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FREE | Thursday, August 26, 2021 | Volume 41, Issue 34



Mayor Allan Thompson, left, and Ward 2 Councillor Christina Early, right, present Joe Gray with the Town's Community Champion Award, a recognition of his tireless volunteerism.
PHOTO COURTESY OF THE TOWN OF CALEDON

Gray honoured by Town as Community Champion after decades of volunteering

BY ROB PAUL

part of its annual Community Recognition Awards, the Town of Caledon is honouring 40 outstanding volunteers whose efforts have made a significant impact towards the development and advancement of recreational sports, arts and culture, environmental leadership or community and social services.

"This is our opportunity to celebrate and thank the outstanding people that truly make us #CaledonProud," said Mayor Allan Thompson. "From volunteers to athletes to artists and beyond they, in their own ways, help build and enrich our community."

In a normal year, the Town hosts a Community Recognition Night to present the awards, but the event was cancelled in 2020. Now with the province opening up, the Mayor and Council have been meeting with recipients to safely present the awards.

The Community Champion award is the highest honour the Town gives out to a volunteer and the recipient is chosen from among all the nominees by the Selection Committee based on the significance of their community involvement and years of service.

The 2020 Community Champion award went to lifelong volunteer Joe Gray.

Gray has spent decades volunteering for different organizations across Peel.

"I really appreciate being honoured with this; it felt unbelievable when they phoned me and told me," he said. "You do it because you have a passion for the things you do, and I just have a great passion for it. As I said to one person, 'Some days you couldn't pay me enough to do what I did, but it's really rewarding to help others.'"

Continued on Page 13

Caledon Music Festival returns in September

BY ROB PAUL

After a year without in-person concerts, the Caledon Music Festival is making its return this September.

On September 10 and 12, Alton Mills Art Centre will play host to two classical music concerts.

It's an event that will bring lovers of classical music together in celebration of the art and of the return of live music. The music festival has been a mainstay in Caledon for years, but the performers and organizers are extra-excited this year having not been able to run the normal event in 2020.

Artistic Director Emily Rho says the reason organizers and performer love this particular event so much is because it is a community-driven event.

"The music festival started awhile back, in 2013, under the name, Belfountain Music Festival," Rho said. "The original founders' mission was to bring live music to the community and one of the most important things was to include community members as part of the performance at the festival. Community members being students who were interested in music or amateur musicians—it's always been the mission to bring people together through music."

Continued on Page 17

It is hard to fathom that in Ontario, in the 21st Century, 40% of indigenous communities have to boil their water to make it safe.
We are not here to point fingers nor lay the blame, we want to help address the problem.
See Page 7 for more details.

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CPCC nature walk series underway as group expands in-person programming

BY ROB PAUL

Throughout the pandemic, Caledon Parent-Child Centre (CPCC) has been focused on helping child development through virtual programming.

Now, as things have opened up for the summer, they've been moving forward with in-person programming.

As part of the return to in-person programming, CPCC has begun hosting a rotating nature walk series in Caledon parks on Mondays in August. The first walk took place August 16 at Bolton Camp and the second walk August 23 in Southfields at Newhouse Park.

The final walk will be Monday, August 30 at Caledon East Park and CPCC Manager of Community Relations and Volunteers Shelly Ives says the walk's success is due in part to the Toronto Region Conservation Authority.

"It's a joint project between ourselves and the TRCA, and we've been partnering with them on and off for quite some time—especially with COVID—they did a wonderful program called the forgetful elves back in December and we were one of the community organizations that worked with them," she said. "When we started to do our outdoor programs in the park, we reached out to them and put our heads together and came up with the idea of doing these nature walks with the moms in the area.

"We picked three locations and decided we would do them on Mondays in August. We set it up so that we're sort of sharing the planning and responsibility for the event. We do the registration and anybody who registers through the TRCA site is sent to us and we do all the COVID screenings in advance. Then the families meet us there and TRCA leads the walk, and our staff accompany them. When we get back our staff does a story time and sings some songs before the end of the walk."

With the pandemic slowing summer activities for kids, the nature walk has been able to provide them with the chance to get out of the house into new places and learn about the environment while having some fun.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"It's been going very well," she said. "The first walk we had a full house and we've had a lot of interest and a lot of people trying to get involved. Families who went the first week have been calling to come again. It's been a great opportunity for them to see different stuff, most of the families know the parks nearby their houses, but Bolton Camp isn't somewhere you go everyday—it's a bit of a different environment.

"And, the TRCA staff has been wonderful. They're really good at pointing out little things that are happening in the environment and nature, so it's great from that perspective as well. It gives the little guys the chance to learn. We've been very fortunate with the weather too. We will definitely be talking with TRCA after we're finished with this series and talking with them about other ways, we can collaborate on things like this."

Being able to get back to in-person programming has been a big boost to moral and Ives knows families have been really appreciative of the opportunity to get their kids involved in activities again.

"The families are really enjoying it and staff is too," she said. "We're so grateful to be back in touch with the families and to be able to actually see them in person. Every summer we usually do park programs; this year instead of the park, we have our new site in Caledon East and our new site in Southfield, so we're doing outdoor programs there. We're also doing outdoor programs at Dick's Dam once a week. We've been really enjoying seeing families there too and we hope to continue to do that as long as the weather holds into the fall."

Although it wasn't ideal circumstances, the pivot to virtual programming has accelerated CPCC's plans to add an online option and that will continue even as they increase the in-person programming to the level it was at pre-pandemic.

"Our biggest challenge early on—going back to last summer—was transitioning in-person programming into a virtual and online format," she said. "Now we've got that going nicely and we'll continue with that. We always had planned to do virtual programming, just the pandemic brought it on a little sooner. We're hoping in September that we'll be able to transition back into indoor programs as well, in a very careful way. We don't have a date yet, but that's coming down the road. Virtual will keep going though for a couple reasons, because we always planned it and now that it's going, why would we stop it? It's great for families that maybe have a new baby and the schedule is tougher, they can always pop on."

The next step in the process of returning to normal is getting back to indoor programming, says Ives, and though there's no set date for when that will happen, she thinks it will be sooner rather than later.

"We've talked to a lot of families who are really excited to get back to indoor programming so we're really working hard to get that going again as well," she said. "Right now, it's about balance, we all want to get back to indoor programming, but we need to make sure that everybody is safe. But we can see light at the end of that very long tunnel now."

Now with CPCC revving up its programming, Ives encourages families in the area to connect with them and take advantage of what they have to offer.

"If families are interested in learning more about our programming and what we're doing they can always visit our website (www.cp-cc.org)," she said. "We have a calendar up there that always lets people know what's going on, or they can call the Centre and speak with someone. And if they're experiencing parenting challenges or looking for services in the community, they can always call us at the Centre (905-857-0090)."

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Dr. Loh won't rule out potential proof-of-vaccine policy as cases rise

BY ROB PAUL

With the start of the school year under two weeks away, Peel continues to see a rise in COVID-19 cases.

The total case count in the Region has now reached 113,319 with 594 new cases since last week, after having just 275 new cases the previous week.

There has also been a rising mortality rate with Peel's death toll now at 922, 29 of which came in the last week.

In Caledon, the case count also continues to rise as the total has now hit 4,586 with 60 new cases since last week—that's nearly double the previous weeks new case count of 32. There has been one additional death to bring the Town to 22 fatalities attributed to the virus.

Peel Medical Officer of Health Dr. Lawrence Loh previously stated that August 24 is the last day for students to receive their second dose of the vaccine to ensure full protection upon returning to school. The vaccine coverage for those 12 and older in Peel has continued to steadily increase with 82.7 per cent having received at least one dose and 73.1 per cent being fully vaccinated.

With vaccine policies being a hot topic, at a press conference in Brampton City Hall on Wednesday, Loh didn't rule out the potential of implementing a proof-of-vaccine policy in the Region if the Province doesn't enact one.

"In the short-term, vaccine certificates can help reduce transmission and limit risks for those who are unvaccinated in settings where precautions cannot be maintained persistently," Loh said. "One thing that is consistent throughout our investigation is individuals who have not received two doses of the vaccine are at the greatest risk of infection and severity, notably hospitalization."

The Region has now administered 2,281,786 doses of the vaccine—26,812 in the last seven-day cycle (August 16 to 22). In total, 1,243,185 residents have received their first dose and 1,038,601 have been fully vaccinated.

In all of Peel, 72 per cent of residents have one dose and 63.5 per cent have completed the vaccination process. 83.1 per cent of residents 18 and older have one dose coverage and 73.8 per cent have full coverage.

"It's very clear the vaccination is working," said Loh. "It's safe, effective, and it reduces the risk of infection and greatly diminishes the risk of severe outcomes."

To book a vaccine in Peel, visit www.peelregion.ca/coronavirus/vaccine/book-appointment.



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LOADED FIREARMS SEIZED

Officers from the Caledon OPP Detachment charged four individuals and recovered two loaded firearms after reports of a suspicious activity in Bolton.

"On Tuesday, August 17, 2021, at approximately 12:47 p.m., uniformed officers from the Caledon OPP Detachment responded to reports of a suspicious activity on Willow Street in Bolton," say Police. "As a result of the police investigation, several individuals were arrested and a loaded firearm was located.

"Members of the Caledon OPP Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU) further assisted with the investigation and executed a search warrant at a residence on Willow Street and located a second loaded firearm."

As a result, a 17-year-old youth from Brampton, has been charged with:

- Unauthorized possession of a firearm
- Possession of a loaded restricted firearm
- Carrying concealed weapon
- Weapons dangerous
- Possession of a firearm contrary to Prohibition Order
- Obstruct Peace Officer
- Breach of recognizance

The accused was held for a bail hearing and will appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on a later date to answer to the charges.

The charges have not been proven.

Jahqwan Bucknor, 19, Brampton, stands charged with:

- Possession of property obtained by crime under $5,000 - two counts

The charges have not been proven.

Terrance Timm, 18, of Toronto, has been charged with:

- Obstruct Peace Officer
- Failure to comply with undertaking
- Failure to comply with release order

The charges have not been proven.

A 16-year-old youth from Brampton stands charged with:

- Fail to comply with probation order

The charge has not been proven.

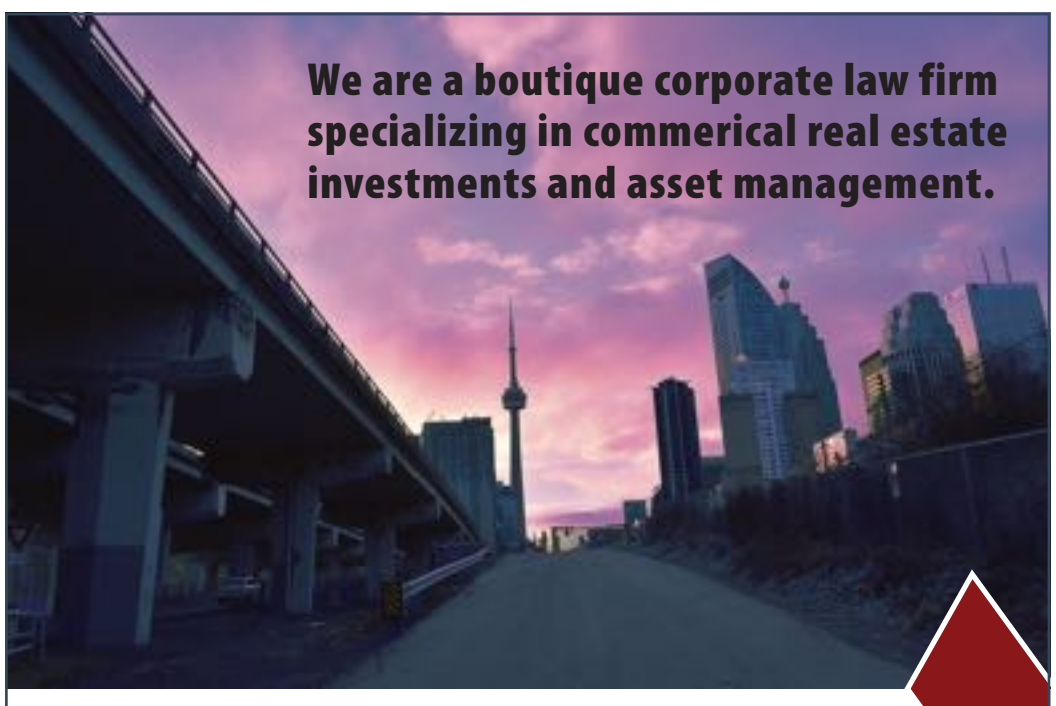
The accused parties are expected to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on a later date to answer to the charges.

The investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information regarding this investigation is asked to contact the Caledon OPP CSCU at 905-584-2241 or toll-free at 1-888-310-1122.

You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at www.peelcrimestoppers.ca. When you contact Crime Stoppers you stay anonymous, you never have to testify, and you could receive a cash reward of up to $2000 upon an arrest



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CHARGES FOLLOW DISTURBANCE CALL

Members of the Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have laid charges in relation to a disturbance call in the Town of New Tecumseth.

"On Tuesday, August 10, 2021, at approximately 4:48 p.m., police were called to an address on 5th Line in New Tecumseth, for a report of a disturbance," say Police. "Police arrived on scene and located two females with serious injuries. A male was arrested at the scene without incident.

"One victim received medical treatment and has since been released. The second victim remains in a Toronto-area trauma centre with serious injuries."

As a result of the investigation, the male has been charged under the Criminal Code with:

- Attempt to commit murder, contrary to s. 239(1)(b)
- Aggravated assault, contrary to s. 268 - two counts
- Fail to comply with undertaking, contrary to s. 145(4)(a) - two counts
- Assault with a weapon, contrary to s. 267(a)

The accused remains in custody pending his next appearance before the Ontario Court of Justice in Barrie, scheduled for September 29, 2021.

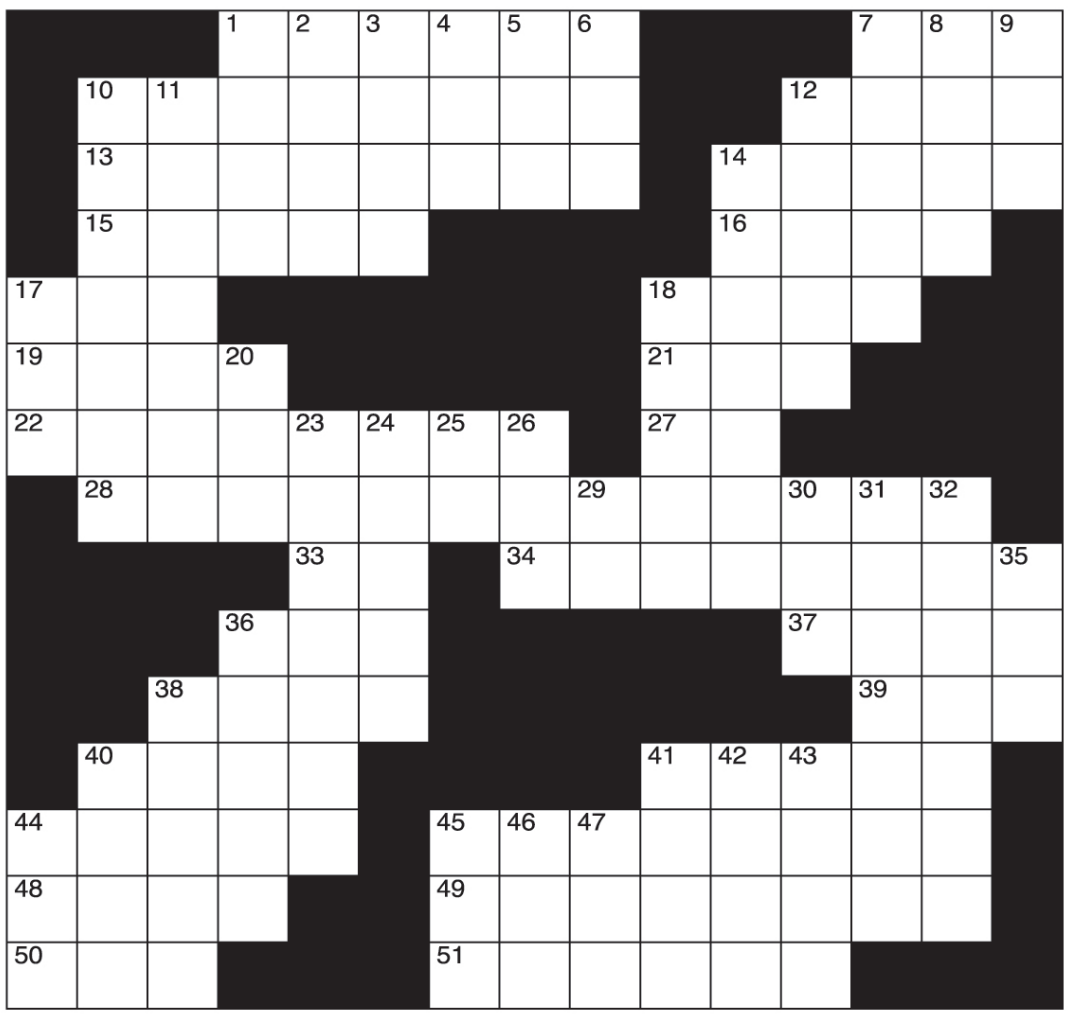
The charges have not been proven.

In order to protect the identity of the victims, the identity of the accused will not be released.

The Nottawasaga Major Crime Unit is continuing the investigation, under the direction of the OPP Criminal Investigation Branch (CIB). Anyone with information regarding this investigation is asked to call OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers to remain anonymous at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

The Citizen CROSSWORD

Solution on page A13



CLUES ACROSS

1. Nature expedition
7. Take the energy from
10. Bungled
12. Young salmon
13. Botanical gardens
14. Source of chocolate
15. Country singer LeAnn
16. Yokel
17. Unit of energy
18. Plant of the lily family
19. Tusked wild pig
21. Form of "to be"
22. Formerly
27. Letter of the Greek alphabet
28. Former First Lady
33. News organization
34. Shining brightly and intermittently
36. Brew
37. Teams' best pitchers
38. Edible fruit
39. Pitching stat
40. __ or bust
41. Baby product manufacturer
44. Monetary unit of Finland
45. Small spherical structures in cells
48. Pouches
49. Reached
50. Investment account
51. Oft-repeated slogan

CLUES DOWN

1. Nuclear undersea weapon
2. Helps the skin
3. Evergreen coniferous trees
4. Relieve of employment
5. A way to drench
6. Journalist Tarbell
7. __ and Venzetti
8. Alcoholic liquor
9. An athlete who plays for pay
10. Where to get drinks
11. Japanese art form
12. Baseball great Satchel
14. Winged angelic beings
17. One point south of due east
18. Group of islands in Polynesia
20. A place to play: __ center
23. Masses of gray matter in the brain
24. Belgian city (alt. sp.)
25. Millilitre
26. Beloved Will Ferrell film
29. Railway above ground
30. Satisfaction
31. Aggregate of molecules
32. Type of barometer
35. Type of college teacher (abbr.)
36. Long periods of time
38. Native people of Nebraska and S. Dakota
40. Deliver
41. Thin, narrow piece of wood
42. Modern Israel founder
43. Small NY college
44. Pounds per square inch
45. Veterans battleground
46. Hollywood talent agency (abbr.)
47. Popular kids' channel

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

People centred approach being taken by local Liberal candidate



Dufferin-Caledon Liberal candidate Lisa Post.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BY SAM ODROWSKI

Putting people first is a top priority for federal Liberal Party candidate Lisa Post, who's vying for the Dufferin–Caledon seat in the September 20 election.

Some key elements of her campaign and the Liberal Party's platform that are designed to help Canadians include developing a strong action plan on climate change and looking at affordability with respect to housing, child care, and the cost of living for young families.

Post, who's served as an Orangeville Town Councillor since 2018, said the road to recovery from COVID-19 is one of the most important issues heading into the election.

"People want to see us finish the pandemic and then move on from there, so we need to have a really good strategic plan as we come out of the pandemic and a plan to… recover the area that we're in," said Post.

She noted that in addition to developing a plan for the economy, a focus on recovery for the pandemic's social impact is crucial as well.

"There's a very big social component, a very big community component, our community was ripped wide open, and we need to be able to put that back together," said Post.

"I'm confident in people's humanity, I'm confident in the fact that people understand that they now have a duty to take care of one another, and the Liberal Party's platform is completely around taking care of people and putting people first."

Meanwhile, moving work forward that pertains to diversity, inclusion, and equity is another priority for Post, heading into the election.

"From the 2SLGBTQ community, all the way through to making sure that reconciliation is top of mind, continuing to move forward all of the Truth and Reconciliation commission's calls to action," she said.

"I think the Liberal Party really acknowledges that there is still a long way to go, but it's moving forward, it's forward action, and making sure that everybody's moving forward together."

While the Dufferin–Caledon riding has only ever elected a Conservative MP since its formation in 2004, Post said she's optimistic that there's room for change this time around.

"We've been pigeon-holed as being a conservative riding for such a long time and really, this riding is about people, and community is not partisan," Post remarked. "As much as a lot of the people in this area have historically voted Conservative, the demographics are growing, they're changing, they're shifting."

Post said with Dufferin–Caledon being one of the fastest growing ridings in Ontario, the region needs proper representation to ensure it can meet population growth demands.

"There's some very aggressive growth targets from the provincial level and I think we need to have a strong voice in Ottawa to advocate to make sure that we have the infrastructure dollars coming into this riding to make sure that we can take care of the people that we're going to be moving here," Post explained.

"I think that we need strong leadership at the helm to make sure that we're going the right way and that we're taking the right approach to making sure that our communities well taken care of."

An important part of future development is to ensure Dufferin–Caledon's pristine natural areas, such as the Greenbelt, Whitebelt, and Niagara Escarpment, have strong environmental protections, Post noted.

She said she's glad to see there's a federal assessment taking place for the proposed GTA West Corridor, otherwise known as Highway 413, which is poised to cut through sections of the Greenbelt.

"It's really important that we make sure that if we're moving ahead with a high superhighway of any kind, that we're taking the environment into consideration, and that needs to be done," said Post. "As a Councillor with the Town of Orangeville, we opposed the 413 on record and I'll be interested to see what the federal impact assessment is, that's going to be done."

When looking at affordable housing, Post made note of the nearly $4 billion that the federal government budgeted for this year for housing affordability initiatives across Canada. Post told the Citizen, a strong voice in Ottawa that can advocate for that money to be spent locally is needed.

"The money's there, it's to be had, we just have to make the right arguments, and we need the right people in the right place to make those arguments," she said. "That's what I'm ready to do. I want to advocate for our people to make sure that some of those initiatives and some of that money is filtering into Dufferin–Caledon, where it needs to be."

Going forward, Post said she's going to continue knocking on doors, getting familiar with the residents across Dufferin and Caledon, and hearing their concerns.

"This election is for people. It's not about Lisa Post, it's not about any of the other candidates. This is about the people in this community, and the best thing that I can do is talk to them," she noted. "We're trying to hit every corner of this riding."

Regardless of people's political preferences, Post said she's been encouraging everyone to get out and vote on September 20.

"We're so fortunate to live in a country where a democracy exists, and we need people to take on that responsibility and that right and vote," she stressed.

