Merry Christmas!
from
Kyle Seeback, M.P.
Dufferin-Caledon



Christmas is here Dufferin-Caledon!

It's the best time of the year —
the lights are up, the music's playing, and
our community's alive with Christmas spirit.

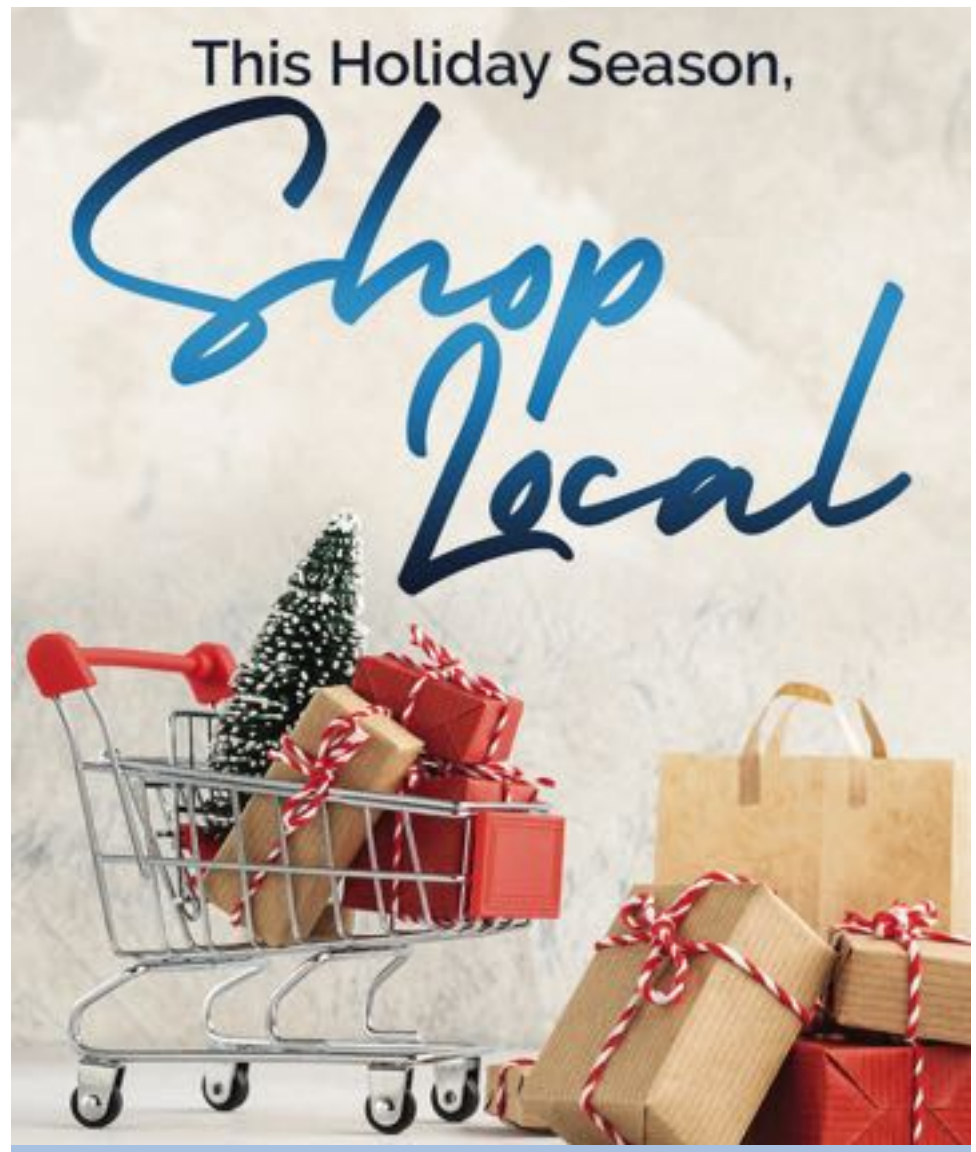
This season, let's support our local charities and
shop local to keep our small businesses strong.

Wishing you and your family a Merry Christmas
and a happy, healthy New Year.

Sincerely,
Kyle Seeback, M.P.
Dufferin-Caledon



Kyle Seeback, M.P. Dufferin-Caledon
Constituency Office
180 Broadway, 3rd Floor, Unit B
Orangeville, ON L9W 1K3
Phone: 519-941-1832
Toll Free: 1-866-941-1832
Website: www.kyleseeback.ca
E-mail: kyle.seeback@parl.gc.ca

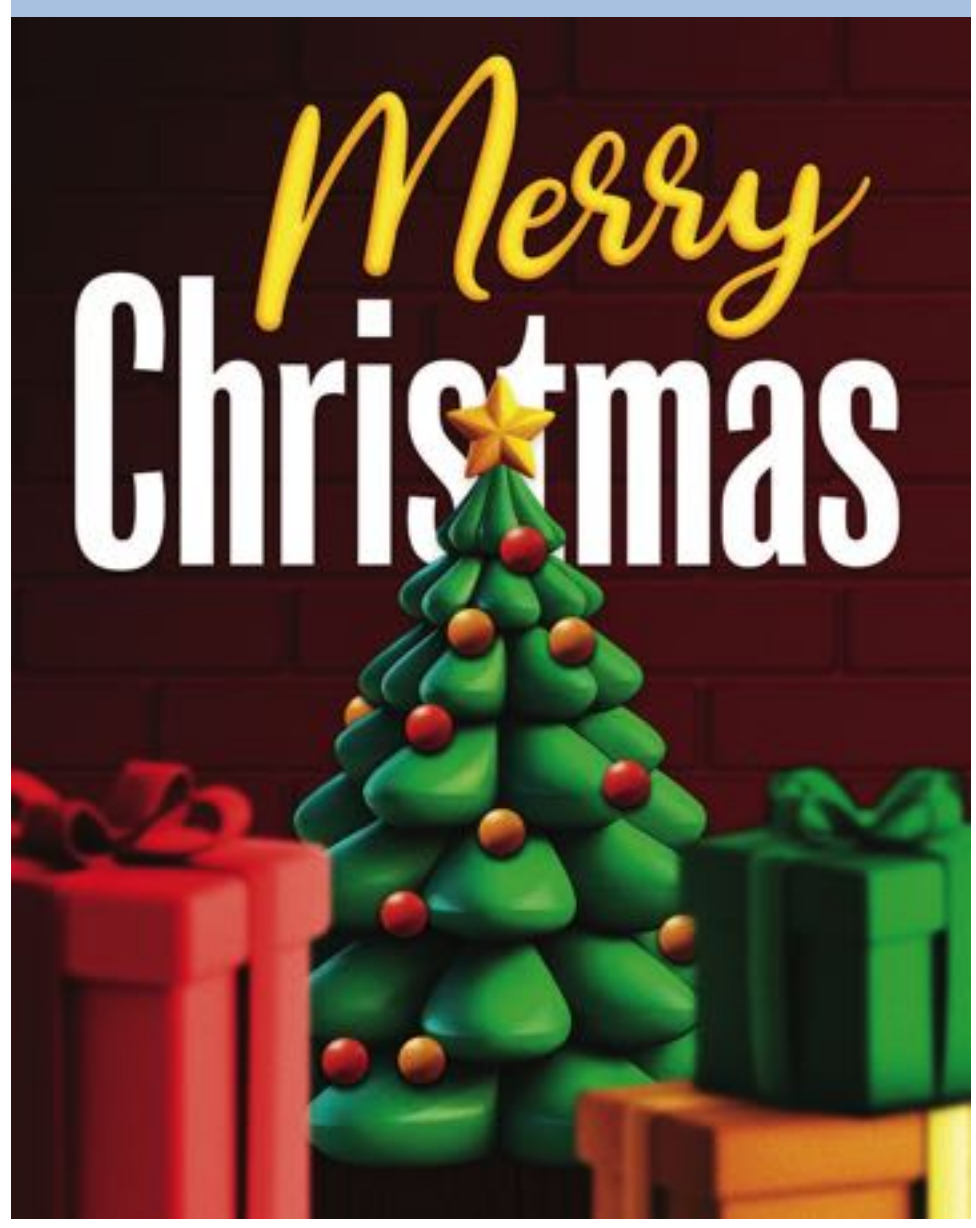




Christmas in the Park

Don’t forget to visit Christmas in the Park with your loved ones during the holidays. The **Orangeville Optimist Club** has been bringing this free, annual event to our community for 33 years. It’s full of incredible light displays, illuminated characters, and great music. It’s something the whole family can enjoy together, running now until December 31st. For more details, please see below:

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FREE | Thursday, December 18, 2025 | Volume 45, Issue 49



A "HERITAGE" CHRISTMAS – Ed Taccone, president of the Headwaters British Car Club, is seen in his garage with the club's Christmas Tree, which members decorate in less-traditional ways. The club, which recently donated nearly $2,400 to the Headwaters Health Care Centre, is in the full spirit of the season. For more on their efforts, see Page A7.

PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

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Council unanimously votes to rescind grading agreement motion for "Swan Lake"

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

After a night of delegations on December 16, six months' worth prior of advocacy, and one verse of "Big Yellow Taxi" by Joni Mitchell, the motion regarding the entering of a grading agreement allowing fill, from development sites across Caledon and the Greater Toronto Area, to be brought in to 0 Shaw's Creek Road, was rescinded.

The motion was first brought forward at a May 13 Planning and Development meeting, where Mayor Annette Groves tabled a motion that Council authorize the Director of Engineering under the Fill By-law to issue a permit, upon entering into and executing a grading agreement with developer Nick Cortelluci, owner of the property 0 Shaw's Creek Road, now affectionately known as "Swan Lake" by the community, conditional upon various plans and studies.

The motion was carried in May, and what followed were six months' worth of discussions and delegations at Council, community gatherings, and months of advocacy as the community took "Swan Lake" under their wing.

At a Council meeting in July, more than 150 residents packed the Council chambers, showing their support for 0 Shaws Creek Road with signs and posters.

At the December 16 Council meeting, an update on 0 Shaws Creek Road was presented as a memorandum, and many residents took the opportunity to speak on the issue.

One delegate, Keirstyn Parfitt, in her delegation, shared that in an email she received confirmation from the Ministry of Natural Resources that the aggregate license for 0 Shaws Creek Road had been surrendered under the Aggregate Resources Act.

"The remaining water feature was established in line with the final rehabilitation plan prior to surrender. Once a site has been rehabilitated, it is no longer considered a pit or a quarry under the Aggregate Resources Act," read the email from the MNR.

Parfitt brought this to Council's attention, as in the original motion, it was stated that the developer had "approached the Town about rehabilitating an old aggregate pit located on the property with fill created from their development sites."

One delegate even led the room packed with attendees in the chorus of "Big Yellow Taxi" by Joni Mitchell, to which he said the lyrics are "more than applicable to the situation that we are currently facing at Swan Lake."

Residents voiced their concerns about the impact of fill on their groundwater and soil, the animals that call "Swan Lake" home, the trucking and traffic issues that arise with a fill plan, and the emotional toll this has taken on many residents, especially those living near the property.

Continued on Page A8



Jennifer Casu-Morin is pictured during her delegation to Council on December 16.

PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

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“A street name is an address, not a statement” – Prince Andrew Drive name stays in Caledon East

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

On November 25, Councillor Doug Maskell brought forward a motion to rename ‘Prince Andrew Drive’ located in Ward 3.

The proposed name change was brought forward after Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor, formerly Prince Andrew, Duke of York, stated that he would stop using his royal titles due to “continued accusations about me distract from the work of His Majesty and the Royal Family”; and after the King announced he had “initiated a formal process to remove the Style, Titles and Honors of Prince Andrew.”

Mountbatten-Windsor faces a number of allegations related to his association with Jeffrey Epstein, but has vigorously denied the allegations.

During the November meeting, Maskell said he finds it “absolutely repugnant now that we have a street name named after someone who does not represent the values of our community anymore.”

When the motion was first brought forward to change the street name, an amendment was put forward by Councillor Christina Early that the motion be referred to Staff for public notice, consultation and the acceptance of affected residents, and that staff report on the consultation results by the end of 2025.

During the December 16 Council meeting, the staff report presented recommended that Prince Andrew Drive be renamed McKee Drive North, an extension of an existing street.

In the report, it was shared that the affected property owners would be granted the maximum compensation of $250 for costs incurred.

The report stated staff delivered notification letters to the four affected properties, and that three of the property owners provided verbal and written feedback, all opposing the proposed street name change because of “the personal disruption and financial burden it would cause.”

Regarding the name change of “McKee Drive North,” one of the property owners acknowledged the rationale for the proposed change but expressed concern that “McKee Drive North” is unrelated to the royal theme of the extant name and suggested alternatives.

Staff reviewed the alternatives and found that they are all either already in use or do not meet current street naming criteria.

Despite opposition, Staff recommended the name change in the report presented.

During the Council meeting, three residents of Prince Andrew Drive spoke against the name change.

Joseph Caprara, a resident of the street, shared that the opposition to the name change “is not a defense of any individual, and it’s not a political or moral debate.”



PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

“This is about whether this is a fair and reasonable municipal decision, given the real impacts on residents,” said Caprara.

Caprara noted that the street name currently poses no safety issues or confusion for emergency services, adding, “Prince Andrew Drive functions exactly the way the street name is meant to function.”

“Acting on values is one thing. Requiring residents to change their legal address, update records, and absorb inconvenience and costs is another,” said Caprara.

He noted the process each resident would have to go through when it comes to changing records, official documentation, deliveries, and more, which he said causes stress and confusion: “Changing a street name is not just a sign on a pole.”

“Treating street names as a statement creates instability and uncertainty, and residents are the ones who pay the price,” said Caprara. “A street name is an address, not a statement.”

Delegates that night also raised concern about the lack of prior consultation they faced, with notice arriving after it first appeared before Council.

“When people are asked for feedback about a decision that does not shift regardless of what they say, it can feel like the consultation is more about checking the box than genuinely weighing residents’ concerns,” said Caprara, noting Staff’s decision to recommend the name change.

Caprara added that, on top of that, there is an emotional aspect to the street name, with many of them having been there for numerous years; one couple has lived on the street for 42 years.

Renaldo Benacquista said his parents have lived on the street since 1982 and he has seen the stress this situation has caused in his parents.

