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Canada increases border restrictions as Omicron variant poses new COVID-19 threat

BY ROB PAUL

Last week, the World Health Organization classified the COVID-19 Omicron variant as a variant of concern. Since then, it has been found in multiple countries, including several travel-related cases in Canada.

The variant became a concern last week when it was detected in South Africa and is viewed as potentially more highly contagious than the Delta variant. As a result, the Federal Government announced additional border measures to reduce the risk of it entering Canada.

Canada has put into effect a mandate that any foreign nationals who have been in any of the countries on the entry prohibition list within the previous 14 days will not be permitted entry into Canada. The countries on the list are Botswana, Egypt, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, and Zimbabwe.

"We are taking quick action at our borders to mitigate travel related importations of the Omicron variant," said Jean-Yves Duclos, Canada's Minister of Health. "While our monitoring systems are working well, we now know that the Omicron variant is present in Canada. We need to remain vigilant in our own actions. Vaccination and simple public health measures such as masking and limiting the number of persons we interact with slow down transmission, reduce hospitalization and death, and protect our health systems from being overwhelmed. We must all continue to do our part to protect all people in Canada."

At an announcement in Mississauga on December 1 for funding towards Trillium Health Partners, Premier Doug Ford and Deputy Premier and Minister of Health Christine Elliott spoke about the Omicron variant.

"Cause for concern, but not a cause for panic," said Ford. "Every day we learn more about the Omicron virus and how quickly it can spread and how severe it may be. We're learning about how effective our vaccines are and every day we hold off more cases from entering our country, the more time we have to learn and prepare. The best thing we can do right now is fortify our borders. Our best defence is keeping the variant out of our country. I want to thank the Feds for taking action and being decisive on the borders.

"We will continue to call on them to be proactive and not wait to implement every measure needed to keep Canadians safe. The good news is that each of us has the power to slow the spread of this variant and all variants. If you haven't already done so, please get vaccinated today. If you've put off getting your second dose then please get your second dose, and if you're eligible for your third dose then please book your booster appointment."

There will also be increased screening at airports to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 due to the contagious variant, but the severity of impact the variant could have in Ontario and Canada is still not known.

"There's still a lot we don't know about the Omicron variant, the extent of the transmissibility, the virulence, and how safe and effective our vaccines are, but we're continuing with all of our precautions," said Elliott. "We have a great system for testing and case and contact management that has followed up with all 375 people who had travelled to the South African countries. We'll continue to test and follow up while ensuring their quarantine. We're also continuing with our vaccinations and doing really well, we're at 89.9 per cent with 12 years and up for first dose and 87 per cent with people with the second dose and have already vaccinated over 109,000 children (five to 11) in the last 10 days."

Peel itself has 75 per cent of all residents fully vaccinated with 78.4 per cent at one dose. 89.7 per cent of all adults (18+) in the Region have at least one dose and 86.2 per cent have both doses while those 12 and older are at 89.7 per cent single dose coverage and 86 per cent double dose coverage.

In total, the Region has administered 2,579,638 doses of the vaccine to 1,331,226 individuals. 1,214,490 individuals have both doses and 33,922 have received a third dose.

COVID cases in the Region remain steady with 309 new cases this week to bring its total to 119,318, but there were no additional deaths as the number stayed at 1,031.

In Caledon, there were 14 new cases to bring the total to 4,979 as the death count remains at 22 for the Town.

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

To download or print a copy of your proof of vaccination, visit covid-19.ontario.ca/covid-19-vaccine-booking-support#proof-of-vaccination. To learn more about the official QR code system Ontario has implemented and to access yours, visit covid-19.ontario.ca/get-proof.

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Headwaters Hospital confirms unauthorized access in suspicious email activity

BY PAULA BROWN

Headwaters Health Care Centre (HHCC) has confirmed the cause of suspicious email activity that led to the shutdown of their internal systems, and the closure of the COVID-19 assessment centre.

On Friday, November 26, the local hospital released an updated notice on their website noting their system had been subjected to "unauthorized access" resulting in a number of spam emails.

"We are working with cybersecurity experts who will help us safely restore our IT services and investigate what happened and whether any sensitive data was exposed," said the hospital.

The hospital's information technology system noticed suspicious email activity the day previous (November 25), with a number of spam emails sent from the CEO Kim Delahunt's email account to staff members of the hospital. As a result of the security breach, the hospital shut down their internal system as well as access to the internet and key external partners.

"As an organization we take cybersecurity very seriously and have numerous measures in place to protect our data," wrote the hospital in a November 25 notice. "Thankfully, our team noticed unusual activity quickly and [acted] immediately."

The suspicious email, repeatedly sent from Delahunt's email address on November 25 was from Lorenz ransomware, stating all the hospitals files across its entire system has been encrypted, which includes private medical data.

The email continues, "We will publish all the contents of your company on our site includes all your confidential medical history, employers information, documentation, catalogs, reports, configs, mail, database's, invoice's, signature's etc."

The email says to prevent the attack, visit its website and follow its instructions which entails downloading a TOR browser and paying money to recover the files.

Lorenz is a new variant of Sz40 ransomware, which is designed to encrypt data and demand ransom for decryption. This means Lorenz renders affected files inaccessible and then asks for payment to regain access.

Meanwhile, the shutdown of Headwaters Health Care Centre's systems isn't impacting patient care, as the local hospital said they have "robust processes" in place.

Scheduled surgeries or procedures have not been impacted at the time of print, and the emergency department remains open 24/7.

With the COVID-19 assessment centre temporarily closed, alternative testing locations in Peel Region and in Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph have been given to residents.

At the time of print, there is no timeline for when the hospital expects to have their systems back up and running.

"This process will take some time. We are committed to being transparent and will notify individuals if we learn that personal information has been exposed," said Headwaters.

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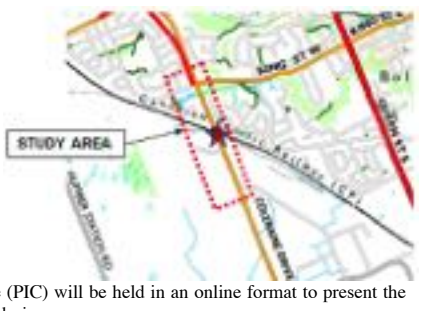
*Some restrictions apply. Pictures taken prior to Covid-19.

Public Notice — Region of Peel, working with you

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE NO. 2

COLERAINE DRIVE GRADE SEPARATION, SOUTH OF OLD ELLWOOD DRIVE, TOWN OF CALEDON
MUNICIPAL CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT STUDY

The Region of Peel is conducting a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA) Study for a grade separation of the Canadian Pacific Railway (CP) on Coleraine Drive in the Town of Caledon (see map). The purpose of the study is to consider grade separation improvements of the CP Rail line on Coleraine Drive, south of Old Ellwood Drive.



The Study is being conducted in compliance with Schedule 'C' of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (Municipal Engineers Association, as amended in 2015), which is approved under the *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act*.

PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE NO. 2

Due to the current COVID-19 guidelines, the Public Information Centre (PIC) will be held in an online format to present the evaluation of alternative design concepts and recommended preliminary design.

To provide your input/comments you can:

- **Visit the Project Website from December 16, 2021 to January 21, 2022** to review project details through an interactive PIC portal and provide your feedback online. The PIC is available via the project website at: https://peelregion.ca/pw/transportation/construction/environmental-assessment/coleraine-drive.asp

The Project Team will review and consider the feedback received at the PIC and confirm the recommended preliminary design. The next steps of the study include the preparation of an Environmental Study Report (ESR) to document the planning, consultation and design process. At the end of the study, the ESR will be made available for public review for a minimum of 30 calendar days and at that time, a Notice of Completion will also be issued.

If you have any questions or comments on the Study, please contact either of the following Project Team members:

Tareq Mahmood
Region of Peel
10 Peel Centre Drive, Suite B, 4th Floor
Brampton, ON L6T 4B9
Tel: 905 791 7800 ext. 7828
Toll free: 1-888-919-7800
Email: tareq.mahmood@peelregion.ca

Stephen Keen, P.Eng
Consultant Project Manager
CIMA Canada Inc. (CIMA+)
3027 Harvester Road, Suite 400
Burlington, ON L7N 3G7
Tel: 289-288-0287 ext. 6834
Email: stephen.keen@cima.ca

The Region of Peel is committed to ensure that all Regional services, programs and facilities are inclusive and accessible for persons with disabilities. Please contact the Project Manager if you need any disability accommodation to participate in the study.

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

Follow Peel Public Works on Twitter for service updates and changes.

This notice was first issued on December 2, 2021



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bolton opens doors to employees of Amazon's second sort centre in Ontario

BY ROB PAUL

Amazon Canada recently welcomed employees for their first day at its new sort centre in Bolton.

The new facility will provide career opportunities to 800 Ontarians, and facilitate faster delivery times across the GTA. The new facility is approximately 270,000 square-feet and is only Ontario's second sort centre.

Employees were greeted with a walk on the raceway-themed carpet, followed by on-site presentations, introducing the team and walking through safety protocols, including sanitation and social distancing procedures.

With the new sort centre, Amazon Canada is aiming to make it an employee-friendly place of employment through a flexible work schedules, robust benefits and wellbeing programs from day one, as well as a starting wage of $18.70 per hour. The site employees will fulfill tasks such as sorting and loading customer items for final delivery.

"We're Bolt-ing towards the future in Bolton," said Morteza Khaniki, Bolton YHM9 Site Leader. "We are so pleased to offer the great residents of the area a variety of new job opportunities, and to increase the efficiency and capacity options for shipping just in time for the holiday season."

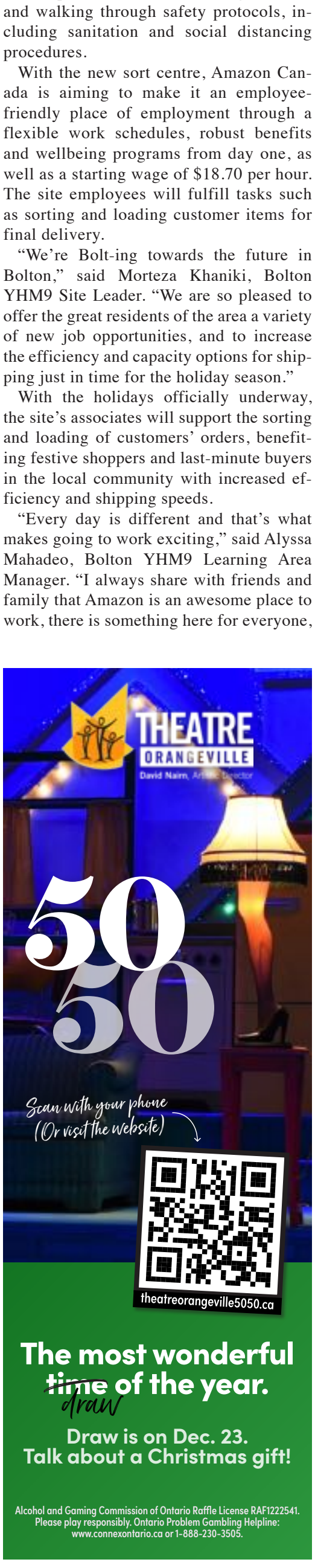
With the holidays officially underway, the site's associates will support the sorting and loading of customers' orders, benefiting festive shoppers and last-minute buyers in the local community with increased efficiency and shipping speeds.

"Every day is different and that's what makes going to work exciting," said Alyssa Mahadeo, Bolton YHM9 Learning Area Manager. "I always share with friends and family that Amazon is an awesome place to work, there is something here for everyone, and it doesn't matter where you start, it's all about where you'll end up—there are so many career growth opportunities."

Mayor Allan Thompson says he is excited about the opportunity for Bolton's economic recovery through job opportunities with the opening of the new sort centre.