Anyone hoping to contact Post to share their concerns or ideas can call her campaign office (18371 Hurontario Street, Caledon Village) by phone at 289-368-POST (7678).

Ram Rodeo returns this weekend

BY SAM ODROWSKI

Calling all cowboys and cowgirls!

The Ram Rodeo Tour is kicking off its 24th season this weekend (August 28-29), with the Orangeville Fairgrounds as its first stop, featuring all of the usual events that attendees enjoy.

The two-day rodeo has bronc riding, barrel racing, bull riding, pole bending, off kilter equine trick riding entertainment, and a free kids rodeo with the Canadian Cowgirls, which is the country's top precision drill team. A tailgate party with live music by John Michael Green can be enjoyed by attendees as well.

"We're thrilled to bring the rodeo back, I think this is the first real live event in the Headwaters area to be kicking back off, so that's exciting to us," said Ross Millar, President of the Ram Rodeo Tour.

"The cowboys and cowgirls, there's close to 200 of them that are coming to town and nobody's more excited than they are to perform," he added, noting that the COVID-19 pandemic has prevented them from competing.

This year's rodeo is raising money for Tuff Therapeutic Riding Foundation, which is based out of Mono, and offers horseback riding lessons to at-risk youth. The program serves children who are referred from child protection and mental health organizations within Dufferin, Caledon, Peel, and Toronto.

This year's event is being called the Headwaters–Orangeville Ram Rodeo as the team that creates the Grand Valley Rodeo has joined forces with Orangeville.

Millar said he's thrilled about how many sponsors they have this year from across the Headwaters region.

He noted that one of the challenges with respect to preparing for the rodeo has been training the animals and getting them in shape to perform.

"We're very proud of our animals, we are proud of our bulls and our bucking horses and, of course, the ladies barrel race is really exciting. Just the speed and the power of those horses as they race around, I think the crowd enjoys," Millar remarked.

In accordance with Ontario's current COVID-19 guidelines, the rodeo is able to have 75 per cent capacity, which totals 1,500 seats. Millar said the Ram Rodeo Team is excited to see tickets are moving fast with over 750 already sold at the start of this week.

He told the Citizen that he encourages everyone hoping to attend the rodeo to buy their tickets in advance. Those who buy their tickets prior to the event will have preference over those who try to purchase one at the door.

"They're guaranteed to get in if we're at our capacity," said Millar.

Tickets are available for purchase at Orangeville Chrysler (207163 Hwy 9, Orangeville), Hockley General Store (994227 Mono-Adjala Townline), and Circle K (24 Main St, Grand Valley).

Tickets can also be purchased online at: www.orangevilleramrodeo.com/2018/01/purchase-tickets.html.

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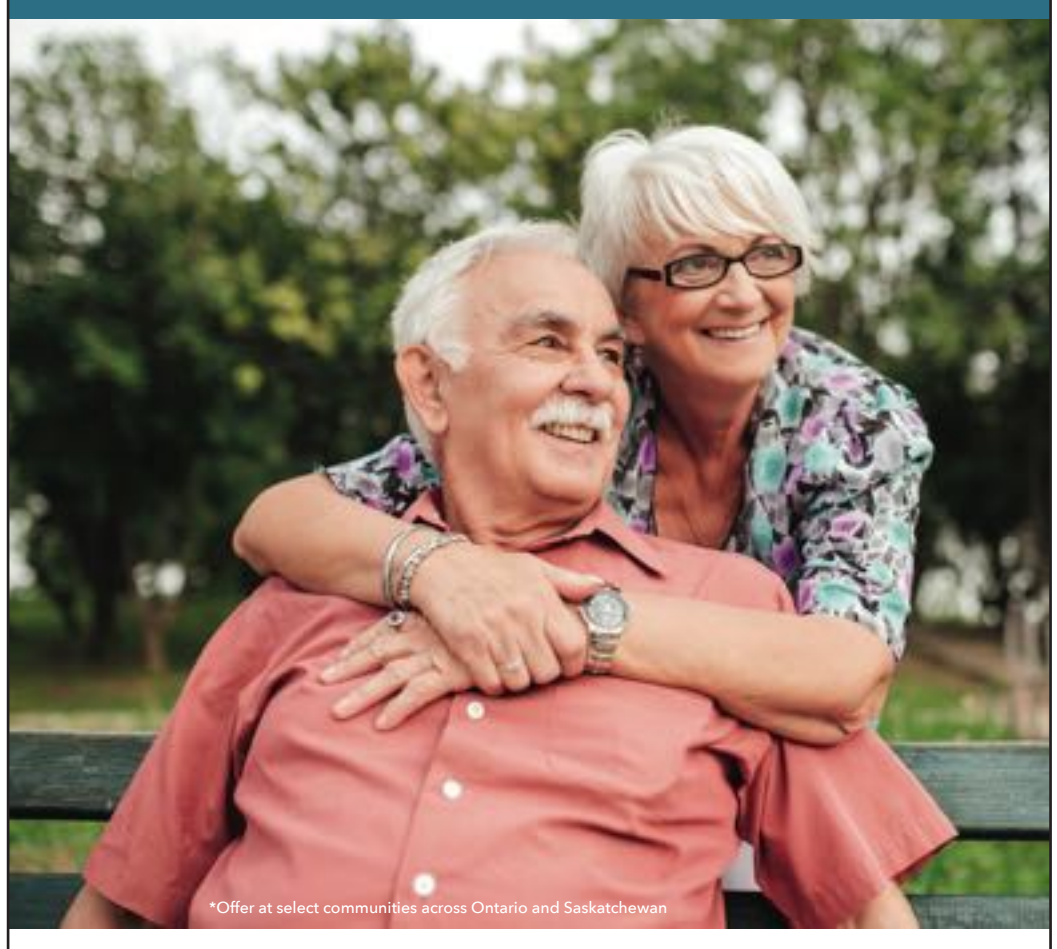
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*All images were taken prior to Covid-19.

Dufferin-Caledon candidates share thoughts on vaccine policy

BY ROB PAUL

With campaigning underway after Justin Trudeau called for an early federal election on August 15, MP candidates in Dufferin-Caledon are focused on September 20, the day Canadians will head to the polls.

The Citizen spoke with Dufferin-Caledon MP candidates Kyle Seeback (Conservative), Lisa Post (Liberal), and Jenni Le Forestier (Green) about their thoughts on COVID-19 vaccine policies as Canada reopens.

Though he's a supporter of vaccinations, Seeback says he doesn't believe they should be mandatory for Canadians, and that the choice should fall to each individual.

"I'm 100 per cent with where Erin (O'Toole) and the Conservative Party's position is on vaccine policies, which is, vaccines are safe and effective and I encourage everyone to get a vaccine," he said. "I'm vaccinated myself, but I don't think that we should be forcing people to get vaccines."

As for whether or not policies should be in place that could stop the unvaccinated from attending events or businesses, Seeback says that's a decision that should be made by each business and that proof of a negative test could be utilized as an alternative to the vaccine.

"I think (vaccine policy) decisions will be made by companies and places like that, and they're free to make those decisions," he said. "I've heard that to attend a Blue Jays' game, you're going to have to have proof of vaccination—companies are free to make those decisions. I do think that in substitute for being able to show you're double vaccinated, a negative rapid test would be sufficient. I do believe the Liberals are trying to turn this into an us vs. them issue and pit Canadians against each other, I don't want to do that, there are solutions to all these things. Yes, I think people should get vaccinated, the alternative to that is rapid tests that can quickly show a negative result. I think that should be a good alternative to showing your vaccine status."

As for Post, she is adamant that each Canadian should get vaccinated if the country is to return to normal and fully reopen. To her it's not a political question, but a question of health and safety.

"When it comes to vaccine policies, I think we have to apply the same principles that we've applied the whole way through the pandemic which is, we need to trust the science," she said. "When it comes to public health crisis', it shouldn't be politicized, we have to trust the science and the doctors who are telling us how to get through this pandemic. What the science is saying right now is the way to get through this pandemic is for everyone to get vaccinated.

"That's the only way we can keep Canadians safe, it's the only way we can make sure we don't burden the hospitals. I know it can be a bit of a polarizing topic and it can turn into pro-choice type topic, and it's absolutely still a choice. Canadians want to have the choice not to be vaccinated, and that's fair, however, there's consequences to those choices as well because those who did do their civic duty and got vaccinated have the right to know they're partaking in activities that are safe and to know they're in a place that they can trust that they're safe and can protect their families.

Until the entire population is vaccinated, Post says she thinks people who are able to get vaccinated need to for the safety of those who are not yet eligible, especially with the return of school in the fall.

"The biggest gap right now is that we need to protect our young people, those under the age of 12 that aren't eligible for vaccines right now are the ones we need to make sure we're keeping safe. If we're not able to keep them safe, then we're going to stay in this pandemic far longer than any of us want to. I think it's a no-brainer that there will be travel passports that are required, especially internationally. We'll need to make the vaccines mandatory for workers in the federal sector—specifically transportation and areas where lots of Canadians will be at the same time. We need to keep Canadians safe; we have a duty. We're human and we have a duty to take care of one another and this is one way to do that."

Le Forestier says she believes everyone needs to get vaccinated if Canadians want to return to some semblance of normal and she sees the FDA's approval of Pfizer as a step towards reaching the unvaccinated.

"I'm fully vaccinated, my team is fully vaccinated," she said. "I follow the science and I encourage people to get vaccinated if they can. I'm really happy to hear that Pfizer has been approved and I hope that will address some people's concerns about it. Looking forward I hope to see that increases the number of people who are fully vaccinated. I think we need to be cognizant of everyone's sensitivities and sensibilities and take care of one another."

Needing to show proof of vaccination is something Le Forestier would support to ensure Canadians are healthy and safe as businesses and school return in full force.

"I grew up in the 70s and 80s when we all had vaccine cards," she said. "If you were going to school, you had a vaccine card and that doesn't seem foreign to me as an idea. Obviously, we need to protect people's rights, but we're also in a crisis right now and that's a very simple regulation to have a vaccine card that you carry. If you choose not to, then you're going to have to do the testing and follow protocols to keep people safe because we have to get people back to work and kids back to school."



Dufferin-Caledon's 2021 Federal ballot includes incumbent Conservative Kyle Seeback, left, and Liberal candidate Lisa Post. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS**



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Local candidates discuss economic recovery out of pandemic

BY ROB PAUL

With the federal election set for September 20, MP candidates in Dufferin-Caledon have been heading door to door in their campaigning effort in preparation.

The Citizen spoke with Dufferin-Caledon MP candidates Kyle Seeback (Conservative), Lisa Post (Liberal), and Jenni Le Forestier (Green) about their thoughts on how best Canada can go about ensuring economic recovery as it comes out of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Seeback highlighted three major pieces of the Conservative Party's economic recovery plan that he thinks will help businesses in Dufferin-Caledon get back on their feet.

"I think one of the big topics in this election is economic recovery and how do we get our businesses back to where they need to be, we've got a great plan on this and there," he said. "Part of it is a job surge that's going to allow 50 per cent of the salary of new hires for six months to be paid for by the government. That's going to encourage businesses to hire people, and, of course, we know getting people back to work is very important. We're also looking at what we call the 'main street business loan', that's going to be a loan of up to $25,000 with up to 25 per cent of it being forgivable for small or medium sized businesses because the CEBA loan of $60,000, a lot of businesses went through that very quickly, so we want to find ways for them to be able to stay in business.

"Finally, we're looking at what we call the rebuild 'main street tax credit,' which is a 25 per cent tax credit on amounts of up to $100,000 that Canadians invest in their small business. We know a lot of small business owners have been having to put money into their business, and this gives them a great tax incentive to do that to keep their businesses going. The most important thing for us is to figure out how we can get people back to work. We've got to use all the tools we have to get ourselves back to normal."