“The change would cause us a lot of grief,” he said, noting the amount of work his parents would have to go through, a process that he shares they don’t fully understand.

Delegates continued to raise points about financial implications exceeding the suggested compensation amount, administrative burdens, and the impacts they would face.

The motion was defeated, and the name Prince Andrew Drive will remain in Caledon East.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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Notice of Application

Proposed Draft Plan of Subdivision

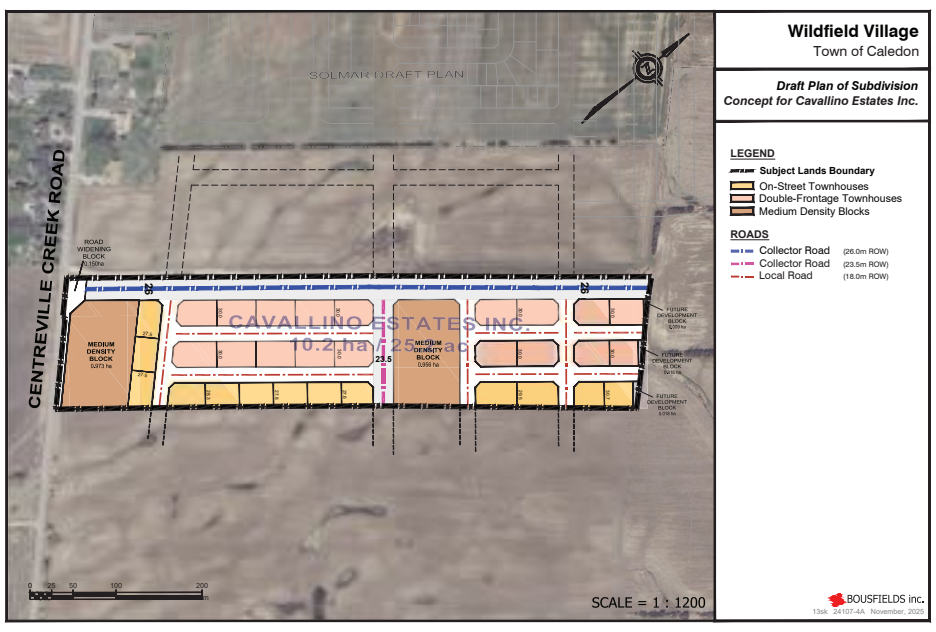
FILE NUMBER: 21T-25009C
This is to inform you that the Town of Caledon has received an application for a Draft Plan of Subdivision. Your input and insight will inform and shape plans that meet the needs of our community.

APPLICANT:
Corbett Land Strategies Inc. (c/o Jason Mosdell) on behalf of Cavallino Estates Inc. and Cavallino Estates (BT) Inc. (Trinison)

LOCATION: 0 Centreville Creek Road and 12319 Centreville Creek Road

Part Lot 2, Concession 3, Albion, Part 1 RP 43R-13565 and Part Lot 2, Concession 3, Albion, Part 6 RP 43R-3496; Town of Caledon

PROPOSED CHANGES:
The applicant has submitted a Draft Plan of Subdivision application to facilitate a residential development consisting of approximately 195 dwelling units, a medium density block, a road network and road widenings and reserves.



*The location mapping is for information purposes and it is subject to change.

LEAD PLANNER:
Tanjot Bal
Senior Planner, Development & Design
Planning and Development Department
905-584-2272 ext. 4418
Tanjot.bal@caledon.ca

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
For more information about this matter, including appeal rights, or a copy of supporting material, please visit www.caledon.ca/notices or contact the Lead Planner at Town Hall from Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

HOW TO STAY INFORMED:
If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Town of Caledon on the proposed Draft Plan of Subdivision, you must make a written request to the Clerk of the Town of Caledon, 6311 Old Church Road, Caledon, Ontario L7C 1J6.

ACCESSIBILITY:
If you require an accessibility accommodation to access any materials related to this item in an alternate format, please contact Records and Information Services by phone at 905-584-2272 x.2366 or via email at accessibility@caledon.ca.

Multi-Tenant Landowners: Please post this notice in a visible location to all residents of the land.

Notice Date: December 18, 2025

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PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

Bolton resident "Dan the Litter Man" talks trash this Holiday Season

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Daniel Melo has been helping keep Bolton and Caledon streets clean since 2021.

Whether he's armed with garbage bags and gloves, or just out for a walk with his dogs, picking up "a litter bit of everything" is his motto when it comes to keeping the community clean.

Melo can often be found in the community's parking lots and parks picking up garbage and keeping the streets clean, and sometimes sharing it with his growing online audience on TikTok, Facebook, and Instagram.

"I noticed that people are irresponsible sometimes," says Melo, thinking back to when he began his mission in 2021. "It's up to us citizens."

He says people should think twice before tossing their garbage out, let alone on the street.

"You can do anything with it, not just throw it out. If you're actually very careful with it, you can make art out of it. You can actually make little Christmas ornaments," he says.

Over the last four years, he says these trash pick-ups have been instrumental in getting him out of the house and seeing others in the community.

About a year in, Melo began filming his cleanups and posting them online.

He saw others on social media platforms do the same, and it encouraged him to try it out.

Melo says whether people know him or not, they're commenting on his posts, commending him for his efforts.

"Some people have even helped me pick up garbage in my content. I had a neighbor that helped me do it, my cousin, and then even Councillor Napoli."

Melo says hosting these pickups is a positive experience and that it's more impactful than a job.

He adds he typically goes out and does a pickup once a week, often driving around the community to notice where it needs the most help.

He finds that garbage bins outside of stores are usually overflowing, as that is a big area that he helps clean up.

Cleaning up the community is often on his mind. Melo adds that even when he's walking his dogs, he's mindful to pick up the garbage he sees.

As Melo helps clean up the community, he's worked with several community organizations, assisting with their own cleanups, including ecoCaledon.

Even when the snow comes, although it makes the pickups more challenging, "it doesn't mean I can't," clarifies Melo, as he continues to work during the winter season.

He says a large part of what makes this special for him is when people in the community approach him and tell him that they've seen his videos, and that he's doing a great job.

And to those that he inspires with his videos, he says, "Be kind. Be respectful. And be yourself, in a kind way."





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CHARGES LAID AFTER SHOTS FIRED AT RESIDENCE

The Caledon OPP has arrested and charged one individual in relation to a shooting incident in the Town of Caledon.

"On Monday, August 4, 2025, at approximately 1:15 a.m., Caledon OPP received reports of multiple gunshots fired at an occupied residence on Petch Avenue," say Police. "No injuries were reported. Two individuals believed to be involved fled the scene prior to police arrival.

"On Thursday, December 11, 2025, the Caledon OPP Major Crime Unit, with the assistance from the OPP Tactics and Rescue Unit, OPP Central Region Canine Unit and Emergency Response Team members executed search warrants at two separate locations in Caledon."

As a result of the investigation, Jashanpreet Singh, 22, from Caledon, was arrested and charged with the following Criminal Code (CC) offences:

- Discharge a firearm into or at a place in a reckless manner, s. 244.2(1)(a);
- Unauthorized possession of a prohibited or restricted firearm, s. 91(1);
- Uttering threats - cause death or bodily harm, s. 264.1(1)(a);
- Participation in criminal organization, s. 467.11.

The accused was further charged with the following CC offences after multiple vehicles were vandalized at a dealership in Caledon on Tuesday, July 8, 2025:

- Mischief over $5,000, s. 430(3);
- Uttering threats - cause death or bodily harm, s. 264.1(1)(a).

The charges have not been proven.

The accused remains in custody and is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on Friday, December 19, 2025.

The Caledon OPP Major Crime Unit continues to investigate under the direction of the OPP Criminal Investigation Branch, with assistance from the OPP Central Region Community Street Crime Unit and Peel Regional Police.

Anyone with information regarding these incidents is asked to contact Caledon OPP at 1-888-310-1122. If you wish to remain anonymous, contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or ontariocrimestoppers.ca.

SHOOTING INVESTIGATION

Members of the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are currently investigating a shooting incident in the Town of Caledon.

"On Thursday, December 11, 2025, at approximately 5:40 a.m., officers responded to a report of a shooting in front of a residence on Innis Lake Road," say Police. "No injuries were reported as a result of the incident.

"Investigators believe this is a targeted incident. The OPP urges community members to remain vigilant and promptly report any suspicious activity to the police."

This investigation remains ongoing and is being conducted by the Caledon OPP Major Crime Unit, under the direction of the OPP Criminal Investigation Branch.

Anyone with information or surveillance/dashcam footage is asked to contact Caledon OPP at 1-888-310-1122. If you wish to remain anonymous, contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or ontariocrimestoppers.ca.

EXTORTION INVESTIGATION

The OPP is investigating multiple cases of extortion dating from late 2023 to present.

"Since December 2023, the OPP has identified more than 45 cases that appear to follow a pattern of extortion," say Police. "These extortion attempts have targeted victims in the Caledon and Dufferin County areas and involve phone calls or text messages threatening violence unless a large sum of money is paid. The callers often demonstrate knowledge of the individual's home or workplace and the offences appear targeted toward members of the South-Asian community.

"Throughout 2024 and 2025, the OPP has investigated numerous weapons incidents where properties in the Caledon and Dufferin County areas have sustained property damage due to gunfire. Police believe these shootings are linked to threatening communications and extortion attempts."

Investigators would like to remind individuals and business owners:

- Extortion is defined as, "unlawfully obtaining money, property or services from a person, entity or institution through coercion," according to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre;
- If you receive a threatening call or message, report it to police immediately;
- Callers will use high-pressure intimidation tactics to solicit money from you. Do not reply to threatening messages or calls and block the originating number.

OPP Central Region continues to investigate, under the direction of the OPP Criminal Investigation Branch.

Anyone who has received threats of extortion, or has information regarding these incidents, is asked to contact Caledon OPP at 1-888-310-1122. If you wish to remain anonymous, contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or ontariocrimestoppers.ca.

DRUG TRAFFICKING CHARGES

As part of an ongoing investigation, members of the Nottawasaga Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU), assisted by officers from Dufferin CSCU, Caledon CSCU, Nottawasaga platoon officers, the Crime Reduction Unit (CRU), as well as the Tactical Response Unit (TRU) and Canine Unit, executed a search warrant at a residence on Bayberry Drive in Adjala-Tosorontio.

"The investigation began in the fall of 2025 after the accused was suspected of trafficking-controlled substances in the Simcoe and New Tecumseth areas," say Police.

On December 10, 2025, at approximately 5:00 a.m., officers executed a Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA) search warrant at the address. As a result of the investigation, officers seized the following items:

- Two cellular phones;
- Money counter;
- Four scales;
- $6,146 in cash;
- Two Visa debit cards not in the accused's name

"Officers located and seized packaging that contained residual amounts of suspected cocaine," say Police.

As a result, Jahovah McFarlane, 26, of Adjala-Tosorontio Township, was arrested and charged with the following:

- Possession of Schedule I Substance for the Purpose of Trafficking;
- Traffick in Schedule I Substance – Cocaine;
- Possession of Proceeds Obtained by Crime Over $5,000.

The charges have not been proven.

The accused is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice on January 22, 2026.

Anyone with information related to drug or property crime investigations is asked to contact the Nottawasaga OPP at 1-888-310-1122, or anonymously through Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at https://www.crimestopperssdm.com. Crime Stoppers does not subscribe to call display, and you will remain anonymous. Being anonymous, you will not testify in court.



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64				■	65					■	66			
67				■	68					■	69			

CLUES ACROSS

1. Light cavalry
5. Coconut palms
10. Rounded knob
14. Central Japan city
15. Sandwiches
16. Shape produced by a curve
17. Ancient region in modern-day Syria
18. French modernist painter
19. Grandmother
20. Mammary gland of cattle
22. Rocky peak
23. Secret plan
24. Songs to one's lover
27. More (Spanish)
30. Father
31. Chinese principle underlying the universe
32. Ballplayer's accessory
35. Together
37. A person's brother or sister
38. Evil spirit
39. Monetary units
40. Partner to cheese
41. About Sun
42. Group of like-minded people
43. After B
44. Seaside room
45. Recipe measurement
46. Partly digested food
47. Flat-faced dog
48. People of southern Africa
49. Salts
52. Beard lichens
55. Sanders is one
56. Fencing sword
60. Ethnic group of Albania
61. Metric weight unit
63. Italian seaport
64. Longtime late night host
65. Extremely angry
66. Miami mascot
67. Mid-month day
68. Marked for omission
69. Body part

CLUES DOWN

1. Two-toed sloth
2. Fat from a pig's abdomen
3. Romanian city
4. Specifies
5. Rounded, glaciated valley
6. Spoke
7. Collection of sacred books
8. Extravagantly theatrical
9. Very fast airplane
10. Forearm bones
11. Ancient kingdom
12. Legitimate: __ fide
13. Semitransparent gemstone
21. Counsels
23. Head honcho
25. Cool!
26. Touch lightly
27. Extract money via taxation
28. Dyes
29. Cloying sweetness
32. Sodas
33. Coastal village in Guam
34. Chemical ring
36. The bill in a restaurant
37. Car mechanics group
38. One-time presidential candidate Dole
40. Health care for the aged
41. Wise persons
43. Passage with access at one end
44. Make a wound
46. America's spies
47. Roof of the mouth
49. Plants of the lily family
50. Pinkish-red color
51. Vaccine developer
52. Mottled citrus fruit
53. A place to store garden tools
54. Rare goose native to Hawaii
57. Popular Hollywood pig
58. Musician Clapton
59. A move exposing one to danger
61. Historic Spanish soldier
62. CNN's founder

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Council pushes back against Provincial plan to consolidate Conservation Authorities

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Bill 68, the Plan to Protect Ontario Act, along with Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) Posting 025-1257, proposes major changes to how conservation authorities operate across the province.

Under the proposal, Ontario's 36 existing conservation authorities would be merged into seven regional conservation authorities, and the legislation, if passed, would amend the Conservation Authorities Act to create the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency.

The provincial agency would oversee conservation authorities and the transition to a regional watershed-based framework for conservation authorities in Ontario.

They are currently seeking feedback on the proposed boundaries and the criteria used to inform them for the regional consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities.

During the December 16 Council Meeting, Councillor Christina Early brought forward a motion for the Council of the Town of Caledon to not support the proposed consolidation of conservation authorities as outlined, and instead affirm their support for strong, local, watershed-based conservation authority governance with meaningful municipal representation.

