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FREE | Thursday, November 30, 2023 | Volume 43, Issue 46



Ellie Wratten's friends and classmates cut a ribbon to mark the official naming of Ellie's Inclusive Play Space on November 24.
PHOTO BY ZACHARY ROMAN

New accessible playground at Caledon Central P.S. dedicated to Ellie Wratten

Community honours memory of "fun-loving, wonderfully confident" former student

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Students at Caledon Central Public School have an amazing new place to play.

On November 24, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held to mark the official naming of Ellie's Inclusive Play Space, a new accessible playground at the school.

It's named after Ellie Wratten, who died in a house fire alongside her mother Jenny Bullock on July 1, 2022.

Caledon Central's Principal, Lesley Kennedy, led the ceremony, which was attended by Wratten's family and friends, school staff, Caledon OPP, Caledon Fire and Emergency Services, Peel District School Board Trustee Stan Cameron, and Caledon Councillors Christina Early, Dave Sheen and Lynn Kiernan.

Kennedy said the gathering was both celebratory and sorrowful.

Continued on Page A15

Council supports putting $50,000 towards full-time physician recruiter

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Caledon Council is supporting a drive to bring more doctors to town.

At Council's November 28 meeting, Executive Director of the Hills of Headwaters Collaborative Ontario Health Team (HOHC OHT) Tracy Coffin made a presentation to Council on the funding case for a full-time physician recruiter.

The HOHC OHT is seeking support from the Town of Caledon, County of Dufferin, and Headwaters Health Care Centre in the amount of $50,000 each.

Coffin said the HOHC OHT is a group of health and social care leaders that come together to improve the health and wellbeing of everyone in Dufferin and Caledon.

Continued on Page A16

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Peel gets $7 million from Feds for asylum claimant reception centre, temporary shelter

Funding for centre announced last week

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER



MP Kamal Khera, Minister of Diversity, Inclusion, and Persons with Disabilities is pictured making the announcement in Peel last week.
PHOTO COURTESY OF MP KHERA/FACEBOOK

A reception centre and shelter for asylum claimants is coming to Peel, near Toronto Pearson International Airport.

At a November 24 media event in Brampton, Canada's Minister of Diversity, Inclusion and Persons with Disabilities Kamal Khera announced the Government of Canada would be providing $7 million for the creation of a reception centre and temporary shelter for asylum claimants in Peel.

Khera made the announcement on behalf of Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Marc Miller.

The Government said the reception centre will provide streamlined services and supports to asylum claimants through partnerships with community organizations that possess the experience and skills to serve claimants.

The Government, in its announcement, also said it had procured temporary accommodations for short-term housing to alleviate pressure on shelters.

"The world is facing unprecedented global displacement levels, and like many countries, Canada is experiencing a rise in asylum claims," said the Federal Government in a media release. "This has placed immense pressure on Canada's shelter systems and as winter approaches, the need becomes more urgent."

Miller said the Government understands the significant challenges municipalities like Peel face with rising asylum claims.

"Everyone deserves the basic right to a safe place to stay and this funding is going to significantly help alleviate the pressures in this region. We are confident that with full engagement from all levels of government, we can develop longer-term options for interim housing outside of the current situation," said Miller.

Khera said the new reception centre will save lives and alleviate pressure from the Region of Peel.

Peel Regional Council Chair Nando Iannicca said while the affordable housing crisis has strained the Region's ability to provide shelter to residents and asylum claimants, the $7 million funding announcement was very encouraging.

"I want to extend my gratitude to Minister Miller and the Government of Canada for supporting a new reception centre for asylum claimants. This reception centre is vital for asylum claimants and will help ease the capacity burdens of Peel's emergency shelters," said Iannicca.

Brampton Mayor Patrick Brown said the centre will prevent a humanitarian crisis and thanked the Government of Canada for providing funds to help asylum seekers.

"Make no mistake about it… this agreement will save lives," said Brown.

Mississauga Acting Mayor Chris Fonseca also thanked the Government, and said the funding came at a critical time to make sure those in need have a roof over their heads in the winter.

As previously reported in the Citizen, according to an October 26 report from Peel's Commissioner of Human Services Sean Baird, Peel's emergency shelter system was operating at above 270 per cent capacity at that time.

This came after a September 14 report submitted to Regional Council from Baird that detailed a dramatic rise in asylum claimants in Peel. At that time, 57 per cent of shelter occupants in Peel were asylum claimants.

As of August 27, 730 asylum claimants were residing in Peel's shelter overflow hotels. Another 16 were camped outdoors waiting for assistance.

Caledon earns top 100 ranking in most livable cities study



BY MARK PAVILONS

Caledon shines among the most livable cities in Canada, earning several top-100 rankings.

The results came from data collected by the Globe and Mail.

They gathered information about 439 cities across the country, spanning a variety of categories including economy, housing, health care, education and climate.

The municipality ranked 15th overall in terms of safety. Caledon was 29th in community and 92nd in safety. Caledon dropped to 179th in economy; 186th in transportation; 238th in climate; 246th in education; 247th in demographics and 273rd in amenities.

The Globe's evaluation involved an analysis of 43 variables, which span 10 categories that we've identified as particularly crucial when an individual contemplates relocating to a new area. These categories are Economy, Housing, Demographics, Health Care, Safety, Education, Community, Amenities, Transportation and Climate.

Economy assesses a city's financial health by examining its job market, income levels and tax, and overall economic stability.

Housing evaluates the affordability of housing and the accessibility of housing options for seniors.

Demographics focuses on a city's stability and sustainability in population growth, diversity and cultural richness.

Health Care evaluates the accessibility and quality of health care services, and residents' general perception of their health status.

Safety examines the likelihood of crimes and residents' overall confidence in public safety.

Education assesses the educational qualifications of the community as well as the availability of schools, universities and other educational institutions in the area.

Community prioritizes social engagement venues, community events, volunteer opportunities, and the sense of belonging and connectivity within the city.

Amenities catalogues recreational facilities, entertainment options, shopping centres, parks and other leisure opportunities available to residents in the community.

Transportation examines the public transportation system, accessibility and overall ease of getting around the city.

Climate catalogues extreme climate, weather patterns and overall seasonal conditions from the past.



Local woman advances in Toastmasters competition

Emma Howlett to put public speaking skills to the test at division competition

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER



EMMA HOWLETT
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

An Orangeville woman is being recognized for her public speaking skills.

Emma Howlett, a transportation engineer for the Town of Caledon and member of the Bolton Banter Toastmasters club, recently won the area level of the Toastmasters International Table Topics Competition.

She's advancing to the division level of the contest which is going to be held on December 2.

There, she'll compete for a coveted spot in Toastmasters' annual district competition. The popular district competition is held at an annual convention.

Susan Mather of the Bolton Banter Toastmasters said Table Topics competitors have to develop their ability to organize their thoughts quickly in order to respond to an impromptu question or topic.

"This contest challenges contestants by giving them a topic only a few seconds before they start speaking," said Mather. "Contestants are expected to speak on the surprise topic for one to two minutes."

Mather said Howlett had some fierce competition to defeat in order to win the area Table Topics competition. She won over the judges with her topic, "What inspires you?"

Howlett's speech included themes of family, Toastmasters, and even her dog's positive attitude.

She said the key to connecting with an audience is to have a storyline that is relatable and compelling.

Howlett said participating in the Table Topics competition has been a great way for her to build confidence, sharpen her public speaking skills, and present to a variety of different audiences.

"I look forward to competing against new competitors and hopefully advancing to the district level," said Howlett, who joined Toastmasters with the goal of becoming a better speaker and leader at work and in the community.

A non-profit educational organization, Toastmasters International's goal is to build confidence and teach public speaking skills through its worldwide network of clubs. Toastmasters club members meet in a supportive environment to prepare and deliver speeches, respond to questions on the spot, and give and receive constructive feedback to each other.

Toastmasters International was founded in 1924 and has grown to have around 270,000 members in more than 14,200 clubs worldwide.

Those interested in learning more about the Bolton Banter Toastmasters can visit boltonbanter.org/contact.

NOTICE OF COMPLETION

MUNICIPAL CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT STUDY GLASGOW ROAD FROM CHICKADEE LANE TO DEER VALLEY DRIVE AND DEER VALLEY DRIVE TO BAMBI TRAIL

THE STUDY



In response to continued population growth and increased wear and tear on existing infrastructure through increased traffic, development, new infrastructure, and increased expectations as to the type and quality of services the Town provides, the Town of Caledon has identified the need for improvements to Glasgow Road, from Chickadee Lane to Deer Valley Drive. Through subsequent review of the original study area and discussions with the Town, the study area and limits of the preliminary design have been extended to include an additional 300 m of Deer Valley Drive, from Glasgow Road to Bambi Trail, to address a missing link in the Town's active transportation network. The active transportation facility will provide better pedestrian and cyclist connectivity, enhance bicycle and pedestrian travel, and ultimately improve livability in communities.

The project was initiated as a Schedule "A+" Municipal Class Environmental Assessment, however, has since been elevated to a Schedule "B" project in accordance with the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (October 2000, as amended in 2007, 2011 & 2015). As such, public and technical agency consultation will play a key role in developing the study recommendations. The purpose of this Schedule "B" Municipal Class Environmental Assessment is to identify the required improvements to the roadway, enhance safety, improve traffic operations, and better accommodate pedestrians and cyclists.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE SOLUTION

Through consultation with Agencies, Members of the Public, and Indigenous Communities, the preferred solution for the improvements along Glasgow Road is to maintain the current rural roadway cross-section with the addition of Active Transportation Facilities in the form of a multi-use pathway (MUP) on the south side of the roadway. Proposed rehabilitation of Glasgow Road will include partial depth pavement reconstruction, shouldering, improved ditching and localized platform widening to accommodate the MUP on the south side of the roadway. Improvements will include the continuation of the new MUP on the west side of Deer Valley Drive to Bambi Trail.

PROJECT FILE REPORT

A Project File Report (PFR) has been prepared to document the planning and decision-making process for this study. By this Notice, the PFR is being placed on the public record for a 30-day review period from November 23 to December 22, 2023. The PFR is available for review through the Town of Caledon website at:
www.caledon.ca/en/news/glasgow-road-environmental-assessment.aspx

If you have any questions, comments or concerns regarding this study, please contact one of the Project Team members below by December 22, 2023:

Town of Caledon
Shun H. Cheung, P.Eng., PMP
Senior Project Manager, Engineering Services
Tel: 905.584.2272 ext. 4040
E-mail: shun.cheung@caledon.ca

Mcintosh Perry Consulting Engineers Ltd.
Mehemed Delibasic, P.Eng., M.Sc.
Consultant Project Manager
Tel: 647.463.7993
E-mail: m.delibasic@mcintoshperry.com

In addition, a request may be made to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks for an order requiring a higher level of study, or that conditions may be imposed, only on the grounds that the requested order may prevent, mitigate or remedy adverse impacts on constitutionally protected Aboriginal and treaty rights. Request on other grounds will not be considered. Requests should include the requesters contact information and full name for the ministry.

Requests should specify what kind of order is being requested, how an order may prevent, mitigate or remedy those potential adverse impacts, and any information in support of the statements in the request. The request should be sent in writing or by email to the project contacts noted above and the following:

Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
77 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
Minister.mecp@ontario.ca

Director, Environmental Assessment Branch
Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks
135 St. Clair Ave. W, 1st Floor
Toronto, ON M4V 1P5
EABDirector@ontario.ca

Comments submitted to the Town of Caledon for the purpose of providing feedback regarding this Municipal Class Environmental Assessment are collected under the authority of the Environmental Assessment Act. Information will be collected in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. As this information is collected for the purpose of a public record, the protection of personal information provided in the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA) does not apply (s.37). Personal information you submit will become part of a public record that is available to the general public unless you request that your personal information remain confidential. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record. Questions relating to the collection, use and disclosure of this information may be addressed to Shun H. Cheung, P.Eng., PMP, Senior Project Manager, Engineering Services at 905.584.2272 ext. 4040 or shun.cheung@caledon.ca. --- This notice was first issued on November 23 and November 30, 2023.

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FATAL INCIDENT INVESTIGATION

Officers from the Caledon OPP are currently investigating a fatal incident on Tim Manley Drive.

"On November 25, 2023, shortly after 7:30 a.m., Caledon OPP was dispatched to Tim Manley Drive," say Police. "As per the preliminary investigation, it appears that a driver, who got out of their vehicle, fell while in close proximity of another vehicle being placed in motion. A 48-year-old from Brampton was transported to a Toronto-area trauma centre with life-threatening injuries and was later pronounced as deceased."

Tim Manley Drive between Chinguacousy Road and Neil Promenade was closed for several hours while the OPP Technical Collision Investigators and Reconstructionists assisted with the investigation.

The investigation is ongoing.

Anyone who may have witnessed the collision or has dashcam footage is asked to contact Caledon OPP at 905-584-2241 or 1-888-310-1122.

If you are affected by this incident or witnessed the collision and wish to speak to victim services, Caledon/Dufferin Victim Services can be reached at 905-951-3838.

Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at www.peelcrimestoppers.ca. When you contact Crime Stoppers, you stay anonymous, and you never have to testify.