"The opening of the Amazon sort centre in Bolton and the addition of 800 new jobs is great news for our communities, residents and our local economy," said Thompson. "Amazon is a highly regarded corporate partner in the Town of Caledon and I join them in welcoming their new employees."

The new Bolton Sort Centre will not only positively impact the economic growth within Peel Region through job opportunities for area residents, it will also increase the capacity of the local delivery network, offering consumers additional shipping options and supporting its community of residents and local businesses who rely on Amazon for day-to-day operations.





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Thanks for shopping local!



FATAL COLLISION

Officers from the Caledon OPP are investigating a fatal motor vehicle collision that occurred on Highway 9, in the Town of Caledon.

"On Tuesday, November 30, 2021 at approximately 10:50 p.m., officers responded to Highway 9 west of Mountainview Road for the report of a vehicle collision," say Police. "For unknown reasons an eastbound and westbound vehicle collided head-on. One of the involved vehicles caught fire at the scene.

"As a result of the collision, Mathyharan Arumugam, 24, from Caledon was pronounced deceased at the scene."

The occupants of the second vehicle were transported to hospital in critical condition.

Collision Reconstructionists from the OPP Central Region Traffic Incident Management and Enforcement Team are assisting with the investigation. Highway 9 was closed for several hours for the investigation.

Anyone who may have witnessed the collision or who may have dash camera footage is being asked to contact the OPP Caledon Detachment at (905) 584-2241.

DRIVER IDENTIFIED

Officers from the Caledon OPP are investigating a fatal motor vehicle collision that occurred on Mississauga Road, in the Town of Caledon.

"On Saturday, November 27, at approximately 3:30 a.m., officers responded to Mississauga Road north of King Street for the report of a single motor vehicle collision," say Police. "For unknown reasons, the motor vehicle lost control and struck a hydro pole. The driver was ejected from the vehicle."

The driver, Jamaal Potopsingh, 26, from Shelburne was pronounced deceased at the scene. There were no other occupants in the vehicle.

"Collision Reconstructionists from the OPP Central Region Traffic Incident Management and Enforcement Team are assisting with the investigation. Mississauga Road was closed for several hours for the investigation."

Anyone who may have witnessed the collision is being asked to contact the OPP Caledon Detachment - (905) 584-2241.

POLICE SEEK INFO ON MULTI-VEHICLE CRASH

Officers from the Caledon OPP are investigating a multi vehicle collision that occurred on Highway 10, in the Town of Caledon.

"On Saturday, November 27, 2021 at approximately 5:15 p.m., officers responded to Highway 10 south of County Road 109 for the report of a head-on multi-vehicle collision," say Police. "Upon arriving, officers were advised that the driver of one of the involved vehicles had fled the scene on foot.

"Highway 10 between Highpoint Side Road and County Road 109 was closed for several hours for the collision investigation and search for the fleeing driver. Members of the OPP Canine and Central Region Emergency Response Units attended the scene to assist with the search. There were no injuries to those involved in the collision who remained at scene."

Caledon OPP is requesting the public's assistance in identifying the driver who fled the scene.

"The driver fled from a 2016 Silver 4-door BMW," say Police. "The police investigation is ongoing."

Anyone who may have witnessed the collision, has dash-camera footage, or has information about who was driving the BMW is being asked to contact the OPP Caledon Detachment - (905) 584-2241 or 1-888-310-1122.

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

ANIMALS SURVIVE BARN FIRE

Officers from the Caledon OPP and crews from the Caledon Fire and Emergency Services attended a barn fire in the Town of Caledon.

"On Saturday, November 27, 2021 at approximately 8:05 a.m., members of the OPP Caledon Detachment as well as several stations from the Caledon Fire and Emergency Services responded to a large barn fire on Innis Lake Road north of Old Church Road in the Town of Caledon," say Police.

"The barn, housing over twenty horses, was fully engulfed when emergency services arrived. Residents of the property were able to evacuate the animals from the barn, saving all housed animals. One resident sustained smoke inhalation as a result and attended hospital."

Damage to the barn is estimated to be over $1.5 million dollars.

Emergency Services remained at the scene for several hours.

The fire is not considered to be suspicious.

DRIVERS TRY TO PAY WITH CANNABIS AT GAS STATION: POLICE

Officers from the Caledon OPP investigated several reports of impaired drivers over the past weekend, resulting in several charges.

"On Saturday, November 27, 2021 at approximately 7:30 a.m., members of the OPP Caledon Detachment attended a gas station on Highway 10 following the report of a driver attempting to pay for gas with cannabis," say Police. "As officers investigated, the driver showed signs of impairment and was arrested."

Andrew Scalon, 31, from Brampton, has been charged with:

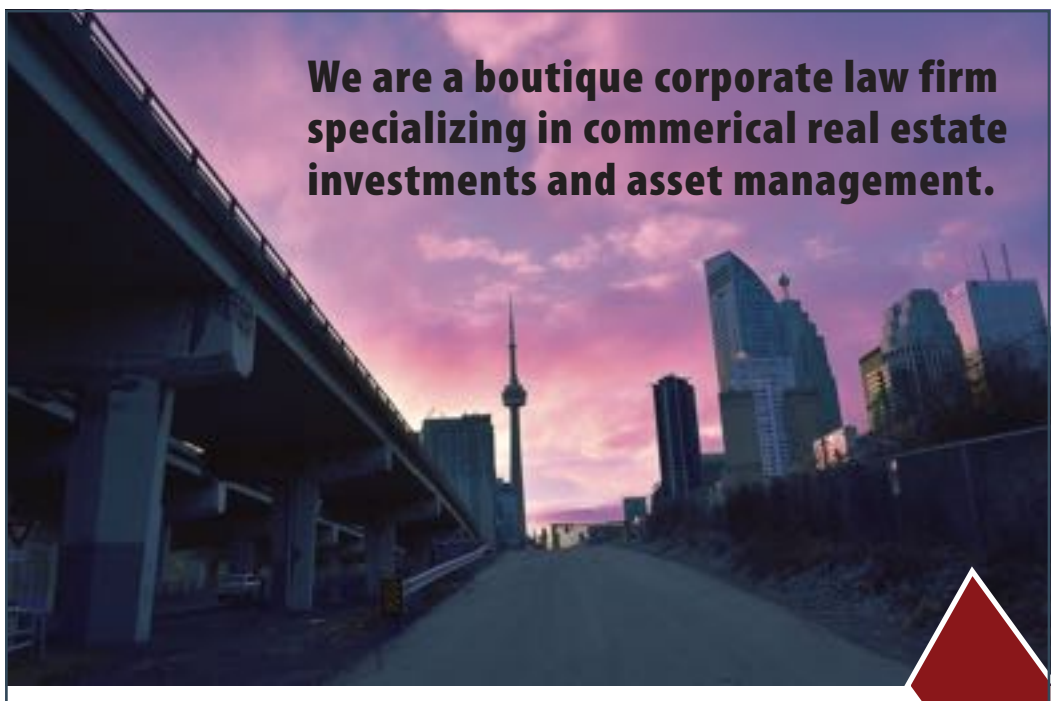
- Operation of a Motor Vehicle - Over 80mgs.

The driver scheduled to appear in Orangeville Provincial Court in February 2022.

The charge has not been proven.

OPP Caledon Detachment members also conducted several RIDE checkpoints throughout Caledon over the weekend as part of the OPP's Province wide Festive RIDE impaired driving enforcement campaign. One driver was issued a 3-Day Roadside suspension while three other drivers were issued charges under the Cannabis Control Act and Liquor License Act for having open cannabis and liquor available while operating their vehicle.

The OPP Caledon Detachment would like to remind motorists to plan ahead if they choice to celebrate the approaching festive season. Use a designated driver, ride sharing, public transit or taxi to ensure that you have a responsible and safe outing.

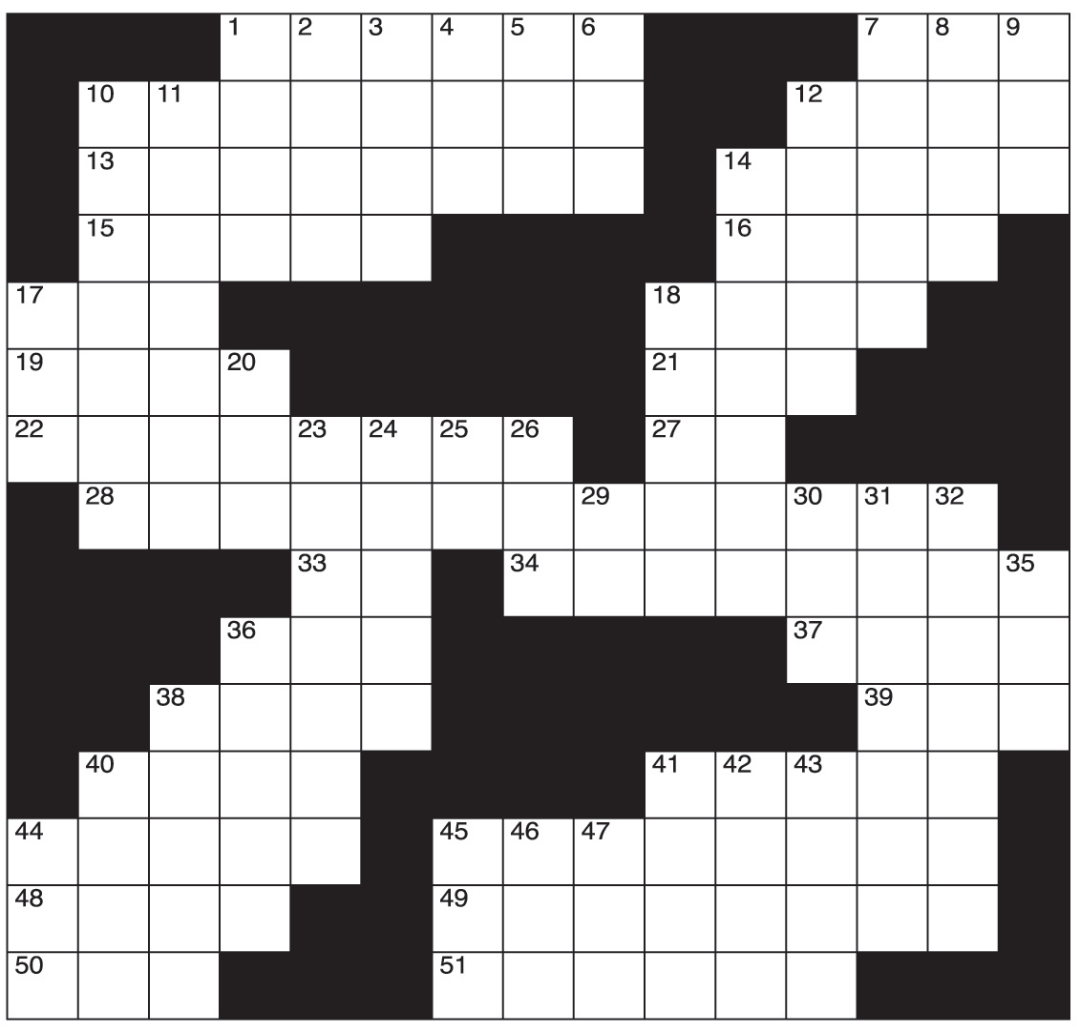


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1. Topsides
7. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
10. A Sultan's court
12. Maine city
13. Largest living land animal
14. Appetizer
15. Encounters
16. Leader
17. The source of bacon
18. Nuclear near reach weapon (abbr.)
19. Celery (Spanish)
21. Pie _ __ mode
22. Eye disease
27. Hello (slang)
28. Those in their 80s
33. Law enforcement agency (abbr.)
34. Business organizations
36. Mimic
37. For indicating speed of rotation (abbr.)
38. Feeling
39. Visual way to interact with computers (abbr.)
40. "Let It Snow!" songwriter
41. Essential oil used as perfume
44. Norwegian composer
45. Coast
48. __ lang syne, good old days
49. Gland behind the stomach
50. Tooth caregiver
51. King of Camelot

CLUES DOWN

1. N. American indigenous people
2. Fascinated by
3. Root of out
4. Patti Hearst's captors
5. Atomic #50
6. Habitual drunkard
7. Arabic for "peace"
8. Trickery
9. One's physique (slang)
10. Not quite there
11. Wistfully mournful
12. Popular dance
14. Cut of meat
17. A way to stand
18. "Gunga Din" screenwriter
20. 10th month of the year (abbr.)
23. A way of jumping
24. Utah town
25. Of I
26. Actress de Armas
29. Silver
30. Play a role
31. __ Falls
32. Attaches to
35. Japanese title
36. Expressed pleasure
38. Buckets
40. Dirt
41. Hypnotists' group (abbr.)
42. Restaurant drive-__
43. Digs up
44. He voices "Olaf"
45. Relaxing place
46. Body part
47. Pesky house critter

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

CCS thankful for strong community support ahead of virtual Home for the Holidays Gala

Continued from FRONT

This year the gala will be held Saturday, December 4 at 7 p.m. and each ticket includes a delivered gala package (including a bottle of wine, a gift card for a local fine dining restaurant for your meal, early access to the auction, and other surprises). There will be plenty of entertainment throughout the gala including a DJ.