The motion also calls on the Province to pause the implementation of the proposed changes and to work with municipalities, conservation authorities, Indigenous communities, and other stakeholders to explore options that improve consistency and efficiency without undermining local decision-making.

It's stated that the Town of Caledon and the Region of Peel rely on conservation authorities for technical expertise, natural hazard management, and environmental services that help guide safe and sustainable growth.

The motion notes that conservation authorities across Ontario have raised concerns that this model could weaken watershed-based decision-making, reduce local municipal input, and disrupt programs that protect people, property, and natural systems.

Council approved the motion unanimously on consent.

Similar concerns have been raised in surrounding communities; the Council of the Town of Orangeville also moved to strongly urge the Provincial Government of Ontario to withdraw all sections of Bill 68 related to amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act, and to request that the province reintroduce any proposed changes as a standalone bill, at its Council meeting held on December 8.

Holiday Closures in Caledon

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

To enjoy a safe and informed holiday season this year, the Town of Caledon has posted their holiday closures for residents.

Town offices and non-emergency services, including Provincial Offences Courts in both Orangeville and Caledon East, will be closed from Wednesday, December 24, 2025, after 12 p.m., to Thursday, January 1, 2026, inclusive, and will reopen for business on Friday, January 2, 2026.

The Caledon Public Library will be closed December 24, 25, 26, and 31, and will reopen with regular hours between December 27 and 30.

Libraries will be closed again on January 1, 2026 and reopen on January 2, 2026.

Caledon Recreation Facilities will be closed December 24 after 12 p.m., December 25, 26, and the 31 after 12 p.m., and January 1, 2026.

Animal Services will be closed December 24, 25, 26, as well as the 31st and January 1st, and will be open regular hours December 27-30.

If incidents occur during these closures, there are numerous lines to call.

For after-hours emergencies, such as downed trees on roads or flooding, call the Region of Peel at 1-888-919-7800.

To report an urgent issue involving a stray domestic animal (certain conditions apply) or a sick or injured animal, call the Town's after-hours service at 1-800-563-7881.

For power outages or to report downed wires, call Hydro One at 1-800-434-1235.

The non-emergency number for the Caledon Ontario Provincial Police is 1-888-310-1122.

If the emergency is life-threatening, call 9-1-1.

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10 for 11 Personal Training Sessions (60-minute sessions)

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10x Pass Special – Fitness Pass only

For sale beginning December 1st to December 31, 2025

Pass expires six months from date of purchase.

For more details, visit **Caledon.ca/Fitness**.

TOWN OF CALEDON



Details of this year's Headwaters British Car Club Christmas Tree. PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

Headwaters British Car Club decorates and donates this Christmas Season

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Each year, members of the Headwaters British Car Club (HBCC) enjoy a holiday tradition of getting together and decorating their Christmas tree in President Ed Taccone's garage.

Every member brings their own ornament and spends the afternoon enjoying holiday cheer while hanging their own decorations on the shared tree.

But this tree is a little different from the ones you may have in your home. On the HBCC's tree, instead of bells and whistles, you'll find wrenches, spark plugs, and zip ties.

Taccone says oftentimes when hanging his ornaments, another member will tell him, "I've been looking for a wrench like that!"

Taccone previously served as the club's president from 2017 to 2020, and is now the incoming President yet again.

Since he joined the club himself in 2014, he has started and continues to hold the All British Classic and Antique Car Show held at the Caledon Agricultural Society Fairgrounds. The event is now in its 12th year, which Taccone says has been instrumental in the HBCC's fundraising efforts.

Taccone shares he first began decorating the tree himself twelve years ago. It wasn't until other members asked to join and help out that the tradition started.

That's all part of the charm of HBCC's tree: each piece brought from members' own garages and homes to come together and decorate, much as the club comes together for the community.

The club was founded in the fall of 2008 by a small group of British car enthusiasts living in the Orangeville area. Since then, the club has grown immensely, and they now have members from all over, including Collingwood and Toronto.

HBCC shares that the purpose of their club is to provide a social framework where local British car enthusiasts can come together and enjoy all aspects of their British vehicles

But another significant purpose of their organization is to provide periodic support to local charities.

This year, their club raised $2,371.17 for Headwaters Healthcare Centre, which they presented on December 16.

Next year, HBCC looks forward to raising more funds for local charitable organizations.



Please join us for our

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, January 10th • Starts at noon

Caledon Village Place, 18313 Hurontario St., Caledon

Please RSVP 416-697-7792 by January 5th.

From our farming family to yours,

we wish you a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

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www.caledonfair.ca

TOWN OF CALEDON | NEWS | Subscribe to the Town's email newsletter at: caledon.ca/enews

Municipal, Agricultural and Community Grants Now Available



Is your not-for-profit community organization planning an event or working on a new project that will enrich the lives of Caledon residents?

Does it take place between January and June, 2026? If so, apply today for the next intake of our Municipal, and Agricultural Community Grants!

Applications close on Monday, January 5, 2026.

Visit **caledon.ca/grants** for full details and to apply!

CO Alarm Laws Change January 1, 2026



Homes with a fuel-burning appliance or attached garage must have a carbon monoxide alarm:

- Adjacent to every sleeping area
- On every storey without a sleeping area

Full details and safety tips: **caledon.ca/carbonmmonoxide**

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For full details on eligibility criteria and to nominate someone today, visit

Caledon.ca/CivicAwardsProgram



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BUSINESS

YOUR SOURCE FOR BUSINESS IN CALEDON

Council unanimously votes to rescind grading agreement motion for "Swan Lake"

Continued from FRONT

Jean-Francois Morin and Jennifer Casu-Morin, the owners of Chickadee Hill Farm, a farm directly on the border of 0 Shaws Creek Road, have delegated since May on the impact this plan could bring to not just their daily lives, but their livelihood themselves.

"The motion to allow Swan Lake to be used as a construction waste site was approved without consultation with directly affected landowners, including myself and my family. Without prior notice to directly affected landowners that the motion was even coming forward, we were not notified, and without requiring a hydrological or hydrogeological study, despite knowing the risks of dewatering and contamination," delegated Jennifer Casu-Morin.

"That combination matters because when decisions affect drinking water, the threshold for due diligence must be higher not lower. For Chickadee Hill Farm, this is not theoretical. We rely on the well. That well supplies our family's drinking water, and the water that our animals depend on," continued Casu-Morin. "If Swan Lake is dewatered, or if they contaminate the system, we do not just face inconvenience, we lose our livelihood, we lose safe drinking water. This is not a reversible harm. You can't trial water contamination and then rule it out later."

She shared the situation has been extremely stressful: "This is our livelihood, this is our business, and this is our home. And not just for us, but for our children as well."

Jean-Francois Morin shared with Council that every day he is questioned by their customers about whether they need to switch to other providers.

He asked the Council how much longer this could go on.

Councillor Mario Russo said he wants to "take action and put this matter to rest."

He said he feels the original motion has been misunderstood from the beginning, and that he stands firm on the process and the decisions rendered.

"No decision was made, no position in favour or opposed was taken," said Russo. "Listening is important, I heard loud and clear from residents opposing my position on this motion, even if I disagreed with many points they brought forward, I heard them, I really heard some points that really made sense to me."

He said perhaps more studies and analysis were needed before staff came forward with a report, as well as that greater consideration for wildlife or drinking water was needed.

Russo noted that, in light of the fact that no studies have been submitted, the time staff have spent on the matter, and "more studies potentially ought to have been considered before a final report," he wanted to end the matter.

"I felt that continuing to proceed with no time frame being definitive only increased the anxiety of those nearby that had expressed concerns, and only consumed more staff time needlessly," said Russo.

He added when matters are taken out of Town's hands, they risk matters being imposed by the Province, "this is a real risk when we consider the numerous pits with significant more acreage being filled as we speak across our Town, none of the discourse that we shared will be shared, none of the delegations will be heard, just potentially a decision imposed on lands within the Town with no Town oversight, this is a cautionary tale that must be considered."

Russo then put a motion on the floor to reconsider the original motion regarding the grading agreement to import fill into 0 Shaws Creek, following votes to allow Council to reconsider a previous motion.

The Clerk clarified that with this motion, the matter will not return in this term of Council.

"This is it, this is the final thing that we can do this term of Council on this matter."

Councillor Nick de Boer shared in Council that, in his opinion, "it should've stopped long before the first motion ever came forward."

Councillor Christina Early seconded de Boer's thoughts, adding, "We've gone through a lot of stress. But I will say, the people spoke. After how many delegations, after how many months, after how many times we've been in these chambers till one in the morning, the people spoke, and the people have made these turns of events occur."

Early noted she is still wary of the proposed new Fill By-Law, now known as the Site Alteration By-law, that is "around the corner", and added that "I still think there's going to be work in the future to make sure we protect our pits and our land in Caledon."

Councillor Lynn Kiernan also expressed her concerns about the current proposed Site Alteration By-law, which she said is a "grave concern."

"We should not be opening Caledon for large infill, we should actually be minimizing it. We shouldn't be maximizing it. We should actually take it backwards, not forwards," said Kiernan.

"Right now, I think we have some reason to celebrate. I pray that it stays that way. You know that you've got people on this table that will do everything they can to make sure it stays that way," she added.

Mayor Annette Groves noted to those who delegated, "I know that you have been caused a lot of anxiety."

"There's nothing wrong if Council decided that that was not the right thing to do at the time. There's absolutely nothing wrong in going back and saying, 'We listened to the people' because we've had several emails, we've had several people come up here and speak. We've had people tell us to rescind, and so here we are doing exactly that to hopefully calm the anxiety."

The motion was opposed unanimously.

Casu-Morin shared that following the meeting, she was in a state of shock, but the good kind.

She noted that she's been up at night for months, worrying and going over numerous contingency plans in her head.

"Every day, staying up at night worrying about it, what happens if we should sell the property because we won't be able to continue to farm? Who wants to buy meat and eggs from a farm that could be contaminated."

"Going into this meeting, knowing that it had been six months, and nothing had happened, that was stressful on its own."

"It's our livelihood as well as our home and our water, so it has been a really stressful experience, and especially because of how it started, because it was so sudden and there was not a formal notice process," she says. "The only reason we even knew that this was happening is because someone in the community knocked on our door and said, did you know this is happening?"

She shared that six months ago, when this began, she had been travelling and hoped to make it back to delegate in May and "be present for something that's so impactful to our livelihood."

"This is really a relief to get to this point where this is now behind us. I do think, like many others, that as citizens of Caledon, we really need to watch that fill bylaw, because it is really important. It's important about what we want our community to look like, and what we want to prioritize into the future."

Casu-Morin said she is appreciative of Council and Mayor Groves for recognizing the importance of her family's livelihood, their drinking water, and that the decision needed to be reconsidered.

"I appreciate them making this decision, because it allows us to move forward beyond this situation," she said.

"Most important of all, I have to say that this whole experience has given me a real appreciation for the sense of community in Caledon. When this first came out, the shock, panic, all of those kinds of things, I felt really alone. And I have to say that the number of amazing people in Caledon who care a great deal, who came forward, and who care about what's happening. It's pretty impressive. I'm very thankful to be in a community with people who care that much."



Cassie's Place and local Tim Hortons raises $17,521 during Holiday Smile Cookie fundraiser

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER



(Left to right, top to bottom) Joe Sassine, Tim Hortons Caledon Village Joanne, Councillor Cosimo Napoli, Bolton Tim Hortons Brad Stafford, Councillor Doug Maskell, Mayfield and Airport Tim Hortons Jason Scianitti and Michelle Scianitti, Michelle Milani from Cassie's Place, and Cassie's Place participants Jessica, Lauren, and Serena.
PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

The Tim Hortons Holiday Smile Cookie 2025 fundraiser ran from November 17 to November 23, and 100 per cent of proceeds went towards local charities, community groups, and Tim Hortons Foundation Camps across Canada.

Four different local Caledon Tim Hortons locations teamed up with Cassie's Place in order to raise $17,521.49 this holiday season, which will go directly towards supporting Cassie's Place and Tim Hortons Foundation Camps.

Cassie's Place is a non-profit dedicated to empowering individuals with developmental disabilities by providing personalized programs and services.

Joe Sassine, Director of Cassie's Place, shares that this year's fundraiser was a true team effort, topping last year's total amount raised.

Both participants of Cassie's Place and Tim Hortons members joined together to help sell the cookies this year, as well as Sassine's grandchildren's soccer teams.

Sassine says he not only thanks Tim Hortons and all the participants this year, but also the parents of the participants, and the Town of Caledon.

"Without them, we would not be where we are," he said. "On behalf of everybody at Cassie's Place, we really thank Tim Horton's owners and Tim Horton head office for selecting Cassie's Place as their recipient of the donation."

Sassine adds that they have been working on the Holiday Smile Cookie Fundraiser with Tim Hortons for the past three years, and, on top of that, have been involved with Tim Hortons for many years prior.

"They have been one of our major fundraising organizations."

Although this year it was a little tougher to sell the cookies due to the cold weather, he says the Caledon community still supported them.

"Caledon people really come together when there is a need to," adds Sassine.

He shares that many even came by to buy extra cookies just to freeze them for later.

Sassine shares that Cassie's Place began as a small organization and, over the years, with the community's support, has grown and provided more opportunities for Cassie's Place participants.

100% of the funds raised, Sassine explains, goes right back to Cassie's place, helping to make their various programs, such as yoga, swimming, dance, and more, completely free to participants.

Going forward, Sassine shares he looks forward to growing the organization and providing its services to more and more people.

They run two main fundraisers throughout the year: Cassie's Place Annual Golf Tournament and their Holiday Smile Cookie Fundraiser.

With these funds, Sassine says they're able to support every participant in their programs, noting that, especially with the economy right now, many families are facing financial problems.

Local Bolton Tim Hortons owner, Brad Stafford, says that, especially around the holidays, it's a time of need.

"What we want to do is try and help everybody, and at the same time we're helping the kids with the foundation camps."

He shares that he first met Cassie's Place at the Caledon Special Olympics, where they were helping with the Special Olympics Donut sales. He shares that they've had a great connection since, and he's continually wanted to support their organization over the years.

For the past three years, they have supported and worked with Cassie's Place for the Holiday Smile Cookie Fundraiser.