SERIOUS COLLISION

Officers from the Caledon OPP responded to a serious collision on Airport Road in the Town of Caledon.

"On November 25, 2023, just before 9:00 p.m., officers and emergency crews responded to a two-vehicle collision on Airport Road between Escarpment Sideroad and Finnerty Sideroad," say Police. "One driver was transported by air ambulance to a Toronto-area trauma centre with life threatening injuries."

Airport Road in both directions between Escarpment Sideroad and Finnerty Sideroad was closed for several hours while the OPP Technical Collision Investigators and Reconstructionists assisted with the investigation.

Anyone who may have witnessed the collision or has dashcam footage are asked to contact Caledon OPP at 905-584-2241 or 1-888-310-1122. You can also provide information anonymously by contacting

MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

The Nottawasaga OPP is committed to improving its response to the mental health needs of individuals within the communities they serve.

"When it comes to mental health, every organization, community and individual is affected in one way or another," say Police. "The reasons are personal and not always known. We recognize that there is stigma associated with mental illness. Although we don't have all the answers, we will continue to work together to break down the barriers and provide support.

"Many people may be experiencing added stress and we want them to know that there are numerous local agencies available to assist. Mental health and wellness go hand in hand, which is the premise of this media campaign. Mental health is something that affects us all. It is important that we continue to break the silence and encourage courageous conversations between family, friends, co-workers and members of the public, to establish a more non-judgmental and supportive working environment for all members."

Since 2017, Nottawasaga OPP and York Support Services Network (YSSN) have been working together to provide local residents with support when they are experiencing a mental health and/or addictions crisis. Known as the Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT), comprised of an OPP officer and a YSSN crisis response worker, the team responds to calls for persons in crisis within the Nottawasaga detachment area. They provide on-scene assessment, support and referrals to community services as required.

One of the team's primary objectives is to bring crisis support to the person in crisis, rather than having to transport them to access help. While the constable ensures safety, the crisis response worker is able to speak with the person in crisis to better understand the reasons for the crisis, determine risks of harm, provide emotional support, discuss coping strategies, develop safety plans and/or make referrals to community resources.

If necessary, the MCRT will assist with apprehensions under the Mental Health Act and help people in crisis feel more comfortable with the process of being transported to a hospital for assessment. The team also provides follow-up support, primarily by means of telephone and/or face-to-face visits. The MCRT attends a weekly meeting with representatives from several community agencies, called the Collaborate Nottawasaga Situation Table, to discuss how to best support people facing difficult times, which helps reduce repetitive calls for service.

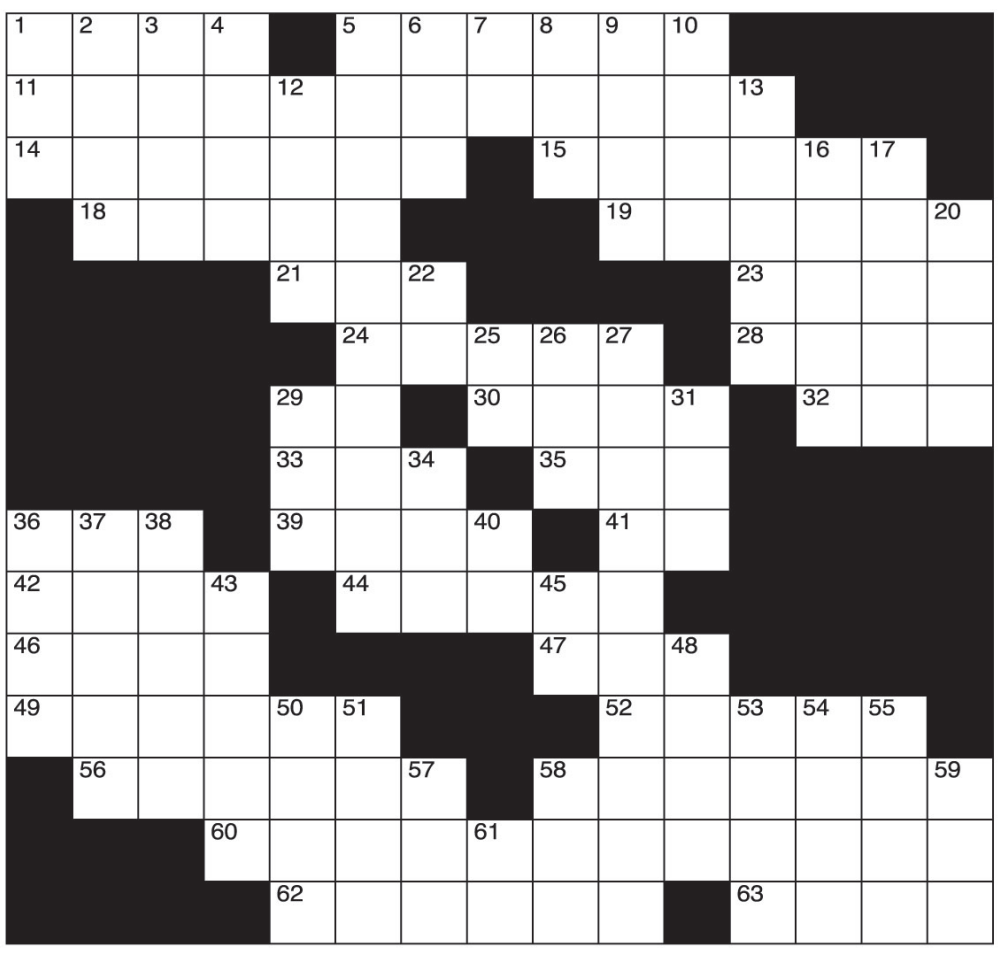
If someone is experiencing a crisis and does not feel comfortable contacting police, they can connect with a crisis worker by calling YSSN's 24/7 Community Crisis Response Service at 1-855-310-COPE (2673). Text or live chat via cope.yssn.ca is available from 7:00 a.m. to midnight. YSSN also offers face-to-face mobile support visits and short-term crisis beds. YSSN also has an intake team, Streamlined Access, for anyone seeking to be connected with mental health case management, housing or addiction supports in York Region and South Simcoe. For information about this program, including the application for services, please visit yssn.ca or call 1-844-660-6602.





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CLUES ACROSS

1. Old English letters
5. Sculpture
11. Showing up again
14. Tie the knot again
15. Washington city
18. Stiff structures in invertebrates
19. Mark over a vowel
21. Explosive
23. Popular race: __ 500
24. Pile up
28. Mint
29. Commercial
30. A minute amount (Scottish)
32. Small Eurasian deer
33. Baseball stat
35. Numbers cruncher
36. Japanese masked drama
39. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
41. Blood group
42. Assist in wrongdoing
44. Language spoken in Cameroon and Chad
46. Grayish-white
47. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
49. Microorganism
52. Place under prohibition
56. Calm, dependable
58. Congressman
60. Force
62. As a result of this document
63. One of two main branches of Islam

CLUES DOWN

1. Make a mistake
2. Gordon and Snider are two
3. Geographical region of Finland
4. Ejected saliva
5. A way of performing
6. Scotland's longest river
7. One of the six noble gases (abbr.)
8. Body art
9. Two-toed sloth
10. Electronic counter-countermeasures
12. Foolish person (Brit.)
13. Of the wind
16. Grand home
17. Sound
20. English river
22. Symbol indicating ownership
25. Exclamation of surprise
26. Pouch
27. Apart from
29. Satisfaction
31. The bill in a restaurant
34. Sea bream
36. Port in southern Japan
37. Double-reed instruments
38. Center
40. South Dakota
43. An orderly crowd
45. Indicates position
48. __-pedi
50. Nonsense (slang)
51. Republic of Ireland
53. Nocturnal flyers
54. American state
55. Clusters in fern fronds
57. Patriotic women
58. A person's brother or sister
59. Breed of sheep
61. Popular film "Despicable __"

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

Caledon appoints new head of Municipal Law Enforcement

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Town of Caledon will begin the New Year with a new member of its senior leadership team.

In a November 27 press release, the Town announced that on January 8, 2024, Jagdeep (Jack) Hunjan will assume the role of Director, Municipal Law Enforcement for Caledon.

The Town release said Hunjan has been a law enforcement professional for over 30 years, and served for 12 years with the Caledon OPP. Currently, it said, he serves as the Detachment Manager of the Mississauga OPP, and in the past, he's held leadership roles with the Toronto and Wellington County OPP detachments.

Catherine McLean, Caledon's Commissioner of Community and Human Services, said she's pleased to welcome Hunjan to the Town's team.

"His community policing philosophy, coupled with strong leadership skills, positions him as an ideal candidate for this role," said McLean in the release. "Jack's readiness for current and future challenges, particularly as we transition into a single-tier municipality, aligns with his commitment to working collaboratively with the community through education, resolution and compliance."

McLean added that she's excited to collaborate with Hunjan on the above items.

The Town's release said as Director of Municipal Law Enforcement, Hunjan will lead Caledon's Bylaw Enforcement Team, ensuring "delivery of high-quality enforcement services in alignment with municipal bylaws, regulations, and policies."

The release said as Caledon transitions into a single-tier municipality, a primary focus of the Town's municipal law enforcement team will be to inform and engage community members in upholding community standards.

"The Town looks forward to leveraging (Hunjan's) expertise and collaborative approach to foster a community that is well-informed and actively participates in maintaining our municipal standards," said the Town.

Earlier this year, on July 11, Mayor Annette Groves used Strong Mayor powers to split the Town's Director of Building Services and Municipal Law Enforcement position into two separate positions.

The Town's former Director of Building Services and Municipal Law Enforcement, Mark Sraga, retired on June 30.

Groves said as Caledon grows, having a dedicated Director of Municipal Law Enforcement will serve the community better.



POLICE RELEASE PHOTOS OF VEHICLE SUSPECTED TO BE INVOLVED IN HOMICIDE

The Caledon OPP is releasing photographs of a vehicle suspected to be involved in a homicide.

"Officers were called to a reported shooting at a residence on Mayfield Road shortly before 12:00 a.m. on November 20, 2023," say Police. "One person was located deceased, while two others were transported to hospital with injuries. The deceased has been identified as a 57-year-old male of Caledon. The name cannot be released at this time. The two other victims remain at hospital with critical injuries.

"It is believed that multiple individuals were involved in the incident. One was last seen entering a black pick-up truck, which then travelled westbound on Mayfield Road. Investigators now believe this truck was later involved in vehicle fire on Olde Baseline Road and Creditview Road. While investigators believe there is no imminent threat to public safety, the OPP reminds members of the public to always be aware of their surroundings and personal safety. Residents in the area will continue to see an increased police presence."

The Caledon Detachment Major Crime Unit is continuing the investigation, under the direction of the Criminal Investigation Branch (CIB), with assistance of OPP Forensic Identification Services and in conjunction with the Office of the Chief Coroner and Ontario Forensic Pathology Service.

Investigators are seeking dash cam footage of both scenes between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 12:30 a.m.

If you observed the vehicle in the photographs, or have it captured on dash cam footage in Caledon or anywhere in the Region of Peel from 5:00 p.m. to midnight on November 20, 2023, please contact police.

If anyone has any information that may assist the investigation, they should contact the Caledon OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.







BROCK WEIR
BROCK'S BANTER

Rushing Home with our Treasures

Santa Claus Parade season is kicking into high gear across Ontario, and so is the holiday season.

Well, if we're honest with ourselves, it has been in mid-gear a few months now with many stores not even waiting for the candles in our pumpkins to burn out before dusting off their garlands, advent calendars, and other impulse buy tchotchkes, usually wreathed in some combination of red, green and snowy white, to suit just about every taste.

It's not just retailers that got into the act this year – and who can blame them? On some TV channels and streaming services, the steady drip-drip-drip of holiday cheer comes earlier and earlier every year.

Why, of course we all need to watch movies in June that involve a high-powered big city executive heading back to their small-town home for one reason or another at some point in the dead of winter, against their better judgement, not wanting to leave their very, very, very important job behind for the merest of weekends – only to have their entire world upended by a toothsome organic mulch farmer who reminds them of life's simple pleasures.

Or watch a tale about a crusty developer or lawyer, still a city slicker, only following a buck, who descends upon Small Town, USA (almost invariably, as it happens, shot in Canada) to build a bucolic lifestyle-ruining mega mall or casino – only to have second thoughts when the local artisan kombucha maker, whose kitchen falls in the direct path of the plans, captures their heart while making snow angels outside a landmark in the proposed path of destruction.

These pictures rarely capture a realistic view of the holidays, but I guess that's the point. We don't necessarily want to watch people go through the actual realities of holiday seasons; rather, perhaps we simply want to be spoon-fed the ideal because we've moved a bit away from it in our actual lives.

That's not to say these "ideals" don't bubble back to the surface every once in a while.

Our communities are, of course, kicking into the highest gear of the holiday season with Santa Claus parades either just in the rear-view mirror as of this writing on Monday morning, or just on the horizon.

Personally, I love these parades. Not only can they be a great showcase for local talent, but they are one of the few areas these days where it seems the community can come together with a more or less unified mission.

While Christmas obviously has its roots in Christian tradition, it's a huge draw for families of all ages, regardless of faith, or lack thereof, whether you were raised with Christmas in your households, or came to the community from a country where this is a completely new, sparkly experience.