"It's basically like a mini television production," said Cragg. "Behind-the-scenes it's an incredibly complex event to set up. We've had around 50 community members and staff working on it since the last gala ended—they started back up right away. There's going to be three hosts this year and it's like they're hosting a television show and it will have a lot of ad-libs and they'll play off each other. They're three powerful entertainers—Sarah Clarkson (a jazz vocalist), Howard Lopez (a solo pianist and in a jazz trio), and DJ Kid Soul.

"We will have the DJ when the program ends to allow people to be able to dance into the evening beyond when the formal part of the gala concludes—that was very well received with the last virtual gala we did. There will also be an auction going on throughout the evening (the auction opened November 29) and registered attendees will get a link to be able to bid. There are some pretty exciting things in the auction like getaways, premium Leafs and Jays packages, a playoff for the pros package, and other things to bid on. Of course, the reason for the gala is the gifts from the heart people can bid on which are the feed a family and the gift of independence."

The transition from the regular in-person event to a virtual event in 2020 allowed for 2021's gala to come together very smoothly, in part thanks to those who have stepped up to get everything ready.

"An in-person gala may actually be more difficult because you're decorating a whole hall whereas here, you're just decorating a set," said Cragg. "The same group who worked on the last in-person gala did the sets last year and this year and they're very talented local interior designers—they knock it out of the park whether it's live or a virtual set. Fairhart Productions is the productions sponsor and they've taken care of the media end, which is a complexity that we aren't used to. They're handling the webcast and that's not something we would have to do with the in-person gala. There's distinct differences in how the two mediums operate."

Moving to the virtual event last year, Cragg says they didn't know what to expect with it being such a different experience, but with a lack of holiday events in 2020 it drew a strong crowd which helped bring more attention to this year's gala.

"It was well received last year and because of that there's been a little more buzz heading into this year with people saying, 'You can't miss this, it's so good,'" she said. "I believe we're going to sell out the tickets this year other than the unlimited $20 tickets, which I think will be good for new people who want to check it out and see what it's all about. I think lot of the people who decide to check it out this year will be in for the full experience next year."

Based on how ticket sales have gone thus far, Cragg expects the vast majority of tickets to sellout this year, but one of the pluses of being virtual is the ability to have an unlimited audience which is why CCS is offering a lower cost ticket onto of the VIP tickets, and Gala experience tickets.

"We've sold out all 150 tickets attached to the dinners (VIP Catered Gala Experience catered by Gourmandissimo), but anyone can come just for the festivities and dancing and those tickets are just $20—we have an unlimited amount of those," she said. "It's still one of the most exciting events Caledon has over the holiday season and it's a good launching pad for starting to feel the holiday spirit. The theme of being home for the holidays is so deep in the roots of Caledon because it was started by a group of volunteers in people's homes 24 years ago. It's really got that come home for the holidays warmth to the entire event and we really work hard on maintaining that in the set design to capture the warmth of the holiday spirit."

Having worked on it for essentially an entire year, the CCS staff and volunteers couldn't be more eager for it to begin on Saturday with all their handwork culminating in one of the most popular events in Caledon.

"We're all very excited," said Cragg. "Everyone is just thrilled, and I think this year will be even a little bit more fun because last year we had two hosts and this year we have a trio of hosts, so you get that interpersonal synergy. I think it'll be a really fun group and it's thrilling for everyone involved because we started the relaunch of the event in 2016 and more volunteers have been added, but many of them are the same each year and they're always looking to do something better than what they did the year before."

Despite the tough times COVID-19 has brought people, the support from Caledon throughout the pandemic for CCS never wavered and Cragg and CCS couldn't be more thankful for having such a strong community.

"Caledon is an amazing community," she said. "They've been very thoughtful and giving, it's almost as if they say, 'I can't do much, but if I can give just a small donation it will make a difference.' We've seen a strong uptick in the number of participants in things like the Santa Fund and the gala support has been full-fledged. When we had an in-person gala we were selling 300 tickets, whereas in this environment our major tickets are limited to 150, but whatever isn't going towards the gala seems to be going towards other ways to help us in helping the community."

To purchase a ticket or learn more about CCS' Home for the Holidays Gala, visit ccs4u.org/donate/annual-home-for-the-holidays. To learn more about the Santa Fund or to donate, visit ccs4u.org/donate/santa-fund.

North Peel Community Church presents performance of Camel Lot, Don't Miss the Manger with proceeds going to a local food bank

BY ROB PAUL

This holiday season North Peel Community Church in Caledon East will be presenting a Christmas musical play.

The play will take place Saturday, December 11 at 6 p.m. and Sunday, December 12 at 10 a.m.

The play will be both in person (with limited capacity and masks are required) or for those who want to enjoy it from home, it will be available via Zoom.

Admission to the performance of Camel Lot, Don't Miss the Manger will be $15—a Zoom link will be provided upon registration for virtual viewers.

Part of the proceeds from sales will be donated to a local food bank and donations will be accepted as well. North Peel Community Church's annual Christmas play is their way of bringing the congregation together to give something back to the community.

"It's an annual play that the church hosts and we do a different play every year and put it on for the community," said North Peel Community Church's Nerissa Debique. "We've been working on this for two to three months and rehearsing for the last couple weeks and it's so fun.

"We are very excited; it's a mix of everyone participating from children to older adults. We wanted to mix it up with the play this year and we chose Camel Lot because it's a musical as well. It's a commitment and a lot of work but we put our hears into it and look forward to it every year. We love to engage the community and get them out to have a good time."

To RSVP for an in-person seat to North Peel Community Church's performance of Camel Lot, Don't Miss the Manger, contact Nicole at 416-684-2472. For more information, visit www.npcchurch.ca.



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Through support of friends and a pivot during COVID, Belfountain resident authors book of short stories

BY ROB PAUL

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a battle for nearly two years for everyone in Canada; it's changed how everyone lives and put many in new situations. It's also been a time of reflection and transition for Canadians across the country.

For Caledon's Susan Gesner, she turned an impossibly negative situation into the fuel she needed for the fire inside her to write. Though she wouldn't call herself an author, when the opportunity arose to expand on a passion, she seized it.

Gesner now has a book of 34 short stories entitled "It's Never the Things You Think." It's officially launching December 11 with a singing at Higher Ground Café in Belfountain.

For over 30 years, Gesner ran an environmental consulting business where she was able to incorporate her environmental knowledge, facilitation expertise, and change management skills.

When COVID entered the picture, like thousands of other Canadians, she decided the time was right to make a shift.

After being encouraged by her friend Nicola Ross, another Caledon author (whose Loops and Lattés hiking guides provide all the information you might need to hike in southern Ontario), Gesner took a good close look at the blogs she had posted on her website.

"The most important thing is that it wasn't actually something I planned, in fact it wasn't actually my idea," she said. "I had just done an awesome consulting gig in Italy, and I was on a high and my daughter was with me, then when we came home, I realized I didn't want to keep searching for more work. As a consultant, I wanted to coast and then literally COVID slam-dunked and I did a couple consulting gigs where I used Zoom and I just didn't like it.

"So, I wanted to take a break and I think many of us did the same thing and we paused and reflected. In the summer, I was out with my friend Nicola Ross, and she told me I should write a book. When I finished laughing at her, I told her, 'I'm not an author, you're the author.' But then I went home and looked at my blogs that I had that were supposed to be about environmental consulting and as I read them, I realized, none of them were; they're fun stories that make people smile. When I would share them on Facebook it wasn't my clients who would get back to me, it was people reading them for enjoyment. That's when I realized Nicola was right and I looked hard at them all and one thing led to another and, boom, I have a book."



Author Susan Gesner.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gesner knows the most important pillar in her foray into becoming an author was the support around her, rather than jumping into something new on her own, she found herself surrounded by friends ready to lift her up, making the experience all that more special.

"Really, it's been all this meshing of these unique wonderful friends who have turned my little sets of blogs into something really quite beautiful," she said. "When you're doing something where you've got no idea what you're doing, to have this group of friends believe in me was everything. I'm not Margaret Atwood who has a huge network and is a tremendous writer; I'm Susan Gesner who doesn't have a clue what she's doing and who is a consultant, and all of a sudden these people step up to help me."

The 34 stories including everything from brief anecdotes and accounts of meaningful events to adventures in Cape Breton, the Yukon, Ontario, and beyond. Some are funny and some heartfelt, but Gesner's goal with each and every one of them is to bring a smile to the readers face and try to help them take their mind of the difficult situations they may be going through.

"The way my blogs were written where they were about 750 to 1,500 words and I didn't think of myself as an author; I'm a technical writer or a report writer," she said. "That's why I took my blogs and sort of fixed them, I didn't add to them tremendously, I just changed them so more people would find enjoyment in them. When I was out on a hike, one of my friends asked me a hard question—I wrote about this in the book—she asked me what my intent was and why I'm doing it. It's a good question and it made me pause. Was I doing it because I was bored? Or was there another reason I was doing it? I realized we've gone through all this trauma with COVID.

"Our lives have been turned upside down and sideways, we've lost people and we've changed the way we do everything. We've all just been hurting, and it's kind of like for us in Ontario and Canada, we've got a rug burn on our soul and it's not going to tear us apart, but it hurts every time we breath. This little book of 34 stories will give people a chance to pause and find little pieces of joy in the world. Little things that will make them smile and they won't have to think about everything we've dealt with, they'll turn a page and look at a beautiful illustration and for a few minutes immerse themselves in a story and smile. That's my intent, to sooth the rug burn, that's all it is."

If you would like to get a copy of Gesner's book, visit her website at susangesner.com or, visit Higher Ground Café December 11 for the opportunity to get your book signed and chat with her.

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   d. Donald Doucet Youth Centre;
   e. Invictus Youth Centre;
   f. Justice Ronald Lester Youth Centre;
   g. Roy McMurtry Youth Centre;
   h. Sprucedale Youth Centre; or
   i. Toronto Youth Assessment Centre;
2. Your placement lasted at least 6 consecutive hours;
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4. Your placement took place when you were 17 years old or younger; and
5. Your placement took place between April 1, 2004 and December 17, 2018.

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2. The routine locking in your room overnight at a Youth Justice Facility.

To learn more about the settlement and how to make a claim, go to www.youthsegregationclassaction.ca, call toll-free 1-833-430-7538 (TTY: 1-877-627-7027) or write to Epiq Class Action Services Canada Inc., Attention: Ontario Youth Segregation Class Action Administrator, PO Box 507 STN B, Ottawa ON K1P 5P6, or by email at: info@youthsegregationclassaction.ca.