Throughout the pandemic, the federal government has provided programs to help support small businesses and owners as they dealt with the fallout of the lockdown. Post says she thinks those programs are they key to getting businesses to bounce back and jumpstart the economic recovery process.

"There's a few things that go into economic recovery," she said. "I think what we learned through COVID—that we maybe wouldn't have learned before—is that when we invest in people, we're investing in the economy. We saw that really clearly through COVID-19 with the implementation of programs like CERB, making sure Canadians had money in their pockets to keep moving and the economy moving. We could have been in really dire straits with the way COVID hit us so rapidly; as a municipal town Councillor I got to see firsthand how impacted people were. I was getting phone calls all day long from people who really needed assistance—they needed to understand how to navigate the federal programs, understand what services we had locally while they dealt without jobs for probably the first time. With where we're at in the pandemic, I think we need to continue those programs and we need to continue to make sure everyone is okay.

"We need to get people back to work. We need to make sure we're investing in the economy and ensuring people are going back to work, and to do that we need to keep people safe. We've already seen our economy is starting to bounce back. The federal government has already extended some of those programs—like the recovery hiring program, that will help employers by providing incentives that will offset the cost of hiring workers—those are going right through until 2022. But it has to be a comprehensive policy, we need to see elements of helping Canada in economic recovery in every policy we put out in every sector of the economy—whether it's housing plans, environmental plans, they all need that piece in it."

To help Canada in economic recovery, Le Forestier says she believes that starts with addressing issues that negatively impacted the economy prior to the pandemic and have only been spotlighted throughout it.

"I think it's clear that we need a universal basic income; I think that's been demonstrated throughout this pandemic," she said. "I think it needs to happen and it's clear people need support. We need to address the housing crisis and bring the cost of homes so that young people can afford to get into the housing market. You do that by changing the planning on what kind of housing gets built. We keep doing the same thing and expecting a different result with sprawling housing across prime farmland. That's not addressing the housing emergency and not helping the people who want a better future and have a living wage. These are things I'm very concerned about in terms of economic recovery in Dufferin-Caledon."



Dufferin-Caledon Green Party candidate Jenni Le Forestier.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

It is hard to fathom that in Ontario, in the 21st Century, 40% of indigenous communities have to boil their water to make it safe. We are not here to point fingers nor lay the blame, we want to help address the problem.

The Rotary Club of Bolton is inviting you to help these indigenous communities.

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These funds will be directed to Water First Training & Education Inc's Drinking WaterInternship, a 15 month paid internship that hires and trains young indigenous adults for careers as water operators.

For details on the program please see Water First - http://waterfirst.ngo/

Please donate before Oct 1st at Boltonrotary.ca

WATER FIRST



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Brock's Banter

For vs. Against and the Undecided Voter

BY BROCK WEIR

The undecided voter has always been an intriguing specimen to me.

We encounter them every time an election is called, whether it is at the federal level, the provincial level, and, perhaps most dramatically, whenever an election is called below our southern border.

They are the ones to whom pundits often turn when trying to gauge the momentum of a particular campaign or candidate, or even the public's reaction to a potential platform plank whenever the proverbial "trial balloon" is released above the voters as a whole.

Over the course of the last U.S. Presidential Election, we were bombarded with opinions from apparently "undecided" voters who were pooled together by any number of news outlets on both sides of the border (in the latter case, eligible U.S. voters who now call Canada home) to weigh in on speeches, debates, and that seemingly never-ending Election Night. Err, the Election Week that was.

The fact that the networks kept finding more and more people claiming to be "undecided" in that go-round never ceased to amaze me.

In a country which is, at the end of the day, basically a two-party system, a system where the two dominating parties had very clear battle lines drawn, very different visions for which direction they wanted to take their country, and two extremely different leaders to execute the vision of their choice, that anyone could be "undecided" on where to throw their support seemed as unlikely as the two candidates finding common ground on just about anything.

Yet, there they were, hands on their dials, turning them according to whether or not the words out of the mouths of each leader was coming close to turning their respective cranks, their opinions given significant weight and airtime.

That is not to say that their opinions weren't of value. Don't get me wrong. It just seemed highly unlikely that their decision hadn't actually been made right at the outset, several months before, and even less likely by the end of October 2020.

We in Canada are fortunate for many reasons, not the least of which is we're not beholden to a two-party system, no matter what the Liberals and Conservatives try to tell you. And we're fortunate as well that there are no official party lines at the municipal level.

Federally and Provincially, we have parties that lean left, parties that lean right, and, in between, are several political parties, even those who don't have official "party" status in this country, that have nuanced differences and nuanced visions for the future of this country, all of which are worth a second – or even a first – look.

But it seems, in my view, that some engaged voters who are already sharing what their September 20 decision might be, are voting more out of habit or even anger than anything else.

Just a few days ago, I had a conversation with a family member who I would usually put in the column of an informed and engaged voter.

Referencing a conversation we had two or three months ago on how the Provincial Progressive Conservatives, New Democrats and Liberals had handled the pandemic up until that point, we exchanged views on who would ultimately get our vote if Queen's Park was in a minority government situation and we were hit with a snap election.

Our views on that hypothetical scenario were slightly different, but we were able to articulate our reasons why and had a respectful – and even enlightening – discussion on the subject.

Last week's conversation was markedly different.

"We've got to vote Trudeau out!" he exclaimed with hardly any time left for pleasantries.

Not quite sure whether he was using the "Royal We", speaking of his own household, or trying to rope me into some sort of vague voting bloc, I asked the next obvious question: "Why?"

"I'm voting Conservative," he replied, as I left a bit of silence on the other end hoping my actual question would receive an answer sooner rather than later.

Unfortunately, the answer came later rather than sooner, and with a bit of prodding, it was revealed he was voting Conservative out of anger at Justin Trudeau sending this country into an election campaign that will likely end in the middle of the pandemic's fourth wave.

It's certainly a valid criticism. I don't think anybody was hoping for an election at a time when we're mired in so much uncertainty, but casting a vote out of anger seemed to me like such a missed opportunity.

Just a few days later, another acquaintance said they had already made up their mind to vote Liberal.

While they qualified their answer by saying that while they did indeed think their riding's Liberal candidate was the best person to represent their own interests in Ottawa, that tidbit was only thrown out after their statement that they essentially boiled down to voting out of habit was met with silence.

"My parents always voted Liberal," they said. "That's how I was raised."

Fair enough, but is that reason enough to decide how to cast your ballot in the most important exercise of our democratic rights?

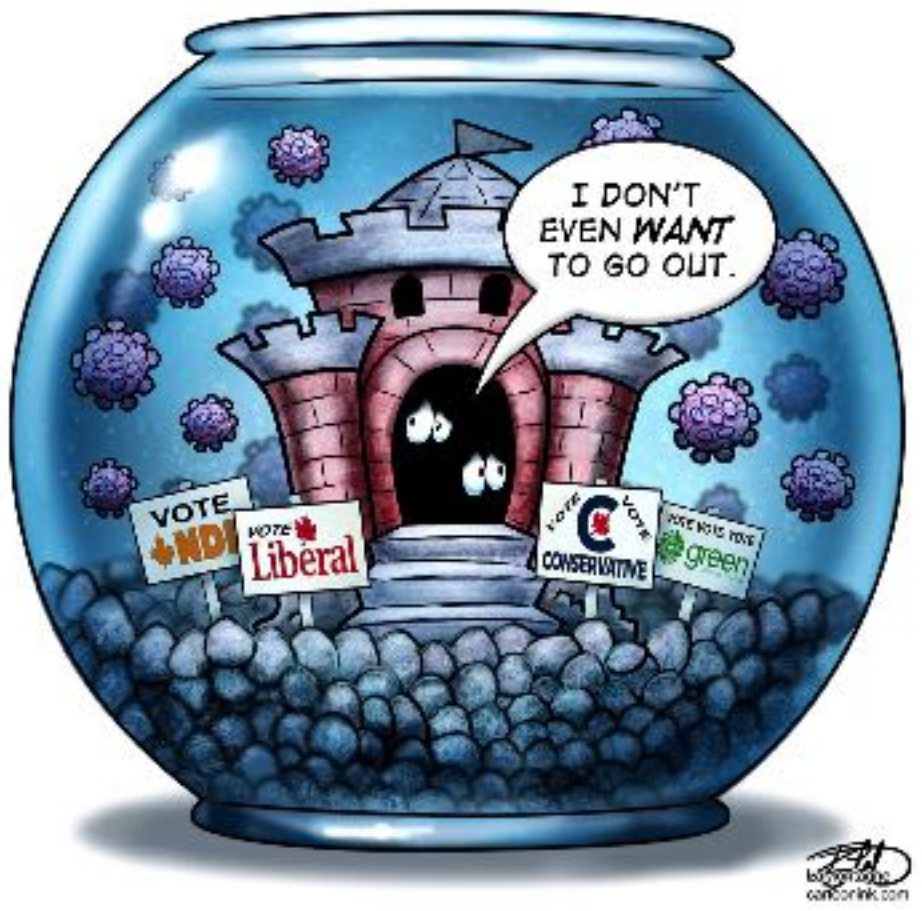
Some of you might think so, but I personally do not.

Whether your political allegiances lie with the Liberals, Conservatives, the NDP, the Greens, or any other parties that might appear on the final ballot, wouldn't it be much better to vote for something rather than against something? Or to vote for the person you believe will best represent your interests in Ottawa rather than marking your "X" simply out of reflex?

I think so, and it is through this lens that I cast my ballot every time I am asked to do so.

By the time you read this on Thursday, August 26, there will be 25 days until Election Day on September 20. That is not an insignificant amount of time. Use it wisely, read up not only on your party leaders but the local candidates looking to represent your interests in the House of Commons and brush up on each party's platform.

Whether you are casting your vote by mail or in the ballot box, do so sure in the knowledge you are making an informed decision not only for yourself, but for your community and country.



Animals are much smarter than we think

by Mark Pavilons



"Until one has loved an animal a part of one's soul remains unawakened." - Anatole France

As an "animal-lover" I'm happy to say that, yes, part of my soul has been awakened.

I truly believe that all life on this planet has a purpose and is sacred in its own way.

Whether they be plants or lower life forms that are part of the food chain, all creatures, great and small, are fascinating.

Humans spend a great deal of time and energy trying to figure out other humans. For hundreds of years, psychologists and scientists of all branches have been studying human nature and the entire human condition. And yet, how far have we come?

Even after millennia, we're no closer to coming up with undeniable truths about human emotions, the power of the brain, and our ultimate purpose in the big picture.

And through all of this, loyally by our sides, are our four-legged friends of all shapes and sizes.

From iguanas, gerbils and pigs, to kangaroos, horses and dogs, our animal friends are fascinating to say the least.

We tend to measure the value of both animals and people by their level of intelligence. Well, the jury is out on humans, and we really don't fully understand the capability of animals.

I have seen lizards and rats and spiders being smart, playful and even displaying a sense of humour. I've seen a cat groom a rat; a kangaroo protect a dog, and a turtle play with a ball.

We really have no idea what creatures can do, how smart they are, or the level of emotions they can develop.

In humans, the eyes are the windows to the soul.

According to Martin Buber, "an animal's eyes have the power to speak a great language."

Animals make us laugh, smile and shake our heads. Some make us leap onto chairs and others make us dash away for safety. Many comfort us.

For pet owners out there, you understand the joy our main family members – cats and dogs – bring. They likely love us more than we love them.

There's no question we take them for granted from time to time. We trip over them when preparing meals in the kitchen. We get yanked off balance when taking them for walks. We blame them for many things, even if wasn't their fault. But expert pet owners know "when the dog did it."

Our dogs understand our language and researcher John Pilley taught his dog, Chaser, to recognize over 1,000 toys by name.