Nat King Cole often sang and, thanks to technology, still sings about "tiny tots with their eyes all aglow" – and this is rarely more evident than when the Jolly Man in Red passes by – but as I observe these parades, sometimes another traditional holiday number comes to mind:

City sidewalks, busy sidewalks
Dressed in holiday style
In the air there's a feeling of Christmas
Children laughing, people passing
Meeting smile after smile…

(Let's skip over the refrain. You know it's Christmas time in the city.)

Strings of street lights even stop lights
Blink a bright red and green
As the shoppers rush home with their treasures
Hear the snow crunch, see the kids bunch
This is Santa's big scene
And above all this bustle you hear…

To me, this song, far more than the latest flick from the Hallmark or Lifetime assembly line, exemplifies the kind of Christmas I've always had in mind.

Maybe it was my steady childhood diet of "Miracle on 34th Street" (the Maureen O'Hara, Natalie Wood, William Frawley version, please) and "The Shop Around the Corner" but it often feels they set me up for retail ideas that were then the norm, but just about to go down the proverbial drain.

Our sidewalks might still be busy and dressed to the nines in their holiday style; kids are still laughing and people are still passing, potentially these days with a little more grumble and bluster; and today's society is such that when smiles are met with smiles, unless you know the person it could be considered weird or unusual. Our lights still blink, the snow still crunches, and there's still a sense of bustle – but how many shoppers rush home with their treasures rather than keeping an eye from their front window for the Prime truck to show up?

I was always a proponent of the staycation even before the pandemic. Don't get me wrong, I love getting away to climes that are further away, places I have never been before, and experience cultures that are different from my own. Yet, that being said, I've always loved road trips that take one through traditional "main streets" which were once the centres of commerce.

In these settings, not that long ago, you would meet your neighbours amid the shopping rush. It would afford you the chance to explore each emporium's signature wares, kick the tires on services rather than products, perhaps get inspired on the gift front by seeing an item that might not be on the wish list, but was actually the perfect gift for your mother, cousin, or neighbour. And, to boot, you'd get the chance to actually handle the merchandise and inspect the quality before purchase.

But, as I appreciate elements of both small town and big city life, I also miss the days of honest and true department stores that boasted just about everything under the sun, not just high-end fashion, furniture, jewellery and cosmetics. When I was a kid growing up in a part of Newmarket adjacent to rural, a trip into Downtown Toronto was still a very exciting trip. During the holidays, one of the most exciting destinations was the flagship Eaton's store.

At that time, under one roof, you could spend the entire day going from floor to floor; starting at the top, you could get something for just about everyone on your list, something for every taste, and by the time you reached the bottom floor below grade, you could get everything you needed for your traditional turkey dinner as well.

Somehow, online shipping doesn't quite have the same allure.

It might be convenient, but it doesn't offer the thrill of the hunt or, in short, the experience. And, of course, on the manufactured urgency that is that oh-so-American import of Black Friday, the less said the better.

This holiday season, I'm going to make an effort to once again go down the Silver Bells route and shop local – you not only get the chance and opportunity to support your neighbours and keep your money local, but you get an experience that only comes once a year as a free added bonus!



We have to combine resources and eliminate hate

by Mark Pavilons



"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." – Martin Luther King, Jr.

Of all the beautiful emotions and reactions that our species is capable of, hatred reigns. It has been with us, like some unshakable callous, for millennia.

It may very well be our undoing.

Despite cries from prophets, seers and leaders of all shapes and sizes, this one aspect of humankind is most disturbing. And it seems it's always there, like a dark shadow, right behind us.

When certain actions are brutal, senseless, uncaring and malicious, there must a sense of hatred.

We see it on our nightly news but because it's oceans away, we don't give it much thought. But we should. Hate should never go unchecked.

"So we're different colors, and we're different breeds
And different people, have different needs
It's obvious you hate me, though I've done nothing wrong
I've never even met you, so what could I have done?
I can't understand
What makes a man hate another man?
Help me understand ..."
– Depeche Mode, People Are People.

Yes, help me understand.

Thanks to the efforts of those who, long ago, secured our freedom, most of us have never seen war, religious conflict, strife or upheaval.

But the rest of the world lives with it on a daily basis. Even our own downtrodden and homeless pale in comparison to the strife, disease and death encountered by men, women and children around the globe.

We "safe" westerners got a real glimpse into it with bird's-eye views of the horrors of conflict in the Middle East.

I can't fathom living in a city where ruins abound, roads are filled with rubble and people are buried among the destroyed buildings. I don't know how these people do it or what gives them the strength to carry on.

All "normalcy" is gone – no more shops, no more commerce of any kind. Just barren streets filled with throngs of refugees heading somewhere.

This is the result of hate.

Recent years have seen a rise in racist incidents and reported hate crime.

Last year Statistics Canada reported a 72 percent increase in the hate crime rate between 2019 and 2021. The CBC reported on a community-based survey, which found reports of racist incidents in Canada increased by 47% in 2021 compared to 2020. Seeing this rise and talking about the problem leaves many Canadians with a feeling of helplessness.

OCASI is the umbrella organization for immigrant and refugee-serving agencies in Ontario and the collective voice of the sector. Through a new ad campaign, OCASI is making it clear that there is no room for racism in Canadian society. In doing so, they want people to know it is important to speak up and be actively anti-racist, rather than merely recognizing racist behavior.

Working with Mass Minority on creative and media, they "focused on the seemingly small acts of abuse we see and hear everyday that seed an environment of exclusion and hate," noted Debbie Douglas at OCASI. "To shift the conversation we also need to shift how we present occurrences of racism, and move beyond the expected indifference or lack of awareness. We needed to show everyday Canadians demonstrating everyday abuse that it is not okay."

There are numerous pitches on TV, radio and in print, calling for better behaviour from our fellow human beings. Unfortunately, good behaviour is next to impossible to legislate or mandate.

I will admit that it's difficult for me, as a Canadian, to fully understand generations of racism, mistreatment, hate, genocide. I suppose if my family tree was littered with such horrors, I would bear resentment and ill will, too.

But is that an argument or excuse for hate, conflict or war and the killing of civilians?

Tens of thousands are now dead because of one fateful day in October in Israel. Many more will die before the matter is laid to rest. And what will Gaza and the Middle East look like in the end?

Will there ever be a return to "normal?"

This is one large-scale example of hatred gone awry. And it has spilled over into our communities, across the GTA.

Canada prides itself on being a welcoming, mosaic of cultures, religions and beliefs. It's not often they clash, but again, as a white Canadian, I'm not in tune with ethnic conflicts abroad that have carried on here.

Suffice it to say we are so damn lucky to have a semblance of democracy, a system where freedom, human rights and equality are paramount. If nothing else, Canada offers a refuge, a safe harbour if you will, from countries that oppress, arrest and execute people for simply disobeying the rules.

So, my friends, what do we, as average Canadians, do about it?

Well, we can educate others and call out the offenders. We have already made hate crimes a criminal offence.

Sure, there is zero tolerance in our schools, workplaces, etc. but how do we change the mindset of the masses? How do calmer heads prevail over emotional shouting at mass rallies?

I don't know if megaphones and placards send a strong enough message to end hate now and forever.

Maybe, if we instill all young people – future generations – with love not hate, it will lead to great things.

We haven't lived up to Martin Luther King's sentiments, but maybe someday we will make him proud.

Our Readers Write

Provincial move is "unsustainable" for Caledon: organization

We write today to address the unprecedented land development crisis facing Caledon. The scale and speed of development threatens our environment, finances and way of life.

The Region of Peel Official Boundary Expansion allotted Caledon almost 11,000 acres north of Mayfield Road for development. The dissolution of Peel Region will mean that Caledon is responsible for paying the infrastructure cost for this development without the financial support of Peel Region.

The Ford government passed Bill 23, which reduced or removed development charges historically paid for by developers. This is a double whammy for Caledon taxpayers who can expect a minimum tax increase of 27% to pay for the infrastructure that accompanies development. What is a nice gift to developers is an unsustainable situation for the residents of Caledon.

The Mayor and Town Council have an enormous responsibility to ensure that the process to find viable solutions to an issue of historic proportion and consequence is done in consultation with First Nations and the Caledon community. With so much at stake, a democratic vote of the full Council is the only way to ensure a legitimate outcome.

SUSTAINABLE CALEDON

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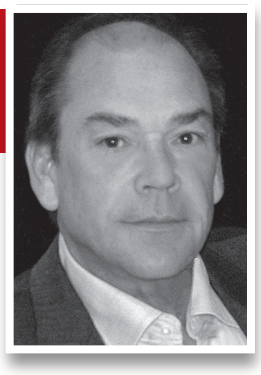
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Wait just a moment

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



It was July, 1863, shortly after the Battle of Gettysburg during the American Civil War, when U.S. President Abraham Lincoln wrote a correspondence to General George Meade, army commander, regarding his leadership following the battle.

The Confederate army had been defeated at the Battle of Gettysburg and were on the run. The Confederates were slowed in their retreat by flood waters that stopped them from crossing a river.

The battle itself was a massive event with close to 200,000 soldiers from two armies taking part.

At the end of three days, the casualty figures topped 50,000.

The Union army did not pursue the rebels with much haste. Several minor skirmishes took place, but for the most part, General Meade kept his troops in check.

The battle was a turning point in the war and left the Union army with a great advantage.

In a time when correspondence and communication took days to arrive, and arrived by courier on horseback, instructions to battlefield commanders were delivered by letters and correspondence.

Upon hearing the results of the battle, and what happened afterword, Lincoln was furious. It was his position that Meade should have pursued the fleeing Confederate army, cornered them at the swollen river, and finished them off.

He penned a letter to Meade detailing his disappointment at the General's decision, citing the fact that he still had 20,000 veteran troops, and many more raw recruits that he could have used in the final attack.

Lincoln wrote: "He was within your easy grasp, and to have closed upon him would, in connection with our other late successes, have ended the war – As it is, the war will be prolonged indefinitely. If you could not safely attack Lee last Monday, how can you possibly do so South of the river, when you can take with you very few more than two thirds of the force you then had in hand? It would be unreasonable to expect, and I do not expect you can now effect much. Your golden opportunity is gone, and I am distressed immeasurably because of it."

The letter was an attack on Meade's ability as a commander and questioned his choices to the point of saying he was incompetent to lead the army.

Then Lincoln did something, which was common for him. He filed the letter away.

A few days later, he re-read the letter, only this time under the light of some sober second thought.

He realized that Meade had just been through three days of a living hell, seeing 25,000 of his own men wounded or dying on the battlefield. The toll on him must have been enormous. It was no wonder he didn't order his troops to attack a fleeing enemy and witness yet another day of bloodshed in what would have been a massacre, with one army almost out of ammunition and their path of escape blocked.

Lincoln wrote a new letter to Meade. Only this time, instead of chastising him for a missed opportunity, he praised him for his success in the main battle.

A sober second thought is something we should practice daily. How often are words thrown around in anger or without that lead to an even greater challenge.

Sports organizations are now urging players, coaches, and parents to follow this rule of thought.

They are urging people to think, before saying something stupid.

Many sports are going through a tough time because of a lack of officials. People are just giving up and don't want do a job where they are verbally abused, or sometimes worse.

This past week, a hockey coach in Nova Scotia was charged after leaving the bench and physically assaulting a referee on the ice. This was during a game for players in the nine- and ten-year-old division.

Not only is he going to be fined, maybe more, and have a record – this happened in front of a lot of witnesses – his involvement in hockey will be over. I can't see any league allowing this coach to ever be on the bench ever again.

The ruckus was started after a hit on the ice. One parent in the stands decided to protest the hit by throwing a cowbell on the ice surface. Bad decisions all around.

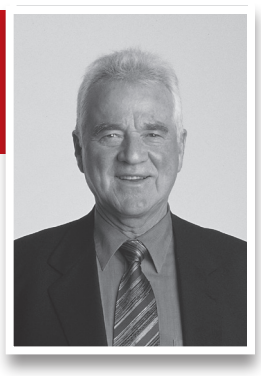
Taking a moment to think about what you are going to say at the spur of the moment can have a huge impact on the rest of yours, and someone else's day.

Once something is said, you can't take it back.

It's better to be safe, than sorry.

An Economic Charter could keep Canada from drowning in debt

FRANK STRONACH
THE PRINCIPLES OF AN ECONOMIC CHARTER OF RIGHTS



The latest economic and fiscal outlook from Canada's Parliamentary Budget Officer (PBO) indicates that that the federal deficit will grow more than previously projected, up to $46.5 billion in the current fiscal year. The PBO also said we'll continue to run deficits for the remainder of this decade.

In fact, according to a recent report by the Fraser Institute, Canada's overall debt is expected to grow by more than $140 billion over the next five years. That means the government will pay a lot more in interest to service our ballooning national debt, in much the same way that many Canadians are paying more interest today for mortgages, credit lines and car loans.

The question we need to ask is why are we racking up this enormous debt? And why are we still generating massive deficits year after year, especially now that the pandemic is behind us?

If the reason we're running up the debt is to inject a powerful amount of financial stimulus to get our economy going again, it's clearly not working. And if it's not to get our economy working, then what is the government spending all this borrowed money on?