Stafford echoes Sassine's comments about the fundraiser being a team effort.

"When we get the volunteers to come out it does make a difference, and these guys are an engaged charity that helps us help them," says Stafford.



PUBLIC NOTICE

HAVE YOUR SAY

Notice of Open House
Proposed Zoning By-law Amendment

FILE NUMBER: RZ 2016-0014
Related File Number: SPA 2016-0063

An Open House will be held to consider a proposed Zoning By-law Amendment. Your input and insight will inform and shape plans that meet the needs of our community.

Date: **January 14, 2026**

Time: **6 PM to 8 PM**

OPEN HOUSE LOCATION:

Gathering Space, Humber River Centre,
28 Ann Street, Bolton, ON L7E 1B9

APPLICANT:

Robert Russell Planning Consultants Inc.
on behalf of 2473903 Ontario Inc.

LOCATION OF SUBJECT PROPERTY:

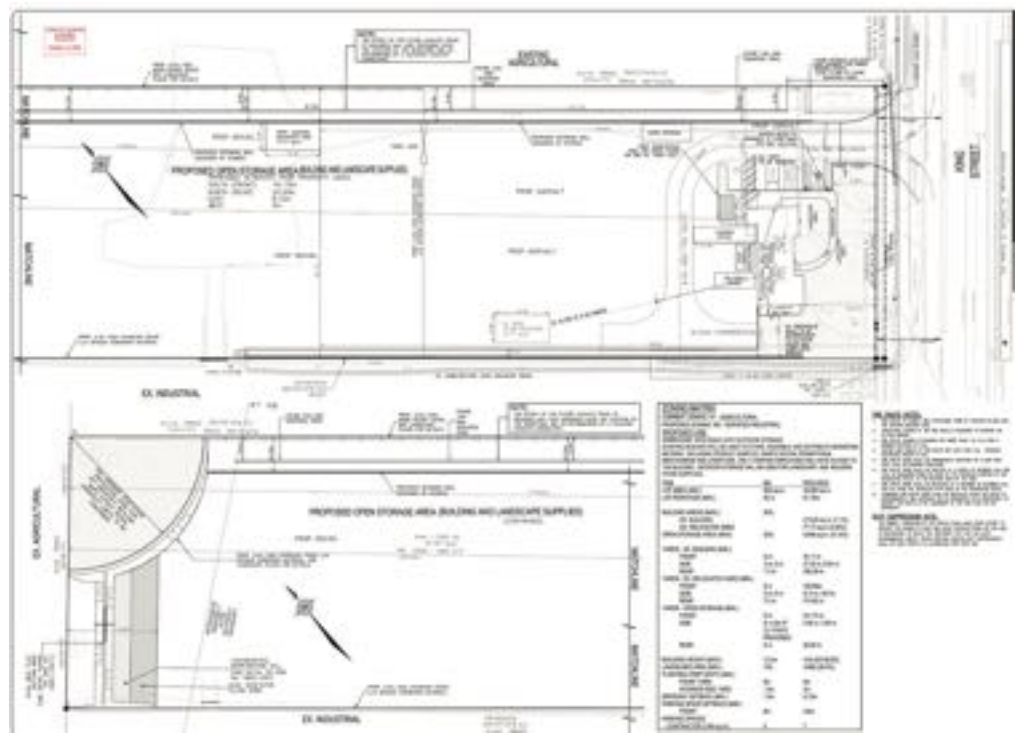
8186 King Street CON 5 ALB PT LOT 11

PROPOSED CHANGES:

The applicant has submitted a Zoning By-law Amendment application to facilitate the development of a Contractor's Facility, Business Office and Accessory Open Storage Area.

This Open House has been scheduled to provide the public further opportunity to review the current proposal as a number of years has passed since the Statuatory Public Information Meeting was held.

**The aerial mapping is for information purposes OR The illustration is a conceptual plan for information purposes and it is subject to change. The application is currently under review by the Town of Caledon.*



LEAD PLANNER:

Sagar Babbar, MA
Community Planner, Development Planning and Development Department
905-584-2272 ext. 4041
sagar.babbar@caledon.ca

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

For more information about this matter, including appeal rights, a copy of the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment and for supporting material, please visit www.caledon.ca/notices or contact the Lead Planner at Town Hall from Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

APPEAL PROCEDURE:

If a person or public body would otherwise have an ability to appeal the decision of Town of Caledon to the Ontario Land Tribunal but the person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to Town of Caledon before the by-law is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting, or make written submissions to Town of Caledon before the by-law is passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Land Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

HOW TO STAY INFORMED:

If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Town of Caledon on the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment, you must make a written request to the Clerk of the Town of Caledon, 6311 Old Church Road, Caledon, Ontario, L7C 1J6.

ACCESSIBILITY:

If you require an accessibility accommodation to attend or participate in this Open House, or to access any materials related to this item in an alternate format please contact Records and Information Services by phone at 905-584-2272 x.2366 or via email at accessibility@caledon.ca. Requests should be submitted at least 10 days before the Open House.

Multi-Tenant Landowners: Please post this notice in a visible location to all residents of the land.

Notice Date: December 18, 2025

TOWN OF CALEDON

6311 Old Church Road
Caledon, ON L7C 1J6
caledon.ca
T. 905.584.2272 | 1.888.225.3366 | F. 905.584.4325

BROCK WEIR
BROCK'S BANTER

Socks, Booze and Vintage Giving

This has been a challenging year for so many and given all we've collectively had to navigate throughout 2025, we have to celebrate the little wins.

One little win I was all too happy to celebrate over the weekend was a bright spot of sunshine on an otherwise grey and bleak Saturday – and that was somehow finishing off my Christmas shopping with eleven days to spare.

That's not to say that I don't try to be a proactive person wherever possible, but life, as we all know, has a tendency to get in the way, especially at this time of year.

I don't know how anyone else tasked this year with getting me a gift is faring – full disclosure: for our wider family, we operate on a Secret Santa system of giving – but I hope they finished a good long while ago.

While I've never considered myself particularly hard to buy for, I've heard from more than a few people that I'm in the minority on that. Time and time again I'm told finding just the right gift to me is particularly challenging. I don't really understand why; after all, a good book, a bottled potent potable, or any number of things that happen to bear the iconic visage of Lucille Ball, always hit the right spot.

Heck, a good pair of socks? Sign me up!

Well, I guess I'm at that age.

I never could have anticipated as a child that a good, cozy, well-made pair of socks could get me as excited as the oversized novelty version hung from the mantle and stretched out by whatever Santa left as he passed by. Yet, every so often we surprise ourselves.

Socks, Lucy and/or something to drink. Easy-peasy.

But I guess that depends on what you want to imbibe.

One "something to drink" I'd rather pass on at this point of time is bourbon. Never in my top five of potent potables, something apparently hopelessly off-trend, I didn't exactly suffer when the "Elbows Up" philosophy saw such bottles removed from our shelves, but I was happy to stand shoulder-to-shoulder, tumbler-to-empty-tumbler with those who were.

And, if those shoppers happen to be comparatively parched compared to this time last year when Christmas parties and open bars were in full swing, I'm hoping they get a win sooner rather than later.

Earlier this month, the Province of Nova Scotia, a jurisdiction like Ontario where liquor sales are controlled by a Provincial body, and likewise joined Ontario in pulling U.S. alcohol off shelves at the start of the trade war, announced an innovative way to dispose of a great deal of what was put in storage.

Their approach was to offer $14 million-worth of wine and spirits for sale, with proceeds benefiting organizations combatting issues surrounding food insecurity, including Feed Nova Scotia.

"We remain committed to a Team Canada approach to tariffs and trade," said Premier Tim Houston. "We will not be ordering any more from the United States once this inventory is gone. But Nova Scotians have already paid for this product. We don't want it to go to waste. That's why we're selling it and using proceeds to help those in need."

Manitoba was quick to follow Nova Scotia's lead, with similar sales through Christmas Eve, and an estimated $500,000 worth of revenue, benefiting charities helping food insecurity, Indigenous organizations, and children's charities.

"Manitobans have been resilient against Donald Trump's tariffs and deserve some holiday cheer," said Premier Wab Kinew. "We are offering people a chance to give back to the most vulnerable families during this holiday season."

Added Northern Relations Minister Glenn Simard: "By offering these U.S. products during the holidays, Manitobans will have additional options for their family gathering while at the same time contributing to assistance for vulnerable Manitobans for whom the holidays can be a challenging time. We strongly believe that removing U.S. alcohol from the shelves is the right thing to do at a time when our economy is under attack from illegal tariffs. Rather than waiting for products to expire and be destroyed, they will now fund community organizations instead."

Yet, in Ontario, where so many organizations across the Province, and right here at the community level, are practically bending over backwards to make the season bright for as many people in need as they did in 2024 and 2023, the same moves are not being made.

As late as Monday, December 15, the Province insisted it had no plans to join Nova Scotia, Manitoba, and others in reducing the boozy stockpile for the greater good.

The argument against selling the U.S. stockpile for charity is not unsound, however, with the Premier and his Government arguing that doing so might deter people from buying locally-produced boozy alternatives this season.

That could very well be true but, at the end of the day, if people really, really want Kentucky Bourbon or Tennessee Whisky, locally-produced alternatives aren't going to cut it – unless they're simply looking to pour out a bottle of rye into the asphalt to make some sort of statement.

Ahead of Giving Tuesday on December 2, an annual movement which benefited so many organizations that are the building blocks of our community, a report from CanadaHelps, a leading online donation and fundraising platform, provided some pretty stark statistics.

They reported the generosity gap is widening by income and younger Canadians aren't as likely to give.

"Those earning more than $150,000 a year account for half (49 per cent) of all donations – a divide that continues to grow as affordability challenges persist," they reported. "Almost a third of 18 – 35-year-old Canadians (27 per cent) haven't given to charity in the past five years – six percentage points higher than the national average. People over the age of 65 contributed to half of all donation dollars in Canada in 2023.

"Over the past 12 months, more than one in four Canadians haven't donated to charity (31 per cent), showing there's still a huge opportunity to inspire generosity."

There's no magic formula to inspire generosity, but there are plenty of opportunities to lead by example, and I fear Ontario – with Christmas now, as of December 18, less than a week away – missed the boat in making a real, practical difference this holiday season.

There's no end in sight to this trade war, so unless the powers-that-be get creative, what was taken off of shelves at the start of the year will only continue to collect dust. While I'm told many of these products improve with age, I'm not necessarily holding my breath we'll see a charity sell-off, even with a vintage premium, next year.

In the meantime, we can all raise a glass to those who have stepped up to help this year, from large scale donors, to individuals and small collectives knitting and selling everything from toques and mittens, to those glorious aforementioned socks, to have as much of an impact as they possibly can.



Looking for comfort in all kinds of places

by Mark Pavilons



We humans need comfort as much as we need food and water.

During the holidays, one specific carol extends tidings of "comfort and joy."

Just what is comfort and why is it so import to us humans?

A lexicon defines it as "a state of physical ease and freedom from pain or constraint" or "the easing or alleviation of a person's feelings of grief or distress."

We seek comfort for many reasons, some of which are rooted in survival, security, brain chemistry, and psychological well-being. It's an instinct to seek safety and security, which provide a sense of peace and stability, helps us cope with stress, and is reinforced by the brain's reward system, dishing out the feel-good dopamine.

Being safe and secure tends to relate to being protected from danger, something we all want.

When overwhelmed, who doesn't long for the comfort of the sofa at home, or pulling the blanket over our heads?

Our minds tend to be drawn to "familiarity," which breads comfort. This is especially important for those reluctant to change, or trying new things.

Our comfort can also be tied to emotional security, especially during times of stress, sadness or fear.

Some wonder why our seniors turn to nostalgia more often than not. Well, there's a lot of comfort in the good, old days, times when life was less complicated. While I'm a "young senior," I too, long for the lazy, hazy days of summer, tassels on bike handle bars and catching frogs by the pond.

Comfort comes from many sources, including personal connections with family, friends, or pets; physical sensations like warmth from a blanket or a hot drink; routines and emotional support through shared experiences or listening. I find comfort in a relaxing hobby. I love connecting with nature, and finding solace wherever can.

Our kids are still at home, so when we gather, the whole family is together. I am totally blessed right there. When one is missing – just out for the night with friends – things just don't feel right.

My mind is crammed with so much these days, I often get off the hamster wheel and think about painting my tiny model airplanes. Their designs, and tweaking them to my own style, invade my mind.

Shapes, colours and tones distract me, fine-tune my attention and let my imagination soar, far from the ground where my troubles lay.

And who doesn't love their favourite "comfort food?"

Food is much more than nourishment and grabbing that special item or snack, especially when we're feeling frustrated. It almost always hits the spot.

Apparently, experts say being "comfortable" is the perfect jumping off point for self-improvement and healing.

It can be a foundation to allow us to later contemplate ideas, take risks, and reach higher goals, even though too much can prevent growth.

I've never owned a pair of ruby slippers but I have uttered the phrase "there's no place like home."

There are modern comforts, comfort food, comfy clothes and comfort stations.

One of the first things we do when we get home from work is slip into our comfies – track pants, sweats and even flannel onesies.

We modern humans are spoiled rotten. Our entire lineage of ancestors – going back hundreds of thousands of years – struggled to survive. A cave and a fire were all they had in terms of comfort. Humankind didn't really know true comfort until the creation of indoor plumbing and electricity. And, of course, comfort came into its own with the advent of potato chips, popcorn and frosty, tasty beverages.

I have known comfort, but it is fleeting in this hectic, stressful society we've created.

To me, comfort is always close to home. Relaxing on a patio chair in the back yard on a July afternoon with a beverage soothes my soul, albeit temporarily.

Lately, I can't wait to get home from work and seeing my "babies" – our three dogs. Comfort is relaxing on the sofa, with one of our dogs in my lap. I'm not sure if they're seeking the same thing but perhaps they are. Being close to their human, feeling warm and safe, is what's comforting to them. Snuggled close to their human, they don't have to worry about sudden, loud noises, strangers, doorbells or squirrels.

They give me peace like nothing else. They say having a dog, and petting them daily, extends your life. I'll take every extra hour I can get.

Of course, we can't ignore religion, and the billions of individuals who believe in a higher power.