We worry about their health and well being, and will go to great lengths, even extremes, to ensure they remain healthy. We buy the best food, give them everything they need, and let them run and play.

They do age quicker than we do and often we're caught off guard when we realize our buddy is now a senior citizen. Slower walks, more accidents and physical limitations become part of the new regime.

We've replaced more fish and hamsters than we care to remember. We've tried to save birds who have landed unexpectedly in our yard. We try.

For the life of me, I still can't figure out why our dogs loves to chase the light produced by a flashlight. They even know exactly where the light comes from, and will nudge the gizmo as it rests on the table.

Simple pleasures, I guess.

According to a post by Sherrie Hurd in 2019, animals are indeed "spiritual beings."

There is evidence to suggest animals can react emotionally to their surroundings. They can feel and respond to grief and can express the wonderful feeling of existence itself.

Psychologists Marc Bekoff and his colleague Steven Kotler looked at whether animals really experienced spirituality. They found ample evidence that animals can have a "morally conscious and emotional intelligence."

Darwinian theory, which includes evolutionary continuity, supports it as well. This belief states that there are no different kinds of intelligence, only different degrees with the various species.

We believed that only humans were self-conscious, linguistic, moral, and rational. It seems that animals could possibly think about pains and pleasures from the past. Darwin said they actually possess "excellent memories and some power of imagination."

Experiments have displayed the intelligence of crows, for instance. These are indeed creatures with remarkable talent, especially when it comes to solving problems. The University of Auckland researchers discovered that crows noticed that liquid rises when objects are dropped into tubes of water, water which held a treat. They would then be able to reach the treat that was inside. If the water levels were higher, they could get the treat faster as well.

Crows can also bend a wire to fish treats from small tubes. This is why researchers compare a crow's intelligence to 5-7-year-olds.

Elephants seemingly show understanding and empathy and experiments showed their desire to work together with tasks.

Cockatoos have been known to solve puzzles and even pick a lock!

Ok, most of us can't converse with a dolphin or play poker with our dogs. But we know there's much more behind those beautiful eyes.

From the persistent dedication of worker bees and intricate webs of spiders, to regenerating salamanders and colour-changing octopi, all creature great and small are simply marvellous.

And dare I say incredibly intelligent!



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Lessons and Legacies

ALLAN THOMPSON
MAYOR'S VIEW



Just after my first election as Mayor in 2014, I got a phone call I would never forget.

"Hello, Mayor Thompson," said the familiar voice.

It was none other than the Hon. William (Bill) Davis calling to offer his congratulations.

That call, his voice, brought me back to my Grade Four trip to Queen's Park.

A bunch of kids sitting on the stairs of the entrance to the legislature listening to Premier Davis share stories about his job as leader of the provincial government, he was so engaging and interesting. One of my classmates asked a question about whether he liked (or didn't) people from the other political parties and Bill ran down the hall and brought back Bob Nixon, a Liberal MPP and Stephen Lewis of the New Democrats.

I remember the three of them joking around and teasing each other, and yet it was clear they had a lot of respect for each other. That was a big leadership lesson for me: you don't always have to agree, but you should always respect.

Political leaders today should look at how Bill Davis often worked across party lines for the greater good. Now that's not saying he wasn't a good political debater, because you don't get to serve six terms of office unless you are. He just understood the importance of collaboration to achieve a goal and he put that to use in playing a pivotal role in the development of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Canadian Constitution.

He was a role model for me, for many, and his legacy of leadership will live on in the memories of all who had the privilege of meeting and knowing him.

Pondering the Election

SHERALYN ROMAN
TALK CALEDON



If anyone out there is actually a regular reader of this column you'll already know that I think this election is a cheap attempt to obtain a political majority. I think conducting an election during a global pandemic (particularly with cases on the rise again) is irresponsible at best, potentially a "super spreader" at worst.

Right now what bothers me even more however (other than the promise of paid sick days that should have happened months ago) is that regardless of which party you support – you may or may not have a candidate to vote for.

Elections should be about choice. Do the citizens of Dufferin-Caledon have one?

It's no secret this area tends to lean heavily toward the Conservative party who are indeed already represented federally by Kyle Seeback. The Liberals have backed Lisa Post, a long time resident of the area whose family roots extend back through many generations and who currently sits on Orangeville Town Council. Jenni Le Forestier, a local environmental activist has thrown her hat in the ring representing the Green Party. Just yesterday, I learned about the candidacy of Anthony Zambito from the PPC, yet Brian Frazer was listed as the PPC candidate for our area as recently as August 19th and his profile is active on the PPC website. As for Zambito's, it's "coming soon." Confused? Yes – me too. Meanwhile, what of the NDP? There is no candidate listed for Dufferin-Caledon so if that's the way you lean politically, what choice do you have? It appears none at all.

In it's most simplistic form, our electoral system is a "first past the post" scenario meaning you vote for a local candidate to represent you at the federal level, not necessarily for the person who leads your party of choice. Of course, typically that vote is actually closely aligned and if one chose to support Seeback, for example, they are "choosing" Erin O'Toole, or in supporting Lisa Post you are "choosing" Trudeau. It appears currently that if you support Jagmeet Singh, you're out of luck. When many Canadians complain that we seem to simply switch governing power back and forth between the Liberals and Conservatives, not running a candidate for the third major political party in our country seems to support that continued narrative.

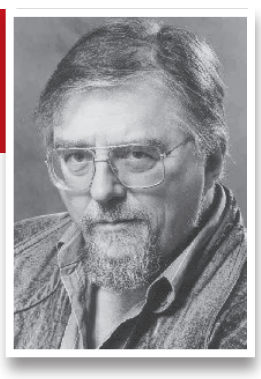
Did you know that there are in fact a total of 20 registered political parties? According to Elections Canada these include the Maverick Party, the Animal Protection Party of Canada, Free Party Canada, the Rhinoceros Party, of course, and many more. A quick search tells me we won't find a local candidate for the Mavericks as they are all about the western provinces and the Free Party (or Parti Libre) website was almost entirely in French so…..I'm not sure we'll find a local candidate for this party either! I'm not too concerned frankly and I'm sure you won't be either but again, not having the option to vote for the party – any party – of your choice, never mind one of the four, more typically considered mainstream political parties, just isn't right.

Discussions in our house are often centred around what is going on in the world. We talk politics, climate change, the rights of women and girls, LGBTQ2S rights and more recently, issues such as the residential school system and its generational consequences. I consider it a badge of good parenting that we can have a wide range of diverse opinions on these subjects and learn valuable lessons from one another rather than the indoctrination of all members of the household by one member. I'm glad my kids don't feel like they have to support the same political party that I support and with this election in particular, I value the discussions we are having that may find any one of us changing our affiliations. I suppose that's why I am taking the lack of at least one major political party candidate so personally.

It's hard to address the issue of choice when you don't have one.

Rockets in the Stratosphere

GWYNNE DYER
OUR WORLD TODAY



If you're worried about your "carbon footprint" – a concept foisted on the world in 2004 by British Petroleum to persuade people that their own behaviour, and not giant oil companies like BP, is causing the climate problem – then you definitely should not sign up for a sub-orbital space flight. Besides, you probably can't afford it ($250,000 pp).

Millions of people can afford it, however, and since the Branson/Bezos "space race" last month, tickets for sub-orbital flights are selling fast. These are commercial ventures, after all.

There are only three more flights scheduled for Jeff Bezos's "Blue Origin" rocket before the end of the year, and two more for Richard Branson's "VSS Unity", but both men clearly intend to ramp up to more frequent flights. (Branson predicts 400 flights a year)

The era of mass space tourism is just around the corner.

Well, what did you expect? The travel and tourism industry accounted for 10.7% of world GDP in the last normal year (2019), so nowhere is safe, including the stratosphere. And like every other tourist destination, the stratosphere suffers some environmental damage from all the tourists passing through.

The key question, so far unanswered, is: how much?

Hardly any at the moment. The typical rocket launch dumps the same amount of CO2 into the atmosphere as one airliner does in the course of a trans-Atlantic crossing. Since there are only three or four passengers aboard each of those sub-orbital flights, their individual carbon footprints are huge – but more than 1,700 commercial jets cross the Atlantic on the average day.

Most rockets, including Elon Musk's "Falcon Heavies" and most of the big Chinese and Russian vehicles, burn a mixture of kerosene and liquid oxygen and produce an exhaust plume little different from that of jet aircraft: mostly carbon dioxide and water. But the total fuel used annually by all the world's rockets is less than one percent of that burned by commercial aircraft.

Moreover, some of the newer rockets, like Bezos's "New Shepard", most European launch vehicles, and the last stage of the new Long March rockets, use Liquid Hydrogen and Liquid Oxygen, which leaves only water and a few traces of other chemicals. So far, so relatively harmless – except that all the other rockets leave black carbon ("soot") in the upper stratosphere, where airliners don't fly.

The commercial aircraft do leave soot in the lowest part of the stratosphere, where its effects are reasonably well understood. It warms the lower stratosphere. It presumably does that in the upper parts of the stratosphere too, but we have little information about how that impacts the global climate, if indeed it has any discernible effect at the volumes currently being deposited there by rockets.

The annual orbital rocket traffic is surprisingly low: a record 1,283 satellites were put into orbit last year, but only 104 rocket launches were used to put them there. (Another ten launches were failures, but failures tend to happen before rockets reach the stratosphere.) This means the prospective "tourist" launches represent a four- or five-fold jump in the stratospheric traffic.

Bezos's launches get a pass because he's not burning kerosene and leaving soot behind. Branson's rocket, however, is powered by a "hybrid engine" that burns hydroxyl-terminated polybutadiene (synthetic rubber), with nitrous oxide as an oxidiser. You can think of it as a soot generator with stratospheric capability. And 400 flights a year.

So, the Branson rocket should be closely monitored for its impact on the stratosphere, and how that might affect the climate. The impact could be insignificant, but it will be a much bigger contributor to stratospheric pollution than its size suggests. And what of space flight in general?

There will certainly be more orbital flights as time goes on, but most satellites are now very small packages that can be packed together on a single launch. Moreover, there is a clear move towards using liquid hydrogen rather than kerosene as a fuel, despite hydrogen's current high price, and a longer-term aspiration to use high-energy biofuels that are carbon-neutral.

Aviation as a whole remains a significant part of the warming problem, producing more than 3% of global CO2 emissions, and the solutions are expensive or technically difficult. Biofuels can eventually address the carbon dioxide emissions, but at least half the aviation-linked warming is not CO2. Its heat reflected back to the ground by contrails.

The remedy for that is to fly in the lower atmosphere, where contrails rarely form – but that puts planes back down in the turbulence, which passengers do not like. Planes could be designed that would counter that turbulence (ducted flow and computer-driven instant response), but there's no sign of it yet.



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Canada, Ontario, and Peel invest over $800,000 into PAMA

BY ROB PAUL

As Canadians across the country feel the impacts of COVID-19, the Federal and Provincial governments are prioritizing enhancing Canadian's quality of life while meeting the needs of communities and promoting job creation and making investments to address the impacts of the pandemic.

On August 13, Sonia Sidhu, MP for Brampton South, Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria, MPP for Brampton South, Amarjot Sandhu, MPP for Brampton West, and Nando Iannicca, Regional Chair of Peel announced joint funding to improve ventilation at the Peel Art Gallery, Museum and Archives (PAMA) in Brampton on behalf of the Federal Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, and Kinga Surma, Ontario's Minister of Infrastructure.

"Protecting the health and well-being of Canadians, as well as our cultural institutions, is vital to ensuring the success of our communities," said Sidhu. "Upgrades to the ventilation system at the Peel Art Gallery, Museum and Archives will enhance visitor experience and better protect museum collections, providing a safe and more comfortable space for residents and tourists to enjoy quality culture and heritage programming. Canada's infrastructure plan invests in thousands of projects, creates jobs across the country, and builds cleaner, more inclusive communities."