The lawyers representing the Class Members are Koskie Minsky LLP and Strosberg Sasso Sutts LLP. You may also contact these lawyers at 1-844-819-8501 or 1-866-229-5323, ext. 296.

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Christmas market on December 4 in Mono Mills has something for everyone

BY ROB PAUL

On Saturday, December 4, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Trillium United on 60 Richmond Street the Mono Mills Christmas Market will have over 35 vendors selling a variety of locally made products.

Along with the vendors, there will be a toonie raffle with donations from all local businesses as well as a colouring contest with lots of prizes donated from local businesses.

This market prides itself on having something for the entire family and will have fresh popcorn and cotton candy being made on site and hot chocolate to help keep patrons warm—children can even expect a visit from Santa.

The idea for the Mono Mills Christmas Market came when Dana Simpson wanted to do something to honour her grandmother while also supporting her church.

"It's at my grandmas church and they've been struggling since the start of COVID with a lack of members," she said. "My grandma passed away a couple years ago and I wanted to help support her church as something she would like for her legacy. I make soaps and candles and I figured if I've been to markets in the past, I could start a Christmas market because I know what it takes to put one together.

"The church has always had Christmas craft shows in the past, so I offered to create a Christmas market for them because I wanted it to be a bigger event for them. On top of the market, I wanted it to have other aspects to get everyone interested so I added the raffles, colouring contest, and just all kinds of things for the family so nobody who goes feels left out."

Organizing the market could seem overwhelming but having participated in plenty of markets before, Simpson had built a strong network of local vendors to reach out to for the occasion.

"I reached out to other people I know from past markets I've been to and then I also reached out to the community through Facebook looking for any vendors that would like to be part of a Christmas show this holiday," she said. "I've been working on it since the beginning of October and I'm very excited – the countdown is on. The church is really excited for it and they've been really looking forward to it. It gives people something positive to do with all the negativity going on right now and it's all in the name of supporting local."

Expecting a strong turnout, Simpson sees this market as a little more unique than some others in the area because of the wide selection of products being sold and she hopes everyone who attends can find something they can connect with.

"There's been many Christmas markets in Caledon in the past, but I'm trying to put a bit of a different spin on this and I'm expecting the majority of the Mono Mills community to come out and I've reached out to the community Facebook pages for Bolton, Brampton, Orangeville, Tottenham, Grand Valley," she said. "It's getting a good response and the colouring contest is getting a ton of response too.

"I wanted to make sure our market wasn't just directed at a certain group of people, so we have a variety of things to buy—children's doll clothes, winter knits, jewelry, glass wear, artwork, Christmas cookies, seasonal decor, woodwork, soaps and candles, dog products."

The Mono Mills Christmas Market colouring contest is for all ages and colouring pages can be picked up at 60 Richmond Street in Caledon—they will be located in the mailbox of the Trillium United Church.

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OUR OFFICIAL PLAN

Virtual Open House

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The Official Plan serves as a road map to responsibly and strategically manage growth and change over the next 30+ years.

We're looking for your input. At this meeting you will have the opportunity to:

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- Hear about what we've learned from our research and how it will impact the future of Caledon.
- Provide input on where growth will occur in the Town.

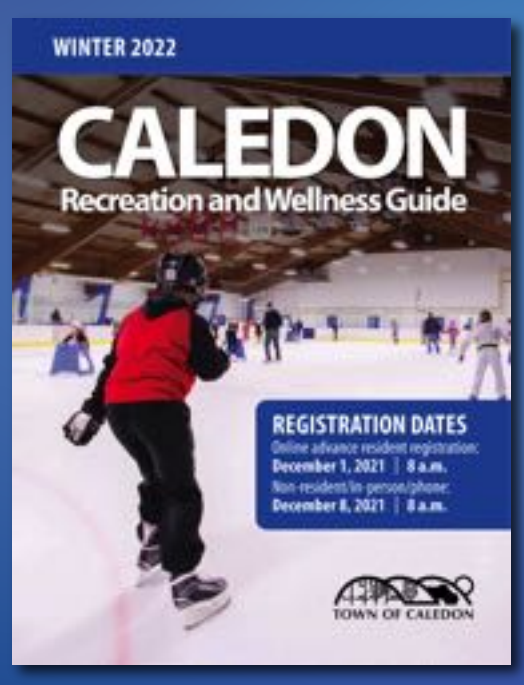
The Town is committed to engaging in a way that is open, transparent, accessible and inclusive. We need your feedback to help identify community needs and priorities as we prepare for the future. This is the chance for you to learn about opportunities to get involved, ask questions and provide your input.

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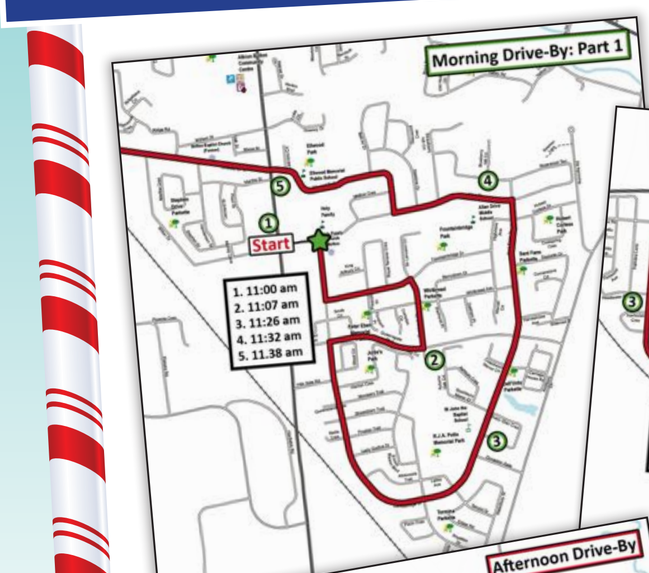
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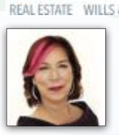


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Brock's Banter

Spurring action and fostering momentum

BY BROCK WEIR

Canadians went to the polls two months ago.

As we all know, in the 30 days leading up to the election itself, very distinct visions of Canada were offered to voters. Promises were made, some previous promises were revived, reheated, rehashed and repackaged for another round of evaluation by the Canadian people. Yet, at the end of the day, for better or worse, not a lot changed in the House of Commons.

We're still in a Minority Parliament situation where politicos – and those who thrive on Canadian politics – are on tenterhooks waiting for this particular house of cards to fall at any moment, there are a few new faces and voices to add to the mix, and the balance of power is much the same.

With the platform and promises of Justin Trudeau still fresh in our minds, last week's Throne Speech seemed like it was going to be little more than political theatre in that there would be a lot of dash and flash, but nothing really new that we could sink our teeth into.

The biggest variable this time around, however, seemed to be a new Governor General to read out the speech on the Queen's behalf, a Vice Regal representative who, rather than treating it like a burden that was forced onto her shoulders keeping her from something more exciting to do, seems to have a respect and appreciation for her office and the person and the people she represents.

And, as a variable, she delivered.

It was clear when Mary May Simon rolled up to the temporary Senate building across the road from Parliament Hill, with the Order of Canada around her neck framed by highlights of purple in her hair, that this is not a Governor General content to simply go through the motions or keep the throne warm.

While it is generally understood that the Throne Speech is delivered on behalf of the Federal Government, its words crafted behind the scenes to reflect the mandate given to it by the people of Canada, there is some wiggle room at the bookends on either side of the legislative "meat" for the Governor General to add some thoughts of her own.

Given that Ms. May Simon is our country's first Indigenous Governor General, words on the ongoing and horrific discoveries of unmarked graves associated with Residential Schools would have a very personal tone and wouldn't be simple platitudes intended to check the needs-to-be-saids off a list before moving onto the legislative program ahead.

Also given the fact that British Columbia is going through some of the most demonstratable and undeniable effects of climate change yet seen in this country, there was a lot to go over that couldn't be glossed over.

"We cannot hide from these discoveries; they open deep wounds," she said, referring to the Residential School tragedy. "Despite the profound pain there is hope. Already we have seen how Canadians are committed to reconciliation. Indigenous Peoples are reclaiming our history, stories, culture and language through action. Non-Indigenous Peoples are coming to understand and accept the true impact of the past and the pain suffered by generations of Indigenous Peoples. Together, they are walking the path towards reconciliation. We must turn the guilt we carry into action: Action on reconciliation. Action on our collective health and wellbeing. Action on climate change. Our Earth is in danger. From a warming Arctic to increasing devastation of natural disasters, our land and our people need help. We must move talk into action, and adapt where we must. We cannot afford to wait.

"As you begin this 44th Parliament of Canada, and as we recover from the effects of the pandemic and build a better relationship between Indigenous Peoples and non-Indigenous peoples, I urge you to transform discussion into concrete results for us and our country. Listen to the diverse voices who speak a multitude of languages and who shape this country. Confronting the hard questions will not always be easy or comfortable – and it will require conviction – but it is necessary. The outcome will be a sustainable, united Canada for you, for me, for our children, and for every generation to come."

Some of the Government's plan to address these issues were highlighted, including a "renewed" Anti-Racism strategy in an effort to "stand up for diversity and inclusion."

"Canadians understand that equity, justice, and diversity are the means and the ends to living together," the Governor General continued, reading the Government's road map for the Parliamentary session. "Fighting systemic racism, sexism, discrimination, misconduct, and abuse, including in our core institutions will remain a key priority. This is a moment to rebuild for everyone. The government will continue to invest in the empowerment of Black and racialized Canadians, and Indigenous Peoples. It will also continue to fight harmful content online and stand up for LGBTQ2 communities while completing the ban on conversion therapy."

Laudable moves all, and not a small-time goal by any stretch of the imagination; fighting systemic racism, sexism, discrimination, misconduct, and more is long overdue, especially from the Federal government and many of the areas that fall under its expansive umbrella.

But what I would like to see is what the Federal Government will do to support grassroots solutions to these factors that hold us collectively back.

That is not to say a top-down approach isn't welcomed; of course, it is. Change must always come from the top, but change from the top, as our history has shown us, is slow-going.

Since the National Commission on Truth & Reconciliation offered its 94 Calls to Action, many community groups and individuals here at home and across the country took it upon themselves to review them, compile a shortlist of which ones they could accomplish, and bring determined volunteers together to make a difference.

Municipalities have also done a lot of work on the same front.

Additionally, more recently, we have seen community associations spring up to spur concrete action on addressing systemic racism and discrimination, including driving customers to businesses owned by members of racialized communities, in order to make a real difference.

Community members, including grassroots leaders, should be commended for doing their level best to try and fill gaps in leadership and they should be recognized, including support from the top to continue the momentum they fostered while many of the powers-that-be wrung their hands.



Freedom brings with it responsibility

by Mark Pavilons



"May we think of freedom, not as the right to do as we please, but as the opportunity to do what is right." – Peter Marshall

Canadians enjoy a multitude of rights and freedoms.

Most are enshrined in our Charter of Rights and Freedoms, an impressive document that outlines many fundamental freedoms in our society.

This fact, and that we're so welcoming, tolerant and non-judgemental, makes Canada a destination of choice for newcomers. We're known the world over as a generous, multicultural lot. We're peacekeepers and level heads.

We're not boastful and almost decidedly apologetic.

That being said, no system is perfect. Democracy, by its very nature, is basically rule by the majority. It's making decisions based on what's best for the many, not the few.

And herein lies a flaw, one that has recently reared its head.

Many Canadians who are resisting the COVID vaccination say it's not the vaccine they have a problem with. It's being told, outright, what to do. It's being limited, segregated, isolated and singled out.

The good of the many has served us well over the centuries, but history contains many examples of unintentional consequences.

