

Caledon Citizen

Your Community Newspaper

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Students Kiara Evans and Kaden Stephen delivered two spoken word poems, My Appearance and If You Give a Black Child a Voice, at the PDSB on Tuesday evening.

PHOTO BY ZACHARY ROMAN

Peel District School Board launches Black student success strategy

We Rise Together 2.0 brings increased focus on Board's accountability

BY ZACHARY ROMAN

Another step in the ongoing journey to ensure the success of Black students in the Region of Peel was taken this week.

On January 31, the eve of Black History Month, the Peel District School Board (PDSB) launched "We Rise Together 2.0", its new Black student success strategy.

The strategy was launched at the Board's offices in Mississauga at an event that celebrated Black students and Black culture. Black students' artwork was on display; Black students performed poetry and dance; Black students sung the Canadian and Black national anthems; and Black students offered valuable advice to their fellow students and to their educators.

We Rise Together 2.0 is a five-year plan from the PDSB with the goal to eliminate systemic racism and create better educational outcomes for Black students.

The in-depth plan has six focus areas, each of which the Board has set action and accountability items for. The areas are: develop the knowledge and skills of trustees and leaders in order to lead the implementation of the strategy; integrate the experiences of Black Canadians into the curriculum; foster anti-racist learning and working environments; continue engagement with the Black community; inspire and support Black student success; and hire and support Black staff.

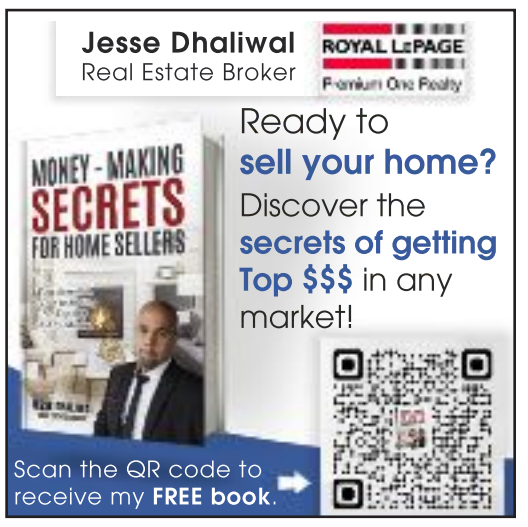
Continued on Page 6



A CHILL TIME - Cam Lindsey carved his first ever ice sculpture live at the 2023 Fire and Ice Winter Festival. For more on the event, see page 15. PHOTO BY ZACHARY ROMAN















Tickets on sale for first-ever Meaghan's Music Room charity gala

Organizer Mary Balinov seeking sponsorship from local businesses

BY ZACHARY ROMAN

A fabulous night of dinner, drinks and dancing in support of a good cause is coming soon.

On February 25, the inaugural Meaghan's Music Room charity gala will be held at Caesar's Centre in Bolton. The dinner and dance is being held in support of the people with physical and intellectual challenges that Meaghan's Music Room serves.

The event begins at 6 p.m. with cocktails and an open bar; dinner will be served at 7 p.m. and then guests can dance the night away. There will be a silent auction at the gala, as well as a 50/50 draw.

Mary Balinov, who is in charge of the registered charity Meaghan's Music Room and is very excited to be hosting a gala fundraiser for the first time, explained the pandemic was hard on the charity, and some corporate sponsors were lost. The gala is going to be the charity's big fundraising event for 2023 to make up for lost time.

Balinov operates Tisho's Music Academy in Bolton with her family, and they have a dedicated music room there to provide subsidized music classes to those with physical and intellectual challenges they serve through Meaghan's Music Room.

There are six different organizations whose participants enjoy classes at Meaghan's Music Room: White Birch Day Program from Palgrave; Growing Opportunities for Adult Life Skills (GOALS) from Bolton; Cassie's Place in Southfields Village; St. Michael Secondary School in Bolton; and two different locations of Brampton Caledon Community Living.

"These organizations would not be able to afford these activities if we were not subsidising their fees, and there's a lot to subsidise," said Balinov. "Every month, we teach over 150 individuals."

Balinov explained some participants come to classes at Tisho's, while other times, instructors will travel to the organizations to deliver classes to participants.

Balinov's son, Kristian, is in charge of instructing all the music classes. Something new being offered by Meaghan's Music Room is dance classes, which were highly-requested by the organizations served. Balinov's daughter, Diana, is a certified dance teacher and now delivers dance classes through Meaghan's Music Room.

"The individuals that we help under this charity are all individuals with special needs that are now legally adults… and because they are legally adults, they get no more government funding," said Balinov. "So without our help, the organizations and parents… there would be very little that they would be able to afford without Meaghan's Music Room subsidising these fees."

Those interested in buying tickets for the event can email meaghansroom@gmail.com or text Balinov at 416-509-0321. Tickets are $135 per person. Those interested in sponsoring the gala or donating items for the silent auction can reach out by the same two methods mentioned above.

There are three unique tiers of sponsorship available for the gala: Chopin ($1,000), Mozart ($3,000), and Beethoven ($5,000).

"We of course recognize our sponsors, their logos will be displayed throughout the entire gala," said Balinov. "They will also permanently go on our website as a major supporter of Meaghan's Music Room."

Since this February's event will be the first ever Meaghan's Music Room gala, Balinov said it's extra important for her to spread the word about it and that businesses will be the key to the charity's bottom line.

"In order for us to continue our services for 2023, we absolutely need this gala to be a success," said Balinov. "And we can't do that without community support."



Hot Chocolate Festival is sweet fundraiser for Hospice Dufferin

BY PAULA BROWN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

In the middle of winter, is there any better way to beat the cold of the season than a cup of hot chocolate?

Hospice Dufferin has partnered with several restaurants and cafes in the area to host the Hot Chocolate Festival, a month-long event to help raise funds to support the organization's programs and services.

"We created the Hot Chocolate Festival because we felt that there's these synergies within the business community, especially that they're the biggest supporters of charities. So, this was a way for us to give back to them by helping promote a place for people to go and experience businesses in the community," explained ReDeana Montgomery, Hospice Dufferin's Resource Development Communication Coordinator. "At the same time, they're actually giving back to us. It's a subtle way of giving back to an organization without having to make a donation."

Throughout the entire month of February, eight local restaurants and cafes will feature their own signature drink as part of the Hot Chocolate Festival. For every sale of the signature drink, $1 will be donated back to Hospice Dufferin.

"Hot chocolate is a staple in the winter. There's the good old fashion hot chocolate, but I do know that our restaurants and cafes are coming up with a variety of different types of hot chocolate," said Montgomery.

While Hospice Dufferin receives around 60 per cent of their annual funding from the government, the remainder of funds are raised through community support. Funding from the festival will go towards supporting Hospice Dufferin programs such as art therapy, journaling, exercise, crafting, leisure land, and meditation.

"We're a community hospice, which means we work within the community, we work with people in their homes, if they go to hospital or go to another hospice, and if they come into our location. Our wellness programs are programs that help create positive feelings and help people stay active, which is really important on their journey through hospice," said Montgomery. "By raising this money, we're able to do these programs for free so that people who come to us don't have to pay."

According to Hospice Dufferin, in 2022, the organization supported 305 clients in Dufferin County and provided over 3,279 sessions of service.

"We are all touched by hospice care. Unfortunately, through life, we will either experience a life limiting illness or will know somebody with life limiting illness. We all will experience grief at some point in our lives, whether it's a loss of a family member, a friend or a pet," said Montgomery.

As part of the Hot Chocolate Festival, patrons and tasters will have an opportunity to vote for their favourite hot chocolates. At the end of the festival, the restaurant or café with the most popular hot chocolate will be crowned the winner of the "Best Hot Chocolate Recipe".

The local businesses taking part in the festival include Mochaberry Café & Roastery, Bluebird Café &Grill, Mono Cliffs Inn, Le Finis, Boston Pizza, Nifty Nook, Jess For You Café and Baked Goods, and Déjà vu Diner.

Montgomery said they are encouraging those who try a hot chocolate from the participating businesses to share their thoughts through social media.





Local artist needed for installation at Albion Bolton branch of Caledon Public Library

Artists can submit applications until February 28

BY ZACHARY ROMAN

Caledon artists have a chance to have their art displayed in a prominent location in the community.

The Caledon Public Library (CPL) has announced it is seeking applications from local artists for an installation at its Albion Bolton branch. At the entrance to the branch, behind the front desk, there are three large bookshelf ends. The CPL would like an artist to design art for these bookshelf ends to make them a warm and welcoming entrance to the branch's childrens' area.

"We are inviting local artists, designers and creators to submit their expressions of interest, samples of their artwork along with a creative brief or design concept," said the CPL in a statement. "We consider it our priority to celebrate culture and inclusion, supporting Caledon's creative talent and cultural economy by showcasing local authors, artists, performers, and makers."

Mary Maw, the CPL's Manager of Communications and Community Development, said opening this art project to the public is really an extension of the library's Artful Caledon initiative. Artful Caledon is a means to support and promote Caledon artists and all the great work they do.

"It's one of our favourite initiatives ever," said Maw. When talking with a design company about the bookshelf ends, Maw said the CPL realized it would be a way better idea to have a local artist design them, since Artful Caledon is all about showcasing local artists. Maw explained the CPL is reaching out to local high schools to ask students to let students know about applying too.



The Caledon Public Library is seeking a local artist to create art for these three bookshelf ends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Applications are open for artists 14 and older online at caledon.library.on.ca/public-art-project, now until February 28. All who apply will be contacted by the CPL, regardless of if they move forward or not. Non-Caledon artists can apply, but Caledon artists will be given preference.

Since there's three bookshelf ends, artists can create three individual images, or a set of three artistic works meant to be appreciated together. Artists can work in any medium they want, as their artwork will be digitized into vinyl wall wraps that will be installed on the bookshelf ends.