When government spending goes off the rails from time to time, the opposition often vows to restore fiscal sanity and return to balanced budgets. But if the opposition is successful and forms the government, there's nothing that prevents them from continuing to run deficits.

In other words, we have no effective checks on limiting government spending.

Why does this matter?

It matters because fiscal mismanagement directly impacts our standard of living and the living standards of future generations. It can cause inflation, which corrodes the value of our savings and makes consumer staples like food, fuel and clothing more expensive while putting a big dent in consumer spending.

But if we had an Economic Charter of Rights and Responsibilities, which required the government to pay down debt, balance the budget and reduce spending on overhead, then we would have guardrails in place to keep government from spending recklessly and driving us deeper into debt.

The two key charter responsibilities imposed upon the government, with clear-cut percentages and dates attached, would be the following:

Eliminate the debt and balance the budget – a commitment to get our fiscal house in order and reduce our national debt by 5 percent per year for 20 years so that we will be debt-free within two decades.

Cut red tape and over-regulation – a commitment to reduce government overhead by 5 percent per year over a ten-year period.

An economic charter of rights and responsibilities would protect the pocketbooks of Canadians by preventing governments from mismanaging the economic affairs of the nation in much the same way that the Charter of Rights and Freedoms prevents overzealous governments from trampling on the democratic rights of Canadians.

The fact is our country is drowning in debt.

We need to cut spending, return to balanced budgets, and start paying down our debt.

An economic charter of rights and responsibilities is a powerful tool to accomplish that – not just for today, but for generations to come.

To learn more about the economic charter and how it could help Canadians, email me at info@economiccharter.ca. Or to learn more about the economic charter, please visit: www.economiccharter.ca.

Author Bio

Frank Stronach is the founder of Magna International Inc., one of Canada's largest global companies, and was inducted into the Automotive Hall of Fame.

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Collective Amnesia

SHERALYN ROMAN
TALK CALEDON



To date I haven't seen a commercial for it. No "wonder drug" with a long list of side-effects to take away its impact. In fact, it seems to be a bit of a dirty, little secret, one that no one likes to talk about. The disease that sees so many people forgetful, forever repeating the same mistakes over and over again while expecting a different result. I have no such shame, I'm willing to talk about it. It's an issue we need to bring out into the open, an issue whose time has come! What am I talking about? Collective Amnesia. It's a dismal diagnosis that often rears its ugly head in winter – or any time we are heading into an election year. I guess this holiday season we can at least be thankful we're not about to be hit with that particular double-whammy.

The first signs of the arrival of collective amnesia happened just this week, with the announcement that the PC government is offering to take over the DVP and the Gardiner Expressway and in doing so, promised, "No tolls!" Yes, okay, Mr. Ford. I for one believe you, whole-heartedly. Except. Except for that one, niggling little detail for which the Conservatives are famous. Now what was it again? Oh yeah, tolls! Remember that other highway the Conservatives took over? The one that would make a fine 413, without all the added construction costs and unnecessary paving over of greenbelts, wetlands, farmland and protected species. Somehow not long after the public purse, filled by you and I, paid for the 407's construction, it was sold and is now run as a private, "for the wealthy" only highway – paid for by – yup, you guessed it – tolls! I'm guessing Ford hopes the collective amnesia Ontarians seem to suffer from extends right through until election time where, after securing a third victory he'll then institute tolls on all us nasty commuters who drive into Toronto for work.

At the same time as this most recent Ford government announcement, another thing happened. Despite the fact that it happens around the same time of year, EVERY year, once again collective amnesia has struck huge swaths of the population. Yup, it's that time when collectively, Canadians forget how to drive.

In Peel Region, mind you, some might argue many never learned how to drive in the first place, but I digress. No, today I'm talking about the arrival of the first few flakes of snow that seem to turn a number of us into actual "snowflakes," when it comes to driving abilities.

It seems that even though I'm edging closer to my sixth decade on the planet (and 98% of that time spent on Canadian soil) I continue to witness the absolute mayhem that the arrival of snow creates. It's NOT NEW! It happens EVERY winter! It's white, sometimes pretty, sometimes slippery, and sometimes hiding a layer of ice underneath. These are the facts. The known facts. Much like we also know COVID is airborne but choose to pretend we don't, once again Canadians are suffering from that most terminal of illnesses, a brain-numbing collective amnesia – one that always seems to affect their ability to drive in the white stuff. I'm not sure if people think snow will somehow be "different" each year, less slippery and more, I don't know, less stupendously awful, but it sure seems that way when everyone rushes out the door for work at their usual time, thinking that one quick swipe of the snowbrush across only the front driver's side of the car (leaving the rest to fly off into the windshields of vehicles behind them) and then taking to the roads like Mario Andretti, is more than sufficient preparation for the annual arrival of snowmaggedon. Collective amnesia indeed.

Returning to a familiar theme, from past articles I've written and the first paragraph of this one too, I'm hoping there's a cure for collective amnesia before the next provincial election. Already we've witnessed a decline in the news cycle surrounding Mr. Ford and his various scandals, with seemingly no one doing any follow up on each and every one of the investigations currently ongoing. There was, of course, the story of some wedding guests and their coincidental ownership of land located in the greenbelt. The Integrity Commissioner cleared Ford from wedding wrongdoing but now the RCMP is investigating the removal of certain lands from the greenbelt at the request of the OPP after two separate "legislative watchdogs examining the government's land swap found the process to select which lands were removed from the Greenbelt was flawed and favoured certain developers." While that's good news, we have no reason to worry anyway. After all, Ford apologized saying something along the lines of "my bad, it won't happen again." Until it does that is – once our collective amnesia kicks in.

Continued on Page B5

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10TH ANNUAL

WISH UPON A STAR!

On behalf of all of these companies we were able to proudly sponsor many families this Holiday Season.

Thanks to all of who took the time to WISH UPON A STAR!

Skyrocketing inflation and soaring cost of living have pushed hundreds of our Caledon neighbours to the brink. Right now, we are seeing the HIGHEST EVER number of people accessing Caledon Community Services' food support. These aren't just strangers, these are families, children, youth and seniors right here at home.

We can only be there for them thanks to YOU. Your Season of Hope gift today will help carry 940+ Caledon neighbours through trying times this winter and beyond by providing healthy meals, warm homes, life-saving rides and so much more.

Thanks to the generosity of our friends at Mars Canada, your gift will have DOUBLE the impact. Mars Canada will kindly match all Season of Hope donations up to $ 25,000. Let's bring Season of Hope to Caledon together!

To give a gift of hope and joy to Caledon neighbours in need, please call 905.584.2300 ext 260, please mail a cheque payable to Caledon Community Services to 18 King Street East-Upper Level, Bolton, ON L7E 1E8, visit ccs4u.org/donate or simply scan the QR code.

CALEDON COMMUNITY SERVICES

Season of Hope

Thank you for your kindness and generosity!

Tax receipts available for donations of $20 or more.
Caledon Community Services Charitable #12956 9182 RR 0001

Alias used to protect client confidentiality.

"Thank you for allowing me to use the pantry. It was difficult for me to ask for help, and I almost didn't come in. You were very welcoming and despite my awkwardness it wasn't so bad. Thanks again."

– Allison*, single Mom of two, Caledon Community Services client

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Mayor of Caledon
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Caledon staff report success in visitor management this year

Town added portabl toilets, additional parking, and wayfinding signage in busy areas

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Town of Caledon staff say it's been a successful year of welcoming visitors to Caledon.

At Caledon Council's November 28 meeting, Town of Caledon Tourism and Culture Officer Emily Quinton gave a presentation to Council on the results of Caledon's "Visitor Management Workplan".

Quinton made a presentation because on November 14, Council asked to hear an update on the Town's visitor management efforts.

In April 2022, Caledon's visitor management task force was created to address some issues faced due to tourism in Town such as illegal parking, access to amenities like washrooms, littering, and a need for wayfinding signage for visitors.

By Spring 2023, the task force had created a final report, and a visitor management & community engagement plan was implemented this summer and fall.

Quinton said the Town added temporary portable toilets at key points in Town, and found the need for them was there, so now a number of them will be implemented yearly. An increase to the hours of Caledon's public washrooms was also implemented.

The Town added seasonal parking in Belfountain by renting a school parking lot, and also found success there, and will be continuing the practice in years to come.

With regards to wayfinding signage, the Town implemented signage for parking and washroom facilities which it said went well. It's also planning to add permanent wayfinding signage along the Caledon Trailway.

"It serves multiple purposes, pointing our visitors to businesses to spend some money while they're in Town; to reinforce some of the etiquette rules we have… and to direct them to visitor amenities," said Quinton.

Quinton explained how the Town forged many tourism partnerships this year, such as with ParkBus, which brings people in to visit Caledon's conservation areas while keeping cars off the road.

The Town also again hosted its Caledon Creative Arts Festival to celebrate local artists and bring business to Caledon East.

Quinton shared how the Town implemented various communication plans, such as a "know before you go" social media campaign. They also experimented with some multilingual radio advertising.

The Town held a resident information session in September to discuss things like police and bylaw enforcement coverage during the busy fall colours season. It plans to host this session annually.

Lastly, Quinton said the Town is planning to continue all of this work and more while considering resident feedback in years to come. She said it will have no impact on the budget as the work undertaken by staff on these initiatives is included in the Town's yearly operational budget.

Ward 1 Councillor Lynn Kiernan thanked Quinton for her presentation and said she's been very impressed with the work being done to manage tourism in Caledon.

"You have taught me that patience and education and information, if given time, can make a difference," said Kiernan. "To do this all going forward with zero budget impact…I'm pretty sure that's as good as it gets for Council and for the community."

Ward 5 Councillor Tony Rosa said he was extremely impressed with the Town's readiness for welcoming visitors this year.

"I applaud all the effort… this is really important that we continue to grow our tourism initiatives," said Rosa.





Accessible features make Ellie's Inclusive Play Space a playground for all to enjoy.
PHOTO BY ZACHARY ROMAN

Community honours memory of "fun-loving, wonderfully confident" former student

Continued from FRONT

"We celebrate the opening of our awesome new fully-inclusive and accessible play space… as we remember the beautiful, fun-loving, wonderfully confident and brave Ellie Wratten," said Kennedy.

Kennedy has been Caledon Central's principal for two years and said when she first arrived at the school, she realized it needed a playground where every child could play with their peers.

She said thanks to Caledon Central's school Council, families, and community partners, a large amount of money was raised for a new playground in a short amount of time.

That took place in the spring of 2022, and students went on summer break looking forward to a new playground. Over the summer, excitement was overtaken by sadness as the community learned of the passing of Wratten and Bullock.

"Our school community grieved that summer and fall as we gathered to remember Ellie in many different ways," said Kennedy. "It didn't take long for many of our staff, friends and families to reach out and suggest we name our new inclusive accessible play space in honour and memory of Ellie."

Kennedy said she's heard so many stories about Ellie's spunk, confidence, and beautiful eyes. She said the inclusive playground is the perfect way to honour her, because Ellie understood the importance of inclusion.

"Ellie grew up knowing that people are unique… she knew to include people in the play," said Kennedy. "She knew that our uniqueness and ability shouldn't mean exclusion, but rather inclusion, and she lived this loving reality through her mom, her extended family and her supportive grandparents."

Wratten's uncle, Ryan, attended the ceremony and shared some words on behalf of his family. He thanked the school community for honouring Ellie's memory.

"Ellie was a very curious girl, she loved going to school and she loved playing with others. There really is no more fitting way to honour her than to name this playground after her at Caledon Central," he said.

He said it's amazing to think for years to come, kids will have a safe and fun place to play together.

"My family and I are still so very appreciative and humbled by all that this community has done for us," he said. "What a great community."

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Hills of Headwaters Collaborative OHT wants to hire recruiter for Dufferin and Caledon

Continued from FRONT

"Family physicians are very important to healthy communities and healthy people," said Coffin. "People without family physicians generally have much worse health outcomes because they are not being monitored, not being screened."

Coffin said recently, the HOHC OHT has been noticing some doctors retiring or leaving Dufferin and Caledon.

"It became very clear we needed to put some focus into recruiting [physicians] and retaining existing family physicians," she said.

The HOHC OHT put together a physician recruitment task force in January and it has been meeting ever since on a regular basis. In addition to finding ways to recruit physicians, the task force is developing plans of succession for retiring physicians, as Coffin said doctors are finding it hard to find people to take over their practices.

"We have two or three thousand people who have been left without physicians over the last nine months due to retirements," said Coffin, who noted the HOHC OHT refers to those without a family physician as unattached patients. "There are approximately 6,500 unattached patients that live in Dufferin and Caledon."

She added that this total doesn't take into account patients in Dufferin and Caledon who have a family physician in another community but would rather have one closer to home.

Coffin said the World Health Organization recommends 1,000 patients per doctor and that most doctors in Dufferin and Caledon have many more patients than that.

"That's a very heavy burden for the physicians and they are often struggling under that burden," said Coffin.

She said it's estimated Caledon will need 29 more physicians by 2031, and that's without taking into account retirements.

The proposed HOHC OHT physician recruiter would be an expert in how physician practice models work, how funding works, and would work for Dufferin, Caledon, and the Headwaters Health Care Centre. Coffin said it's a niche and complex role.