This philosophy, known as utilitarianism, is what's behind the notion of the "greater good."

It determines things like ethics and morals by the end result, not the methods used to get there.

Dating back to the 1800s, this approach sort of answered the question, "What good is it?" It's sort of trying to please almost everyone, most of the time.

Differentiating between pleasure and pain (good and bad, if you like) was the basis of social, legal and moral reform. What is the greatest good for the greatest number?

This is the ultimate test question, one that carries a lot of might still today.

Unlike many other doctrines and systems, it's fairly easy to follow. It's also easy to calculate the ramifications. Does it help the most, with the least amount of pain?

But the problems are in its very nature. The end, we can now attest, never justifies the means, ever. If it did, it would give credence to every genocide known in history. The means must justify themselves. Experts say an act can't merely be good if it results in something positive.

Also, the concept of utilitarianism can't protect the rights of minorities and less protected groups.

It's also a matter of hindsight – the results have to be judged after the fact. If we messed up, too bad. We backtrack, rescind and reject.

Freud said many of us really don't want freedom because it involves responsibility, something we tend to shy away from.

So, here we are, with 2021 drawing to a close and an unprecedented slate of events that unfolded over the past two years.

We're still not out of the woods, and judging by COVID cases in recent weeks, we're still in harm's way. You would think the majority of new cases are among the unvaccinated, but a number actually include fully vaccinated individuals.

We're at the point where boosters and even third shots are being planned, to hopefully put this thing to rest.

But will it?

The real answer is we don't know.

As a dutiful citizen, I got both shots as soon as they were offered. As a hybrid person (1 Astra, 1 Pfizer) my acceptance is still up in the air.

I agreed with the direction from on high that the good of the many outweighed the need of the few, or the one.

My main motivating factor was what if I contracted COVID and gave it to someone who became gravely ill? That's something that weighed heavily on my conscious. It was really the only factor. I never thought I'd get it, or fall ill to it. Maybe that's part of my Boomer mentality of indestructibility.

I watched in disbelief the protests, rallies and angry opposition to the vaccine from the haters. I never expected such a reaction.

But, then again, as I mentioned at the outset of this column, people don't like being told what to do.

Even John F. Kennedy once said that "conformity is the jailer of freedom."

I can see such outspoken reactions in communist countries or those with dictatorships, where freedoms are non-existent. Those people don't trust their governments and compensate by acting on their own accord, showing their defiance.

But here, and south of the border, citizens are given so much freedom and so many rights, it's like we're walking around with a "get out of jail free card."

In order to co-exist in a free society, we have to take others into consideration. We have to understand and promote freedom of speech, religion, association, and more. We have to respect language rights, and gender issues. We have to fight discrimination and rally for transparency.

For the most part, our system works. It's fair and impartial. It may be slow, but it's all we have at the moment.

That doesn't mean it can't change, given the right set of circumstantiates. Laws are updated all the time, when new information, or new pressure from society arises. It can't always be easy for lawmakers, senators and top-level officials to do what's best for the majority without stepping on some toes.

The pandemic is our latest stress test of democratic principles.

Failures in our past have included internment camps, Residential Schools, spreading hate and more.

It took public engagement to eliminate the Ernst Zundels of our country, and extend rights to same sex unions and members of the LGBTQ community. It took grassroots upheaval to insist we have the right to decide how we die.

Undoubtedly, we will look back on the COVID pandemic with some opened eyes and analyze our actions, or inactions. Yes, we sought to protect the good of the many. Hopefully, it will be worth it in the end.

Our Readers Write

Hold 413 up to "highest environmental standards"

(Re: A different perspective on Highway 413, November 25)

This may come as a shock to those who know me as a champion of environmental literacy, but Brian Perras's Letter to the Editor was a refreshing perspective on the development of Highway 413.

He is absolutely right. Peel Region is the major transportation hub of Ontario. Moving goods and services across the country is a necessity and doing it via a 21st century transportation corridor is essential. The future gridlock that would smother Caledon without the 413 will not benefit us in any way.

Despite our rural mythology, Caledon is no longer the breadbasket of Ontario and the actual loss of productive farmland caused by the highway's construction will be minimal in any case.

Most of our natural areas of significant interest already fall within the Toronto and Credit Conservation Authorities, Niagara Escarpment and Oak Ridges Moraine protections.

The 413 is coming; instead of wasting energy opposing it, lobby that it be built to the highest environmental standards possible, with the electric vehicle future in mind.

The way I see it.

SKID CREASE
CALEDON

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Zach Shoub
zach@lpcmedia.ca

EDITOR
Brock Weir
brock@lpcmedia.ca

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR
Mary Speck admin@caledoncitizen.com

REPORTERS
Rob Paul
rob@lpcmedia.ca

MOTORING
Heather Erwin
heather@caledoncitizen.com

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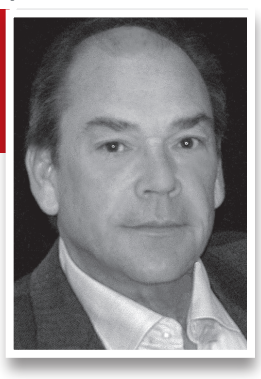
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30 Martha Street Suite #205, Bolton L7E5V1 • Ph: 905-857-6626 • Toll Free: 1-888-557-6626 • Fax: 905-857-6363 • www.caledoncitizen.com • www.facebook.com/caledoncitizen1

What's your policy?

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



When I was a kid in elementary school, I had a neighbour who was a couple of years older than me.

He was in Grade Six, which, of course, made him one of the top dogs in the school.

At the time, a beer brand, Red Cap Ale, was having a major advertising push. Their brand was showing up in print ads and TV commercials all over the place with a spiffy jingle.

Guess what their log was? Yes, a very distinctive red cap.

My older and wiser neighbour had a Red Cap flag for some reason – I'm not sure where he got it. It was a full-size flag with the company's Red Cap logo.

On April Fool's Day that year, he proudly took his beer flag to school first thing in the morning and asked the school janitor to run it up the flag pole.

The janitor, a very friendly fellow to all the students, complied and ran that flag up the pole right underneath the Maple Leaf.

We all got a good laugh out of this prank on a day when pranks could be expected. I'm sure more than a few passing motorist got a chuckle out of seeing a well know beer brand being flown proudly over the local elementary school.

In 2021, that same prank would probably result in a Board of Education inquiry, a principal in big trouble, a janitor being fired, my friend being expelled, and counsellors called into to speak to students who were traumatized by the site of a big red hat on a flag.

Recently a high school kid in Bradford was suspended for three days after having the audacity to fly a flag from his vehicle – his OWN vehicle.

It is a black and white version of the Maple Leaf with a blue stripe through the middle. It represents law enforcement and an officer's daily walk between life and death.

The kid has several family members in law enforcement and he has flown that flag from his truck since June of this year as a show of support for those in policing.

For some reason, a single person at a football game who saw the flag made a complaint to the school.

The result of the single complaint was the principal telling the kid he had to remove the flag.

Since when does a high school principal's authority, or the school board for that matter, extend to telling people what they can, or cannot do with their own property?

The principal should have used common sense, and filed that single complaint in the round file rather than cause problems for a kid who was minding his own business.

The result was the kid being suspended for three days for "opposition to authority" after refusing to remove the flag.

When asked why this student couldn't fly a flag in support of law enforcement, they were told it was "against school policy."

When asked to see that school policy, the reply was the sound of crickets – because the "policy" doesn't exist.

Anyone who has worked with any kind of "policy", whether it is in a public institution, a private corporation, small business, or government agency, knows that "policy" is only brought up if it benefits the institution that created it.

If a situation arises where something in that policy is detrimental to the institution, you can bet the policy will be buried pretty fast.

Fortunately, the offending student received a lot of support from both family and friends. In fact, a lot of people bought the same flag, attached it to their vehicles and they held a parade in support of the kid.

The question is, what kind of society have we become when a high school principal sees fit to mess up a kid's life based on a single complaint from a stranger, who the kid does not even know?

He wasn't flying a Japanese Rising Sun battle flag, and he wasn't flying a swastika - it was a flag in support of the people who patrol the streets and maintain the peace.

If anyone should be suspended, it is the person who complained about the flag.

Schools do fly different flags occasionally during the year. Maybe the next time I see a flag on the pole other than the Red and White, I'll call the school board and express offence – just to see what happens.

As for Red Cap Ale – is it still out there?

Did anyone really think this was over?

SHERALYN ROMAN
TALK CALEDON



The urge to say, "here we go again" is strong today. Not that I was ever so naive as to think the pandemic was wrapping things up, packing its protein spikes away and heading toward oblivion. No, it was far too soon for that and now here we are facing the emergence of yet another new variant, this one given the rather ominous sounding name of Omicron.

Not generally a Star Wars fan, the name sounds vaguely like a doomed planet or a dangerous dark overlord – both of which, technically, I suppose could come true.

If we don't come to some kind of global consensus on how to manage this pandemic and, concurrently, gain the upper hand – it could indeed result in the destruction of our planet – that is if climate change doesn't do that for us first. But I digress. Just in time for the holidays, here we go again with COVID dominating the headlines. Did anyone really think this was over?

Personally, I don't think this pandemic is going anywhere until a number of key things happen. These include both politicians and public health units acting in unison; global vaccine equity is in play and education edges out its social media alter ego – ignorance.

All this IS possible but WILL it ever happen? My fear, of course, is that it will not. Let's address the first point. Politicians and public health units should have the same agenda, that being the health of the general population as priority one. The reality is they don't and perhaps even can't. That because politicians are also responsible for the economy, law and order, roads, public transit and the list goes on. Every decision is informed not just by public health recommendations but also balanced against all these other considerations the government must take into account.

Do I think they could do better? Yes. Do I think they have had numerous "learning opportunities" to do so? Yes. Have they? That's a hard "NO" from me.

Public health may suggest a COVID-related school closure to stop the spread and that makes sense. But that means children sent home, meaning parents need time off work and that, in turn, could on a large enough scale, have a very real economic impact.

Enough COVID in a community and many small businesses could be forced to close down again throwing people out of work. If only public health recommendations to quarantine could actually be followed by employees who COULD take time off when they or their child is sick, without fear of losing their job. If only there were a viable solution? Say, for example, something like paid sick days. If only public health messaging was actually followed AND paid sick days existed so that employees didn't have to choose between paying the mortgage or for their next meal. If only politicians would realize that paid sick days, while costly (we own and operate a small business, believe me, we get it) would ultimately lead to less time off for ALL employees when no one comes to work infected, makes other people sick and then you're left with no choice but to close your entire facility until the outbreak "runs its course."

When it comes to education it would go a long way toward addressing anti-vaxxer misinformation if public health and politicians would stick to the same messaging. It might help to address the legitimate concerns of folks who are simply vaccine hesitant, looking for facts and information, but tripping instead across conspiracy theorists who remain convinced that both politicians and public health are lying to us. They use as "proof" the mixed messaging we receive on the daily as part of their argument. Who can blame them really? Collectively, in the developed world our trust in our leaders is eroding, spurred on by conspiracies and constantly changing guidance. Meanwhile, in developing nations, based on their historical experiences, there is often no trust to begin with.

As this new variant emerges, and so far (talk about mixed messages) I've heard everything from it's a super spreader to it's nothing to worry about, the other thing we must do is stop the debate about WHERE the newest variant is coming from, or who is at "fault" for it and instead focus our energies on vaccinating people AROUND the world.

Without vaccine equity there will be no end to this pandemic. We cannot blame other nations for low vaccine rates when they do not have access to vaccines in the first place. Meanwhile in Canada we're wondering what the delay is in dishing out booster shots AND we are throwing out vaccines. Equal access eradicates disease equally.

Finally, here at home, there's one other thing the politicians can do for us: pay nurses and PSWs adequately for the work they are doing.