The ends are 23-and-a-quarter inches wide and 57-and-a-half inches high.

Laura Nolloth, CPL Communications and Community Development Coordinator, said the art installation will really be a conversation piece and a focal point of the Albion Bolton branch.

The successful applicant will receive a $500 honorarium for their work. For more information about applying, visit the link mentioned earlier in the story or call 905-857-1400 extension 228 (extension 250 also works).

Nominations open for Volunteer Service, Citizen Achievement awards

BY ZACHARY ROMAN

Do you know someone who's made a significant impact in the Caledon community? How about someone who's made Caledon proud with their skills in a competition?

If the answer to either of those questions is yes, you may want to know that nominations are now open for Caledon's 2023 Community Recognition night.

Community members can nominate Caledon residents for Volunteer Service Awards, which "recognize Caledon residents whose efforts have made significant impact towards the development and advancement of recreational sports, arts and culture, environmental leadership or community and social services."

They can also nominate Caledon residents for Citizen Achievement Awards, which "recognize Caledon residents who have competed or been recognized at the Provincial, National or International levels in the areas of sport and arts and culture."

There's also the prestigious Community Champion award, which is the highest honour given out on Community Recognition night. This award is chosen by a special selection committee and is then approved by Town of Caledon Council. Nominees from all categories will be considered for the award, and the committee will base their decision on significance of community involvement and years of service.

Nominations must be submitted by Sunday, February 19, and can be done so on the Town of Caledon's website. More information about the Town of Caledon's 2023 community recognition night will be released at a later date.



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Thanks for shopping local!



TACKLING EMERGENCY, GRANDPARENT SCAMS

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre (CAFC) and Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) are launching a fraud prevention campaign, February 6 to 10, 2023, to raise awareness about the significant increase in emergency-grandparent scams targeting Canadian seniors.

"In 2022, the CAFC received fraud reports totalling a staggering $530 million in victim losses. This was nearly a 40 per cent increase from the 2021 unprecedented $380 million in losses," say Police. "Fraudsters target anyone and everyone, particularly the vulnerable and seniors. In 2022, more than $9.2 million was reported lost to emergency scams, according to the CAFC. This was a drastic increase from $2.4 million in 2021."

Reports from residents indicate the five provinces most impacted in 2022 were:

- Ontario - over $5.4 million in reported losses;
- Alberta - over $1.1 million in reported losses;
- Quebec - over $732,000 in reported losses;
- British Columbia - over $322,000 in reported losses;
- Manitoba - over $313,000 in reported losses.

It is estimated that only 5-10 per cent of victims report scams and fraud to the CAFC or law enforcement.

What is an emergency scam?

"Emergency scams, including variations called 'grandparent scams', use urgency and the manipulation of emotions to extort money from victims. In these scams, fraudsters cold call seniors, on landline phones, claiming to be a grandchild, family member, law enforcement officer or lawyer calling on behalf of their loved one. They'll say that the person's loved one was involved in an emergency situation, such as a collision, charged by law enforcement, legal peril, being sick or injured, etc. They demand the senior provide payment immediately for supposed bail, legal fees, fines or other amounts "owed" to stop the family member from going to jail or to get them released from custody. This is a scam.

"The fraudsters isolate the victims by informing them that there is a court-imposed gag order, and they're forbidden from discussing the matter. The victims are directed to attend their financial institution to withdraw the requested amount in cash. The fraudsters will then send someone to pick it up from the victim's home or have the victim send the money via courier services. There have also been reports of victims paying with cryptocurrency."

Take action

Join the RCMP, CAFC and OPP in raising awareness from February 6-10, 2023. The partners will be posting social media tips, bulletins, and various other resources.

On February 7, 2023 at 1:00pm EST the OPP and CAFC will be hosting a live chat to discuss emergency-grandparent scams alongside an attempted victim who will share their experience.

If you fall victim to a fraud or know someone who has, contact your local police service to report the crime and also report it to the CAFC at 1-888-495-8501 or online on the Fraud Reporting System (FRS), even if a financial loss did not occur.

If you know a senior or have an elderly family member, please reach out to them and have a conversation on what to do if they get a phone call like this and consider coming up with a code word.

VEHICLE THEFTS ON THE RISE, POLICE WARN

Officers from the Dufferin detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are investigating multiple new thefts of motor vehicles.

"Dufferin County is impacted by an increased vehicle theft trend affecting the entire Greater Toronto Area," say Police. "Recent reports indicate that RAM pick-up trucks, years 2020 to 2023, are predominantly targeted. On many occasions, thieves are observed in neighbourhoods prior to the thefts occurring to record VIN numbers and to disable alarm systems to facilitate the theft later. These crimes are often occurring in the early hours of the day, between 2 a.m. and 5 a.m."

If you observed suspicious activity in your neighbourhood, report it immediately by calling 9-1-1.

Auto theft crime prevention tips:

Today's auto thieves are increasingly turning to technology that bypasses security systems allowing vehicles to be stolen. Electronic auto theft is on the rise as more vehicles are equipped with technology such as keyless entry fobs. In fact, the insurance industry has seen the growing trend that thieves are able to copy fob information and steal cars right from your driveway.

The term "relay thefts" involves the use of equipment designed to boost and exploit the signals sent out by a vehicle's legitimate key fob. This allows for a thief to unlock and start an engine of a vehicle remotely.

Residents can help protect their vehicles by taking any of the following crime prevention measures:

- Ensure your vehicle keys are kept well away from doors and windows;
- Use a signal blocking pouch/box - they can block your key fob from transmitting its code to the vehicle as the pouch is lined with layers or metallic material;
- Turn off the keyless fob wireless signal at night (refer to your car manual for instructions);
- Use a steering wheel lock or car alarm - this could add a significantly delay or be a deterrent for thieves;
- Consider a secondary audible car alarm - which works by using sensors placed in different points of your vehicle;
- Park in the garage (if possible);
- Insert a car tracker - unusual activity is monitored, and car can be tracked using GPS if stolen.

Police and its insurance industry partners also want to raise public awareness about the opportunities for criminals who intend to steal personal identification from unsecured vehicles. Licenses, insurance, vehicle ownerships, passports, as well as mobile devices or laptops, offer criminals the opportunity to further victimize individuals who do not lock their vehicles, or who leave their valuables in plain view.

Vehicle owners/passengers can do simple things to decrease the risk of being victimized, such as:

- Never leave a running vehicle unattended;
- Lock your doors;
- Roll up your windows;
- Keep valuables out of sight;
- Keep your registration and proof of insurance in your wallet or purse, not in the glove box;
- Pocket your keys;
- At night or during extended parking periods, always park in a well-lit area.

Caledon Firefighters fundraising for those in need through Coldest Night of the Year

BY ZACHARY ROMAN

Caledon's Fire and Emergency Services personnel are answering the call in a different way this February.

One team each of firefighters and new recruits will be participating in the Coldest Night of the Year (CNOY) fundraising walk for those who are experiencing hurt, hunger and homelessness.

Kevin Hayashi and Shannon Mullins, who are Caledon Firefighters who are leading their colleagues in fundraising for this year's walk, said the work that social service groups like CCS do in Caledon is amazing.

"An issue like homelessness might not seem as prevalent in Caledon in comparison to other communities, but we know it's there and it's the work that CCS does that will help the community," said Mullins.

Last year, Caledon Firefighters participated in the virtual CNOY walk, and organized a walk through Cheltenham in their bunker gear. Some community members joined in too, and there was great participation from that year's recruit class of firefighters.

"They really drove the rest of the Caledon Firefighters to take notice," said Mullins. "Caledon Firefighters have an important role to play when we're responding to an emergency, but we also need to be positive role models in our community and help out where we can."

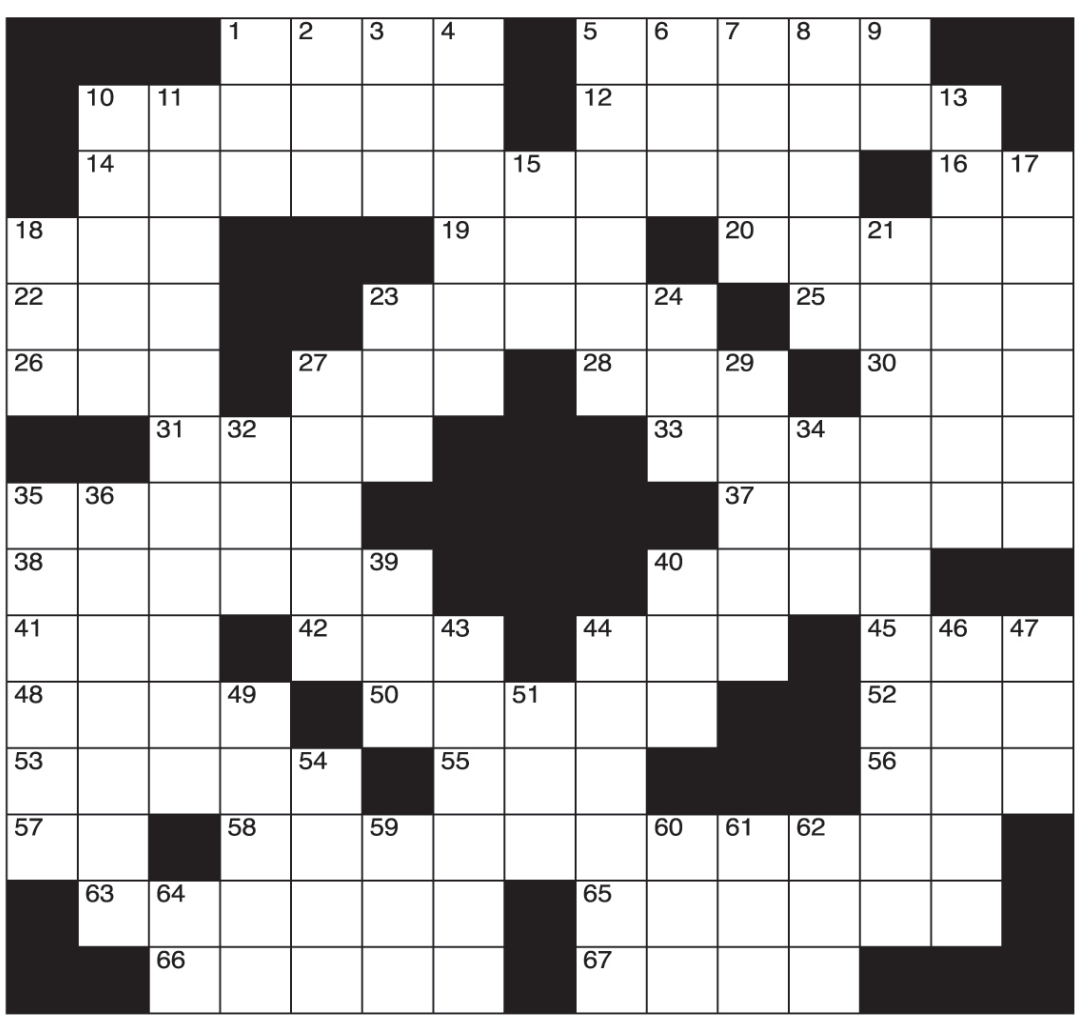
Last year, Caledon Firefighters raised $14,000, a great showing. Mullins said with over 250 firefighters in the community, they have a large network and are hoping to once again gain the support of their family, friends and colleagues.