Religion is comforting because it provides a sense of purpose and meaning, a community of support, and ways to cope with anxiety, stress, and, of course, death. It can offer hope for the future, a belief in a cosmic order, and a framework for understanding and managing difficult life events, which helps people feel more resilient and emotionally regulated.

I've been thinking a lot about a higher power, creation and the afterlife ever since my diagnosis.

The more I learn, the more amazed I am at the unfathomable expanse of the "heavens" above. Trillions of suns, joined by even more planets, existing in perfect harmony and synchronicity.

The more we learn, the more unbelievable it becomes.

To me, all this suggests a plan, a divine sense of order and purpose.

If the All Mighty can create the universe, maybe there's hope for little, old me.

For those facing sickness and death, religion can be a comfort by providing a relationship to a divine being, offering hope for life after death, and assuring a sense of cosmic order.

I will take comfort in any form that comes my way – the arms of my wife, the paws of my pups, the laughter of my children and photos of family members who've since moved on.

Almost always, the greatest comfort is the feeling that you are not alone.

Oh, and let's not forget grilled cheese sandwiches and walking barefoot. Is there anything more comfortable than that?



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SHERALYN ROMAN
TALK CALEDON



By the numbers

Not having little ones in my home anymore it took me a while to learn about the 6-7 craze. As I understand it, the kids are going crazy (ad nauseum) about 6-7 and so, out of curiosity, I finally asked some teacher friends of mine what it meant. Apparently, it means very little, or at least not anything the kids are willing to admit to. On the other hand, Caledon has a different set of numbers and unlike "6-7," ours seem to have more significance. What are these numbers? For those who follow Council meetings closely, they are "5-4" and their meaning, whether real or interpreted, are influencing the future development of Caledon.

We are facing unprecedented growth in Caledon, much of which has been mandated by the provincial government. This has led to significant challenges in terms of how that growth is managed; challenges that impact everything from housing density, to roads, to infrastructure and more. This situation is made worse by Caledon's decision to far exceed that mandated amount of growth, and by a Council that is clearly divided in how that growth proceeds. I don't doubt for a moment that being a member of Council is difficult work, but with the Mayor holding Strong Mayor powers, and a seemingly consistent voting block having emerged on many divisive issues, residents in some wards might be forgiven for thinking their best interests, and the interests of Caledon as a whole, are not being heard.

Whether we are addressing homes (the province asked for 13,000 but Caledon decided 35,000 was a better idea) or the location of high-density housing planned next to the alleged arrival of a GO Transit hub (wreaking havoc on Highway 50 which is already a traffic nightmare) Council appears divided and citizens are left delegating in vain in an effort to have their concerns heard.

Other contentious issues like the potential for massive volumes of truck traffic delivering massive volumes of construction garbage to be dumped in a local lake, also result in a voting pattern that, more often than not, results in a 5-4 split. Budget talks? Building a theatre? I'm not saying every vote ends 5-4 but if we were to do a deep dive into the Council minutes and recorded votes, 5-4 would certainly appear with some regularity. Some of you might think this is democracy in action and that's just "how things work." But when it happens over, and over, and over again, it begs the question; is in fact, a fully-functioning democracy at work here?

Consider too the general level of dysfunction that seems to currently exist. One Councillor has been consistently brought before the Integrity Commissioner; the Mayor has taken to social media platforms on more than one occasion to express her displeasure at particular actions taken within Council chambers, and several Councillors have, quite vehemently, expressed their concerns on the record during Council meetings about how distracting all of this alleged divisive behaviour is in terms of trying to get council business done.

Agendas are packed, Council meetings regularly stretch into the "wee hours" and a myriad of concerns have been raised by Caledon residents about how, when, or even if, public consultation on key issues is conducted.

None of this looks likely to change any time soon. Eight members of Council (and a Mayor with the deciding vote) combined with acrimony, allegations and attitudes, has resulted in 5-4 vote splitting happening more often than your average 10 year old says "6-7" with a smirk.

But there's nothing funny about "5-4." We are a little less than a year away from a municipal election and the future of Caledon, what type of "community of communities" we will become, hangs in the balance.

Democracy demands that residents take an active role and participate fully in order for it to work. It also expects that those we elect to act on our behalf find a way to work together to represent our best interests and not just those of all the other potential players who claim to have a stake in our community; like the Province, developer interests, or big business.

Saying "6-7" is either cute or frustrating depending on your perspective but "5-4" is just plain frustrating.

Egan Funeral Home's Candlelight Memorial Service helps community navigate Holiday Grief

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Since 1994, locally and family-owned Egan Funeral Home in Bolton has been offering a Community Candlelight Memorial Service around the Holidays on the first Sunday of December.

This annual non-denominational memorial service is designed specifically to help those experiencing the loss of a loved one cope with the Holiday season.

The service features special music and carols, and a message of hope and guidance on coping through the season from their officiant, who is a retired grief counsellor, Dr. Bill Webster.

Those in attendance receive inspirational messages, and the service concludes with an invitation to light a candle in memory of their loved one.

Elaine Egan joined Egan Funeral Home in 1990 and spearheaded the idea behind the memorial service when it began four years later.

"My dad and I just felt that the community needed something during the Christmas season to try and make it through. We knew of another funeral home that did this out in Welland, so dad and I traveled out there to see how they did it, and we brought it here to the Caledon community," shares Egan.

The service was held for 25 straight years until 2019, when, unfortunately, it had to stop during COVID.

2025 marks the first year Egan Funeral Home has begun running the service again following COVID, and the passing of Paul Egan.

"Our team was thrilled to bring it back, we know the community needs it," she says, noting that for many, this is how they start their Holiday season.

This year, they brought the service back to Holy Family Church, where it was originally held in 1994.

She notes that those at Holy Family were very accepting of them, holding their non-denominational service at their church, as Egan Funeral Home invites everyone to the service.

"It brings everyone together within the grieving process," says Egan. "It feels like you're not so alone, that there are other people struggling with the season."

She shares that those who are able to come and light a candle in memory of their loved one, as well as take a candle home to light during the Holiday season.

Egan says this year's service, held on December 7, was very well attended and that families were very appreciative of the service.

This year's service was also marked with special music from soloist Angela Hay and pianist Anatoly Ivchenko.

To view more information about the Egan Funeral Home and their services, visit www.eganfuneralhome.com.

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ARTS & CULTURE

Student creativity takes spotlight in Mayfield Dance program's "To Infinity & Beyond!"

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mayfield Secondary School's Dance Program calls the curtain on this year's fall dance production, "To Infinity & Beyond! A Toy Story Tale."

The production, under the artistic direction of the dance teachers Samantha Rolo, Melina Pereira and Given Yirenkyi, featured students in Grades 9 – 12 in the Regional Arts Program, with 200 dancers from their dance department bringing the 1995 animated film, Toy Story, to life.

The show featured an almost fully student-choreographed production presenting a wide range of dance genres, including hip-hop, modern, contemporary, fusion and more.

Mayfield Secondary School also welcomed guest choreographers for their performance,

Kajaanan "KJ" Navaratnam, who choreographed a Kuthu piece that was the opening number of the show, and Raoul Pillay, who highlighted the vernacular jazz genre in their finale.

Students began working on the production in September and have spent many months rehearsing, choreographing, planning, and organizing the show in all areas.

Samaya Hodge, a Grade 12 Student at Mayfield Secondary School, not only played Woody in the production, but took on the leadership role of publicity.

Leadership roles, dance teacher Melina Pereira explains, are introduced into the productions for Grade 12 students.

"It's really important for them to have another aspect of what it takes to be planning a show," she says. "And for them to see a different side of what show planning takes."

She explained the roles range from student producers to room supervisors, creative roles, and more.

"It's always really nice seeing those Grade 12s step up and take on that role," says Pereira. "They are really a helping hand to the teachers as well and it's allowing them to develop a different skill set that they can use once they leave Mayfield Dance as well, which I think is always the most rewarding to see them grow up and take on more of that leadership."

Hodge participated in the dance production in her first year of high school, and says that coming back in a leadership role this year was not only hard work but also extremely enjoyable.

"This program, being given the opportunities to do such a thing is really important, especially to me and probably a lot of other students too. From having that experience from Grade Nine, giving it a break and coming back to Grade Twelve and doing it, it was just like a really uplifting way to end off my high school career."

Hodge describes this year's fall production as a "childhood memory," bringing forward feelings of nostalgia, happiness, and togetherness.

She shared that the production was about bringing people together, and that was the same throughout the show, behind the scenes, as each class had its own role within the production.

Within the show, there were lead pieces and class pieces, and, during the process, choreographic opportunities were given to senior Grade 11 and 12 students to audition for an extra piece.

"The cool thing about it is that so many people are working so many different parts of it, but bringing it all together to make one whole storyline production that comes together at the end is always the most exciting for me to see everything coming together and just knowing that there's so many different puzzle pieces that get put together," says Pereira.

The production was all-hands-on-deck, as their tech for the show was handled by their sound and lighting class, taught by Michael Moon, the Dance and Music Department Head.

"That community of knowing that all these moving parts have to work together in order to put on a show like this is important for them to know as well," adds Pereira.

For the dancers in the show, that community feeling was truly felt.

Hodge says a part of what she loved about the show was working with the younger grades.

"Back when I was in Grade Nine, I had a lot of social anxiety, and I felt like the Grade 12s were people to really look up to. It felt really nice to be now in their position and working with the Grade Nines within my lead role. For the finale and in all these different things and providing kind of… seniority as in someone to look up to," says Hodge.

She adds that although everyone's plates were extremely full, whether with extracurriculars or classwork, it taught them vital skills such as responsibility and organization.

"I have academic work and I have the show and I have stuff going on outside of school, but knowing that I need to focus on this at this moment and making sure that I know what I'm doing, I can execute it properly and I'm doing it with a lot of love and respect."

Watching the students go through the creative process, Pereira notes, was "finally bringing the magic to the stage."

"They have to think of the costuming, the storytelling, the movement of the characters that they're becoming," she explains. "Once they start setting the movement and actually choreographing it, then to see the final product on stage is always, I think, the most exciting and most rewarding part of it for us as a teacher, but also for them as the students."

She adds that a lot of times, before the students come to Mayfield, they are used to being a part of someone else's creative process.

"Now they actually get to experience it for themselves where they are the driving force of this piece being created," says Pereira.

"It's a great learning opportunity," says Hodge. "[Dance is] always something that I feel brings a sense of community and you can portray your emotions, you can portray your culture, you can do so many things within moving your body."

Hodge shares that she has wanted to do dance since she was two-years-old.

"I always had an itch for creativity even when I was in elementary school. I enjoy choreographing on my own, even though we have the opportunities to do with others, I feel like I'm really able to focus on what I have a vision for, and once it's all together and I see it on stage and I'm watching back videos and stuff like that, it's a whole different feeling because I feel like I'm able to show everybody like what's going on in my head most of the time," she says.

"All of that doesn't even compare to how it feels doing it on stage with my peers. It feels really

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SPORTS



Student-Athlete of the Week Kieara Mighty's "Lightning Fast Speed" led Wolfpack to Flag Football Gold



KIEARA MIGHTY

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BY JIM STEWART

The "Lightning Fast Speed" featured by Kieara Mighty on the Varsity Girls Flag Football field is matched by her quick and successful transition to life in High School at Robert F. Hall.

The Grade 9 student has impressed Wolfpack Coach Andrea Czyrka.

"Kieara is a dedicated, strong, and naturally-gifted athlete with impressive knowledge of flag football at such a young age. Her experience and involvement in the sport outside of school has benefitted the team immensely. Despite only being in her first year at Hall, she has instantly become an inspiration on the field with her lightning-fast speed and reactions."

Coach Czyrka outlined Mighty's qualities as a student: "Kieara's transition from Grade 8 to Grade 9 has been a big step for her as she moves from the familiar environment of elementary school to the larger, faster-paced world of high school. She is continually gaining more independence, new responsibilities, and a wider range of opportunities and challenges both in the classroom and on the football field here at Hall."

What impresses Coach Czyrka the most about the rookie student-athlete is her natural athleticism: "Kieara's most impressive talents would be her incredible speed, agility, and overall strength. She moves explosively across the field, weaving past defenders with ease and precision. She is a major threat to defenders as she dips, turns, and pivots her way past opponents with both flags still attached.

Coach Czyrka highlighted a key performance moment from the Wolfpack's Gold Medal-winning season which encapsulated Mighty's impact on the gridiron.

"Kieara's composed demeanour does not appear threatening to opponents until she gets the ball in her hands. In the game against Mayfield, Kieara received a handoff in our own endzone and miraculously managed to weave her way down and across the field running for over an 80-yard gain and leading the team to a touchdown in just two downs. We are excited to see how she grows with the program here at Hall over the next four years.

Kieara Mighty took time from her busy pre-Christmas schedule to respond to our interview questions:

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

Kieara Mighty: "I showed teamwork and effort all season. I always tried my best to help my team."

Caledon Citizen: What key statistics and performance moments from the 2025-2026 season are you most proud of?

Kieara Mighty: "I'm proud of my touchdowns I've made in games. I feel like I improved a lot this season."

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

Kieara Mighty: "I play for the Peel Panthers and my positions are QB and WR. Playing for Peel Panthers helps me get better and learn more about football."

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

Kieara Mighty: "I'm a hardworking student who tries to do well in school and sports and keep my grades strong."

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

Kieara Mighty: "I plan to go to college or university and stay involved in sports there, too."

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

Kieara Mighty: "My role models are my sister and my father because they always support me and push me to do my best. They inspire me to work harder and they are also athletes."

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

Kieara Mighty: "I feel really happy and thankful to be nominated. It means a lot that my coaches chose me to be nominated."

Keeler kayos King with four-point performance in Admirals' 5-2 win over Rebellion

BY JIM STEWART

After a 4-1 home ice loss to Milton on Thursday and a last-minute 3-2 loss in Burlington on Friday, the ninth-place Admirals arrived at the Zancor Centre on Sunday afternoon in desperate need of a win.

Paced by Nolan Keeler's four-point performance, Caledon defeated King 5-2 to climb back into eighth place in the highly-competitive OJHL West. With the loss, the Rebellion (19-12-1-0) fell into seventh place—eight points ahead of the Admirals.