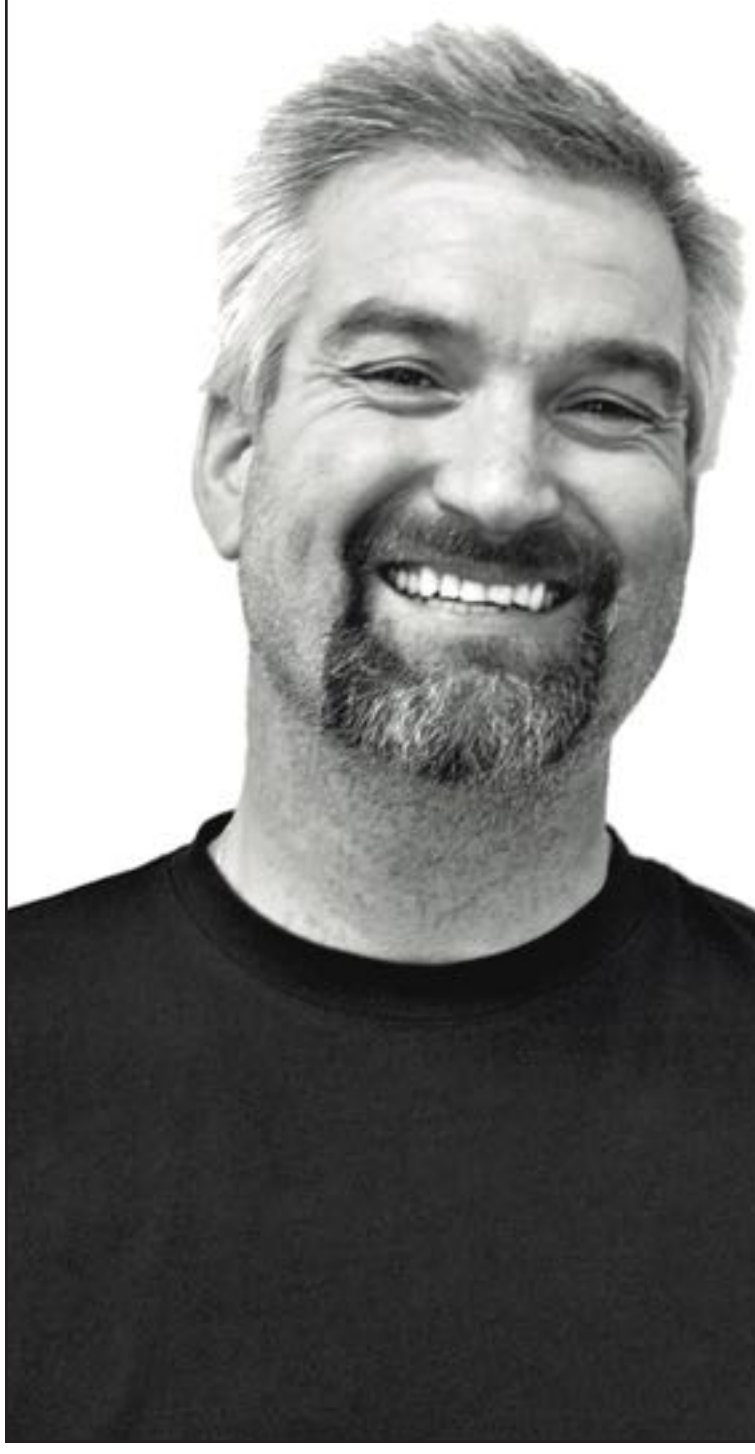
Dangerous working conditions, abused by patients, abused by the public, nurses are leaving the profession in droves and patient care is at a critical turning point. One recent shift at an unnamed hospital saw close to 50 patients being cared for by a combination of just six nursing and/or PSW staff. Most of these patients were bedridden and required specialized care. Do we really want someone who is overworked, overlooked, undervalued and underpaid caring for our loved ones, or someone who is fairly compensated for working through a global pandemic, who is respected for their knowledge and care and who has been voluntarily putting themselves in harm's way for us all? Politicians could fix this too and, until they do, public health units are doing the best they can to support people in the community to make up for the lack of hospital nursing staff offering care within the hospital.

How could it be fixed? Mandate vaccination for ALL health care workers to keep everyone safe and repeal Bill 124.

Without consistent education efforts by public health units, supported by politicians, there will no end to the pandemic. Without ceasing the muzzling of scientists by politicians for the sake of business, there will be no end to this pandemic. Without pay equity, vaccine equity and access to time off without penalty and paid sick days, there will be no end to the pandemic.

Those first few months of 2020 were a steep learning curve and forgiveness and fear kept us all compliant. We're closing in on two years now and there are no more excuses. Provincial leaders have had plenty of opportunity to do better: to learn from past missteps and to follow the example of nations excelling at keeping COVID under control. Did anyone really think this was over? Likely not and I'm beginning to think it never will be at this rate.

PS – a personal message to Dr. Loh, our very own public health unit's top doctor. As public health leaders go, I think you're rocking it and the recent Brampton Batman video was superb! I don't understand the naysayers and respect your decision to pull it for the "greater good," but I thought the video and messaging was greater than good!



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Andrew Kohnen
Brewmaster

Hockley
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SPORTS

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Caledon Cavaliers bring rugby back to town

Continued from FRONT

In 2004, Bolton resident Mike Iacovelli emigrated to Canada from the United Kingdom with his family. Iacovelli played rugby in his youth and his three sons love the sport. For years, he would travel over two hours multiple times a week just to play with the Markham Irish.

"I reached out to Rugby Ontario back then. I talked to them about a club in the area they considered around Orangeville. But when I told them about Caledon, the guy I was speaking to thought it was a great idea," Iacovelli said.

Leaving that conversation open-ended and on the backburner for many years, this past year through COVID, Iacovelli joined the Aurora Barbarians for a season. He coached the U12 group while his boys played as well. A shorter drive than Markham. And he noticed something remarkable.

"I've participated with all the other clubs in our horseshoe area so to speak and I've seen the exposure it can generate for the town and how much good it can do. Because, I've been to Fergus, I've been to Oakville, Brock, Georgian Bay, Barrie, and tournaments in Ottawa" Iacovelli explained.

"When you got three, 400 kids showing up to play a few tournaments it's amazing to see. It's a cool sight and the fact the town is getting extra exposure for it makes it more of a community thing. I thought Bolton-Caledon could use some of that."

Announced officially by Rugby Ontario last month, it officially acknowledged the Caledon Cavaliers as an official club once again. Iacovelli became President of this project.

This time, the club will not be strictly for seniors. Iacovelli and the rest of the club's executive board currently there have introduced this club from the grassroots level all the way up to the senior level.

The goal is to get everyone involved and to expose rugby to everyone from a young age. As of right now, the club is running a Rookie Rugby Program for the youth until December 11.

"Because time is of the essence, I didn't want to lose the opportunity to try and do something indoors in 2021. So, I engaged the Town of Caledon to see if they would entertain working with us and basically hosting the program. After a few conversations with the town, they've hosted the Rookie Rugby Program for us," Iacovelli said.

"So, we're actually employed by the Town of Caledon at the Caledon Recreation Centre to run the Rookie Rugby Program as part of a Caledon Recreation Program. Which Rugby Ontario have never seen before."

By running grassroots programs through the Town, Iacovelli hopes that eventually high schools in the area will take on rugby programs.

For 2022, the Caledon Cavaliers will be situated at the original park the club used in Palgrave. Both junior and senior level clubs will be formed.

In a cost-effective approach, Iacovelli hopes to grow the sport in Caledon.

Before 2008, the Town of Caledon loved their rugby. Now it's back in town with a methodical approach that will hopefully keep the youth, the seniors, the community and even the club even more united than ever before.

There are two field locations that will be used: a turf field located at Humberview Secondary School 135 Kingsview Drive in Bolton, and the home field situated in Palgrave.

For any questions, please use the contact page at caledoncavaliersrugby.ca to obtain more information heading into the New Year.

Caledon Hockey Update: The Struggles Continue

BY ROBERT BELARDI

In some cases, the grass is greener on the other side. Key word there is "some." At the moment, nothing is greener on the other side and there isn't any grass.

Caledon's hockey clubs have been enduring a hardship. You look at the standings in their league and a quizzical look arises on your face. How does this even happen? Why is it happening?

Caledon Admirals

It's quite shocking what is happening to the Admirals and something needs to be done about it.

The Admirals scored only four goals in three games last week and conceded 25.

The Admirals suffered an 8-0 loss to the North York Rangers, a 7-2 loss to the Toronto Jr Canadiens and a 10-2 loss to the Jr Canadiens in their second game of the week.

Sitting at the bottom of the South Division with a 2-21-0-0 record it's been a rough ride since coming over from Brampton last year.

In back-to-back home games this Thursday the Admirals will see the Rangers once again before hosting the Mississauga Chargers Friday night.

Puck drop is at 8:00 p.m.

Caledon Bombers

After coming off back-to-back wins against the Brantford Bandits the week before, the Bombers came into this past with an 8-9-1 record and seemingly found a bit of their footing.

However, much to their own dismay, the Bombers suffered two tough losses 3-2 at home against the Kitchener-Waterloo Siskins and 7-2 on the road against the Cambridge Redhawks.

Leading scorer on the team Remy Dalben's two goals through the first two period's gave the Bombers a 2-1 lead heading into the third, but Cole Dann and Mateo Amaral put the game to bed.

Going into Cambridge against a division rival, the Bombers coughed four goals in the first period that immediately put the game out of reach. Jordan Adams and Owen Kerr were responsible for both of Caledon's goals.

This Saturday, the Bombers will host the Listowell Cyclones at 8:00 p.m. and will have another date with the Siskins this Saturday on the road.

Caledon Golden Hawks

The Golden Hawks finished the week with a win and a loss, taking down the Orillia Terriers 6-5 on the road before being stomped by the PJHL's top offence, the Schomberg Cougars 5-2 at home.

After coming off a tough 8-1 loss against the Stayner Siskins at home the week before, there was a need to get a good win and that's exactly what the Golden Hawks did.

After trailing 5-4 in the 3rd period, newly acquired forward from the Schomberg Cougars James McLean popped in his second of the game to tie it up. This one needed overtime and just 3:47 into OT and in his debut, McLean brought it home.

Against the Cougars, Kyle Church gave the Golden Hawks a 1-0 lead after the first. Heading into the second period, Cougars captain Cameron Kokelj scored twice and assisted Zach Gallow goal that gave the Cougars a 3-1 lead.

Joey Furlano got one back, but that was immediately cancelled out by Kory Lund and Marc Bottero.