Hayashi has worked with CCS in the past and said he knows just how important the work they do is. He said, at the core, the nature of being a volunteer firefighter is wanting to help out, and participating in CONY is just one way he can do that.

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The Citizen CROSSWORD

Solution in CLASSIFIEDS



CLUES ACROSS

1. Shed tears
5. Luxury jewelry designer
10. Goddess of wisdom
12. Convert into a particular form
14. Working-class people
16. It borders Canada (abbr.)
18. A princess can detect its presence
19. Red-brown sea bream
20. Defunct retail empire
22. Vase
23. Demeter's equivalent
25. Monetary unit of the Maldives
26. French and Belgian river
27. Small amount
28. High schoolers' test
30. Animal's foot
31. Some is red
33. Per __: each
35. Swedish jazz pop duo
37. Plate for Eucharist
38. Train line
40. Russian pop duo
41. Stake
42. Plant by scattering
44. Female sibling
45. City of Angels hoopsters (abbr.)
48. Popular cookie brand
50. Group of Niger-Congo languages
52. A team's best pitcher
53. Vomits
55. 19th letter of Greek alphabet
56. Men's fashion accessory
57. Its capital is Pierre (abbr.)
58. Expensive cut of steak
63. Popular James Cameron film
65. A __: relating to knowledge gleaned from deduction
66. Kids' snow toys
67. Flip side to yin

CLUES DOWN

1. Global public health agency
2. Snake-like fish
3. Midway between northeast and east
4. Dabbed
5. TV show
6. Folk singer DiFranco
7. Canadian flyers
8. Of the dowry
9. Commercial
10. The act of imitating
11. Equipment used to broadcast radio or TV signals
13. Lands of an emir
15. Swiss river
17. Island
18. Monetary unit of Afghanistan
21. One who surrenders under agreed conditions
23. Garfield is one
24. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
27. Small boats used in the Black Sea
29. Small savory Spanish dishes
32. Body part
34. Touch lightly
35. Popular grilled foods on a stick
36. __ Hess: oil company
39. Antelope with a reddish coat
40. Pharaoh of Lower Egypt
43. Pink Floyd's Roger
44. Short and thick
46. Small, sac-like cavities
47. Performer __-Lo
49. Entrails of animal used as food
51. __ King Cole, musician
54. Where construction is done
59. Chap
60. Investment vehicle
61. Often mixed with tonic
62. Holiday beverage egg __
64. Against

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

Know your rights: Library partners on housing rights workshops for renters and landlords

Centre serves York Region, Peel and beyond

BY BROCK WEIR

As we continue to experience a housing crunch, do you know your rights?

If you have any questions, they can soon be answered through a new three-part Housing Rights Workshop hosted by the Aurora Public Library and the Canadian Centre for Housing Rights, formerly the Centre for Equality Rights in Accommodation.

Beginning on Thursday, February 2, and continuing on April 27 and June 1, the series will cover Rental Housing Basics, Beginning & Ending a Tenancy, and Repairs & Maintenance.

The series is funded through a grant received by the Centre via the United Way of Greater Toronto and, according to the Centre's Margaret Flynn, is intended to provide education sessions on tenant rights for both tenants and service providers, as well as service providers that might work with tenants.

"The goal of the sessions is to tell tenants about the main rights and the key rights that they have as a renter and where they can go in their community to get free help if they feel their rights have been violated," says Flynn.

The work of the Centre is multifaceted, says Flynn, covering a "range" of areas for people facing housing challenges, including housing stabilization programs where caseworkers help tenants who might be facing discrimination in their housing.

"We also engage in policy advocacy and strategic litigation to protect and also expand the rights of tenants," says Flynn. "We have this range of work that we do and because we have this direct contact with tenants through the intake line, we do then get a real sense of what some of the key issues are that people are facing. Certainly we hear about landlords making unlawful and discriminatory demands at the outset of a rental agreement. For example, asking for more than first and last month's rent up front, or for saying no children allowed.

"Another thing we do hear about relatively often is tenants thinking they have no rights because they don't have a written lease agreement. That is not the case. We also hear about landlords not meeting their obligation to maintain and repair the unit; for example, a landlord failing to eliminate mold or failing to deal with pests or to fix broken plumbing. We also hear about landlords illegally entering tenant apartments [and] landlords not providing 24 hours written notice in cases where they are required to do so."

Cases like these, she adds, are "aggravated" where there is a lesser supply of housing to address demand.

"I think that's a particular problem right now in areas where there is not a lot of housing options out there, we're seeing tenants pressured to, for example, pay more than that first and last month's rent and things like that, which is not a legal request. There are protections against that, yet it happens in areas especially where there's a lack of housing options.

"[These sessions] will be a time for [registrants] to submit questions throughout the presentation but the design of the presentations include scenarios that are true to life and really represent what tenants face in our communities and are based on the types of calls we get fairly often. Because it's scenario-based and people can think through what their reactions are to the scenarios, what they think might be wrong with them, and we'll reiterate what the key points are afterwards from the scenarios and what people might draw from them and apply for situations in their own life."

Sessions, Flynn adds, are accessible and engaging, and free of charge.

"We want you to be aware of what your rights are and where you can get free help if you think those rights are violated. Call us or your legal clinic as soon as possible to talk through options. Nothing is too small or too early and it's always great to talk things through early on. Another big message to tenants is not to sign anything until they've made that call because they could be signing away rights that they have. Don't withhold your rent if something goes wrong because you could be putting yourself at risk for eviction."

For more on the individual sessions and to register, visit the following:

Rental Housing Basics
Thursday, February 2 | 2:30 – 3:30pm
Register at bit.ly/3TMOZlv

Beginning and Ending a Tenancy
Thursday, April 27 | 2:30 – 3:30pm
Register at bit.ly/3sGpaaM

Repairs and Maintenance
Thursday, June 1 | 2:30 – 3:30pm
Register at bit.ly/3sDOHRJ

To connect with the Canadian Centre for Housing Rights, visit housingrightscanada.com or call 1-800-263-1139.

Caledon Firefighters fundraising for those in need through Coldest Night of the Year

Continued from Page 4

"Taking the time to help organize the Caledon Firefighters team with Shannon, I know it's time well spent as it will make it easier for our colleagues to help out as well. I'm excited to see the event return to an in-person event," said Hayashi. "Public events offer a great opportunity to remind the community of some of our core at-home safety tips — like ensuring your detectors are in working order or making an escape plan."

Mullins said Caledon is where she was born and raised and that she's very passionate about supporting people in Caledon and creating equal opportunities and access to service. She said it's important to support each other and work to eliminate homelessness in Caledon.

"We're all in this together," said Mullins.

Mullins and Hayashi both said it's been a tough couple of years and that people are now building back connections in person. They said CONY would be a great way for a local business to team-build while helping the community.

"If you are a local individual, this is a great way of meeting members of your community and supporting those in need," they said. "We hope to see all of you joining us in this important event."

Caledon Community Services (CCS) is hosting their CONY walk on February 25, and it will be one of many different walks being held across Canada that day. The walk begins at 4 p.m. at the Caledon East Community Complex, and there's two and five-kilometre routes for teams to choose from.

Ahead of the walk, teams do their best to fundraise and be the top team on the Caledon CNOY leaderboards, a friendly competition where those most in need of help benefit from the fundraising.

As noted in a previous Caledon Citizen article, those wanting to get involved with CNOY can create their own fundraising team or join an existing one online at cnoy.org/location/caledon.

CCS is hoping to raise $100,000 from this year's event, and so far teams have raised over $25,000. Those who want to donate can also do so on the same website.

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Limit one entry per person. One winner will be randomly drawn on Monday, February 13, 2023. The winner will be contacted on Tuesday, February 14, 2023, by phone or email and have their name shown in the Thursday, February 16th, 2023 issue of the Caledon Citizen. Must be 18 years of age to enter. Employees and relatives of London Publishing Corp. are not eligible to win.

Angela Park & Sharon Wei to play concert in Caledon

BY ZACHARY ROMAN

If you haven't been to a concert hosted by Caledon Chamber Concerts, Janice Reed says this is the one to attend.

Reed, who helps bring world-class musicians to Caledon through the non-profit group Caledon Chamber Concerts, says she's excited to see Angela Park play on a seven-foot Steinway piano.

"The sound of this piano sings with Angela Park at the helm," said Reed. "Angela is equally accompanied by the wonderful violist Sharon Wei."