Keeler kicked off the festivities in King Township by firing his 16th of the season past Rebellion goaltender Noah Maven to give the visitors a 1-0 lead at 6:03 of the first period. The productive left winger described the opening tally: "It was a good goal. Our line forechecked hard. Owsicki made a nice move to get it over the blue line and Fang saucered me a pass. Maven got a piece of it, but I was happy to see it go in."

The Keeler-Fang-Owsicki line clicked two more times in the second period to give the maroon-clad Admirals a three-goal lead. Keeler set up Owsicki 1:42 into the middle frame to make it 2-0 and all three linemates earned points nine minutes later when Fang fired a snapshot from between the circles that Maven blocked partially.

However, the puck flipped through Maven and into the back of the cage.

Keeler described the chemistry and productivity of his line: "It's really good. We had a 14-game point streak. We're different kinds of players so our line is constructed well. We have a complementary set of skills that other teams have a tough time covering. Fang's goal was a nice effort by our line."

The Admirals went up 4-0 on a fine individual play by speedy Cam Lang. Playing 4 on 4, Lang found space, cut to the net off left wing, Maven stopped Lang's first shot in the slot, but the cagy veteran tapped in his own rebound.

The Admirals' fourth goal on 29 shots chased Maven—the fifth-ranked goaltender in the OJHL—and Logan Kennedy took his place between the pipes.

Keeler commented on the significance of Maven's departure from the contest 12:24 of the second period: "It was important for us for sure. Maven's a great goalie, but we were shooting really well today, too."

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OBITUARIES

FRANK BAKER
1939 – 2025



Frank passed away peacefully on Tuesday, December 9th, 2025. He was predeceased by his loving wife Joan (2016), and his siblings Maureen, Irene, Brian and Harry. Frank will be missed by his son Peter (Kim), daughter Tracy (Chris), stepdaughters Brenda (John), Bev (Larry) and predeceased by Brian (Lori). Frank leaves behind his grandchildren Kevin, Holly (Mathieu) , Rachael, Kirsten (Zsolt) , Brandon (Carol), Cassandra (Kevin), Karlee (John), Natalee (Mike), Chloe (Gerald) and 8 great grandchildren. A heartfelt thanks to the caring PSW staff at 20 Walker Road, Caledon East.

Cremation has taken place. The family will receive their friends at the Egan Funeral Home, 203 Queen Street S. (Hwy 50), Bolton (905-857-2213) on Saturday, January 31st, 2026 for a celebration of life from 1:00-3:00pm with words of remembrance at 1:30pm. Condolences for the family may be offered at www.EganFuneralHome.com

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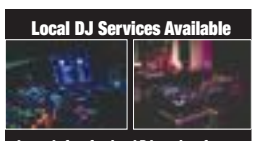
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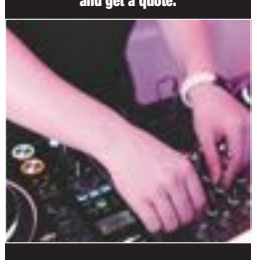


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DONALD SHAPCOTT



With a heavy heart we announce the passing of Donald Shapcott on Sunday, November 30, 2025 at Inglewood Hospice after a long stay at Headwaters hospital.

He is sadly missed by his wife Irene and family.

Per his wishes cremation has taken place and a celebration of life is being planned for July closer to his birth date.

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Position Summary

The Process Control & Machine Operator plays a critical role in our manufacturing process, responsible for ensuring the efficient and safe operation of bottling processing equipment. This role involves operating and maintaining specialized multi-function process control bottling machinery, monitoring production processes, and adhering to quality standards to ensure the consistent bottling of beverages. This position requires a strong focus on safety, attention to detail, ability to interpret technical instructions to operate sophisticated equipment and the ability to work effectively in a fast-paced environment.

- This is a full-time position, based on 88 hours of work per 2-week cycle, with occasional overtime. At this time, we are only looking for individuals who can work a 12-hour rotating continental shift, including nights and weekends.
- Salary $20.60 - $23.00 per hour, with possibility of bonus; 10 days vacation plus extended medical, dental, and long-term disability insurance & participation in our retirement savings plan.
- Inbound transportation costs for out of province applicants
- Completion of high school required.
- Some post-secondary education required as the position requires the ability to read and understand technical instructions and sophisticated Husky equipment user manuals.
- Two years plastics injection or bottling line experience required.
- Previous heavy equipment experience preferred.

To view a comprehensive overview of the position, please go to https://jobs.dayforcehcm.com/en-US/irss/CANDIDATEPORTAL/jobs/3083

Interested candidates please send a copy of your resume and cover letter referencing Req#317 to cstewart@iceriversprings.com or write to:

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485387 30th Sideroad
Shelburne, ON
L9V 3N5

ICE RIVER SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

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Ice River is currently looking for twenty (20) Material Handler/QA Technician(s) to join our team. You will be working at our Shelburne facility, located at 485387 30 Sideroad, Shelburne Ontario L9V 3N5.

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- These are full-time positions, based on 88 hours of work per 2-week cycle, with occasional overtime.
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- Inbound transportation costs for out of province applicants.
- Completion of high school required.
- Utilize analytical skills to interpret production data, identifying patterns, inefficiencies, and potential improvements. Make data-driven recommendations to enhance the efficiency of sorting, increase output quality and reduce waste.
- Collaborate with team leaders to implement optimized workflows.
- Demonstrated ability to work independently on specific tasks and collaboratively within a small team to achieve production goals in a fast-paced, high-volume setting.
- Certified and experienced in operating various forklifts, including models equipped with clamps, with a strong emphasis on safety protocols, efficient loading techniques, and adherence to load capacities.
- Previous heavy equipment experience preferred.

To view a comprehensive overview of the position, please go to https: https://jobs.dayforcehcm.com/en-US/irss/CANDIDATEPORTAL/jobs/3305. Interested candidates please send a copy of your resume and cover letter to cstewart@iceriversprings.com or write to:

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REMINDER

Live Auction Sale

for **Robert & Jennifer Black Ryanday Farm**

Saturday December 20th, 9:30am

6039 8th Line, Hillsburgh (Erin) ON Coming north on Trafalgar Rd towards Hillsburgh. Turn east onto Wellington 22 & go 1.3km to 8th Line Erin. Then north 4.0km to sale on east side of road. OR come south from Hwy 9 on Hwy 25 (Cty Rd 24) for 10km to Erin/Garafraxa townline. Then east 1.4km to 8th Line Erin. Then south 2.1km to sale on east side of road. ** **PARKING ON SITE****

Tractors/Skid Steer: Case IH MXU 110 4x4 tractor, Quicke Q41 loader, cab, 2 remotes, 4600hrs,; MF 265 tractor & Allied 590 loader, multi power; JD 5575 skid steer, material bucket, 3479hrs; JD X320 lawnmower, 54" deck, hydrostatic, 597hrs. **Mach/Equip:** JD 8350 seed drill, 18 run, grass seed, 1 disc, fert; Gehl TDC 1475 round baler, 4x5's, inoc; NH Hayliner 315 sq baler & thrower; (3)18ft wood wagons; Kuhn GA4100 rotary rake; Lucknow 6ft snowblower; post hole auger; Case IH 8330 haybine, 9ft; gravity box; Ford 8ft disc; IH 12ft cultivator & harrows; (3) thrower wagons (2- 20ft, all steel tops, 1- 20ft steel with wood floor); 20ft wood & steel round bale wagon; for skidsteer- 2 prong hay fork, manure forks; Leon 375 manure spreader; Agro-Trend 3pth sprayer. **Horse Equip & Rel:** 4-seater horse sleigh, team hitch; (2) single horse shafts; (2)Fore carts (single, double); blankets; stocks-for shoeing; (2)horse bale feeders; whipple trees; (1) set work harness; (1)set Todd Style show harness; harness rack; qty heavy horse harness pieces, lines, etc; asst horse supplies; (2)steel stall dividers; (2)single horse sleighs; (4)stall corner feeders; (2)hay/grain feeders; (3)round bale feeders-tombstone style; semen tank; microscope; Black Horse Ale picture & trays; 4-wheel buggy-like new; 2-wheel pleasure driving cart; draft foal/horse halters; asst white show halters; leg wraps; asst show equip; and much more! **Shop/Farm Rel/Straw & Hay:** Onan 60W generator, alternator; 4'x8' 1-axle utility trailer; bale moisture tester; twine; tool chest; anvil-lg; battery charger; asst lumber; 1 tonne winch; oat/corn roller; asst of tools; (9)bales 3x3x6 wheat straw; some sm squares hay(if not used); stationary sander/grinder; radial arm saw; table saw. **Household & Antiques**

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COMING EVENTS

2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) for StormFC 2025 will take place on Friday, January 9, 2026 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Alder Recreation Centre, Alder Room 4. All members are welcome to attend.

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Student creativity takes spotlight in Mayfield Dance program's "To Infinity & Beyond!"

Continued from Page A12

empowering to know that I have that opportunity within the program and just having that space where I can let myself loose and really have fun."

Hodge is looking ahead to Mayfield's Senior Showcase, where she will be participating.

"The senior showcase is really where I feel like I can shine when it comes to choreography because it's often an open concept most of the time, and it's somewhere where I can just put my mind to it and really just get all my ideas out there."

Pereira says that the process can often be long and gruelling when it comes to the shows: "You can be laughing, you can be crying, but it all pays off. All that hard work pays off to see the work that's produced for those four shows, which I think is a really beautiful thing of everything coming together."

The two shared that the feedback on the performances was "overwhelming," indicating how much they were enjoyed by all.

Dance teacher Samantha Rolo highlights the importance of regional arts programs.

"We're really, really proud of the involvement of all of the arts students, and we continue to have auditions every year," she says. "It's really important to keep the program going in all of the arts areas."

Pereira adds that they tell their students this is a "once in a lifetime opportunity."

"There's not many high schools that get this opportunity to do a full big production like this, use these spaces that we're so lucky to be in, the lights that we have available to it, it's pure magic."

"I'm really thankful that my mom told me to go to an art school because I wouldn't be able to get this experience like many other places. Especially just with the people I meet and lovely teachers. I feel like it's really just a space for a student to grow."

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.*

Christmas Gathering at St. Andrew's Stone Church

Saturday, December 20 @ 2:00 PM, The Friends of St. Andrew's Stone Church are hosting an afternoon of old-fashioned Christmas Carols lead by our original pump organ and Scottish favourites on the bagpipes. All are welcome to join us at St. Andrew's Stone Church located at 17621 St. Andrew's Road, Caledon. Admission is free but donations are gratefully received.

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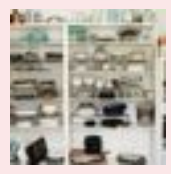
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Keeler kayos King with four-point performance in Admirals' 5-2 win over Rebellion



Caledon goaltender James Meredith is pictured Sunday afternoon, where he blocked 45 of 47 shots to backstop the Admirals to 5 – 2 win over King. PHOTO BY JIM STEWART

Continued from Page A13

The Admirals held their 4-0 lead until Rebellion defender Matthew Anderson stole an errant pass, made a spirited rush off the left wing, deked Caledon netminder James Meredith to the right, and slid the puck past the spread-eagled goalie to get King on the scoreboard at 3:33 of the third period.

Midway through the final frame, Owsicki fired a shot off the pipe and Cole Kirton one-timed the rebound past Kennedy to restore the visitors' four-goal lead.

Keeler earned his 21st assist of the season and fourth point of the game on Kirton's insurance goal.

Another King defender scored with six minutes to play to pull the Rebellion to within three when high-scoring Ryan Fairbairn rifled a wrist shot that beat Meredith clearly and bulged the twine.

The Caledon goaltender steadied The Fleet the rest of the way and stymied King shooters to earn the W.

Keeler praised his goaltender's performance: "James is a good goalie and so solid down low. Our D played well today and cleared the rebounds. James was seeing it really well and helped get a big road win to keep us in playoff contention. We've played well against King this year. We've taken two games in their barn. It sets us up well for a big game with Mississauga on Thursday."

Another four-point performance earlier in the week also helped Caledon's playoff hopes. Clarence Allain's four-point night, based on a second period goal and three assists in the third period, ignited the Admirals' offense in a 6-4 win over the upstart Markham Royals last Sunday.

The Admirals overcame a 2-0 lead against the Royals. After Kayden Brand opened the scoring in the first period, the Markham forward added another just seconds into the second to stake the Royals to an early two-goal lead, Jonah Henderson cued the Caledon comeback.

At 7:08 of the middle frame, the sturdy defender beat Royals' netminder Noah Caballero with his third of the season to narrow his team's deficit to one.

Five minutes later, Allain tied it 2-2.

Keeler followed with his fifteenth of the season to give the home side its first lead of the game with 3:44 on the clock. Although Athen Miwa's power play goal pulled Markham into a 3-3 tie only 27 seconds into the third, the Fleet righted the ship and blazed its cannons with a power play goal of its own to restore its lead.

Xavvier Rowe—set up by prolific playmakers Lang and Allain—made it 4-3 for Caledon six minutes into the final frame. Kirton gave the Admirals a two-goal cushion two minutes later—with helpers earned by Deacon King and Allain.

Zach Gardner's short-handed goal pulled the Royals to within one at 5-4 to create some suspense with 6:46 left in the game, but 44 seconds later, the Admirals removed much of that intrigue when Kirton provided his club with its two-goal margin of victory.

Allain earned his third assist of the period and 23rd of the season on Kirton's power play marker. Curtis Freeman's team-leading 24th assist helped set up the Admirals' sixth goal.

Calem Yorke earned the home ice win by making 30 saves. Yorke stopped Philip Goverdis's penalty shot at 17:56 of the first period to limit the visitors to a 1-0 lead after 20 minutes to help set up Caledon's three-goal rally in the middle frame.

The Admirals (14-14-1-2) will look to strengthen their hold on eighth place in the OJHL West when they host the ninth-place Mississauga Chargers on Thursday night. Puck drop at the Mayfield Recreation Complex is 7:30 p.m.