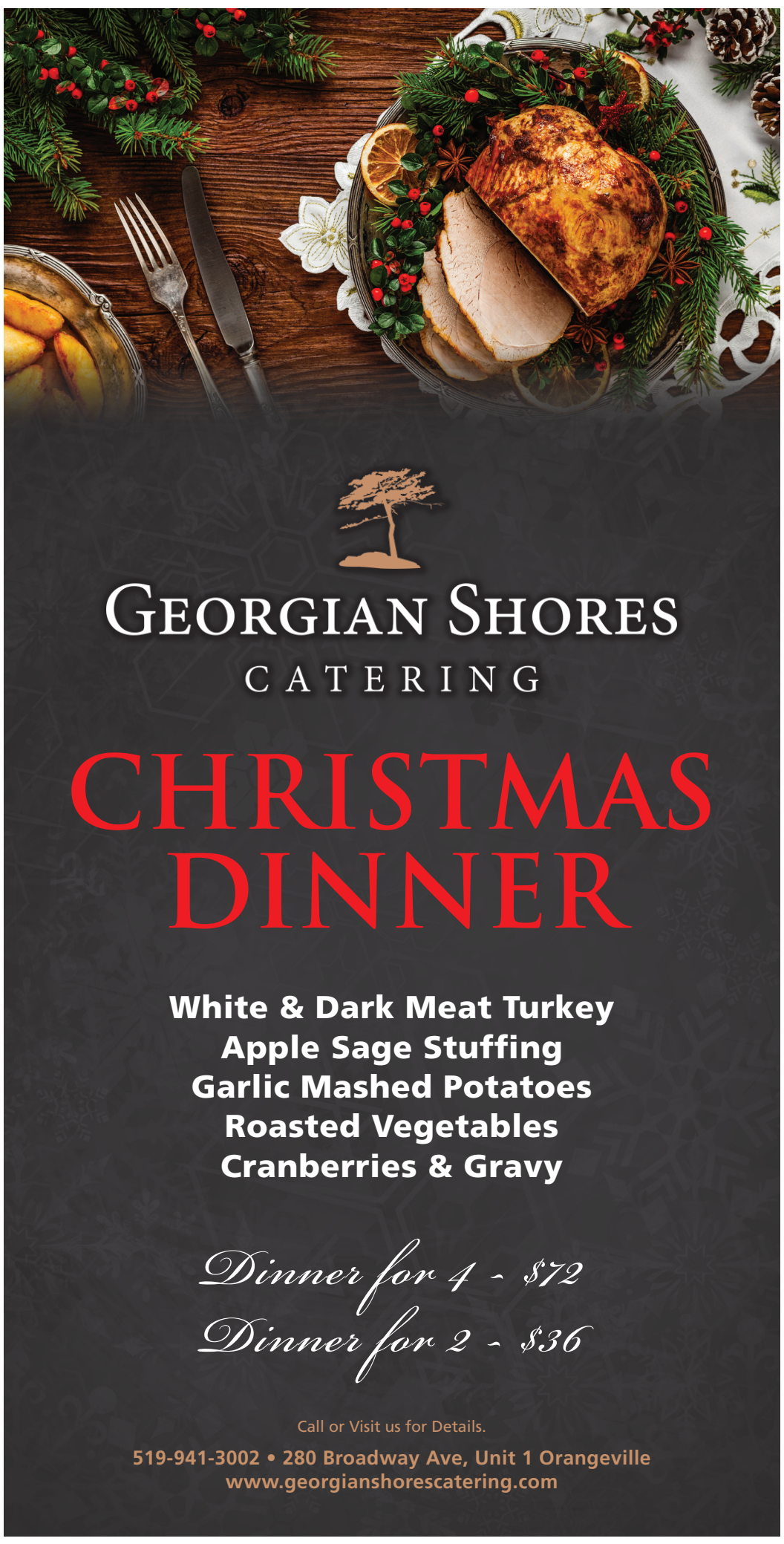
The Hawks will travel to Alliston this Friday to play the Hornets and will come back home this Sunday to host the Midland Flyers at 2:30 p.m.



Rob Payne
Financial Advisor

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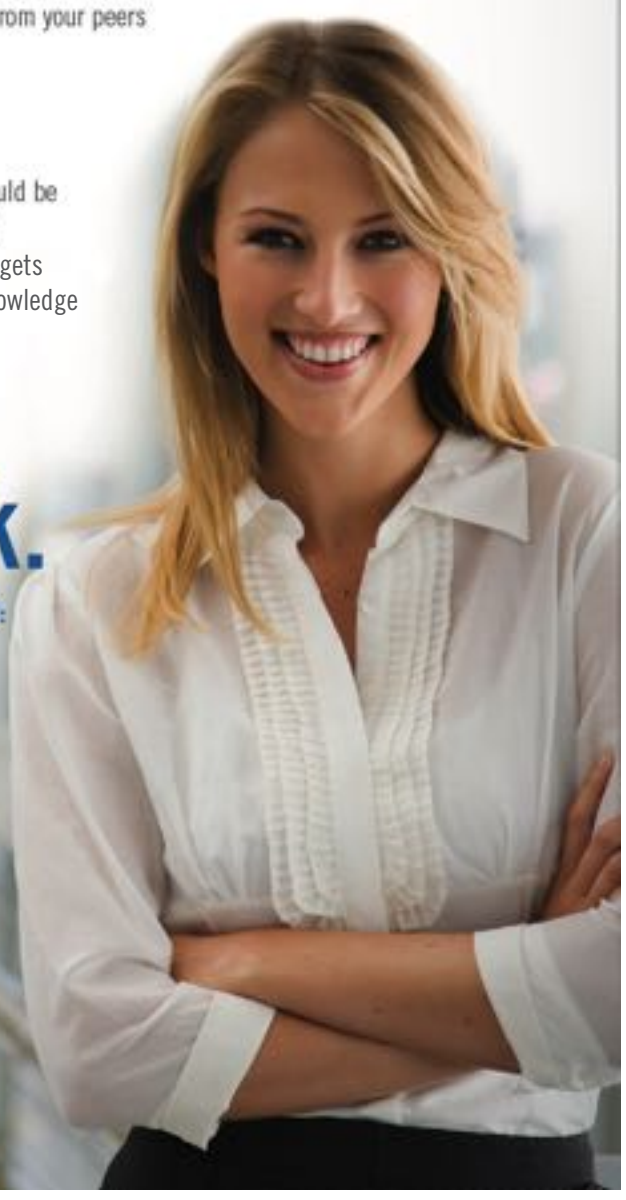
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DRUG PROBLEM? We've been there, we can help! Narcotics Anonymous meets over Zoom, via video call. The Zoom meeting information is: Meeting # 245 323 6271. Password: 1234. The meetings are hosted on Fridays & Sundays at 7:30 pm. Call anytime 519-215-0761. Shelburne is meeting at 7:30.

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

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OBITUARIES

DALE MATHESON (CATTO)
1949 - 2021



Dale Matheson, of Bolton, at the age of 72 years, passed away peacefully on Friday, November 26th, 2021 with her loving family by her side at Bethell Hospice, Inglewood. Lovingly remembered by her husband of 50 years, Bill, son David (Stephanie) and daughters Cheryl Lis (Matthew) and Lauren Brown (Steve). Cherished Grandma to Morgan, Rory and Brooklyn Matheson, Brayden, Madison and Ethan Brown and Olivia and Emma Lis.



Daughter of the late Dave Catto (1971) and Dorothy Cox (Catto, McGregor 2015). Dear sister of Diane Catto and sisters-in-law Janis Catto (Doug) and Lynda Cox (Jim) and predeceased by brother Doug (2011) and step brother Jim Cox (2021). Lovingly missed by Janelle and Justin Catto (Colleen) and their children. Fondly remembered by all her dear friends and Bill's family on the East coast as well as all the cousins in the McGregor/Funston clan, especially the Fab Four. Missed by all her dear Bolton neighbours and friends, her extensive teaching community, her many curling friends and her tap dance group. Thank you to Dr. Weicker, Dr. Anglin, Adrianna, Dr. Barrett, and Jennifer for help and guidance through this difficult journey. The family will receive their friends at the Egan Funeral Home, 203 Queen Street S. (Hwy. 50), Bolton (905-857-2213) on Thursday from 5 - 7 o'clock. Please visit the funeral home website to register to attend. Funeral service will be held on Friday, December 3 at 2 o'clock. Private family interment Laurel Hill Cemetery, Bolton. If desired memorial donations may be made to Bethell Hospice Foundation or Canadian Cancer Society. Condolences for the family may be offered at www.EganFuneralHome.com

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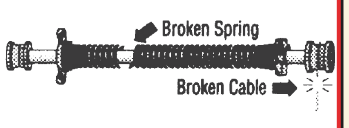
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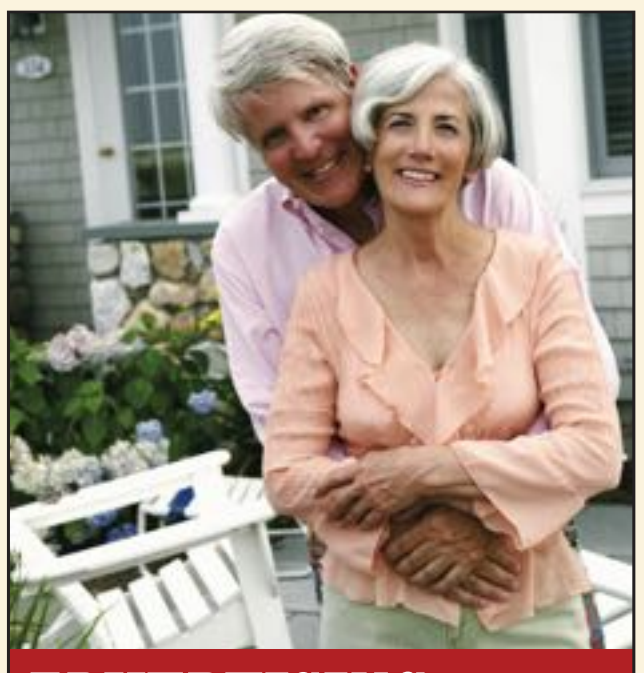


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Albion Bolton Historical Society hopes to inspire curiosity in local history

BY ROB PAUL

It won't take long for new residents at the recently opened condo building at 50 Ann Street to learn a little bit about the history of Bolton. All they'll need to do is check out the piece on the wall upon entering their building.

The new condo is on the site of the former Legion building in downtown Bolton and features a display on the wall in its entrance that represents local history.

The piece commemorates buildings and scenes from Bolton's past using modern materials and original photos from the Albion Bolton Historical Society's collection.

The resulting artwork, which was installed in mid-November, provides an introduction to Bolton's past as well as a welcome to new residents, most of whom are not from the area.

The six featured photos include: Albert Street School, O.M. Hodson Hardware (later Smith & Schaefer's), Ontario Hotel, Balmoral Hotel (the former Masonic Arms Hotel), Bolton's 1908 Railway Station, and Queen Street, circa 1915.

Society member Derek Paterson spearheaded the collaboration between developer Brookfield Residential and the Historical Society. After speaking with Brookfield Director of Customer Experience Katarina Rodgers, the pair decided to team up on the project.

"In the beginning I met Katarina Rodgers through a mutual friend, and she'd been talking about doing something in their new building at 50 Ann Street," said Paterson. "She reached out to me and asked what kind of idea I had for putting together some sort of visual display within the foyer that initially just represented where the building sat—what was on the land before.



Albion Bolton Historical Society member Derek Patterson led the collaboration on the piece at 50 Ann Street along with fellow member Valerie Mackie and Brookfield's Katarina Rodgers.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"Through evolution and discussions and brainstorming, it came to what you see today in the lobby of different pictures from around the village, but not necessarily specific to that location. The reason we decided to do it that way was I reached out to Valerie Mackie—another society member—and she and I worked together to develop the final concept that was created. We supplied all the photographs and verbiage that accompany the piece and Katarina took it to her person doing the plaque and they developed the layout using what we provided."

Putting photos that are over 100 years old onto a display and having them pop in a way that attracts people isn't an easy task, but Paterson says, thankfully, the historical society had photos that would work for what they were going for.

"Initially we provided probably somewhere between nine to 12 photographs, and we sat down with Katarina and thought what would have the best visual impact and we needed it to be with some of the better pictures," he said. "For putting photographs onto a plaque, they need to be high-resolution images and at the turn of the century you didn't particularly have that many high-resolution images. We were lucky to have some glass plate that yields high resolution so it was sort of limited to the higher photograph quality because you can only get as good of a photograph as the original you have."

This wasn't a project that came together overnight; it took months of prep and working together to produce an aesthetically pleasing piece that would both ignite conversation and drive curious minds while fitting into the look of the building.