Park and Sharon Wei will be playing on February 11 at 7:30 p.m. at St. James Anglican Church in Caledon East, the usual home of shows hosted by Caledon Chamber Concerts. Youth aged 16 and under can attend for free, while tickets for adults are $40.

Reed explained the program for the evening will feature an exciting mix of compositions, including one from a composer who is from Ontario. The Bloch Suite for viola and piano will be played, as well as Gabriela Lena Frank's Cinco Danzas de Chambi.

The piece with an Ontario connection that will be played is called Double Rainbows, and it was composed by Darren Sigesmund, who's also an accomplished trombonist.

Park and Wei are both faculty at Western University in London, ON, teaching the next generation of music students. They've also performed in Caledon before, when they played in the "Made in Canada" string quartet they co-founded.

Reed says Park has become one of Canada's most sought-after pianists, sharing reviews of her playing that describe it as "stunningly beautiful" and note that she plays "with such brilliant clarity, it (takes) your breath away." Park has played all across the globe in places like Japan, Mexico, and various places in Europe.

Reed explains Wei is the Acting Assistant Dean of Research right now at Western. She adds that Wei has given "masterclasses" at the American Viola Society Festival, at the Beijing Conservatory, and at universities across Canada. Additionally, Reed saysWei was recently invited to join the famous New Orford String Quartet. Those interested in buying tickets for the February 11 show can do so by visiting CaledonChamberConcerts.com, emailing gordonkmorton@gmail.com, or dialing 905-880-2445 on their phone.

We Rise Together 2.0 brings increased focus on Board's accountability

Continued from FRONT

Lisa Hart, the PDSB's Superintendent of Equity, Indigenous Education, School Engagement and Community Relations, said the 2.0 in We Rise Together 2.0 means building upon the work that's been happening already in the Board and community.

An initial We Rise Together plan was created back in 2017 and community advocates and the board have been continuing work on the plan since. Hart said the responsibility to implement the 2.0 plan rests across all departments of the board, so that change is made from a systemic level all the way down to the student level.

Recently, the provincial government ended an over two-year period in which it had appointed a supervisor to watch over the PDSB. The supervisor was installed after an investigation into the Board's ability to address systematic racism, specifically anti-Black racism.

Along with the supervisor came 27 directives for the Board, of which number nine was the mandatory creation of an annual equity report card. Hart explained this annual report card will show how the PDSB is making change, through tangible data, in the six different focus areas of We Rise Together 2.0.

Raquel Walker, the PDSB's Coordinating Principal of African, Black, and Afro-Caribbean Student Success, said it was the advocacy of the Peel community that helped the board realize the initial We Rise Together plan could be developed to go much deeper.

"You'll notice in the 2.0, the accountability measures are much more prominent," said Walker. "That's what the community was saying — it's great that we have this action plan, but how do we know it's making a difference?"

As mentioned above, one of the focus areas of the 2.0 plan is implementing the experiences of Black Canadians into students' curriculum. Walker explained a network of Black studies educators has come together to work on this task, and there's now a number of new classes being offered in PDSB schools such as the Grade 11 African Canadian Studies course.

Walker said the education system has evolved but there's still work to be done to get it where it needs to be.



Nievel Regis shared the importance of storytelling in Black culture. **PHOTO BY ZACHARY ROMAN**





(Left) Patrice Barnes, Parliamentary Assistant to Ontario's Minister of Education, spoke of her government's role in ensuring Black student success in the PDSB. (Right) PDSB Board Chair David Green brought greetings and a speech on behalf of the Board. **PHOTOS BY ZACHARY ROMAN**



A step dance performance from PDSB students was a celebration of Black student success and earned a standing ovation from the crowd. **PHOTO BY ZACHARY ROMAN**

Rashmi Swarup, the PDSB's Director of Education, said professional development is key in ensuring the success of We Rise Together 2.0. She said the Board's senior leadership team spends half a day every single month learning about anti-Black racism. She explained there's going to be a focused recruitment strategy so that the board is able to meet the plan's focus area of hiring and supporting more Black staff.

"We do want to ensure that our students see themselves in the staff that's in front of them," said Swarup. "I'm proud to say we have great representation of very skilled, experienced and qualified senior Black staff, and that doesn't happen without bringing intentionality to it."

Swarup said, to her, Black student success means bringing students from the margins into the centre and then centring them in everything the board does. She said all Black students should feel like they belong, feel motivated and inspired, and know that "the sky's the limit" for them.

"Black students can achieve anything," said Swarup.

Hart was a student in the PDSB and her kids are now students in the PDSB. To her, Black student success means having her kids come home from school at the end of the day being able to talk about being seen and heard in class, feeling valued and having their identity affirmed.

"Most importantly, (they should) know those levels of high expectations and pathways of opportunities exist for them," said Hart.

During the launch event for We Rise Together 2.0, many speakers addressed the crowd. One of these was David Green, Chair of the PDSB. He said the work that has started will not stop and that the board will not relent; it will keep moving forward.

"Our commitment is to ensure that we continue to dismantle anti-Black racism, systematic racism, Indigenous racism and all forms of racism, to ensure that our students will never have to go through what our forefathers went through, or what you and I have went through to get here today," said Green.

Patrice Barnes, Parliamentary Assistant to Ontario's Minister of Education, said as a mom and former trustee, she understands the critical role Ontario's public school system must play in developing Black excellence and preparing Black students for success. She said her government has been working hard on this topic, by doing things like launching the Black graduation coach program, eliminating discretionary suspension for Junior Kindergarten to Grade 3 students, and ending the streaming of Grade 9 students into applied and academic courses.

"We know there's more to do province-wide, which is why we are all continuing to work to confront all racism, including anti-Black racism, in Ontario schools," said Barnes.

Danielle Dowdy addressed attendees on behalf of We Rise Together 2.0 parent representatives that helped with the plan. She said the plan has been a labour of love and that parents have given their time, energy and expertise to the board, and that it hasn't been easy.

"Countless meetings, late night phone calls… supporting the ministry review," said Dowdy.

"Anti-Black racism is corrosive and it's deadly. None of us in this battle are unscarred. Insomnia, high blood pressure, weight gain, weight loss, anxiety, frustration, sadness and tears… we do this for our children."

Dowdy said she wanted to thank all of the young people in attendance at the event.

"Thank you for continuing to shine despite all the obstacles before you," said Dowdy. "You are our inspiration, we will continue to fight for your education."

PDSB students Kiara Evans and Kaden Stephen performed two spoken word poems during the event. The first poem, My Appearance, was about negative stereotypes and judging people by their skin colour, among other topics such as police brutality.

"I forgot, you only participate in Black trends, but you're never there when a Black life just came to an end…" said Evans and Stephen. "In society it seems I'll be seen as Black before being seen as a human… Appearance is all that you see? Or is it all you want me to be? A tall Black boy can't be a lawyer, that's not in my way. A tall Black boy belongs in the NBA. You wouldn't know how painful it is to hear that I'm only good for basketball."

The second poem, If You Give a Black Child a Voice, was about giving a voice to the struggles young Black children face.

"If you give a Black child a voice, they'll tell you how they hear their name in the hallway. No, not the name they were given by their parents but the name that was given to the slaves…" said Evans and Stephen. "If you gave a Black child a voice, they'd say if you don't see my Blackness you don't see me."

More information about We Rise Together 2.0, including the entire strategy itself, is available online at peelschools.org/black-student-success-strategy.



Caledon Day Returns
Save the Date!

Get ready to celebrate, Caledon Day is back! This year, the Sheepdogs will be headlining the event with their classic rock-influenced music, adding a lively atmosphere to the day's festivities. Along with great music, visitors can expect to enjoy arts and crafts, games for kids and families, delicious food, a beer and cider tent, fireworks and more. Don't miss out on the fun, stay updated on the latest details by following us in the coming weeks! For more event details visit:

caledon.ca/caledonday

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Visit **caledon.ca/caledonday** for more information on available opportunities.

VÉLOCITY

Join Caledon Community Services in their annual cycling event, Vélocity, at Town Hall. Not only will you kick off Caledon Day with a fun family ride, but you'll also support local seniors by raising funds for their wellbeing.

Stay tuned for more details!



TOWN OF CALEDON

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The Town of Caledon is developing its strategic plan – a collaborative strategy that will shape **Caledon's future over the next 12 years**.

Caledon's strategic plan will help create a future-ready Caledon and determine priorities in future business plans and budgets.

Visit **haveyoursaycaledon.ca** to take the Strategic Plan 2023 - 2035 survey and learn more.

The survey closes **February 15, 2023**.

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SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF CALEDON

Take Notice that tenders are invited for the purchase of the lands described below and will be received until 3:00 p.m. local time on February 23, 2023, at the Town of Caledon Municipal Office, 6311 Old Church Road, Caledon Ontario.

This meeting will be held virtually and in-person. Visit caledon.ca/taxsale to click on the meeting link or call into the meeting to listen to the proceedings at: Phone Number: 1-416-216-5643, Meeting Access Code: 2633 895 9183# or attend in-person at the Town of Caledon Municipal Office, 6311 Old Church Road, Caledon Ontario. Please advise us if you require an accessibility accommodation to participate.

DESCRIPTION OF LANDS:

1. Roll No. 21 24 090 007 00638 0000; PIN 14322-0822 (LT); File No. 21-36; **Minimum Tender Amount: $67,056.34**
2. Roll No. 21 24 030 008 00905 0000; PIN 14273-0272 (LT); File No. 21-46; **Minimum Tender Amount: $22,499.74**

Except as follows, the municipality makes no representation regarding the title to, availability of road access, or any other matters relating to the lands to be sold. Responsibility for ascertaining these matters rests with the potential purchasers. This sale is governed by the Municipal Act, 2001 and the Municipal Tax Sales Rules made under that Act. A full copy of the tax sale advertisement and further information about this matter is available on line at **ontariotaxsales.ca** and/or **caledon.ca/taxsale** or you may contact Tanya Baird, Senior Clerk, Revenue Finance Department, The Corporation of the Town of Caledon, Caledon ON L7C 1J6, Telephone: (905) 584-2272 Ext. 4110, Email: tanya.baird@caledon.ca.