The recruiter would officially be an employee of the Headwaters Health Care Centre and have an estimated salary of $91,200 plus benefits. Additional costs would come from sending the recruiter to events, and providing hiring incentives for physicians.

Ward 4 Councillor Nick de Boer suggested using the money instead to send local students to medical school and have them come back to practice in the area. He said since doctor shortages are everywhere, he worries that recruiting doctors means taking them away from other communities who need them just as much.

Coffin said the recruiter is just one of many ways the HOHC OHT is trying to address the physician shortage.

Ward 1 Councillor Lynn Kiernan said it's an investment in the community when a medical school graduate decides to become a family physician. She said she's happy to support efforts to bring more physicians to Caledon.

Ward 3 Councillor Doug Maskell said needing 29 more physicians by 2031 is a symptom of the Province's plan to build more homes but not addressing the things communities need to accommodate that growth. He said the Province needs to come up with a comprehensive strategy to get more doctors in Ontario.

"We're in a war for talent with every municipality across the Province right now," said Maskell. "So unfortunately… all's fair in love and war here… we have to meet our immediate needs, which [means] we have to embark on this recruitment strategy."

Regional Councillor Christina Early said the lack of doctors in Ontario is becoming quite a crisis, and that she'd support the hiring of a physician recruiter.

Mayor Annette Groves said she's happy to support the hiring of a recruiter. She views it as an investment in keeping the community, and by extension the workforce, healthy.

"We need to invest in our community's wellbeing, and that is investing in getting these doctors here," said Groves.

Groves said she feels for doctors who are experiencing burnout, and agreed more doctors are needed in the Province.

"They're not robots… we need to… knock on the Province's door for some money to help these doctors," said Groves.

Council supported contributing $50,000 to the hiring of a physician recruiter, though the County of Dufferin and Headwaters Health Care Centre will also need to agree to contribute in order for the hiring of a recruiter to go through.



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Bethell Hospice joins Hospice Palliative Care Ontario to advocate for funding



Rick Firth, HPCO President; Margaret Paan, Bethell Hospice Executive Director; Sylvia Jones, Dufferin-Caledon MPP and Minister of Health; Bethell Hospice Board Chair Janette Panhuis and HPCO Communications and Government Relations Advisor Jennifer Mossop. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

Hospice leaders meet with Minister of Health, MPP Sylvia Jones

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Bethell Hospice staff and board members recently took part in a day of advocacy to the Provincial Government.

On November 27, Hospice Palliative Care Ontario (HPCO) and hospice staff from all across Ontario hosted their annual MPP day to advocate for continued government support for the work of the hospice palliative care sector.

Bethell Hospice is located in Caledon, and its Executive Director Margaret Paan and Board Chair Janette Panhuis attended Queen's Park to meet with Dufferin-Caledon MPP and Minister of Health Sylvia Jones and HPCO representatives on the November 27.

HPCO said the annual MPP day is a chance for MPPs to talk about the difficult subject of dying, death and loss.

Rick Firth, President of HPCO and said hospice palliative care is often needed to navigate death with meaning, peace and wellbeing.

"Community hospice palliative care is highly cost-effective care, but the impact on the well-being of people is priceless," said Firth. "Often, people don't need hospital care at the end of life, but they need extra medical, practical, psychosocial and spiritual support."

Firth said at home and in-hospice care models both have their place in providing the support people need.

Hospice residences provide a home-like setting where people facing the end of their lives can receive holistic care and their families can receive grief and bereavement support. At home, hospice programs help people remain in their own homes until the end of their life.

The HPCO said hospices are largely funded by community fundraising, but it's become more challenging in recent years. It said one-time government funding increases have helped keep hospices out of deficits, but more consistent funding is needed.

"This year, hospices are asking for the one-time funding increase to become part of permanent base funding, and to provide hospice at home services with $4 million dollars province-wide to stabilize the sector," said the HPCO in a statement.

Firth said hospices need certainty in their funding so they can recruit and retain staff, and that costs and need for care have both risen.

"People of all ages die and need our services, but the fact is that the aging population means more people are dying each year and this is the care they need and want," said Firth.

The HPCO said the Ontario Medical Association, Auditor General, and Canadian Cancer Society all believe more hospices are needed in Ontario.

Further, the HPCO said the Province can save $200 million per year by having end of life care be done in hospices, not hospitals. It said it can use some of the savings to increase annual funding to hospices.

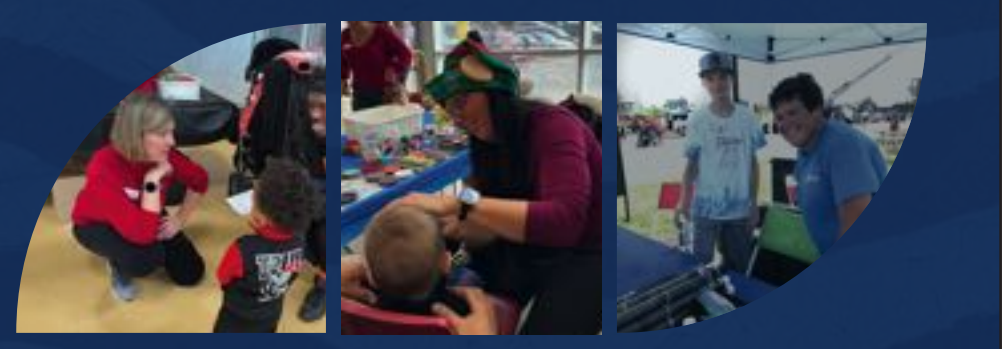
"Hospice is about helping people live well right to the end. Anyone who has experienced hospice care with a loved one knows that dying and loss need not be a frightening and negative experience, it can be a healing and memorable time," said Firth.

Firth said Ontario has a great hospice care system with strict standards and accreditation.

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(December 5, 2023)

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ONE

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Garden foods

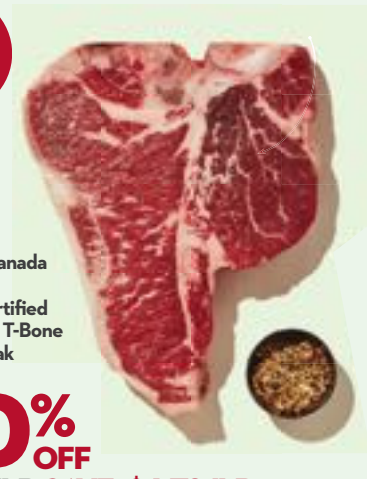


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SAVE $3.00



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Caledon Citizen's Student Athlete of the Week

Bianca Mazzaferro's sweeper skills stifle Hall Wolfpack opponents on the soccer pitch

BY JIM STEWART

Grade 11 Student Athlete Bianca Mazzaferro is an outstanding soccer player who plays a key defensive role on her Junior Girls team.

The Honor Roll student from Robert F. Hall Catholic Secondary School has plans to earn a college scholarship to play NCAA soccer and her level of commitment to her short-term and long-term post-secondary goals is admirable.

Hall Wolfpack Junior Girls' Soccer Coach Christy DiBlasio has seen Mazzaferro's growth as a leader both on and off the soccer pitch.

"Bianca's leadership skills during practice and games, her ability to motivate teammates through words of encouragement and enthusiasm, and her confidence to take risks during crucial moments in games made her a great asset to the Junior Girls' soccer team."

What impresses Coach DiBlasio the most about Mazzaferro is her team-first approach and dedication to soccer and her studies: "I am impressed with Bianca's commitment to team development. During our school season, Bianca also played for her club team in the Ontario Player Development League (OPDL). The OPDL is a youth high performance league in Ontario which demands a lot of commitment, travel, physical, and mental stressors on the body. Through our entire season, Bianca never missed a practice or game; she played through exhaustion, injuries, and managed to balance her school work, too."

Although Coach DiBlasio could not provide us with one specific key performance highlight from the soccer season, she did focus on Mazzaferro's overall performance as the team's most significant defender.

"There is not one key performance moment that I would highlight because Bianca was so consistent in her overall performance. Bianca played sweeper, which is the last player behind the defensive line, and before the goalie. Bianca was our safety net, always there to clear the ball from the opposing team's offense, always there to give strong, accurate passes to her teammates, and always there to win those 50/50 balls. Bianca was our team's constant; she was dependable on and off the field."

Bianca Mazzaferro took time from her OPDL soccer commitments and Grade 11 school work at Robert F. Hall CSS to reply to our interview questions:

Caledon Citizen: What qualities did you demonstrate in your sports season to earn Student-Athlete of the Week honors?

Bianca Mazzaferro: "I feel that I demonstrated great leadership skills and worked my hardest not only at games, but also at training."

Caledon Citizen: What were your key statistics and performance moments from the 2022-23 season that you are most proud of?

Bianca Mazzaferro: "As a center back, I scored two goals. But more importantly I stopped a lot of strikers from passing the defense with the help of my other defenders."

Caledon Citizen: In addition to your high school sports team(s), what other community teams do you play for and at what level?

Bianca Mazzaferro: "I also play for RUSH U19 League 1 reserve."

Caledon Citizen: How would you describe yourself as a student at Robert F Hall?

Bianca Mazzaferro: "I would describe myself as a good student and I achieved Honor Roll."

Caledon Citizen: What are your post-secondary plans regarding prospective academic/athletic destinations?

Bianca Mazzaferro: "My goal for post-secondary is to get a scholarship to play soccer through university."

Caledon Citizen: Who is your role model in terms of the person you admire the most?

Bianca Mazzaferro: "A person that I admire most is Mbappe. I love his style of soccer and I think he is an amazing soccer player."

Caledon Citizen: How do you feel about being nominated as The Caledon Citizen's Student-Athlete of the Week?

Bianca Mazzaferro: "I feel honored to have been nominated and I am very grateful."

ODDS girl's basketball team compete at OFSAA

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Orangeville District Secondary School Scarlet Bears girls' senior basketball team has completed a stellar season that saw them win the District and Region championships, earning them the right to compete at the provincial championships at OFSAA.

The Bears finished the regular season in first place in the District 10 standings with a 12-2 record.

At the University of Guelph, they won the District championship with a 62-49 win over Centennial Collegiate in the final game on Nov. 11.

Winning the District allowed the girls' team to go to the Central Western Ontario Secondary Schools Association competition in Guelph on November 17 and 18.

In their opening game, then 66-63 to Assumption Catholic High School in overtime. They rebounded with a 72-54 win over Waterloo Oxford in the second game of the day.

In the playoff round, they won 74-58 over KCI to make it to the final.

The Bears won CWOSSA with a 49-47 win over Assumption in the final game.

With the CWOSSA title on the record, the Bears prepared to go to the provincial level and compete at the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations in Hamilton on November 23-25 against the top girls' basketball teams in the province.

On day one of the OFSAA competition, the Bears won their opening game, 49-45, over Sir William Mulock. Game Two saw the Bears win their second in the competition, leaving the court with a 48-43 win over St. Roch.

In the quarter-final game, the Bears lost 42-27 to St. Patrick's to end their run for the season.

What makes this achievement as a basketball team so outstanding is the fact that most of the girls on the Bears team are Junior-level players who stepped up to create a Senior squad for the school.

"The girls were absolutely amazing," said coach Koven Padayachee. "They finished sixth in the country, winning two games at OFSAA. As the youngest team in the tournament, the girls represented Orangeville really well. We look forward to getting back to it their next year."

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*** *or emailing* ***admin@caledoncitizen.com*** *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:
647-891-9400 • caledoncoc@gmail.com
Location: 34 Nixon Rd., Bolton

Open to all - Electric Vehicle Society Caledon Chapter meetings. Come out to learn from the expertise of electric vehicle owners and enthusiasts about helping Canadians transition to electric transportation through education and advocacy. Local meetings are held in the Southfields Community Centre - Community Room from 7pm-9pm. Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday December 20th. Meetings are free. For more info:https://evsociety.ca/caledon/ or email Kenneth.bokor@evsociety.ca

FREE COMMUNITY PANCAKE BREAKFAST
Saturday, Dec. 2nd, 2023 from 8:30 am to 10:30 am. Caledon East United Church, 6046 Old Church Rd. All are welcome!