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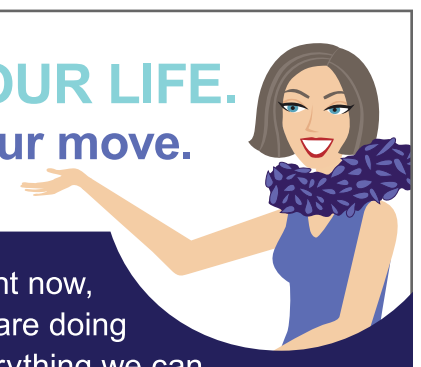
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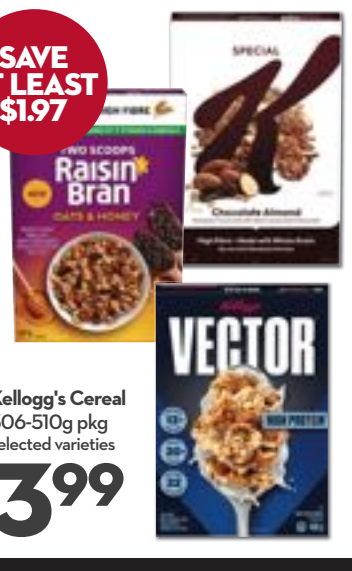
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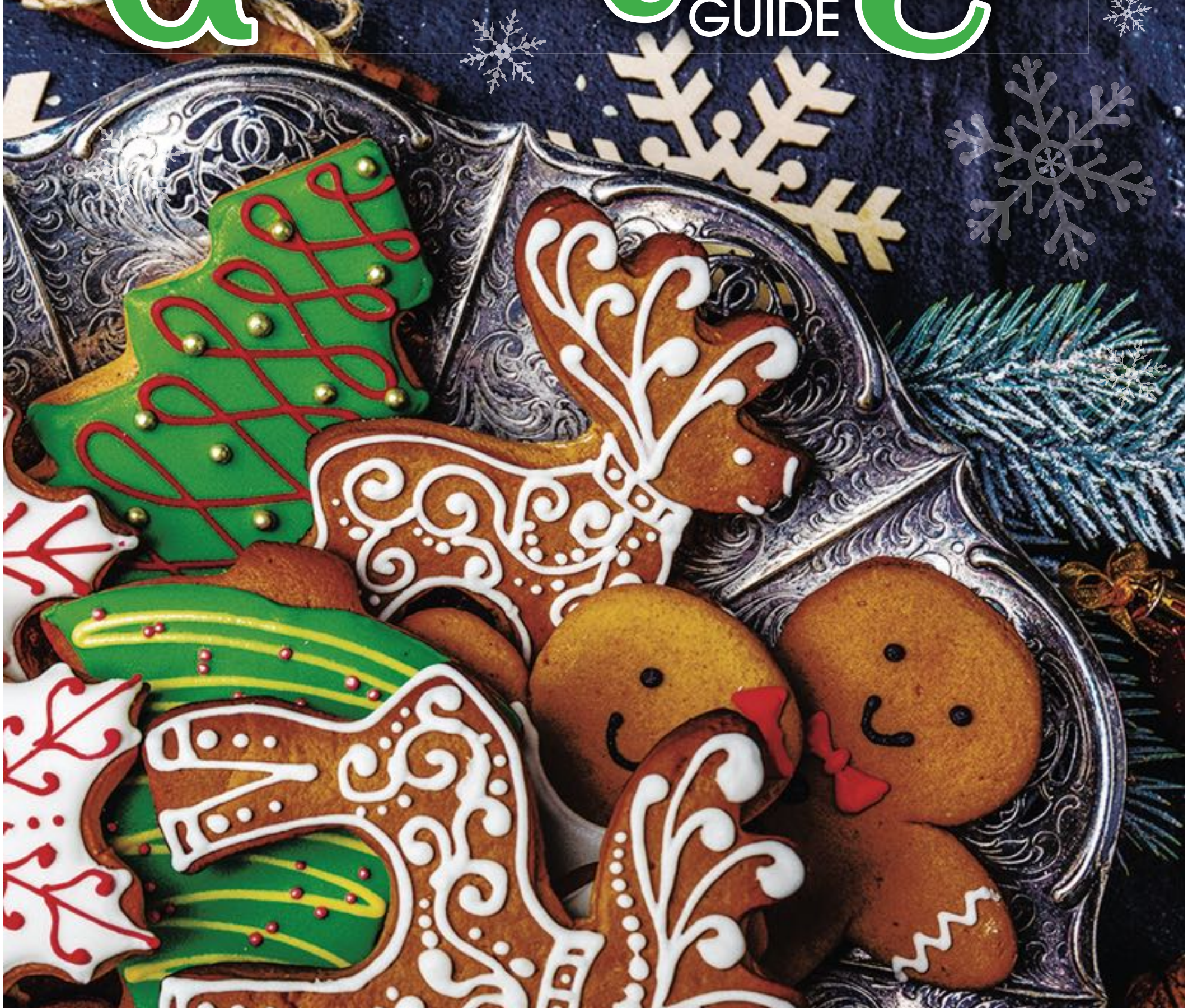
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Season's Greetings 2025



Cake Pops

to light up kids' eyes this holiday season

There's no denying Christmas Eve is a little more special in homes where kids are excited about an overnight visit from Santa Claus. Indeed, kids' joy and enthusiasm helps to make the holiday season such a special time of year.

Since kids add so much to the holidays, it makes sense to prepare something special for youngsters. Of course, treats such as these "Christmas Tree Cake Pops" from Lines+Angles also may appeal to festive adults.

Christmas Tree Cake Pops

Makes 24 cake pops

Ingredients:

1 box vanilla cake mix

3/4 cup canola oil

1/2 cup unsalted butter, softened

1 cup confectioners' sugar

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

1 teaspoon milk

3 1/2 cups green candy melts

24 cake pop sticks

Icing dots

Icing stars

Directions:

1. Prepare cake according to package instructions, adding 3/4 cup canola oil to the cake mix before baking.

2. Once cake is cool to the touch, transfer to a large mixing bowl and break up into crumbs. Allow to cool completely.

3. In a medium bowl, add the butter, sugar, vanilla, and milk. Use an electric mixer and beat on medium speed for about 4 minutes until light and fluffy.

4. Add 3/4 of the frosting to the cake crumbs and mix until mixture can hold together well. Refrigerate for at least an hour.

5. Using your hands, shape the cake pop mixture into 24 conical shapes.

6. Melt the green candy melts. Dip one end of each of the cake pop sticks into the melted chocolate before inserting into the bottom of the cake pops. Dip each cake pop into the melted chocolate, making sure to cover completely, allowing excess to drip back into bowl.

7. Use a toothpick to create the textured look of the tree and decorate with the icing dots and stars before standing upright to dry completely.

Warm up with a rich, chocolate beverage

NOTHING BEATS SIPPING A HOT, soothing beverage after a day of choosing the perfect Christmas tree or lobbing snowballs in the backyard. Teas, hot toddies, coffees, and mulled ciders certainly can fit the bill, but a mug of rich hot chocolate is a holiday season staple.

Hot chocolate can be whipped up quickly from premade packets, but many such packets are loaded with sugar. Chocolate lovers should have a reliable hot chocolate recipe to lean on when the moment is right. This recipe for "Real Hot Chocolate" from "Chocolate" (Parragon) by the editors of Love Food is sure to please.

★ Real Hot Chocolate ★

Serves 1 to 2

Ingredients:

1 1/2 ounces semisweet chocolate, broken into pieces

1 1/4 cups milk

Chocolate curls to decorate

Directions:

Place the chocolate in a large, heatproof pitcher. Place the milk in a heavy-bottom saucepan and bring to a boil. Pour about one-quarter of the milk onto the chocolate and leave until the chocolate has softened. Whisk the milk and chocolate mixture until smooth. Return the remaining milk to the heat and return to a boil, then pour onto the chocolate, whisking constantly.

Pour into warmed mugs or cups and top with the chocolate curls. Serve immediately.



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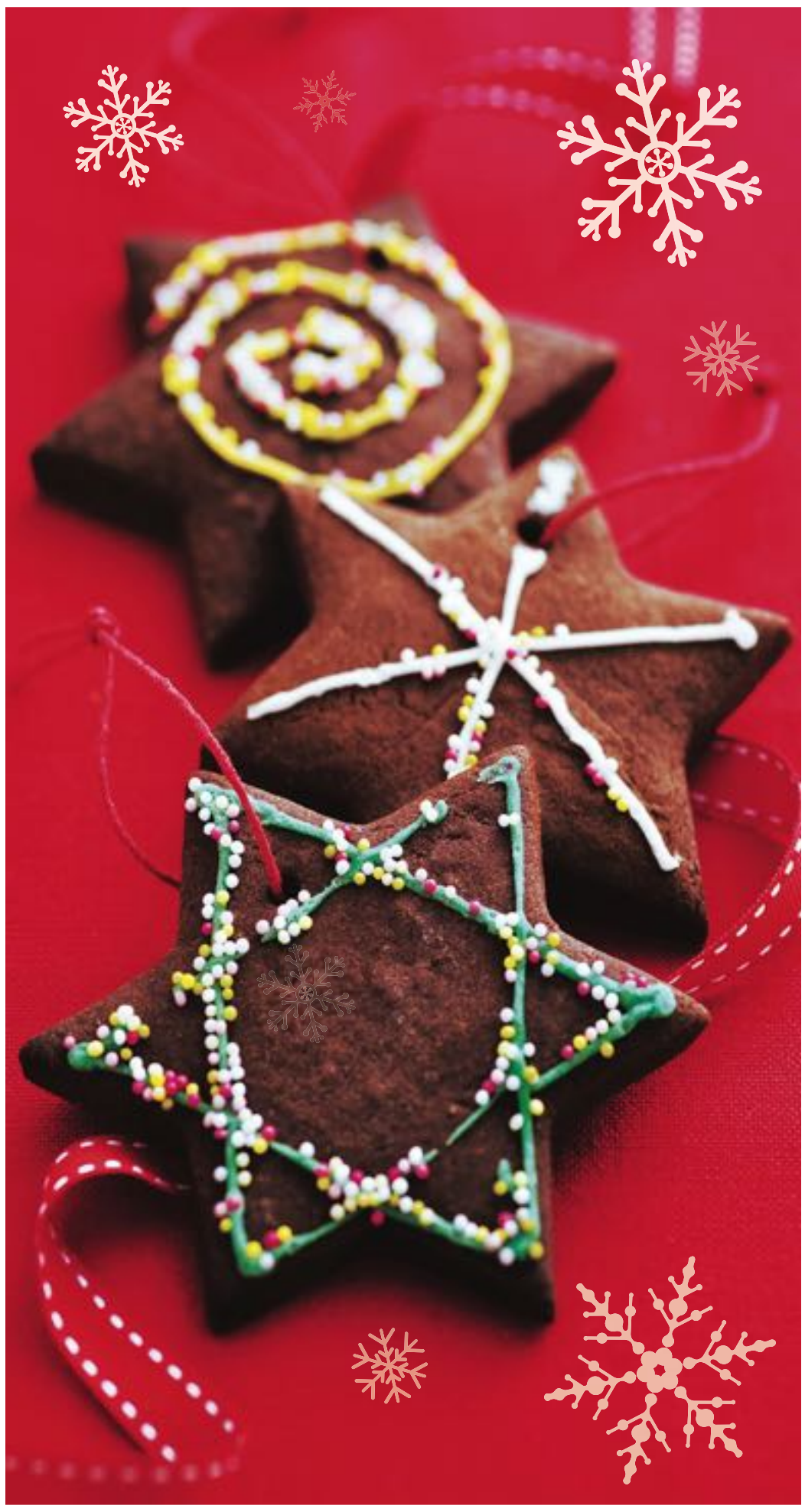
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TOWN OF CALEDON

Decorative cookies

Santa can't resist

Kids know that cookies are a vital component of the holiday season. Come bedtime on Christmas Eve, youngsters want to make sure Santa Claus gets all the nourishment he needs to continue delivering presents to kids all over the globe. That sustenance is often provided in cookie form. With that in mind, families who want to be certain Santa won't leave their homes hungry this Christmas can whip up a batch of these "Chocolate Star Christmas Decorations," courtesy of Lines+Angles.



Chocolate Star Christmas Decorations

Makes 4 dozen

Ingredients:

2 cups flour

1/2 cup Dutch processed cocoa powder, unsweetened

1/2 teaspoon baking powder

1/2 teaspoon salt

1 cup unsalted butter, softened

3/4 cup sugar

1 large egg yolk

1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract

1 large egg white

1 pinch cream of tartar

2 cups confectioners' sugar

Sprinkles, for decorating

Directions:

1. Whisk together flour, cocoa powder, baking powder, and salt in a bowl.

2. Beat butter and sugar in a separate bowl with an electric mixer until pale and fluffy, about 2 minutes, then beat in yolk and vanilla. On low speed, beat in flour mixture just until a dough forms.

3. Divide the dough in half, flatten each piece into a disc and then chill them, wrapped in plastic wrap, until firm, for 2 to 3 hours.

4. Preheat oven to 350 F with racks in top and bottom thirds. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper. Roll out 1 piece of dough between sheets of parchment paper into a 14-by-10-inch rectangle (1/8-inch thick). Cut out as many stars as possible, reserving and chilling scraps, then quickly transfer cookies to the baking sheet, arranging them 1/2-inch apart. (If dough becomes too soft, return it to the freezer until it is firm.)

5. Bake until firm and slightly puffed, about 10 minutes. Cool cookies on baking sheet for 5 minutes, then transfer to a rack to cool completely. (Cookies will crisp as they cool.) Make more cookies with remaining dough and scraps, re-rolling scraps only once.

6. To make the icing, in an electric mixer fitted with the whisk attachment, beat egg white and cream of tartar until foamy. Sift in half the sugar and beat until smooth, about 1 to 2 minutes. With mixer running, gradually add remaining sugar and beat on high speed until icing is smooth and thick. Icing should be thick, but not too thick to be pressed through a pastry bag. Adjust consistency with more confectioners' sugar or water.

7. Transfer icing to a pastry bag with a small round tip. Pipe icing onto cookies and add decorations of your choice before icing hardens.





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Season's Greetings 2025



A hot punch to warm up this holiday season

Images of warm family gatherings dominate millions of people's holiday season memories. But the warmth inside a home come the holiday season does not mean it's not cold outside. Indeed, snow-filled landscapes and/or temperatures below freezing are not uncommon come late December. As the mercury drops outside, families can warm up inside with a batch of "Hot Holiday Punch" courtesy of Lines+Angles.