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Family Day Activities

FEBRUARY 20

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Come out and enjoy skating, shinny, swimming, pickleball, arts and crafts, and much more!

John Clarkson Park Skate Loop

Skate for free at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the John Clarkson Skate Loop at 2 p.m.

There will also be free skating at outdoor rinks. Visit **caledon.ca/skating** for a list of outdoor rinks currently open for use.

For more details and a full schedule of our Family Day activities visit:

caledon.ca/familyday

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BROCK WEIR
BROCK'S BANTER

Bold steps and asking the right questions

Early in my career covering politics and politicians, I found myself at the end of a very long phone conversation. Actually, it was more of a lecture than anything else.

Oddly enough, this conversation had little to do with the topics covered within these pages more than a decade ago; rather, it was related to a comment made in the politician's off-duty hours on social media.

It was a post in which they made derisive remarks on a provocatively-named march to draw a line under rape culture, as well as to fight and combat both victim blaming and victim shaming.

The point of the event in their missive was boiled down beyond any form of recognition as one of "foolish girls" going out in body-bearing outfits "demanding men look the other way."

Well, as anyone who has participated in the "SlutWalk" can attest, that point couldn't have been further from the mark.

The walk itself was established in 2011 following a campus rape at a GTA university where a member of the Toronto Police Service controversially told students at Osgoode Hall Law School that "women should avoid dressing like sluts in order not to be victimized" – seeming to place the onus on the victim rather than the perpetrator.

The walk was therefore a push-back on this tired trope and gained significant momentum.

However, when I brought up its purpose in our conversation, the politician in question was having none of it.

Perhaps they were a visual learner, but their opinion was formed solely on the basis of how participants were dressed rather than what spurred it, or even the very basic message they were trying to underscore.

Facts played precious little role in their opinion, and it was a position that was reiterated every time a Walk appeared on the horizon.

Myopic as it was, perhaps it was an easier, if unfortunate, attempt to compartmentalize a very heady issue – but, sadly, a learning opportunity was lost because they didn't want to scratch the surface or ask very important questions.

Although this interaction took place more than a decade ago, it feels we've made precious little progress in opening up true lines of dialogue. Enough ink has been spilled in this space bemoaning how, in the realm of the "social", people revel in echo chambers, either blocking, ignoring, or pushing back any contrary opinions, whether or not said opinions are rooted in fact.

It wasn't all that long ago that when you had questions about something, the first course of action might be to ask them and seek answers, and maybe try to put yourself in their shoes to fully understand. Rather than asking, it seems that the more common course is to seek out information that reaffirms what you feel to be true rather than what is actually true. (It's great when what you feel aligns with facts, but gears, from what I've seen and experienced, are quickly shifted when that alignment is just a little bit off.)

But taking the time to ask questions or walk a mile in the shoes of others is becoming a lost art.

"It's easy for you to say, asking questions is basically your job," you might say – and, basically, that is true… yet how often have you flexed those muscles recently?

In the last municipal election – or, heck, the last provincial or federal election, for that matter – how many of you took the time to ask questions about issues that concerned you when candidates came a-knocking?

How about newcomers from other parts of the world? How many make assumptions about why an individual has come to Canada without taking the bold step of enquiring about any part of their life's journey to get to this point?

Once again, a huge opportunity missed for both understanding and perspective.

Recently, I recalled the debate surrounding the construction of a McDonalds restaurant and drive-thru at a plaza that was then under construction. About 100 metres from a subdivision that had been built nearly 10-years before, some opposition at the podium included the view that the iconic arches shouldn't be built so close to a community because "teens" would "congregate" there.

As if that was a bad thing in and of itself, and completely discounting the fact that many members of this oft-maligned demographic get their first jobs at these places.

Any questions to your friendly neighbourhood teen on why they might be standing in that Golden glow? Congregation was enough.

In recent months, we've seen the unhoused in the City of Toronto kicked out of encampments by police when they simply have nowhere to go – a blanket response to an issue without understanding any of the nuances that lead to homelessness – spending significant tax dollars on policing when an adequate investment in social problems might prove more than a band-aid solution.

Those of us lucky enough not to be in desperate, immediate need of a roof over one's head can often, consciously or otherwise, have a perception of what homelessness is, and how one can find themselves in such a situation.

Some might immediately, and unfortunately, chalk the situation up to mental health issues. Relevant in some instances, but not all. Some might chalk it up to a tangle with the law. While that might be the case with some, chances are they're in the minority. Others might shirk away out of fear that with just a small change of circumstances that too could be "them."

So many preconceived, often erroneous notions, that could be dispelled and cleared up with just a few simple questions.

On Saturday, an Ontario Superior Court decided in a case involving the Region of Waterloo that the municipality did not have the right to evict the unhoused from encampments, stating that doing so infringes on the individual's Charter right to security and liberty of the person, and Waterloo's bylaw to clear the space was "inoperable" while "the number of homeless individuals in the Region [exceeds] the number of accessible shelter beds."

Following what could be a precedent-setting decision for municipalities across the Province, it's time to stop painting with such a broad brush and take the steps to really understand the various life-paths, life-changing events, and accumulated small circumstances that can lead to such perilous circumstances.

February is here and our communities are gearing up for Coldest Night of the Year, a family-friendly walk to raise funds for charities serving people "experiencing hurt, hunger or homelessness" with all proceeds staying local to provide services in the community – potentially our friends, family, and neighbours past, present and future.

"By walking in the cold, you'll feel a hint of the challenge faced by those experiencing homelessness during winter," say organizers at CNOY.org.

If questions can be a bit difficult sometimes, how about taking a step in the right direction and walking a mile in their shoes?



Is "forced giving" an option to help the world?

by Mark Pavilons



"No one has ever become poor by giving." - Anne Frank

And Mother Teresa once suggested, "if you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one."

Truer words.

Some believe that giving is in our nature as human beings, that we derive a sense of purpose, happiness and fulfilment from giving.

Of course, our ability to give financially is directly linked to our situation and economics.

Surprisingly, the average wage earners in Canada tend to be the most generous. Of Canadian families who give to charity, the amount given has declined for all but the very lowest income band, according to CanadaHelps (CH).

With all the global conflict in the world, and the constant need from Ukraine for more donations from the west, some believe charity begins at home, and should stay at home.

Of course, I agree that we need to address our own problems of poverty, inequality and homelessness. Fortunately, a lot of support is coming from the grassroots.

What some may not realize is we have an obligation, even a mandate, to give to other nations in need. Part of our membership in organizations like NATO, the G7 and UN requires us to budget and pitch in literally millions, perhaps billions, to other countries and their citizens.

The World Health Organization (WHO) recently launched its 2023 health emergency appeal – $2.54-billion (US) to provide assistance to millions of people around the world facing health emergencies.

The number of people in need of humanitarian relief has increased by almost a quarter compared to 2022, to a record 339 million. Currently, WHO is responding to an unprecedented number of intersecting health emergencies: climate change-related disasters such as flooding in Pakistan and food insecurity across the Sahel and in the greater Horn of Africa; the war in Ukraine; and the health impact of conflict in Yemen, Afghanistan, Syria and northern Ethiopia – all of these emergencies overlapping with the health system disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and outbreaks of measles, cholera, and other killers.

"This unprecedented convergence of crises demands an unprecedented response," said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General. "More people than ever before face the imminent risk of disease and starvation and need help now. The world cannot look away and hope these crises resolve themselves. I urge donors to be generous and help WHO to save lives, prevent the spread of disease within and across borders, and support communities as they rebuild."

WHO is currently responding to 54 health crises around the world, 11 of which are classified as Grade 3, WHO's highest level of emergency, requiring a response at all three levels of the organization. As it is often the case, the most vulnerable are the worst hit.

Here at home, CanadaHelps released its Giving Report 2022, revealing declines, largely due to pandemic pressures.

Data provided by CH indicates most charities are small and roughly 78% make less than $500,000 a year in revenue. Most (90%) employ 10 or fewer full-time staff and 58% are fully run by volunteers.

For those who are involved in a non-profit, you are keenly aware of the work of our tireless volunteers. You know, first-hand how charities work on a shoestring budget, many with no government funding.

And yet, our kind hearts and commitment to our friends and neighbours makes King unique. That's something we should always admire and keep in our hearts.

Of course, the pandemic has hindered local giving and groups know you can't always go to the "same well" for donations and contributions. And yet, somehow, our residents and business continue to rise to the challenge and give, give, give.

And why not?

Many of us are in a decent position here in Canada, with universal health care, fundamental freedoms, protective services and guaranteed rights to protest, speak out and be heard.

Even if you take global poverty off the table, people in many countries suffer daily from disease, and lack of simple medicine and basic needs like water. They are detained, beaten and killed by dictatorial regimes. In many nations there is no regard for human life.

It's 2023 and sometimes I just can't fathom the plight of these people, or how they live from day to day under such harsh conditions.

In 2020, the top "giving" nations changed drastically, likely due to the pandemic impacts.

Canada and the U.S. failed to make the top 10, replaced by countries like Indonesia, Kenya, Nigeria, Myanmar and Australia.

I get it, our friends and neighbours right here are hurting.

Grocery thefts are on the rise, as food costs soar. The cost of over-the-counter medications, fuel, taxes, and more are really putting a strain on many citizens.

With random acts of violence permeating the news lately, it's hard to find the silver lining, or see the good in our fellow human beings.

But it's there, I just know it.

Should we "force" Canadians to help each other out? Should the government impose a "giving tax" with the entire amount going to charities who need it most?