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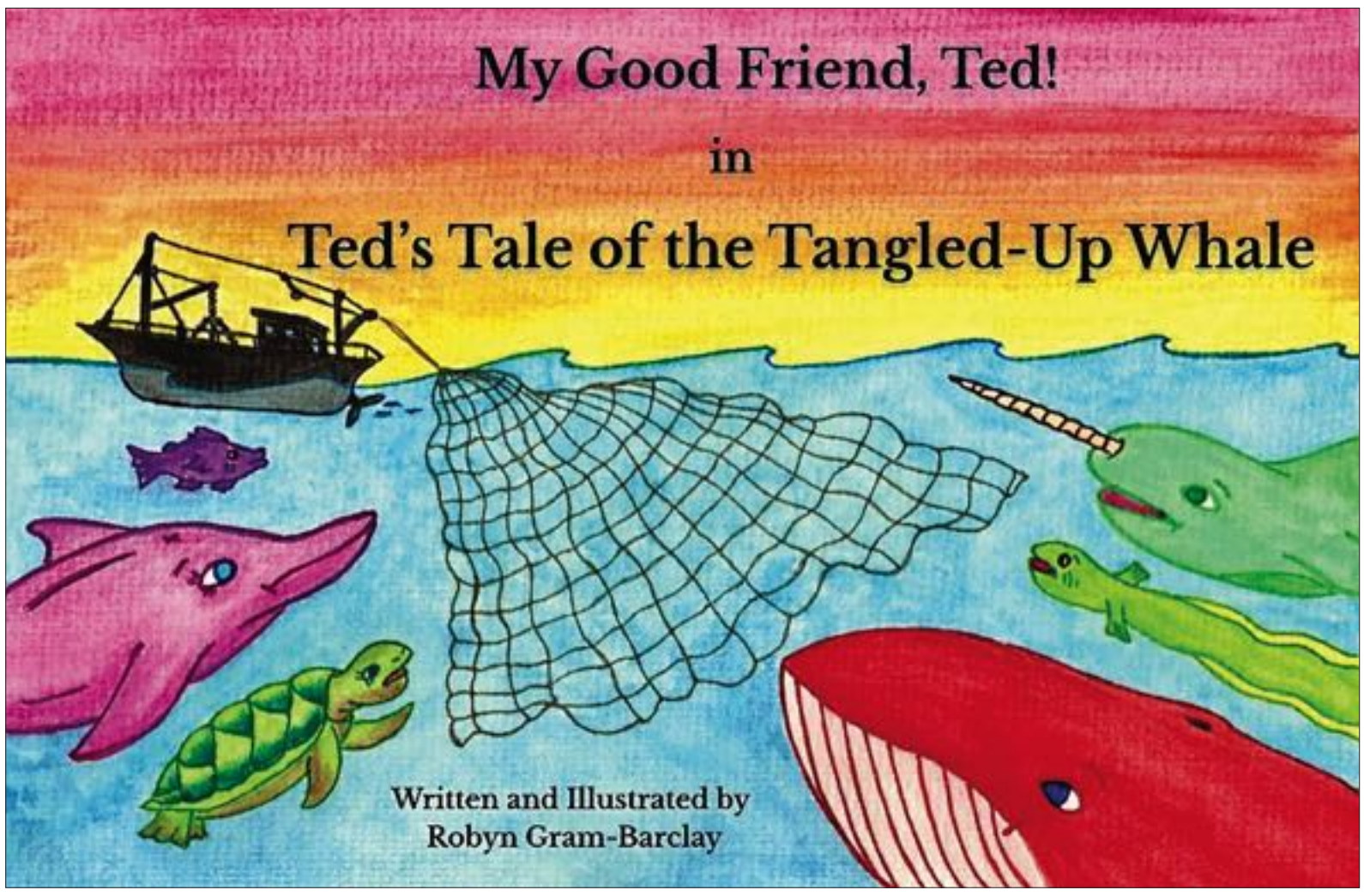
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Bolton children's author completes "My Good Friend, Ted!" trilogy

Robyn Gram-Barclay's books teach inclusion, teamwork, and kindness

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER



Bolton author and illustrator Robyn Gram-Barclay has just released her third book. CONTRIBUTED IMAGE

The adventures of Ted, a red blue whale, continue in a local children's author's latest book.

On November 14, Bolton's Robyn Gram-Barclay released her third book: My Good Friend, Ted! in Ted's Tale of the Tangled-Up Whale.

The book completes a trilogy of books about Ted that teach children about inclusion, kindness, and teamwork.

The latest book features Ted, the grand protector of the ocean, coming across a whale friend who is trapped in a fishing net. Ted tries to save the whale all by himself, but ends up getting tangled in it too. Ted's sea creature friends must use the power of teamwork to save the day.

"Ted and his friends show that kindness and teamwork help solve tricky problems," said Gram-Barclay, adding the book brings awareness to threats to ocean life and the importance of protecting the world's oceans.

Gram-Barclay went through many rounds of edits on her latest book in an effort to perfect its poetic flow. She worked on the book with her father, an English specialist, teacher and principal.

"The book is dedicated to my dad… dedicated to my supportive and loving family, especially my grand protector, my father," said Gram-Barclay.

Gram-Barclay has an author visit and art event coming soon at the Caledon East branch of the Caledon Public Library to celebrate the launch of her book. From 1 to 2:30 p.m. on December 2, she'll read her new book, answer questions, and facilitate a watercolour painting exercise.

"I'll have the materials (and) pictures of sea creatures," said Gram-Barclay. "[Kids] can paint their own version of Ted and his friends or their own sea creature painting."

She said the event will be engaging and she's looking forward to a great time.

Gram-Barclay illustrated each of her three books with watercolours. Her first book was My Good Friend, Ted! and the second was My Good Friend Ted! The Sea-quel in the Ocean of Colour.

"It's an exhilarating feeling… it's been such an amazing creative journey," said Gram-Barclay of completing her trilogy of books. "I feel I covered all the topics I wanted to in this trilogy."

She said amazing things have come of it, such as her partnership with the non-profits Save The Whales and Ella's Way.

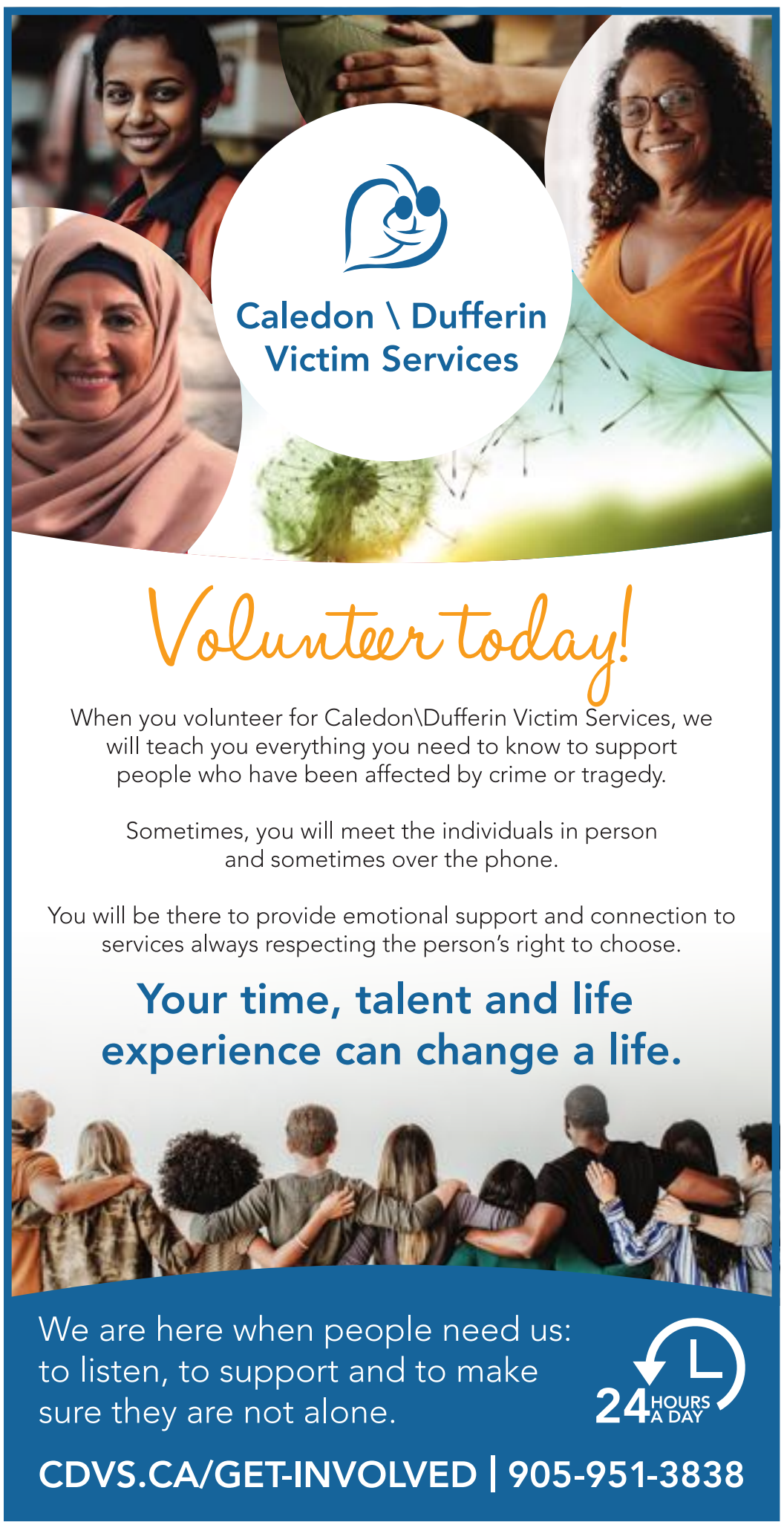
The Ella in Ella's Way stands for "Early Learning Leads to Acceptance". The non-profit's goal is to donate and promote books about things like inclusion, diversity and equity to children.

"I feel very honoured to be a part of it," said Gram-Barclay.

Those interested in registering for Gram-Barclay's event can visit the following link: events.caledonlibrary.com/event/9473115.

Gram-Barclay's book can be found locally at Forster's Book Garden in Bolton, and online at alittletouchofcolour.com.









John Tiede Co-CEO of Hear Well Be Well is pictured in Rwanda training hospital staff on hearing testing and fitting of hearing aids.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Local hearing clinic donates refurbished hearing aids in Rwanda

Hear Well Be Well recently sent staff to Rwanda to administer the hearing aids

BY ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

A local hearing clinic is putting used hearing aids to good use.

Bolton's Hear Well Be Well is donating sanitized and refurbished used hearing aids to the medical community in Rwanda.

The clinic's marketing manager Wendy Moore explained used hearing aids can't be sold or donated in Ontario, and said it's a shame as most can be refurbished. To keep good hearing aids from going to landfills, Moore said Hear Well Be Well instead donates them to those in need in Rwanda.

In 2023, the clinic donated 300 hearing aids to people in Rwanda, sending staff to the country as well to help fit the hearing aids.

Hear Well Be Well's CEOs, John and Kathleen Tiede, have been donating hearing aids for many years.

"Going to Rwanda for the fifth time was as rewarding as the first time I went in 2010," said Kathleen.

This year, Kathleen, alongside John, field manager Nancy Robinson, and hearing Instrument specialist Jotham Pratt, went to the University Teaching Hospital of Kigali to work with medical personnel on hearing testing and administering hearing aids.

Robinson, a Shelburne resident, said she felt privileged to be part of the team attending the hospital and seeing patients.

John said he was honoured to share in the experience with his staff.

Make a difference in local health care with Headwaters' Patient Advisory Program

BY PAULA BROWN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Headwaters Health Care Centre (HHCC) is seeking individuals with firsthand experience at the hospital as a patient, family member, caregiver or volunteer for their Patient and Family Advisory Program.

The Patient and Family Advisory Program is part of the hospital's mission to provide patient-centric care by creating a collaborative and inclusive environment where the voices of patients and their families can play a role in shaping the healthcare services provided.

Volunteers in the program will have the opportunity to contribute their insights, share perspectives, and actively participate in discussions that influence Headwaters Hospital's policies and practices.

"We recognize the immense value that lived experiences bring to the improvement of healthcare services. By involving patients and their families directly in our decision-making processes, we ensure that our services are not only clinically effective but also deeply compassionate and considerate of individual needs," said Juliann McArthur, Manager of Patient Experience.

Some of the volunteer positions include ambulatory care, critical care, diagnostic imaging, dialysis, medicine, mental health, obstetrics, oncology, patient relations, pediatrics, spiritual care and surgery.

Headwaters said applicants selected as volunteers will undergo training to ensure they are equipped for their roles within the program.

In order to be eligible to volunteer in the program, candidates must have had personal experience with Headwaters Health Care Centre as a patient, family member, or caregiver within the last three years.

Those interested in volunteering with the Patient and Family Advisory Program are encouraged to apply immediately. To submit an application or for more information on the program, visit www.headwatershealth.ca/PFAP.




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Revitalizing History: Lord Dufferin IODE fundraises to replace vandalized nurse sculpture

BY SAM ODROWSKI

A local not-for-profit women's group is one step closer to replacing a work of art in Orangeville that was vandalized last year.

"The Nurse" statute, commissioned by the Lord Dufferin IODE to mark its 100th anniversary in 2007, sat in front of the Lord Dufferin Centre Retirement Residence for nearly 15 years. In the summer of 2022, the statue was vandalized beyond repair, and roughly $8,000 is now required to replace it.

With the Lord Dufferin Centre operating as Orangeville's first hospital, the IODE felt it was important to have the nurse sculpture in that location and is now fundraising to replace it.

The IODE played a significant role in establishing Orangeville's first hospital in 1912, and volunteers from the group were trained to work as nurses, making it a fitting location for the statute.

The Lord Dufferin IODE has already fundraised $2,500 to replace the statue through its Dinner and Fashion Show event at Trattoria Semplice Restaurant (20 Dawson Rd.) on November 9. The sold-out event featured eight models showing off a variety of clothing from Classie Causal Boutique.

"It was such a great collaboration," said Lord Dufferin IODE president Jessica Cerveny of the group's partnership with Classie Casual Boutique. "They were so easy to work with. They have this mobile unit they brought with them with all the racks of clothes. They did a 'pop-up shop' after the show, which was nice. I think a lot of people were really excited for that part of the fashion show. They wanted to explore what the new fashions were."