The Government of Canada is investing more than $322,000 in the project through the Community, Culture, and Recreation Infrastructure stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program. The Government of Ontario is providing over $268,000 and the Regional Municipality of Peel is contributing more than $214,000—in total over $800,000 is being invested in PAMA.

"Arts and culture are receiving a huge boost with the announcement of an investment in the local Peel Art Gallery, Museum and Archives, right here in Brampton," said Sandhu. "The HVAC project, including an investment of over $268,000 from the province, will allow them to improve their year-round visitor experience. Supporting arts and culture will be crucial in our community and across the province as we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic."

The project work will upgrade PAMA's heating, air conditioning, and ventilation system to create a more comfortable environment for visitors.

The funding will also support improvements to the building's envelope (infrastructure that protects buildings from the elements) to help reduce future costs due to building repairs and painting mechanical equipment.

"We are grateful for the support of Infrastructure Canada and Ontario funding to upgrade the airflow systems at the historic Peel Art Gallery, Museum and Archives," Iannicca said. "This construction project will see improved air quality to enhance visitor experience and to ensure the safeguarding of collections for years to come."

The improvements will allow PAMA to provide a safer and better experience for visitors by reducing the need to limit the number of guests in each exhibit and preventing facility closures due to uncomfortable temperature levels.

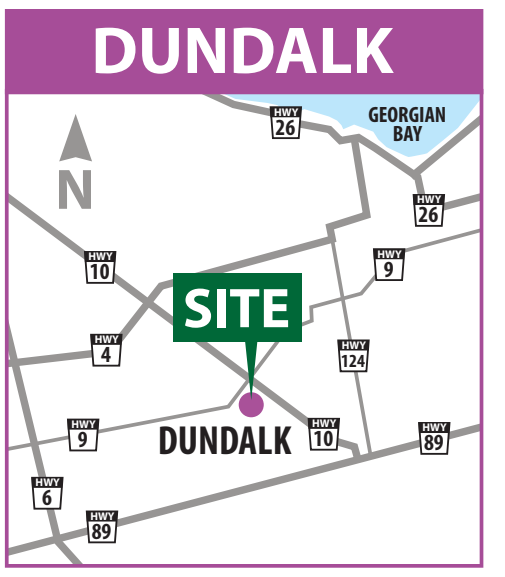
Through the Investing in Canada plan, the Federal Government is investing more than $180 billion over 12 years in public transit projects, green infrastructure, social infrastructure, trade and transportation routes, and Canada's rural and northern communities.

The Government of Canada has invested over $14.4 billion in more than 3,900 infrastructure projects across Ontario under the Investing in Canada plan.



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Water First collaborates with Indigenous communities across Canada to ensure easily accessible and sustainable water



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BY ROB PAUL

In Canada, many First Nation communities still don't have easily accessible water and are under a boiled water advisory.

This issue isn't always from a lack of water treatment systems, but rather a lack of certified personnel to operate and maintain the systems.

With a mission to help address local water challenges in Indigenous communities, Water First collaborates with the communities through education and training to help support them in becoming self-sufficient.

Established in 2009, Water First started out as an organization called Tin Roof Global that initially focused on helping overseas through initiatives that supported clean water for schools in Uganda.

"Over time, we began to look at what work we could do in collaboration with Indigenous communities in Canada to support local water challenges through listening and understanding community needs that would evolve," said Ami Gopal, Water First Director of Development and Communications. "Around five years ago, we became fully focused on working in partnership with our Indigenous communities here in Canada. We've collaborated with 56 Indigenous communities in Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, and Labrador."

In 2013, Water First got involved with its first-ever Canadian initiative by partnering with Shawanaga First Nation. Then in 2016, Water First officially transitioned to focusing exclusively on water issues affecting First Nation communities in Canada.

"When we first started exploring the work we could do here in Canada, our executive director (John Millar) said he would be speaking with groups and organizations that would talk about challenges here at home and we started exploring to see what we could do and how we could support communities," Gopal said.

With a highly-trained growing and experienced staff, Water First has developed the best practices to ensure sustainable water in Indigenous communities. Though it's primarily a non-Indigenous organization, they have emphasized the importance of collaboration with Indigenous communities and are provided guidance from their First Nations Advisory Council member.

"Water First collaborates with Indigenous communities across the country. We're dedicated to resolving water challenges, so our focus is education and training to ensure sustainable access to clean water," said Gopal. "Our team isn't Indigenous-led, but we do have Indigenous staff and board members, and we rely on the frank and honest guidance of our First Nations Advisory Council—the members really help us design and deliver our programs to these communities. Our staff has grown over time, but they have extensive experience in developing and delivering programs—we've got water quality analysts, professors, engineers, environmental scientists. Our staff has the academic background, but also just a wealth of project experience. Over the years we've definitely grown. It comes back to building strong partnerships and taking the time to listen and understand what the communities' goals are and pairing that with a program that fits and helps address the challenges in a collaborative way."

Not every Indigenous community Water First works with is in need of the same program, which is why they've developed three programs and within those programs they adapt to the specifics of a given community.

"Water First has three core program areas: Drinking Water, Environmental Water, and we work with school-aged students," said Gopal. "Our Drinking Water program provides 15 months of paid skills training in water, water training, and treatment. The technology alone does not provide clean and reliable drinking water, the people who are running the systems are critical. Our drinking water internship prepares young Indigenous people for a career in their community water treatment plant, and they receive ongoing support as the enter the professional field.

"Our Environmental Water program—again the focus is on skills training—it's in the area of bodies of water with restoration and water quality studies. We consult with our Indigenous partners about their long-term goals and then together design a project-based training program to help achieve the goal while also building skills and local capacity. The third program is our Indigenous school water program. We engage entire schools, students from kindergarten to Grade 12 in hands-on workshops with fun and unique resources while promoting environmental conservation awareness."

Gopal believes the collaboration that Water First has prioritized is what makes them such an effective leader for change in the Indigenous communities they work with. She says it's not about them going in and telling communities how they can fix water issues, it's about working side-by-side with them to find solutions.

"Being a heavily collaborative organization helps us engage in a meaningful way with the communities so we can build trust that has lasting results from the work we do together," she said. "As a largely non-Indigenous organization, we've found that relevant solutions and sustainable programs really emerge through listening, building relationships, and reciprocal learning. Sometimes communities will have heard about Water First and will connect with us and other times we reach out, and really, it's organic and it grows from there. We've seen great success in building strong partnerships with communities and partners and then aligning the programs with the community goals, training needs, and objectives is what sets Water First apart."

The reason Water First decided to get involved is because the lack of accessible water isn't a problem they believe any Canadian should have to deal with says Gopal, and yet, it's been an ongoing issue for many Indigenous communities, particularly in Ontario.

"The water challenges that Indigenous communities are facing are unacceptable," she said. "13.5 per cent of First Nations communities in Canada are under a boiled water advisory, and in Ontario, it's 40 per cent of First Nations communities. In many communities, existing water treatment staff are doing a great job with available resources, but communities have identified the need for more young, qualified, and local personnel to support solving water issues independently and for the long term. Every community is different, so understanding what community members and leaders have to say about their goals and their priorities is really the catalyst for building relevant and sustainable solutions."

As a charity, Water First needs donation to continue to work with Indigenous communities in a timely manner. Donations help Water First in many capacities with 61 per cent going to its Drinking Water program, 14 per cent to its Indigenous Schools program, 12 per cent to its Environmental Water program, nine per cent to fundraising, and four per cent to administration.

"Water First is proud to receive support from individuals and organizations across the country," she said. "We are a charitable organization, so we rely on the support of donors, and that financial support allows us to respond to community needs in a timeframe that works for these communities. I would encourage anyone to keep the conversation going and learn more about water challenges that Indigenous communities are facing and to consider donating to Water First online and to following us on social media to track what we're doing."

The Rotary Club of Bolton is currently running a matching fundraiser up to $4,000 in collaboration with Water First. The Rotary club will match all donations which in turn will be matched again by Rotary International, meaning donations from the community will be quadrupled/

To donate to the Rotary Club of Bolton's fundraiser, visit checkout.square.site/merchant/G1P3Z9X02686G/checkout/W3IWKD2UISRFTMZR43WQVVQ2?src=embed and to donate to Water First, visit https://waterfirst.ngo/donate/.

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"Food for Thought Ahead of Hunger Action Month."

by Kim D'Eri, Manager, Community Animation



You can feel the concerted effort underway to get back to a more normal life after such a long pandemic, but many families and individuals in communities across Canada continue to struggle. Job loss, financial insecurity and mental health impacts don't miraculously disappear. The demand for basic support like food, remains high.

Between April 1st, 2019 and March 31st, 2020, Ontario's food banks were accessed by 537,575 adults and children who visited 3,282,514 times (Feed Ontario, Hunger Report 2020), but what does that look like here in Caledon?

George turned to Caledon Community Services (CCS) for support before the pandemic, after an accident left him unable to work. Our Food Support program ensures his family always has access to fresh nutritious foods. His wife is learning English with the help of our LINC (Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada) program, and George is working with our Employment and Training team to find meaningful work.

Janine worked in hospitality and unfortunately, the restaurant was a COVID casualty. For more than a year, she's been struggling. Our Food Support program provided Janine with food hampers and grocery gift cards while she worked with CCS' employment team to find work.
"It was the first time I had ever needed help with food and I was so thankful that I was able to get support like I did," she says.

September 1st marks the beginning of 'Hunger Action Month' an initiative that aims to raise awareness of hunger in communities across Canada and a reminder that hunger, food insecurity and poverty, while not always visible, are a fact of life in Caledon. But with the negative, comes the positives.

Every day we see service agencies sharing resources, restaurants and farmers donating their excess fresh foods, businesses and community groups hosting food drives and conducting fundraisers, and so much more. At CCS we're grateful that with your support, we've been able to continue to provide the services people need most, without interruption.