Maybe our school curriculum should include one day a month of roll-up-your-sleeves volunteering. Our youngsters need to be more aware of what's really going around them.

The demand has never been higher, I get it.

But as Mother Teresa said, let's start with just one!

Our Readers Write

Monty Laskin, CCS CEO, moving on after 17 years at the helm.

I was sad to read the recent Caledon Community Services announcement regarding the imminent departure of Monty Laskin, its CEO for the past 17 years.

In my role as Board Chair in 2006 I interviewed him for the job after Susan Cameron, CCS' then Executive Director, announced her retirement after many years. It was immediately clear to me and the rest of the hiring committee that we had the opportunity to continue Susan's legacy with a man of integrity and strong political acumen honed from his time spent as an Assistant Deputy Minister in the Ministry of The Attorney General.

Prior to Susan's departure, she identified many areas of health and social services lacking in The Town of Caledon. As a champion of those needs and of people whose voices aren't often heard in Caledon, Monty was tireless in devoting himself and CCS to meeting emerging needs on many fronts that speak to issues of social justice.

His brand of leadership brought new levels of support to Caledon from government at all levels, foundations, businesses, and many local community members who came to understand the importance of CCS in our fast-growing Town.

Continued on Page 15

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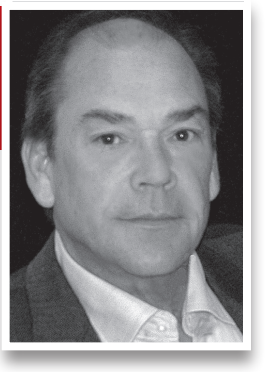
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Groundhog Day

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



Happy Groundhog Day!

Yes, it's that day of the year where we all celebrate the revered tradition of relying on a rodent,

to predict if it's going to be an early spring – or is that a late winter?

Who better to predict the weather, than a groundhog?

I guess if you were desperate, you could consult a professional meteorologist, but why would you bother with a scientist who measures temperature, air pressure, wind strength and direction, and uses ground sensors, satellites, and radar, when you can ask a groundhog?

I'm not sure if anyone, actually "celebrates" Groundhog day. It's more like a morning news report that tells you if Wiarton Willy or Punxsutawney Phil saw their shadow.

However, if Groundhog Day falls on a weekend – this year it's a Thursday – I think a Groundhog Day party would be in order, at least as an excuse to get some friends together, have some drinks and take part in some kind of Groundhog Day shenanigans. I'm not sure what that would include, but it does sound like a lot of fun. Maybe some groundhog inspired cocktails, or a pin the tail on the groundhog game? The possibilities are endless for someone who is a talented party planner.

"Phil? Phil Connors!? It's me! Ned! Ned Ryerson!"

If you just read this quote, and immediately recognized it, chances are, you are a fan of the movie Groundhog Day.

It is a 1993 film starring Bill Murray, and set in Punxsutawney Pennsylvania, on February 2.

In the movie, Phil Connors wakes up to the sound of Sonny and Cher singing, 'I Got You Babe.' It happens the next day, then the next, and the next.

He finally realizes he is living the same day, over, and over, and over again.

The movie never explains why he is caught in this time warp, and it doesn't explain why he is the only person who is experiencing it, although everyone else is obviously in the same time loop because they are there every day as well.

Phil Connors is known as a disagreeable and miserable person. He's hard to work with and thinks only of himself.

However, as the movie progresses, he takes a new approach to life. He uses the repetition of starting the same day over and over, by doing good deeds and he starts learning new things.

He becomes an expert in some of his hobbies including ice sculpting and playing the piano. The idea was, that since he has nothing but time on his hands, he could practice every day until he became an expert.

A theory came out a few years ago, that in order to become an expert in something, it takes 10,000 hours of practice. According to the theory, anyone can become an expert in a field, as long as you put in those required hours.

That is the equivalent of practicing something, eight hours per day, five days a week, for almost five full years.

I'm not sure the theory is really correct. Some people have a natural talent for some things, and they could become an expert a lot sooner, while others may continue to struggle, even after completing the required time. It is, after all, a theory, and I'm sure no one has really ever tried it out.

I've known people who were gifted musicians and could sit down with an instrument and play a requested tune by ear after just a few moments of figuring it out. Other people spend years trying to achieve a goal and never quite make it a reality at the level they are striving for.

Practice, it is said, makes perfect. Of course, there is a lot of common sense in that phrase. After all, if you don't practice, you will never get better at something.

A good example is playing the piano. Anyone who plays, knows that repetition is the key. You may stumble over the keys the first few times, but every time it becomes easier as your body and muscle memory start to pick up on the right keys you want to play. Before you know it, your fingers automatically go to the right keys when they are supposed to.

If we can really learn something from Groundhog Day, and I don't think we really can, because it's just a ridiculous tradition, at least you can learn something from the movie and practice whatever you want to learn, and stick with it.

By the way – get ready for six more weeks of winter.

A Friendly Reminder

SHERALYN ROMAN
TALK CALEDON



Just in case anyone is wondering, I am NOT an employee of the Town of Caledon, nor the Region of Peel. I will not receive any special favours *nudge, nudge, wink, wink, for the public service announcement I am about to make. You might even wonder why I'm going to say "it" at all, but as with so many other times when I pound away at the keyboard in frustration, I feel the need to vent and sharing with you, dear reader, is how I prevent heart attacks - specifically mine.

What is "it?" What is my friendly reminder this week? It's the rather novel idea that IF you have a problem with the Town, call the Town. If you have a problem with the Town, email the Town. If you have a complaint, a compliment, even a suggested compromise - call, or email the Town; or if it's a really, really big deal, delegate to Council. You know what you should NOT do? Post your complaint/comment on Facebook. Nor should you post on social media the following question: "Who do I complain to about (fill in the blank)? I mean first of all, obviously you have a computer or some type of device that is wifi enabled and allows you to access Facebook so presumably that means you also have the ability to Google from whom and how to get help in the first place. Whether your issue is snow removal or an unkempt front lawn, excessive garbage in the local park or you are concerned about your taxes, I'm pretty certain if you sat down and reasoned it out, you'd realize that it's very likely the Town that can help you sort out your concerns, not your neighbours on Facebook. I'm equally certain that if you thought to yourself, "I wonder if the Town can help?" but you weren't sure who was the best person or department to call, the people who answer the phone at the town would in fact, help direct your call appropriately. In other words – yup, you got it - CALL or EMAIL the Town.

What set me down this path? Yet another series of exchanges where folks are complaining about snow removal. Sometimes the threads become so long, with so many people chiming in that things start to get nasty. Councillors' names get thrown about, insults included, yet I can count on one hand the number of times someone will actually take the time and trouble to find, and post, a link to the correct Town department to handle the complaint. To those people I say thank you! Occasionally, I will also see people "tag" their local Councillor (and, full disclosure, I have done this myself) so that they are at least aware of what's happening in the community, but it should always be followed up with a reminder that calling or emailing is far more productive than complaining on social media.

Things aren't always perfect. I get it. Are you? Neither am I. So, if the snow didn't quite get plowed properly in your community there are any number of reasons why that might be the case but problems are only solved when we know there is a problem in the first place. By far the most efficient way of notifying the Town about a concern is to actually notify the Town because – friendly reminder – unlike me, they are not constantly checking and re-checking their social media accounts! As well, calling or emailing ensures a record of the request now exists and any response (or lack of) can be tracked accordingly.

By all means, use social media as a tool to help your neighbours become aware of bigger issues that will impact your community. Tag Councillors as a means of calling their attention to concerns but not to expect a comment or actual results. Share information as a valuable tool toward education and bringing attention to matters of larger concern – like the fiasco of a proposal suggesting a Tim Hortons drive-thru in Caledon East. This is a great example of using social media to heighten awareness of the need for neighbours to mobilize, band together and delegate to Council. Simply kvetching about your neighbours - not so much.

I'll end with these important contact points so you can clip from here down, rather than cutting out this whole column (even though it's chock full of sage advice.) If you need help, here's how to find it:

Town of Caledon - "Caledon.ca"

ByLaw - "Caledon.ca" then follow the prompts to "Report a Problem" Whether it's a pothole, litter or a broken streetlight…. Just click on the "Report a Problem" button and you can immediately fill out a service request.

If you are concerned your neighbour is not following Town standards, you can send a complaint to Regulatory Services by email or by phone. These links are also enabled to take you straight to a page to complete your request.

#311 - If you wish to remain anonymous while complaining or complimenting, simply pick up the phone and call #311. Or call 905-584-2272 and ask for your call to be directed. By the way, help is now available in a variety of languages too!

If you are looking for your Ward Councilors, just go to the Town's website and follow the connections 'til you see their pictures! All their contact information is clearly listed underneath. https://www.caledon.ca/en/government/mayor-and-council.aspx

There are numerous "click here" and email links throughout the Town of Caledon website enabling fast, simple connections to the people or departments you need. If you can navigate Facebook, you can navigate the Town of Caledon's website for information! Now if only we could make it even easier. Town Council, if you can get a good enough price per unit, have those fridge magnets made by ward - with the added bonus of including the email of the Town Councillor.

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SPORTS

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Community invited to check out 55+ Active Living & Wellness Fair

BY ZACHARY ROMAN

An upcoming event in Bolton will feature free lunch and entertainment, guest speakers, prizes and more.

From 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on February 16, the Caledon Seniors Centre will host the 55+ Active Living & Wellness Fair. Admission to the event is free, and attendees will be able to experience an event that's dedicated to health, wellness, and services available to the older adult.

Caledon Seniors Centre manager Beverley Nurden explained the centre is partnering with the Older Adult Centers' Association of Ontario and Government of Ontario to host the event.

Along with entertainment and food, there will be an information fair where non-profits and organizations that serve older adults will showcase their services.

There will be guest speakers coming to the event, and business vendors are welcome too.

Space is still available for businesses at the event, and those interested in learning more can visit caledonseniors.ca.

