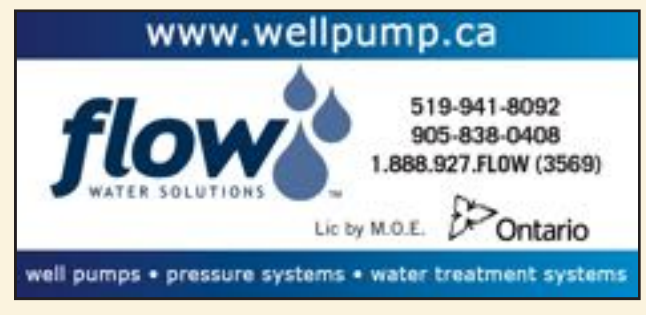




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