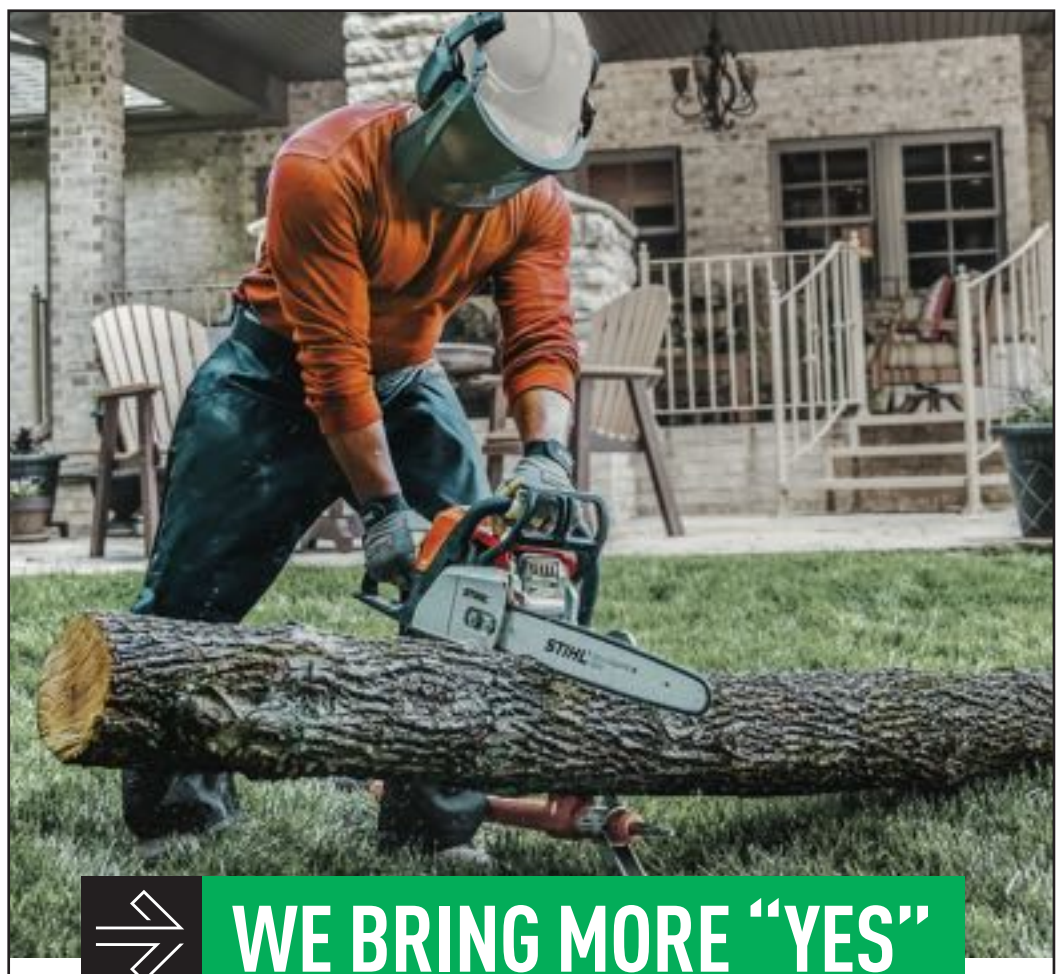
If you or a loved one needs a helping hand, we're just a call away at 905-584-2300 or toll-free at 1-833-552-2748. If you would like to make a difference for your neighbours in need, donations are welcome and appreciated. Financial gifts can be made securely at www.ccs4u.org and food donations can be dropped off at the Exchange (55 Healey Rd, Bolton). Visit www.caledonexchange.org for up to date drop-off information and most needed items.

**Names/details have been changed to protect client privacy*

How Do You See It?

Tell us how you see it.
Kim D'Eri, Manager, Community Resources, Caledon Community Services at 905-584-2300 ext. 202 or kderi@ccs4u.org

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York United tie Atletico Ottawa, smash Masters Futbol

BY ROBERT BELARDI



Jordan Wilson sealed the third goal of the match as York United defeated Masters Futbol. PHOTO BY DAVID CHANT

York United could have had two wins this week, but a late equalizer Atletico Ottawa midfielder Alberto Soto spoiled the party.

York, whose three points would have improved the club to an above .500 record, had a flurry of chances against Ottawa in the first 25 minutes. Kingston Jamaica native Nicolas Hamilton, had multiple opportunities only to see the gloves of Dylon Powley keep the ball out of the net.

On the other end, York United keeper Niko Giantsopoulos had some work to do to keep the boys level. In the 33rd minute, a header from Malcolm Shaw was parried aside by Giantsopoulos who was almost beaten at his near post.

In the 55th minute, Giantsopoulos was called upon again. Rafael Nunez at the left corner of the 18-yard-box was looking for the top-right corner of the goal only to be denied.

Just eight minutes later, Milovan Kapor tripped Max Ferrari in the box and York was awarded a penalty. Alvaro Rivero stepped up to the spot to put York United ahead.

Of course, in the 89 minute, Alberto Soto fired off a shot just outside the 18-yard area and found the bottom corner for the equalizer.

Giantsopoulos, who was awarded man of the match, said post-game York was expecting to win.

"Tough game. Both teams had chances. I think either team could have won it. I guess a draw is a fair result," he said. "But when it's 89 minute and we're up one nothing we're expecting to win. A bit disappointed with the final result."

Moving into their second game of the week, this match came against League 1 club Masters Futbol Academy in the preliminary round of the Canadian Championship.

Unlike the match against Atletico Ottawa, York United got off to a flying start. Isaiah Johnston slipped the ball through to Max Ferrari and the young man slid the ball into the corner of the net for the early lead.

Since York United opened the floodgates in the 38-minute, they potted home another four goals.

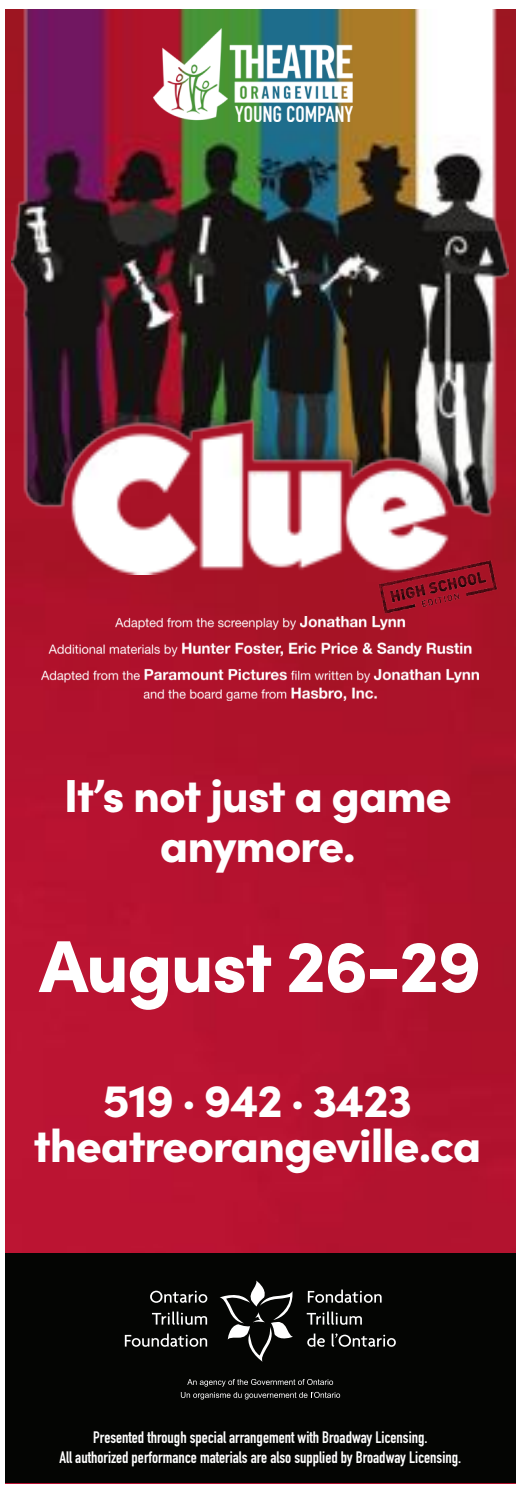
Osvaldo Ramirez, Jordan Wilson and two goals from Julian Ulbricht sealed the 5-0 win over the 2019 League 1 Champions.

"These are difficult games and it can swing both ways. We said at the beginning we have to take control of this game. Often, as you've seen in whatever league that it is in cup matches, especially one-off games they're banana skins. We had to put in a professional performance tonight and we did," said Jimmy Brennan, Head Coach of York United.

"They showed some good work ethic and we were disciplined in our approach. I thought it was a good performance by the boys tonight."

York took on HFX Wanderers this Wednesday. The match report for that game, will come next week.

As for the Canadian Championship, York United will take on Toronto FC at BMO Field on September 14.



Caledon Soccer Club in Ontario Cup semifinals

BY ROBERT BELARDI

Caledon Soccer Club will have two teams make an appearance in the Ontario Cup semifinals next weekend.

The U17 girls' side and the U15 boys' team have been quite impressive throughout the year and it's no surprise they are one game away from fighting for a trophy.

It's been quite the year and one that both clubs won't forget. The U15 boys, have had months of training over zoom calls and when the time came around to play there was barely any time to practice.

"Essentially we went from nothing over a year to an overloaded schedule. Many of the past four to five weeks, we've had three games a week. Professional players don't even play three times a week, let-alone youth athletes," said Simon Burns, head coach of the U15 boys.

"We've barely had any time to practice because players need recovery time. So, playing so many games really limits the amount of practice time. It's been a double-edged sword."

Burns admitted his players have been technically practicing while playing games at 110 per cent. It's been challenging for all teams and, of course, managing a competitive match and a practice are two different things.

He commended the effort from his players season for how strong his team has been mentally. The boys support each other and are very positive while on the pitch. The team is supported by excellent parents who are loving every minute of it.

"All the kids are leaders in their own way. That really helps maintain a positive attitude and they drive each other. As a coach, there's only so much motivating you can do at some point it has to come internally. They are a motivated group," Burns said.

His club will be taking on Juventus Academy in the semi-final, who are playing through Glen Shields FC.

In the other quarterfinals, the U17 girls' side defeated Bolton 7-0 en-route to the semis.

Goals came from Bella Mazzaferro (3), Angelina Kristin (2), Sarah Lopez and Jessica Tavares. Goalkeeper Katie Furlong saved a penalty throughout the match as well.

The girls, who are currently playing up a year and are all 16 years of age, will be eligible to be contacted next year by the NCAA if they are scouted.

That opportunity is a testament to their competitive level and how hard they train.

"Apart from their training and what they do, their possession and their passing is far superior than most teams they play. Where they might struggle is the physicality part because of the year difference. Usually they are the team with the ball most of the time," head coach Terry Madison said.

This week, Caledon will be taking on Dixie Soccer Club not just in the semifinals of the Ontario Cup, but also in the league. Taking this team on twice in the same week will be a mental challenge. The last time these two took each other on, Dixie Soccer Club won 3-1.

The Ontario Cup finals if both Caledon clubs emerge victorious, are set to take place at the Ontario Soccer Centre in Woodbridge in mid-September.

The league will continue to run until the end of September and Madison said he hopes to partake in a tournament in October. Next spring, he also hopes to travel south of the border so the girls can be scouted by universities.

Stay tuned.



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Gray honoured by Town as Community Champion after decades of volunteering

Continued from FRONT

He spent years involved in the 4-H-clubs in Peel, founded the Junior Farmers Club in Peel in 1962, and was the founding President of DixieLane Junior Farmers in 1963.

"One of my first times volunteering, I was a 4-H member myself and other leaders had given me their knowledge and I thought it was interesting," he said. "After your 21 you can't be a 4-H member anymore, but I guess I did well and some of the leaders saw and told me I should be a 4-H leader and when they asked, I jumped at it. That's the way it always has been, with the S.H.A.R.E. foundation, my brother and I were so heavily involved—I don't think I missed an annual meeting in all my years back to 1977—and they asked me to become a board member and I became treasurer."

As Secretary of Peel Junior Farmers, he chaired the committee that organized the Farewell Party of the Junior Farmers Building in Brampton when the Peel Agricultural Society sold the Fairgrounds to the City of Brampton.

Gray also served on the Board of Directors of Peel Soil and Crop Improvement Association and the Board of Peel County Holstein Club. He was Secretary-Treasurer of Peel Federation of Agriculture for a number of years and was a Director of Ontario Federation Agriculture representing Peel. He chaired the Peel 2000 event held at the new Junior Farmers' Hall at the Brampton Fairgrounds.

He was Secretary-Treasurer of Flowerlea Dairy Co-op for 13 years and later became a delegate, board member and vice president at Gay Lea Foods Co-op. He was also Chairman of Dairyland Transport Co-op and also spent time as a member of the Peel Milk Committee and later chaired of the committee.

For the last 14 years Gray has volunteered to help get rid of the invasive species such as purple loosestrife and phragmites for the Town of Caledon and the Region of Peel, digging up hundreds of plants year after year.

He is also an active member of Mayfield United Church, leading the Young Peoples Group, singing in the choir, and serving on the board of stewards. He was superintendent of the Senior Sunday School for two years and helped raise funds for their choir when they were invited to sing on stage at Carnegie Hall in 2019.