Now, the Lord Dufferin IODE is running a Christmas Plant Sale in hopes of raising more money to replace the nurse statute.



A dinner and fashion show was held earlier this month by the Lord Dufferin IODE to raise money to replace a vandalized statue in Orangeville..

PHOTO BY SAM ODROWSKI

The plants are $20 each and can be pre-ordered by calling Dori at 519-941-1865 or Jessica at 647-286-2147.

The Christmas plants are available for pick up at the 10 and 10 Garden Centre (634026 Highway 10, Mono) on December 9 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Funds raised through this sale will support the many local not-for-profits that the Lord Dufferin IODE supports annually, in addition to the nurse statute. These organizations include the Orangeville Public Library, Orangeville Food Bank and Headwaters Health Care Centre.

The Lord Dufferin IODE estimates that the Christmas Plant Sale should generate $1,200 for the organization.

When the nurse statue is replaced, the Lord Dufferin IODE is looking at reinforcing its base so it can't be knocked over as easily, as well as placing it further back from the sidewalk, in hopes of preventing future vandalism.

Looking ahead to next year, the IODE hopes to bring back the fashion show and make it an annual event.

In the meantime, Dori Ebel from the Lord Dufferin IODE said she'd encourage those who would like to support the return of the nurse sculpture to reach out to lord-dufferiniode@gmail.com.

"If there's anyone in the community that so feels they'd like that bit of history back, we'd love to have their donation, and they can get a receipt," said Ebel.

Sending a letter to Santa? Make sure you meet the deadline

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

If your child plans to send a letter to Santa this year with hopes of receiving a reply, make sure they drop it in a mailbox by the deadline so they get a response before Christmas.

Canada Post is reminding families that they have until December 7 to mail their letters to get a response before Christmas.

Canada Post cannot guarantee delivery dates, but Santa does respond to all letters he receives.

For teachers, if you plan to mail a class letter to Santa, make sure you do so by December 1 so a reply can be sent before the holiday break.

To make sure your letter is received at the North Pole, you should address all letters to Santa Claus. All letters from one family should be in the same envelope.

No stamps are required to mail a letter to Santa within Canada.

Include a return address on the top left corner of your letter and drop the letter in any Canada post mailbox or post office.

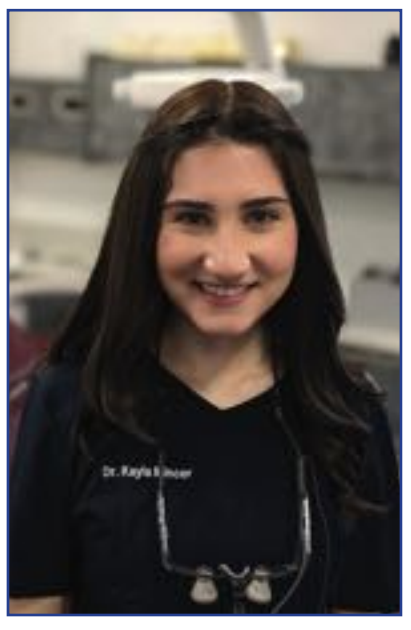
Address your letters to Santa Claus, North Pole, HOH OHO, Canada.





The Dr. Howarth Dental Office is excited to announce that our practice is growing! In order to continue bringing you excellent care, we have added a new dentist to our team.

We would like to introduce Dr. Kayla Mincer who completed her Doctor of Dental Surgery degree at the University of Toronto Faculty of Dentistry. Prior to this, she graduated with an Honours Bachelor of Science degree from York University. In her fourth year of dental school, she received a certificate of merit for achievement in the field of oral medicine, due to her work with medically compromised patients and is a member of the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario and the Ontario Dental Association.



Celebrate the holidays and support a good cause at Spencer Avenue's Winter Fest in Orangeville

BY PAULA BROWN

Dufferin residents will soon have the opportunity to find unique hand-crafted gifts for the holiday season while helping an elementary school's holiday market.

Spencer Avenue Elementary School is hosting their annual Winter Fest from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, December 2.

"We want to extend an invitation to the community for our holiday festival. This is for our students, but we recognize that Spencer School is a part of the bigger community at large. There is lots for everybody, so we're looking forward to hopefully seeing a great turnout this year," said Stephanie Kilday, vendor market coordinator.

The Spencer Avenue Winter Fest was started by the elementary school's parent council in 2018 to raise funds for various projects at the school. In previous years, the holiday festival has raised funds for playground equipment, and last year, they were able to use the money to purchase new nets and balls, and have the four-square lines repainted.

This year, money raised through the winter event will fund a home literacy program for the school's primary grades, including lesson materials and books.

"We ask the school for a wish list of what they could use and then our parent council picks and chooses from that list. [The home literacy program] was identified by the school as a need," explained Kilday.

The Spencer Avenue Winter Fest will feature a market with over 20 vendors selling a variety of items such as candles, bath bombs, skincare, knitting, collectibles, food, and jewelry.

The vendors market will also include 13 "junior" vendors consisting of students from the local elementary school.

"We wanted a way to include the students on the day of the event, because we're doing this at their school and the money is being raised for them," said Kilday. "We also recognize that we have a lot of creative and talented students in our school, and we wanted to showcase that as well."

Kilday noted that participating in the vendors market has become an opportunity for the students to learn about running a small business as they were required to fill out an application, provide samples of their creations, and pay a $5 fee for their table.

New to the Spencer Avenue Winter Fest this year is their café, where visitors can purchase a hot beverage or baked treat and sit down to enjoy the event.

"Because this is our fifth year, we're trying to find new ways to bring people out. Instead of offering the same thing each year, we want to offer something that is a little different," said Kilday.

The holiday-themed festival will include a bake sale, silent auction and raffle. Parents will be able to purchase a wristband for their children for $5, which will give them access to crafts, games, raffle tickets, a scavenger hunt, and other activities.

The Spencer Avenue Winter Fest will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, December 2. There is no admission fee.

Stitching love into action: Orange thREADs donation to Family Transition Place provide comfort, support

Orange thREADs, the Orangeville Public Library's stitchery group, made their annual donation of knitted, crocheted, and quilted items to Family Transition Place (FTP) on November 21. The group has made spreading warmth throughout the community – and beyond – a focal point each year.

The group meets on the third Tuesday of every month and is made up of members from around the community who are passionate about knitting, crocheting, or quilting. It's an opportunity for fabric artists to come together and share in their passion.

"The generosity of Orange thREADs is boundless," said Shannon McGrady, Program and Research Coordinator at the Orangeville Public Library. "With every stitch they exemplify our values and goals; they connect our community, they discover new friendships and opportunities, and through their continued kindness, they help us all to soar."

Over the fall, the group donated to a total of three groups – the Rotary Club, the IODE Yellow Briar Chapter, and Family Transition Place.

In September, they presented Rotary Club Member Sylvia Bradley with over 100 baby hats, receiving blankets, and baby afghans created by members of the group. The items will be given to midwives who work in the mountainous regions of Panama to distribute to families.

October's donation to the IODE Yellow Briar Chapter consisted of gifts for seniors, to be included in the organization's annual senior Christmas gift bags.

On November 21, Orange thREADs presented a table full of blankets, wash cloths, dolls, toys, hats, and more to Kelly Lee, Community Engagement and Development Specialist at Family Transition Place. The group has been donating to the organization since 2015.

"The hand-crafted items from the thoughtful members of Orange thREADS mean so much to everyone here at Family Transition Place because they provide comfort and support to the women and children who access our services," said Lee.

Lee noted part of what makes donations like these so powerful for those who receive them is that the impact extends beyond its practical use.

"Knowing that someone made that blanket with love can provide some security and a sense of reassurance to a woman going through a difficult time," added Lee. "Each of the adorable toys that were handmade and donated are also a source of comfort and happiness to the children who receive them."

The donated items will be given to women and children who receive services at Family Transition Place. Some of the items, such as washcloths, slippers, and hats, will be given to those who need practical items. Many of the items will be given to those who need extra support and hope.

Orange thREADs will also be making a donation to the Orangeville Food Bank later this year.

To learn more about the group visit orangevillelibrary.ca/orangethreads.

Talk Caledon

Continued from A7

Then, of course, there are concerns over the use of MZOs, something about which Caledon is all too familiar. After calls by the NDP and Green Party, this too is now being investigated. As reminder about why this needs to be investigated consider this: according to Green Party leader Mike Schreiner, "Typically the previous government would do one or two MZOs a year, so it was a very infrequently used tool……This government in five years has done close to a hundred, I mean it's unprecedented the number of MZOs this government is putting forward and it's all about land grabs for Ford-connected speculators."

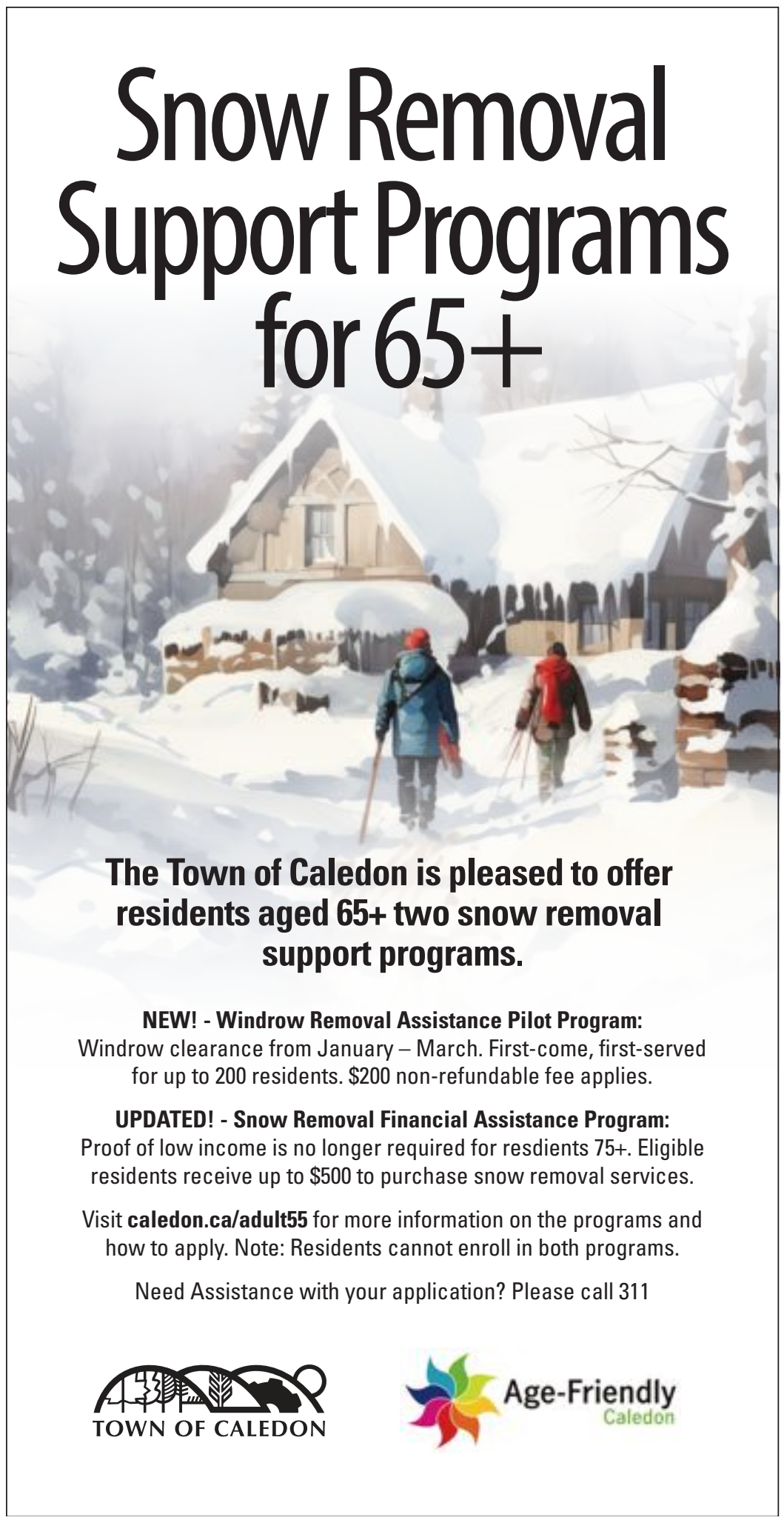
Maybe we can all agree, such an investigation is warranted? There's more. We have Ontario Place and the granting of a 99-year lease to an out-of-country investor for what used to be a beautiful, publicly accessible and family-friendly location. No red flags there at all.

Finally, let's not forget his flip-flops on renewable energy investments, canceling them in his first term while reimplementing some in his second term. There's an expression you might be familiar with, "third time's the charm," and it has me wondering what decisions he'll make if elected for a third chance to ruin the province.