There will also be some fitness classes available at the event. Nurden explained the Seniors Centre has three fitness instructors, and that they'll be there to demonstrate some fitness techniques of all levels so everyone can participate.

The Caledon Seniors Centre is for individuals that are "interested in maintaining a healthy lifestyle through fun, fitness and fellowship."

The upcoming fair will be just one of many ways the Seniors Centre provides that opportunity to its users.

To register and reserve your spot for the fair, email caledonsenior@rogers.com or call 905-951-6114.

OMHA | RECHARGE WITH MILK

OMHA Bursary Program returns for fourth season

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

It takes a lot of commitment to be successful both on the ice and in the classroom.

The OMHA is partnering with the Dairy Farmers of Ontario to present the Bursary Program, which recognizes minor hockey players for outstanding commitment to community service, athletics, and academics.

The Bursary is comprised of two awards – the Dairy Farmers of Ontario Bursary and the Wally Scott Bursary. Each recipient will receive financial support toward their post-secondary education.

Five DFO Bursaries will be awarded at $8,000 each, and up to two Wally Scott Bursary recipients can receive between $1,000 and $2,500.

"We are thrilled to support our young athletes at the OMHA's bursary program for the fourth consecutive year, who show tremendous resilience, sportsmanship and leadership on and off the ice," said Cheryl Smith, Dairy Farmers of Ontario CEO. "Through this bursary, we recognize outstanding Ontario youth athletes pursuing academic excellence, who also demonstrate MilkUP's values – perseverance, originality, and heart."

All applicants must adhere to some guidelines. Requests for bursaries can only be made for active players aged up to 20 years, and they must have been registered players in the Ontario Minor Hockey Association for a minimum of five years. This includes players attending a post-secondary institution for their first year during the 2023/24 school year. Players must maintain a high standard of academic excellence.

"Our Bursary Program with the Dairy Farmers of Ontario highlights some of the top student-athletes in the OMHA who are entering post-secondary education," said OMHA Executive Director Ian Taylor. "We hope these bursaries help our players achieve their goals and that they continue to be leaders within their communities. The bursaries are a testament to the time commitment, focus and dedication needed to succeed at a high level both in the classroom and on the ice."

To apply, candidates must complete the application form and submit it to the OMHA by 8 p.m. on February 26, 2023.

Each application will be reviewed by a panel and only the wining recipients will be contacted by the OMHA.

Applications are available online on the OMHA website.

COMMUNITY events

This column is provided as a free public service to non-profit organizations to announce up-coming events. Please contact the Caledon Citizen by calling ***(905) 857-6626*** *if you wish to have an announcement published.*

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) ON 1344 Bolton – Real People, Real Weight Loss is a non-profit group. We meet weekly on Wed. evenings in the basement of Bolton United Church. Weigh-ins are 6:00-6:30 followed by a meeting. The initial annual fee incl. a bi-monthly magazine and starter kit is $59, and monthly dues are $20. Today is the best day to make changes to your lifestyle! If you have weight to lose and/or want to improve your health, we can help! We promote healthy eating and support the efforts of all our members, and your first meeting is free. Come join us. For more information call Marion at 905-857-5191 or see www.tops.org. Online memberships are also available.

The Bolton Al-Anon Group has recently moved the regular meeting location to the Bolton United Church at 8 Nancy Street (across from Bolton Post Office). We still meet every Thursday at 8:30 pm. We welcome anyone who is/or has been affected by someone who has problem with alcohol. If you have any questions please come any Thursday evening or email: boltonalanon@gmail.com.

Caledon Church of Canada. Every Sunday morning @ 10 am. Monday prayer meeting @ 7 pm. Resources: Prayer counselling, Baby/child dedication, Visit the sick, Wedding Services, Food bank and more!
For all your pastoral services:
Call – 647-891-9400
Email: caledoncoc@gmail.com
Location: 34 Nixon Rd., Bolton

Friday January 27, 2023
Let's Talk … Understanding Dementia
Free Community Event
6:30 pm Dinner via Zoom
7 pm Guest Speaker Dr Madeleine Clark via zoom
See website for link details
For more information call Bolton United Church 905-857-2615,
e-mail office@boltonunitedchurch.com
www.boltonunitedchurch.com

Albion Bolton Historical Society. Meeting at the Albion Bolton Community Centre, room C, 2nd floor (elevator available) on Monday, February 13th at 7.30pm. Lifelong Wildfield resident Dan O'Reilly will recount family and village history. Annual 2023 membership $10. Guests fee per visit $5. Visit our website boltonhistory.com or call Nathan 905-584-2801.

The Peel Regional Aquarium Club (PRAC) welcomes new members! Do you have a fish tank or are interested in keeping fish, shrimp, snails or live plants? Join us monthly to learn more about the hobby, get tips from other hobbyists and participate in our mini monthly auctions! We meet in person on the third Wednesday of every month at 7pm. Please see our website for more details on speakers and location. www.peelaquariumclub.org

We encourage those attending to bring items to sell in our mini monthly auctions and a fish/plant or other aquatic species to show in our monthly bowl shows. This is great practise in learning how to show fish and practise judging as is done in the larger competitions. Join us in person!

February 15th 7-9pm

Speaker: Mitchel Dender

Mitch is a Fisheries Biologist with over 15 years of experience in the aquarium hobby. His talk will focus on Aquaponics and the system he has built at home! Mitch is the founder of For the Reef Apparel, selling apparel that is microplastics-free for the protection and restoration of coral reefs.

Location: Save Max Sports Centre (Youth Room) 1495 Sandalwood Pkwy E, Brampton, L6R 0K2

Email: peelaquariumexec@gmail.com

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OR EMAIL CALEDONSENIOR@ROGERS.COM

Ontario
Older Adult Centres' Association of Ontario
Association des centres pour aînés de l'Ontario
OACAO
The Voice of Older Adult Centres
La voix des centres pour aînés

This event hosted by Caledon Seniors' Centre in partnership with the Older Adult Centers' Association of Ontario (OACAO) and sponsored by the Government of Ontario.

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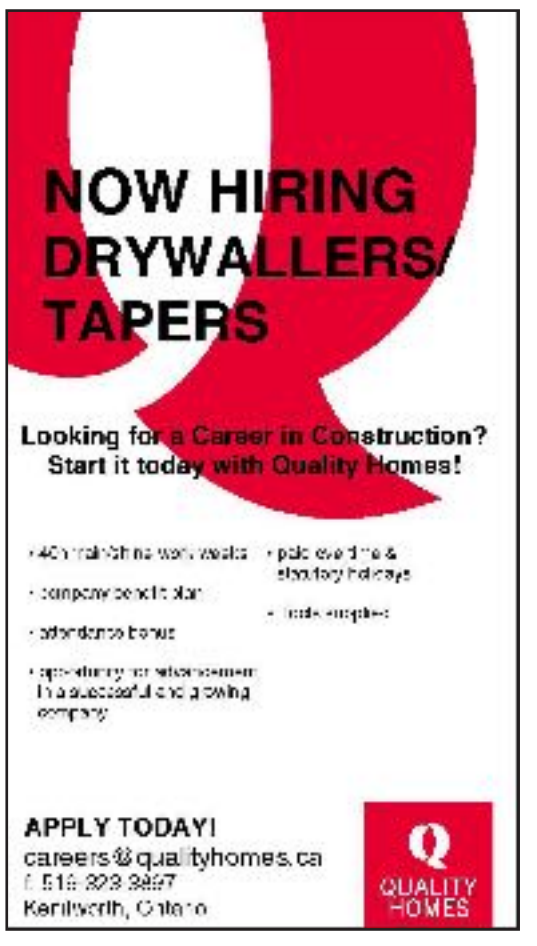
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BECOME A DIRECTOR

Caledon Dufferin Victim Services (CDVS) is currently seeking candidates to serve as Directors on the agency's volunteer Board of Directors.This opportunity is open to all residents of the Town of Caledon or County of Dufferin,who are interested in the stewardship of a caring and vibrant community focused nonprofit,charitable organization that provides support to those affected by crime and life's tragic circumstances.

The Board of Directors is looking for enthusiastic people from the communities we serve,who want to contribute to CDVS through the provision of sound governance, based on the values and principals of a Policy Governance model. Previous experience serving on a Policy Governance Board while not required,would be a strong asset.

Successful candidates will be expected to offer 4 hours per month and attend monthly Board meetings. Additionally, candidates will need to submit to a Criminal Records Check, swear an Oath of Confidentiality and make decisions as part of a team of 8-10 Directors. Candidates are expected to support the Mission, Mandate and Values of the CDVS Corporation and meet the eligibility criteria of the agency bylaws.

Please submit your letter of intent and resume no later than February 28, 2023 by one of the following methods:



Accessibility accommodations available upon request.

Email:
info@cdvs.ca

Mail:
Chair, Board of Directors
15924 Innis Lake Road
Caledon East, ON L7C 2Z1

For more information, please visit **www.cdvs.ca**

RONALD BRUCE WOOD

AUGUST 9 1945 - JANUARY 21 2023



Ronald Bruce Wood passed away peacefully on January 21, 2023 at Elgin Manor, St. Thomas, at the age of 77. He was born in Weston on August 9, 1945 and lived much of his life in Shelburne, then recently moved to St. Thomas. Ron will be missed by his wife Helen, his daughters Michelle (Jeff), Kim (Lui) and stepsons Jason and Robert (Devon). His grandchildren Eric (Dara), Graham (Brynn), Morgan (Spencer), Ottavio & Giovina. His nieces, nephews, cousins, great grandkids, extended family and close friends will all miss his kind heart and witty personality.