"We started at the beginning of the summer and by the time we were through everything and the time it took to have everything produced, it probably took us from May or June to November," Paterson said. "We're super excited it's finally up and I think for a modern building they chose great materials that still give a modern feel while reflecting something from the past. In essence, I feel like it melds the past and present together while displaying it in an attractive way. Despite it being a modern building, it doesn't feel like a historical society has come in there and just put up something that feels like it belongs at your grandma's house."

With a brand new building in Bolton, the idea was simple: give people the opportunity to learn about the historical relevance of the area and make them feel more at home, even if they're not from around Caledon.

"The overall concept of what we wanted to achieve was—50 Ann Street has around 80 per cent occupancies of residents that are new to the area—we wanted to give the people of the building a sense of place," Paterson said. "When they come in it's the first thing they see and it's not just a blank green field—like when you move into a subdivision, and you don't really know what was there before. Since we have the village and the historical district, we hoped we could give a sense of place so when the residents come in they feel like they're part of a community that has a deep historical significance and it can give them that first inkling and peak their interest to look more into what their new community is all about and motivate them to take part in it more."

With the success of this piece at 50 Ann Street, Paterson says there's potential for more new buildings to follow suit, but in the meantime the historical society has been connecting with new businesses to provide them with a little piece of history in their own buildings.

"As a result of this, Katarina was going to try and propose for Brookfield developments that they adopt this policy of trying to reflect the history," he said. "Outside of that, we as the Albion Bolton Historical Society have been approached by a number of new businesses in Town and supplied them with different images so that they can put up pictures within their new environments to give you a sense of the history.

"Say you're at one of the new restaurants on the strip, you can sit down and look at something from the Village's history and it's a conversation starter. It plants the seed, and you see where it goes because everyone has a certain degree of interest in local history and that can cause someone to think the photos are neat or it could trigger them to go look into it deeper. It's also good because with the bicentennial it will allow newer residents to identify with it more."

Local author to launch fantasy series touching on Canadian history

BY ROB PAUL

When Lisa Oatway decided she was ready to throw herself into writing the fantasy series she'd always dreamt of, she set out to do two things: educate and entertain.

Her upcoming novel The Dinosaur Encounter - The Alberta Episode of the The Blue Crescent Moon" is the first in a fantasy series that follows a family as they travel through Canada with the basis for the series focused on exploring major events in Canadian history.

"Growing up and going through school, I realized we learned more about places, events, and the history of other countries than our own," she said. "I thought I'd set out to showcase one province and pick one main event in their history and highlight that through the eyes of a young family. I have to be honest; it's loosely based on my own family and the family travels from province to province. It's a fantasy, so one of the children is exposed to a lightning storm and that gives her the gifts to communicate with inanimate objects and travel back in time."

Not only is Oatway's goal to give readers a better understanding of some of the most interesting events in Canadian history, but she wants to do it in a way that helps families connect to the characters.

"The first novel deals with the dinosaurs in Alberta—most people don't even realize we had dinosaurs here in Canada," she said. "There are two species that are particular just to Canada, the Edmontosaurus and the Albertosaurus. These are true species and they become the central focus of the book. The little girl with her brothers and sisters rescue an egg that goes missing through an earthquake. It's cooperation, collaboration, caring, it's a family story."

Having not had time in years past, earlier this year Oatway retired which finally allowed her to immerse herself in her passion.

"It's a labour of love and I started thinking about it probably 10 to 14 years ago," she said. "I worked full-time and raised a family of four, so I really didn't have a chance to do much of it, but anytime I'd have an idea I'd jot it down. Then I retired at the beginning of the year and thought, 'Well, here's my time to pull this together.' I started in February and had it done by May. I'd spend an hour or so each day chipping away and I had an outline and started putting pen to paper.

"Then I approached some traditional publishers, and I didn't get anything, the approach was them saying they'd get back to me in three to six months. So, here I am at my age checking my emails everyday, twice a day, and I thought it was crazy, so I decided to self-publish. Now I'm close to publishing—about a month away—and I'm about 35 per cent through my second one."

As for what her goals are with the series, she hopes to cover one historical event in each province and territory which means a baker's dozen worth of novels.

"I'd like to do 13, for the 10 provinces and three territories," she said. "My plan is to try and crank out two per year and so within five to six years I should be done. I'm excited, you've got an idea and you have no idea if it's going to work, but I've had two editors through the process, and they've come back with kind words and encouragement which has given me the impetus to continue."

The book will soon be available locally through Forster's Book Garden in Bolton.

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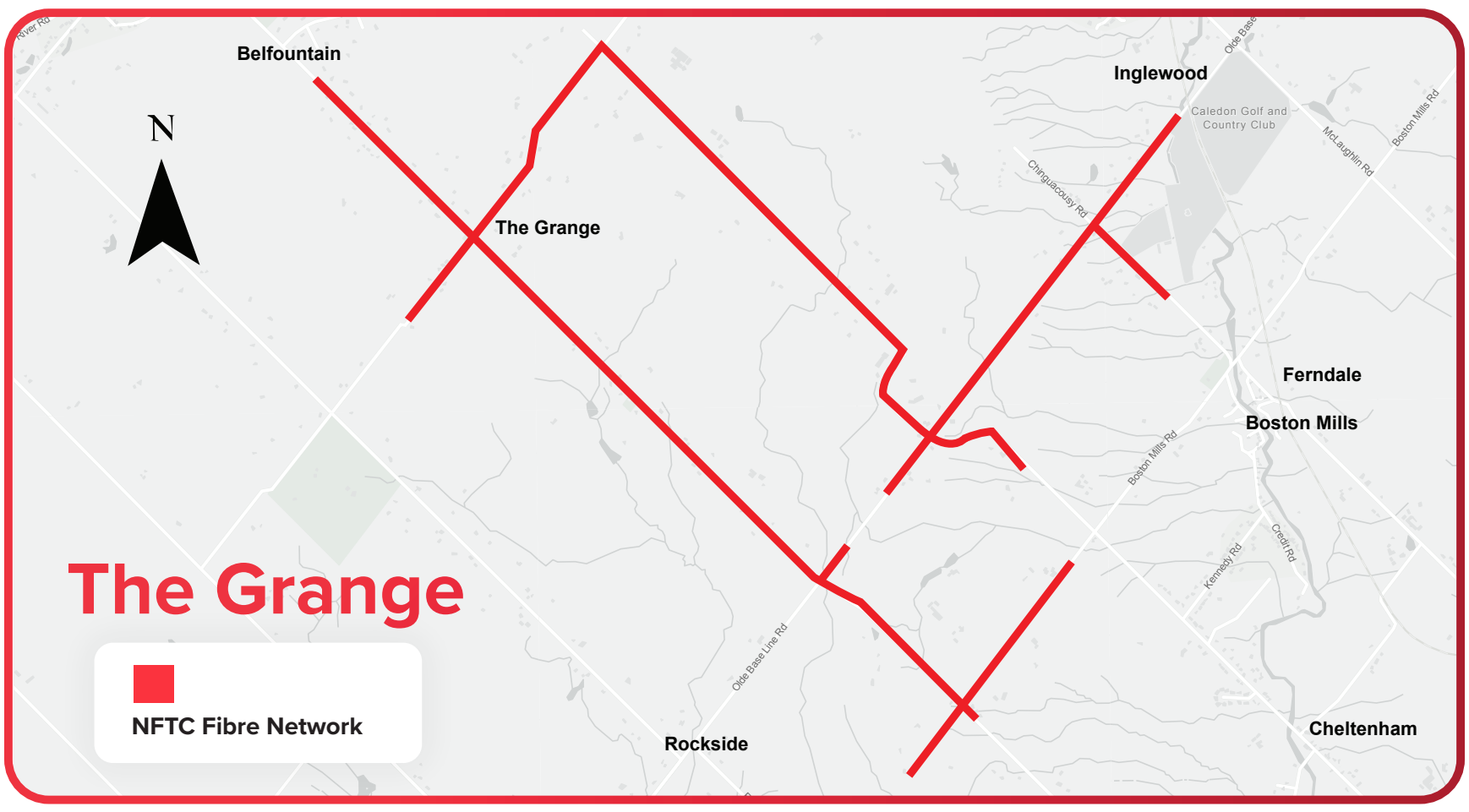


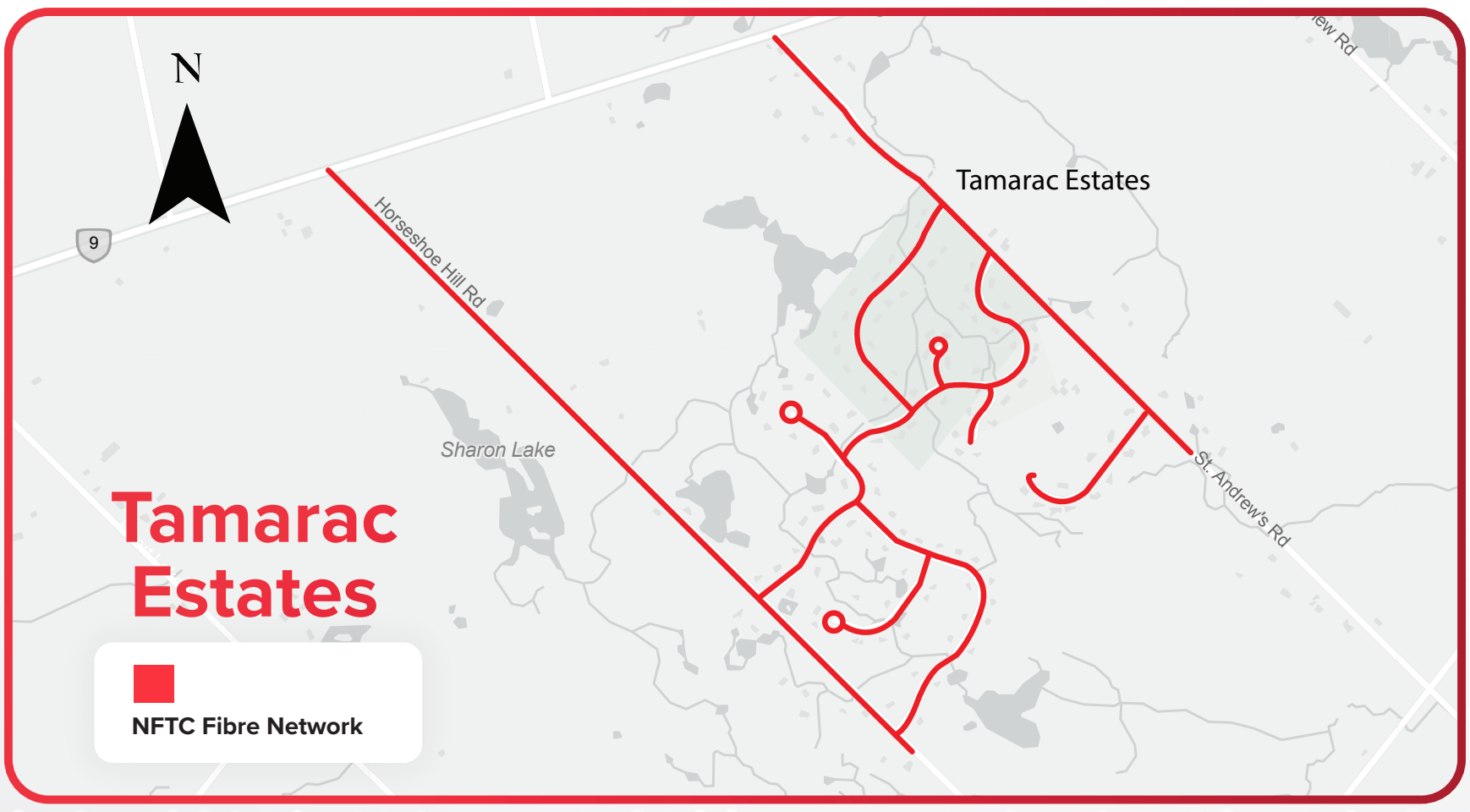
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