Perhaps we needn't worry about flip-flops and collective amnesia. There's a cure, I'm told, after all. In addition to decimating environmentally protected lands, the Ford government has also (way back in March, so you might not remember) allocated $110 million towards "emergency readiness." This will be used to bolster our responses to a wide range of emergencies," such as floods, wildfires and extreme heat." That's good because it's beginning to look like from an environmental perspective we are going to need it. If, on the other hand, you are looking for a more realistic cure to collective amnesia, may I respectfully suggest the following: put your damn snow tires on, set the alarm clock 15 minutes earlier in the winter months and remember you're Canadian, gosh darn it! Oh, and also – VOTE in the next election, it's the best potential cure of all in the fight against collective amnesia.







Holiday Tree DIRECTORY

EXPLORE CULTURAL CHRISTMAS TREE TRADITIONS ACROSS THE CONTINENTS

Decorating a Christmas tree is a beautiful reflection of the unique traditions and cultures that make our world so diverse and special.

Germany has a long history of decorating Christmas trees with edible decorations. In the 16th century, people would hang wafers, gingerbread, and apples from their trees. This tradition continued into the 19th century when candy canes became a popular addition to trees. Today, many German families still decorate their trees with edible treats, such as marzipan, chocolate, and cookies.

Another German tradition is to adorn a Christmas tree using real candles to decorate it with light. This might seem dangerous, but during the 17th century, candles were the only way to light up a Christmas tree. However, in 1895, Ralph Morris, an American telephonist, invented the first electric Christmas lights to prevent any potential danger of Christmas tree fires.

One of the unique ways Australians celebrate Christmas is by using the Christmas bush, which is a native Australian plant. This plant is characterized by its small green leaves and cream-coloured flowers. It is often used as a festive decoration during the Christmas season. The Christmas Bush is a symbol of Australian heritage and culture, and has become an important part of the country's Christmas traditions. The flowers on the bush turn a deep, shiny red during the summer months. This is ideal since Christmas falls in the middle of summer in the Southern Hemisphere.

In Sweden, the tradition of putting up Christmas trees begins on the morning of Christmas Eve. The trees are usually decorated with stars, sunbursts and snowflakes made from straw. Other decorations include colourful wooden animals and straw centrepieces. According to the tradition, the trees must be taken down by January 13th, which is known as Knut's Day or Twelfth Night. This marks the end of the Christmas season and the start of the new









Holiday Tree DIRECTORY

year. Keeping the tree up for longer than 12 days is believed to bring bad luck, so it's important to take it down within the specified time.

Since the number of Christians in Japan is relatively low, Christmas Day is not a national holiday and Christmas in Japan is mainly a commercial event.

The tradition of the Christmas tree was introduced to Japan by Christian missionaries in the late 16th century, but it was not until around 1910 that the first modern Christmas tree made its appearance in the Ginza district of Tokyo. Initially, the Japanese adorned the Christmas tree with traditional Japanese ornaments such as small fans, paper lanterns, origami birds, animals, and even Santa Claus figurines. Over time, the decoration of Christmas trees in Japan has become more diverse and now includes a wide range of ornaments like glass balls, tinsel, and lights, alongside the traditional Japanese decorations.

In Ukraine, folklore, religion and soviet culture mix to form some fascinating traditions. Using a traditional evergreen tree is most common, but decorations are quite specific.

According to the Legend of the Christmas Spider, having a spider's web in some form on the Christmas tree is considered to bring good luck. The story tells of a poor family who could not afford to decorate their tree for Christmas. However, they wake up on Christmas morning to find that a spider had beautifully "decorated" the tree with its silvery, glittering web. This is why many households around the world still decorate their trees with tinsel, even though they may not know the origins of the story.

Happy Holidays.



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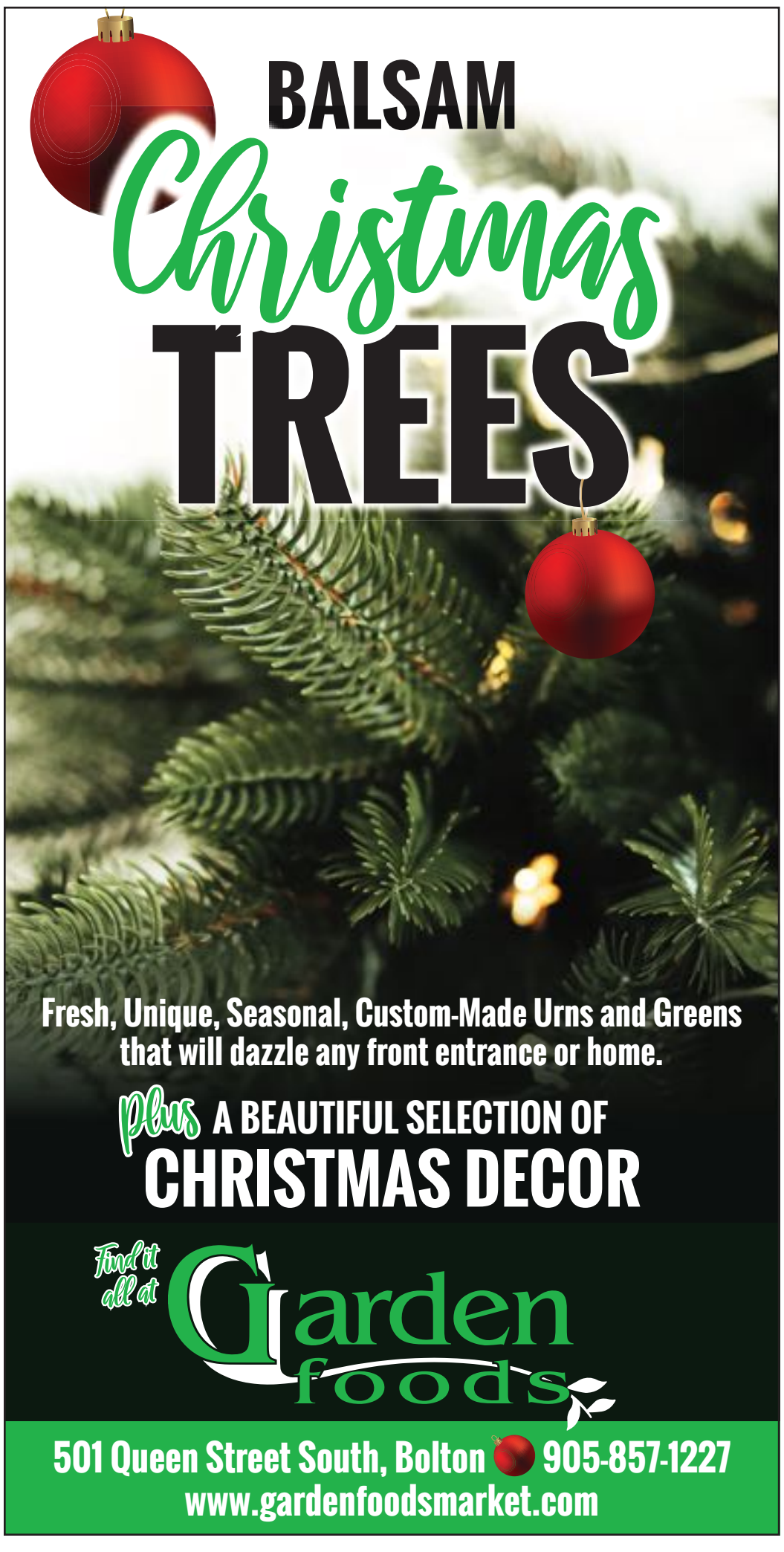


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OBITUARIES

ALLAN MAW



Peacefully at Headwaters Health Care Centre, Orangeville, on Monday, November 20, 2023, Allan Maw, at the age of 86 years, beloved husband for 56 years of Gwendolyn. Loving son of the late Wilfred and Annie Maw. Dear brother of Gladwyn and Harold Learmont (both deceased), Eleanor Broley (deceased), Jean and George Kirby (both deceased), James and Irene Maw (both deceased), Betty and George (deceased) Miller, Bernice and James (deceased) Gowdy, Bill and Harriet Maw. Fondly remembered by many nieces and nephews. The family received their friends at the Egan Funeral Home, 203 Queen Street S., Bolton, on Sunday afternoon from 1 – 4 o'clock and on Monday, November 27 from 12 o'clock until time of funeral service in the chapel at one o'clock. Interment Morningside Cemetery, Palgrave. Condolences for the family may be offered at www.EganFuneralHome.com

BROCK, JACK MURRAY

Peacefully passed away on Monday, November 27th, 2023 at the age of 92. Dear friend and longtime partner of Joan Boggs. Dearly loved father of Don (Debbie) and Paul (Heather) and step-father to David Boggs, Cheryl Chivers (David) and Larry Boggs (2020). Will be missed by grandchildren Sean (Tara), Brad, James (Jackie), Tim (Katherine) and Jeremy (Kat), Michael (Jessica), Matthew (Jenna) and his great-grandchildren Jackson, Madison, Ellis, Jake, Ian, Adelaide, Maverick, Daxton, Kayden, Jonah, Olivia, Sloane and Cole.
Loved brother of Murray (Audrey - deceased), Harold (deceased) (Shirley), Betty & Ted Denny (deceased), Beatrice Rowntree (Al) and Tom (deceased). Predeceased by wife Dorothy Brock (Summerville) (1977) . Jack will also be greatly missed by other relatives, friends and great neighbors.
Jack was a life member of the Dufferin Northern Peel Anglers & Hunters Association and The Orangeville Senior Centre. He worked for the County of Dufferin for 25 years.

Funeral Service will be held at *Dods & McNair Funeral Home, Chapel & Reception Centre* 21 First St Orangeville, Ontario on Thursday, November 30th, 2023 at 2:30 pm. with visitation beginning at 1:30 pm. Memorial donations to the Orangeville Seniors Centre or the Heart & Stroke Foundation would be appreciated by the family.
Condolences may be offered to the family at www.dodsandmcnair.com

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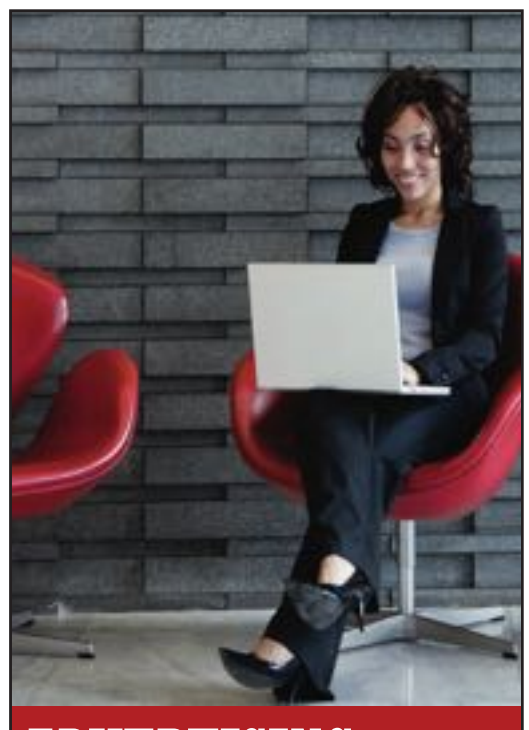
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MEN'S OUTREACH ORANGEVILLE – A support group and safe space for men to share their feelings and support one another. For more information contact mensoutreachorangeville@gmail.com. Starting Wednesday, Nov 1st, 7 pm to 8:30 pm and occurring weekly on Wednesdays at St. Marks Anglican Church, 5 First Ave, Orangeville, ON L9W 2Z5.

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.

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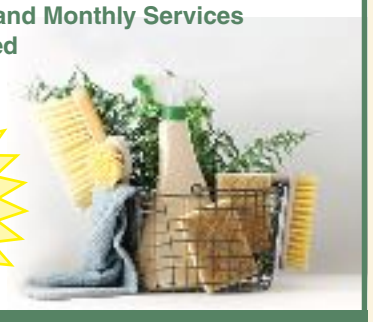
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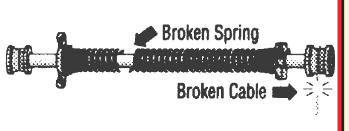
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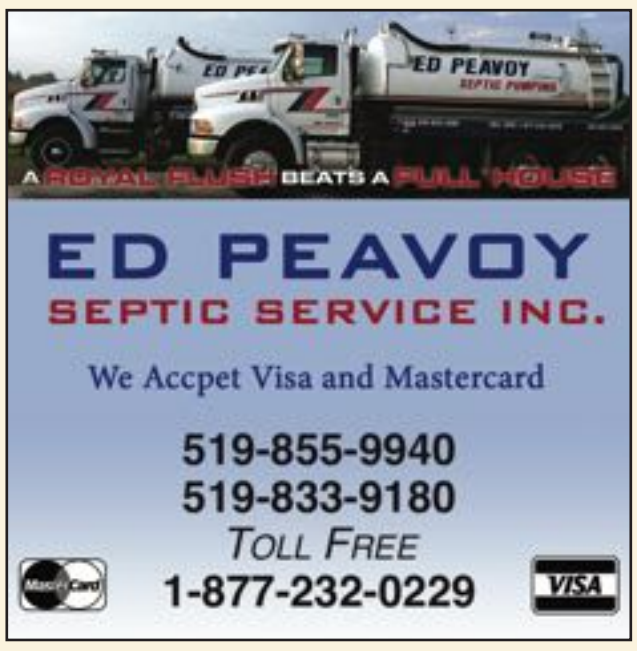
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