Ron loved enjoying time with his friends and grandkids, working on his train set, and upkeeping his beautiful house and yard. He created wonderful memories in Bala, Muskoka. Ron spent many summers at Miller Lake, where he spoiled his grandkids with ice cream, boat rides and s'mores. He attended the NHRA Drag Races Indianapolis. He could be found in his favourite place Siesta Key sipping a Michelob Ultra or rye at the tiki bar. He watched countless sunsets there, with his feet in the white sand he loved so much, he cherished walks along the beach finding seashells. He knew all the best spots and always wanted to share them with those he loved. Ron took great pride in his work, including his business BPHI in Orangeville, where he created life long friends. He was a hard working man his entire life, retiring only recently in 2017. Ron's daughters and family would like to express their appreciation to the Elgin Manor for the unconditional support and care they gave to Ron over the past year.

PETER MICHAEL DALE

Peacefully at his home, surrounded by his family, on Tuesday, January 24, 2023, Peter Dale, at the age of 76 years, beloved husband of Deborah Dale. Loving father of Peter Jr. and his wife Marsha Dale, Jody and his wife Jenn Dale, Michael and his wife Cassie Wood. Proud grandfather of Jake, Zack, Aiden, Allyson, Madelyn, and Cody. The family received their friends at the Egan Funeral Home, 203 Queen Street S., Bolton, on Monday evening from 5 - 8 o'clock and on Tuesday, January 31 from twelve noon until time of memorial service in the chapel at one o'clock. If desired, memorial donations may be made to Canadian Cancer Society (www.support.cancer.ca). Condolences for the family may be offered at www.EganFuneralHome.com.



DONNA JACKSON



Donna Jackson, age 70, passed away Jan 3, 2023. She was doing what she loved, travelling with her best friend and husband, Glenn Jackson, when she was taken from us.
Donna is survived by her soul mate of 50 years, Glenn Jackson. Loving mother and best friend to Kristi and Jeff. Cherished Nanna to Jackson and Charlie. Sister and adored friend to Diane Voigt. Sister of Jim Schneider.

Donna brought such joy, happiness, and music to her many students, teaching colleagues, friends, and family.
She has left a legacy that will always be cherished and never forgotten.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER!

CARTWRIGHT, JOHN CHARLES

Peacefully surrounded by his loving family on Monday, January 30th, 2023 at the age of 71. Beloved husband of Hilda Cartwright. Dear father of Warren (Justine), Lisa and Shawn (Leanne). Cherished Popa of Mackenzie, Lane, Alex and Ethan. Remembered by his siblings Brian-deceased (Ann), Gail, Jim, David (Linda), Rick, Robyn (Dave), Debby (Art), Bob (Heather), Rita, Rosie, Dorothy (Don), Stephen (Christine) and Tracy (Tom). John will also be greatly missed by his many nieces, nephews, great-grandchildren, other relatives and many friends.

Visitation will be held at the Dods & McNair Funeral Home, Chapel & Reception Centre, 21 First St., Orangeville on Wednesday, February 1st, 2023 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Funeral Service will be held in the chapel on Thursday, February 2nd, 2023 at 11:00 a.m., with visitation beginning at 10:00 a.m.

The family would like to thank all of our family and friends that have made this journey so much easier. Your love and support has made all the difference. We would also like to thank all of the caregivers that have helped us through this difficult time. This includes Dr. Derksen, the nurses and doctors at Southlake Hospital, as well as nurse Annie and the team from Spectrum Health Care. Memorial donations to Knox United Church or a charity of your choice would be appreciated by the family. Condolences may be offered to the family at www.dodsandmcnair.com

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CASH FOR SCRAP VEHICLES. Scrap vehicles wanted, any size. No ownership required. Fast service, free towing, loose scrap removed. Also, cash paid on the spot. Call 905-859-0817 or 647-227-3954. Open Sundays.

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SERVICES

The Lord Dufferin Chapter IODE holds their meetings at the Lord Dufferin Centre on the 4th Tuesday of every month. We are looking for women who would like to help in the Community. Call 519-941-1865.

IF YOU WANT to keep drinking, that's your business. **IF YOU WANT** to stop drinking, that's our business. Call Alcoholics Anonymous Hot Line, 1-866-715-0005. www.aanorthhaltonerin.org.

SERVICES

DRUG PROBLEM? We've been there, we can help! Please refer to georgianheartlandna.org for a complete list of Narcotics Anonymous meetings. Call anytime 519-215-0761.

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

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

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

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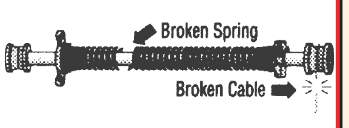
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(Clockwise from Top Left) Jim Menken, a veteran carver, wowed crowds who watched him expertly shape his ice sculptures. Cj Cubbage had a smile on his face all the way down the super snow slide. Deb Menken said painting intuitively is all about. Caitlin Lim's joy was infectious as she slid down the snow slide. **PHOTOS BY ZACHARY ROMAN**

Community thrilled with return of Fire and Ice Winter Festival

BY ZACHARY ROMAN

Snow arrived in Caledon just in time to bring joy to attendees of the Fire and Ice Festival at the Alton Mill Arts Centre.

Held on January 28 and 29, the Festival brought people from Caledon, Dufferin and beyond together to celebrate winter fun and local artists. There was an incredible number of things for people to see and do, including but not limited to live ice sculpture carving, a custom-built super snow slide, live painting, fat bike demonstrations, games for kids, ball hockey games, an epic fire sculpture, food truck, comedy festival, live music, and artist demonstrations and workshops.

Martin Kouprie, Alton Mill Arts Centre's General Manager, was on hand enjoying the festival.

He said he was really happy with the turnout, noting there were tons of people both inside and outside of the Arts Centre. As well, he said the two ticketed events for the festival, the live comedy and music, sold out. Kouprie said next year he might even have to put in an extra show just to meet the high demand.

Winter weather cooperating for the festival was just the cherry on top for Kouprie.

"I was doing a dance when I saw the snow come down," he said.

Cam Lindsey was one of the artists carving ice live for delighted onlookers at the festival. It was a special day for him, as it was his first time ever carving ice.

Lindsey worked as a dentist in Caledon for over 40 years, and moved to Grand Valley when he retired — it was then that he got into woodcarving. Lindsey said his mom was a painter, so he came by his desire to pursue art honestly. The first few wood carvings Lindsey ever made were of owls.

"It's so fun," said Lindsey of his first time carving in ice. "It's totally different."

Lindsey, who carved a fish sculpture at the festival, started with a template he drew to get the rough shape of the fish. He then had to borrow the chainsaw of veteran carver Jim Menken, as Lindsey said his chainsaw unfortunately broke right away when he started his project.

"It's a good group," said Lindsey of the carving community, and he was quick to credit the skills of experienced carvers for helping him in his own journey.

Menken has been carving wood sculptures of all sizes for over 20 years, and has been coming to the Fire and Ice Festival for many years, too. He said it's always a great time and that the Alton Mill is such a beautiful space.

Carving in ice is different than wood, said Menken, as you have to be more careful about pieces of your sculpture popping off. However, there's a lot of benefits to it too.

"It's like carving butter compared to wood, it's amazing," said Menken. "It's not hard on the body."

Both Menken and Lindsey said ice carving is great to do live because people can really see the changes to a sculpture as they happen quickly.

The Fire and Ice Festival is a family affair for the Menkens, as Deb Menken, Jim's wife, was giving a live intuitive painting demonstration inside the Arts Centre while Jim carved outside.

Deb explained that intuitive painting means approaching the canvas with no set plan. It's about painting something, then responding to it yourself.

"It's a back-and-forth conversation… it's an abstract painting but I'm painting it in an intuitive way," said Deb, noting she started with black and white and then began to add colour.

Nature colours like green, mauve and turquoise are some of Deb's favourites, but she can't do a painting without including at least some yellow. "It warms it up, it gives it some light," said Deb, who first began taking painting lessons in 2015.

In 2017, Menken posted a painting on Facebook and someone inquired as to if they could buy it. It was an eye-opening moment for her, and her art teacher said if she wanted to sell more paintings she should join an art organization.

So, Deb joined Headwaters Arts, whose Alton Mill gallery she was painting live in at the Fire and Ice Festival. She's now on the gallery committee of Headwaters Arts and is proud to help set up their monthly shows.

Trish Cubbage said the Fire and Ice Festival is her happy place and that she's been coming to it for many years. She was with her son Cj at the super snow slide on Saturday afternoon, and said she knew he'd have a smile on his face the whole way down — and that he did.

The Alton Mill Arts Centre Fire and Ice Winter Festival will be back again next year to bring more smiles to the community.

Our Readers Write

Continued from Page 8

Through Monty's efforts and persistence, Caledon residents have benefited immensely from new health and social service resources that provide help for youth, seniors, families, faith communities, schools and so many others.

Monty also impressed upon me and other Board members his drive to develop a very strong team, management staff and front line workers who are extremely committed to our community. Without their team effort none of CCS' programs could succeed. Monty understood that very well and his dedication to their needs and to their professional growth has resulted in an exceptional and loyal staff. I'm sure they all share my disappointment upon hearing the news of his departure.

In Yiddish there's a way of describing Monty, a "mensch", a good person and a good soul. I wish him the very best as he pursues other opportunities. We've been fortunate to have him in Caledon for so many years.

STAN SHABASON
BOLTON



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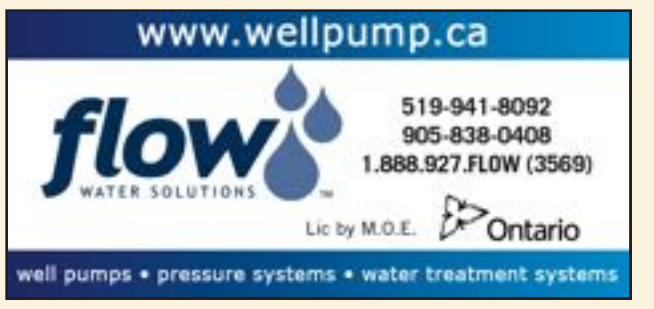


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