Gray was founding chair of Central Peel Group of Churches. This group of United Churches grew to include churches beyond Peel and changed its name to The GIFT Group (Growing In Faith Together).

One of his other passions is S.H.A.R.E. Agriculture Foundation, a small, volunteer-managed charity that helps impoverished rural people in Central America, Bolivia, Haiti and Columbia. He has been a strong supporter from its beginning in 1976.

"My motivation is my passion for the community," he said. "I've always been involved with the church and the S.H.A.R.E. Agriculture Foundation helping a larger community internationally. I've been down in Central America a couple times and the only difference is that we were born here or immigrated to Canada, and those people were born in developing countries. I spoke at an event one day and I said, 'you probably paid $2 for a coffee this morning, and that's the average wage per day for them.' Our ancestors came to Canada in 1823, they did it for a sake, so, now I'm trying to help someone else."

The way Gray looks at life is that if someone needs him, then he'll be there to lend a helping hand in any way he can for the community, and he doesn't plan on stopping anytime soon.

"I was treasurer of the S.H.A.R.E. foundation for almost 36 years and the biggest thing was how time consuming it is to find a volunteer," he said. "And even after I've found one, I'm still helping out—I was on a Zoom call this morning. They tease me that they're going to put me out to pasture, so my new title is Donor Relation Officer. Helping others towards a better life, either here or internationally, is very rewarding, and I have met and worked with many wonderful people, some now are great friends, and all this is what keeps me going. I'll carry on with this until I'm here no longer. I think I'll probably continue on with volunteering until I drop, that's my plan. I want to help where I can, and wherever I can."



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OBITUARIES | OBITUARIES

MORANDI, GILBERT DOMENIC



It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of our Husband/Dad/Papa after a 5 year battle with cancer and mental health, at Hospice Georgian Triangle/ Campbell House, Collingwood on Saturday, August 21, 2021 in his 83rd year. Beloved husband of Marlene (Bonus) for over 60 years. Loving father of Deanne and her husband Gerald Tweddle of Markdale and Greg and his wife Deb of Collingwood. Gil is loved and remembered by grandchildren Geoff (Janelle) Tweddle, Melanie (Corey) Stephens, Garrett (Caileigh) Morandi, Carlyn Morandi and his great grandchildren Alexis & Chelsea Tweddle and Camron, Cole, Avery Stephens. Predeceased by parents Luigi & Albertina Morandi and in-laws Allan & Frances Bonus.

Gil was blessed in life, his parents Albertina and Luigi immigrated to Canada from Italy early in 1938; Gil was born later that year. He attended elementary school in Toronto and high school at St. Michaels Collegiate in Toronto and with hard work and determination attended the University of Toronto graduating as a Doctor of Dental Surgery in June 1962. Marlene spotted Gil on a street car, and announced to her mother, that he was the one, and as luck would have it a mutual friend brought them together. They were married Dec 17, 1960. Both only children, Gil & Marlene were each other's best friends. Daughter Deanne arrived March 1962 while Gil was studying for his final exams. Greg made his arrival January 1964. Gil was very proud of his "million dollar" family. Gil opened his dental practice in Bolton upon graduation, which was very successful and retired May 2003. Gil was an active member of the Rotary Club of Bolton, Bolton District Minor Hockey Association, as well as a sponsor and coach of many teams and groups. Gil & Marlene retired to Markdale where Gil continued to volunteer with the Markdale Rotary Club and Beaver Valley Ski Club. Recently Gil & Marlene moved to Collingwood. His children and spouses added to the family and Gil became Papa in 1986. He loved his 4 grandchildren, teaching them to ski, watching them in various activities, being an integral part of their lives. 5 great grandchildren joined the family and Papa was involved as much as possible. Gil and Marlene travelled to many places, before and after retirement, down south, ski trips, cruises, Italy and other parts of Europe. He will be greatly missed by family and friends. He will be lovingly remembered for his work ethic, his love of his family, his kindness, his 'one liners', his goofy sense of humour.

We are eternally grateful for the support provided by Dr. Raymond Bouchard and his care team, Home and Community Care Collingwood, Right at Home Home Care and the Hospice Georgian Triangle/Campbell House for the amazing care Gil & our family received. A private family Celebration of Life will occur at a future date. Memorial contributions and condolences at www.fawcettfuneralhome.ca 888-924-2810

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LESCHYSHYN, Peter

August 29, 2013

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WHITE, Elizabeth (Betty) (nee Brown)



Per Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ on Saturday, August 21st, 2021 at the age of 92. Beloved wife of the late Alexander White (2009). Dear mother of Lois Giles (John), Alex (Shelley), Cynthia Patton (Dale), Randy (Jane), Jeffery (Deanna), David (Stephanie), Betty Ann Rhea (Tony) and Lisa White. Cherished Grandmother of 21 grandchildren, 24 Great-Grandchildren and 1 Great-Great-Grandchild. Predeceased by her brother and sisters. Betty will also be greatly missed by other relatives and friends. Private family funeral service will be held at ***Dods & McNair Funeral Home, Chapel & Reception Centre*** 21 First St Orangeville on Wednesday, August 25th, 2021. Interment to follow at Shelburne Cemetery. Memorial donations to the Salvation Army or the Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated by the family.
A tree will be planted in memory of Betty in the Dods & McNair Memorial Forest at the Island Lake Conservation Area, Orangeville.
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Caledon Music Festival returns to Alton Mills Art Centre

Continued from FRONT

Last year, without being able to have the festival in its regular capacity, the organizers pivoted to online and though it was successful, Rho is thankful they'll be back to an in-person event this year because it loses something when the audience isn't able to feel the connection to the artist.

"I came in 2019 and 2020 was the first year we decided to change the name to the Caledon Music Festival and then the pandemic hit so we didn't actually get to present the concerts in person. Last year…we partnered with the Bethell Hospice Foundation to present three virtual concerts in April and May, and we produced a couple of videos to share with our following.

"This year, until very recently, it was unclear if we could actually go ahead with this as everything was still closed, and even when things opened up, live music events seemed like it was one of the last things to come back. We didn't want to put it off for another year if we could find a window where we could do this in person and we didn't want to repeat with another virtual season. That's why we decided to do this at Alton Mill, where we've presented concerts in past years."

The precautions that go into hosting the concert during the pandemic has made it more difficult than in years past, especially with the ever-changing nature of COVID-19, but the new outdoor tent at Alton Mill has been a game changer for the layout of the event.

"It's a lot trickier than other years," she said. "It feels like we're doing it for the first time, really, in terms of communicating with the venue and trying to find the right dates and times while thinking about the COVID safety protocols with what's safe and what's not, because it's always changing. With that comes planning, like for distancing, how are we going to configure the seating at the venue? There are just all sorts of things we've never really had to think about that we're now having to research and see if we can do it. Thankfully, the outdoor tent where we're going to be doing our concerts at the Mill is huge and there's so much air flow—it's allowing us to be outdoors for the concerts."

The two concerts will take on different themes with Friday evening being titled Cocktails and Classics, and Beer and Baroque for the Sunday afternoon concert.

The two concerts will feature the same lineup of Travis Harrison (bass), Emily Kruspe (violin), Katya Poplyansky (violin), Rory McLeod (viola), Terry Lim (flute), Sarah Yunji Moon (flute), Emily Vondrejsová (soprano), and Amahl Arulanandam (cello), but they'll be playing different pieces.

"We have eight artists, and all eight artists are performing at the Friday night and the Sunday afternoon concerts," Rho said. "They'll be performing in different configurations, so some will play solo one night and then the next concert they might be playing as part of a bigger ensemble. Among the eight there's a lot of variety—two violinists, one viola player, one cello, one bassist, two flutist, and one singer. It will be a mix of classical music pieces—like Clair de Lune – it's one of my favourite that I had been dying to program—and there's some folksy double bass solos and some jazzy flute. That's on the Friday. On the Sunday, the concert is titled, 'Beer and Baroque,' so we'll have some Baroque music by Bach and Handel.

"Back in 2019, we started a singalong component to get everybody in the audience involved as part of the concert, and we're going to do that again. So, there will be a singalong and then we'll finish the festival with Dvořák String Sextet, which has a proven record as an audience favourite in other classical music festivals so I think it will be really fun."

For Rho, building a classical artists lineup as the artistic director of the concert is made easier by the amount of connections she has made in the music world through her years as a pianist and her previous involvement with the festival.

"I've been involved with the festival as an organizer the last few years but before that I was a volunteer and performer as well," she said. "Emily Vondrejsová is a singer who will be leading the singalong and she's going to have another separate set as part of the program and she's local to Caledon; she's been singing with us the past few years. Our double bass player, Travis Harrison, performed at the festival two years ago and was part of our videos last year, same for our violist Rory McLeod. He's actually my husband and he's been performing at the festival for a while, his brother was actually the artistic director when it was called the Belfountain Music Festival—there's a lot of family and friend connections here. Then, through being in the music business you make lots of connections and I always try to mix things up and bring in new artists while keeping some of the older more established ones. It's always a mix of old and new."

Many of the performers have played on noteworthy stages, but what keeps bringing them back to the Caledon Music Festival is the chance to play in an intimate setting where they can truly connect with fellow lovers of classic music.

"Every year, the motivation is to connect with an audience that we haven't necessarily connected with before," she said. "Some of our artists often play in bigger halls—Roy Thomson Hall and Four Seasons Centre—where there's almost no connection between the audience and the artist. As artists, we really crave that connection and the opportunity to actually meet people and get to know people. Some of our artists are coming back and some are local, so we start to see the same people and we start to make friends. In any given year that's our motivation, but this year, we haven't been performing for the last 17 months. We are hungry to just play for people and, this year, that's the main difference."

PLUMBING









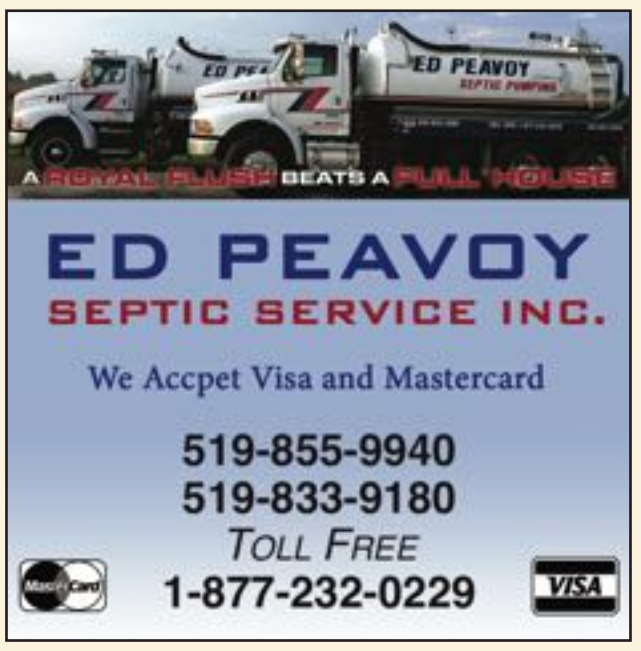
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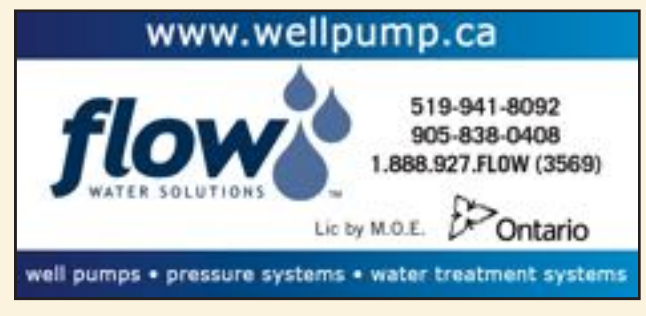




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