Hot Holiday Punch

Makes 14 servings

Preparation time: 20 minutes Cooking time: 15 minutes Total time: 35 minutes Difficulty: Easy

Ingredients:

16 cups water, divided

5 cups cranberries, fresh or frozen, plus extra for garnish

2 1/2 cups granulated sugar

1/2 cup red hots cinnamon candies

3 tablespoons fresh lemon juice

12 whole cloves

3 cinnamon sticks

1 lemon, sliced

Cheesecloth



Directions:

1. In a large saucepan, set over medium-high heat, bring 1 quart of water and cranberries to a boil. Reduce heat, cover and simmer for 8 to 10 minutes or until the cranberries begin to pop. Drain, reserving liquid and cranberries. Put cranberries through a fine mesh strainer or food mill. Set aside.

2. In a Dutch oven or large pot, combine sugar, red-hots, lemon juice, cranberry liquid and cranberry pulp, and remaining 3 quarts of water.

3. Place cloves and cinnamon sticks in a double thickness of cheesecloth. Tie with string to form a bag; add to pan with the punch. Bring to a boil; stir until sugar and candies are dissolved. Discard spice bag. Strain juice through a fine mesh strainer. Serve hot with lemon slices and cranberries.

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Season's Greetings 2025



Eggnog is a go-to holiday beverage

One of the more notable aspects of the holiday season is the reemergence of foods and beverages that might not be enjoyed at any other point during the year. Eggnog certainly falls into the category. Though it might not be broken out after December, the following recipe for "Eggnog" from Lines+Angles makes a go-to holiday season beverage.

Eggnog

Makes 4 servings

Ingredients:

6 egg yolks
1/2 cup confectioner's sugar
1 1/2 cups milk
3/4 cup light cream
1 teaspoon vanilla
1/2 cup whiskey or rum
1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon nutmeg

Directions:

1. In a medium bowl, whisk egg yolks until light in color. Add confectioners' sugar and whisk together until fluffy. Set aside.

2. In a medium saucepan over low heat, combine milk, cream and vanilla. Stir occasionally and gently heat for 5 minutes. Increase heat to medium and slowly bring mixture to a boil. Remove from heat.

3. Slowly incorporate milk mixture into eggs by adding a little at a time, whisking together constantly to avoid cooking the eggs. Continue to add the hot milk into the eggs and whisking until thoroughly combined.

4. Pour the combined mixture back into the saucepan and heat over medium heat, stirring constantly, until thick, without bringing to a boil, 3 to 5 minutes. Remove from heat.

5. Allow mixture to cool for about an hour, then add to a jar with a tight-fitting lid. Add whiskey or rum. Refrigerate for 8 hours or overnight.

6. When ready to serve, shake jar, add eggnog to serving glasses and top with cinnamon and nutmeg.







Season's Greetings 2025

A post-meal treat tailor-made for holiday parties

The festive nature of the holiday season is on display in many places throughout the month of December, and that includes private homes. Gatherings with family and friends fill celebrants' social schedules throughout the holiday season and present various opportunities to catch up with loved ones in a fun, warm and welcoming setting.

Gatherings undoubtedly make the holiday season more special, and food plays an important role during this festive time of year. Dessert might not be on the menu year-round, but a tasty post-meal treat certainly makes for a fitting ending to a holiday meal with loved ones. With that in mind, hosts can whip up this recipe for "Chocolate Pudding and Mixed Berry Trifle" courtesy of Lines+Angles.



Chocolate Pudding and Mixed Berry Trifle

Makes 8 servings

Ingredients:

1 1/2 cups sugar

1 1/3 cups all-purpose flour

2/3 cup unsweetened cocoa powder

1 teaspoon baking soda

1/2 teaspoon baking powder

1/4 teaspoon salt

3/4 cups strong brewed coffee

3/4 cups buttermilk

6 tablespoons vegetable oil

2 large eggs

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

2 tablespoons sugar

2 tablespoons cornstarch

2 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder

1/8 teaspoon salt

1 1/2 cups whole milk

1/2 cup heavy cream

2/3 cup good-quality milk chocolate, chopped

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

6 cups fresh raspberries

6 cups fresh blueberries

Milk chocolate, shavings for garnish

Directions:

1. For the cake: In a large bowl, sift together the first 6 ingredients. Add the coffee, buttermilk, eggs, oil, and vanilla and mix until just combined. Transfer the batter to a parchment-lined baking pan. Bake at 325 F for 25 to 30 minutes, until a toothpick inserted into the cake comes out clean. Cool and then cut the cake into 2-inch pieces.

2. For the chocolate pudding: Whisk together the sugar, cornstarch, cocoa powder, and salt in a large saucepan. Gradually whisk in milk and cream. Bring to a boil over moderate heat, whisking constantly. Boil until mixture thickens, about 2 minutes — it will get thick very quickly. Remove from heat and whisk in chocolate and vanilla quickly. Continue whisking until smooth. Transfer to a bowl and chill, placing a piece of plastic wrap directly on the pudding to prevent a skin from forming. Chill until cold, at least 2 hours.

3. To assemble the trifle: Get out eight small serving cups (approximately 8 ounces). Place cake pieces, a bit of raspberries and blueberries at the bottom of each serving cup. Spoon chocolate pudding on top, spreading it into any spaces in the cake layer and smoothing the top so it is as flat as possible. Continue with the second layer of cake pieces, berries and pudding. For the third top layer, sprinkle only pieces of cake and berries and then garnish with shaved milk chocolate.





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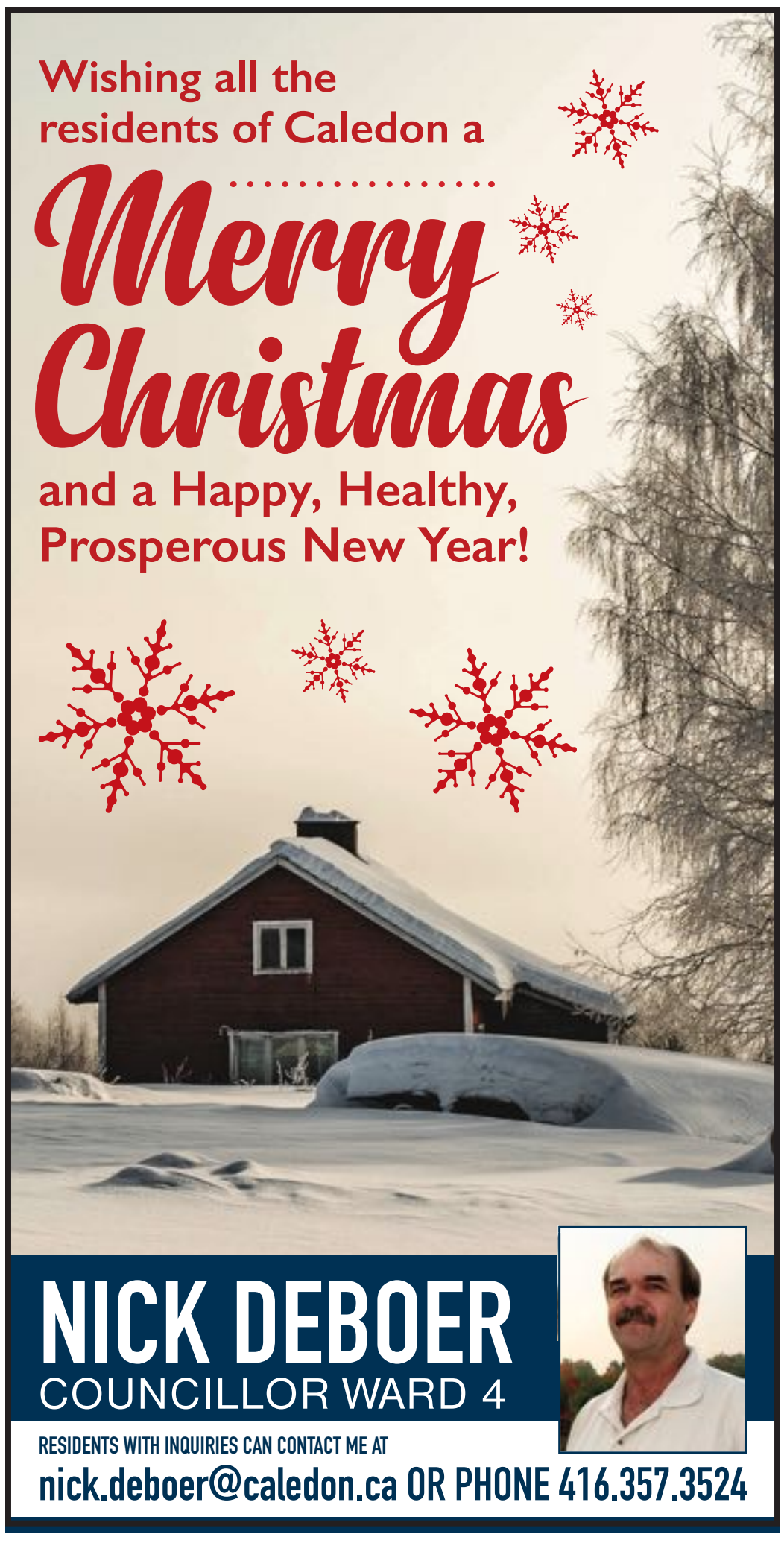
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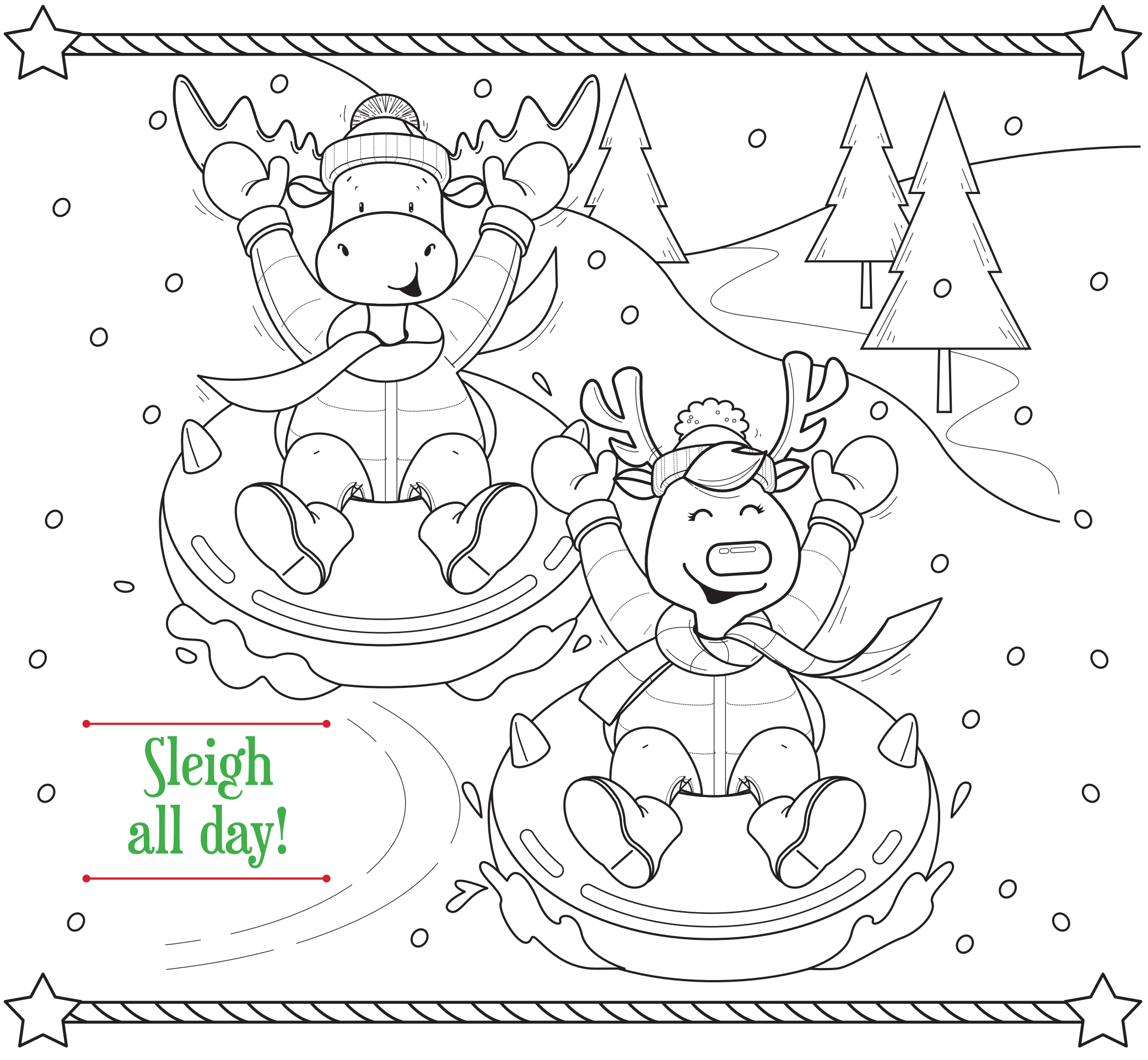
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Christmas cupcakes make a perfect holiday treat

A little indulgence is par for the course come the holiday season. That's especially true in relation to baked goods, which find their way into entertaining areas at office parties, family gatherings and school functions.

Treats are indeed part of what makes the holiday season a special time of year. This year, families can whip up this Lines+Angles recipe for "Chocolate Christmas Cupcakes" to make the holiday season a little more flavorful.



Chocolate Christmas Cupcakes

Makes 12 cupcakes

Ingredients:

FOR THE CAKES:

8 tablespoons butter
1/3 cup caster sugar
2 tablespoons light brown sugar
2 eggs
1 cup flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
1/3 cup cocoa powder
1/2 cup milk
1 cup chocolate chips

FOR THE CHOCOLATE TOPPING:

2/3 cup heavy cream
1 cup chopped plain 70% dark chocolate

TO DECORATE:

Icing sugar
8 ounces white sugarpaste
8 ounces green sugarpaste
4 ounces red sugarpaste



Directions:

1. For the cupcakes: Preheat the oven to 375 F. Place 12 cupcake liners in a muffin tin.

2. Beat the butter in a mixing bowl until soft and light. Beat in both sugars and beat until light and fluffy.

3. Beat in the eggs, one at a time until well blended. Sift in the flour, baking powder and cocoa and fold in gently until incorporated. Stir in the milk and chocolate chips.

4. Spoon into the paper cases and bake for 25 minutes until firm to the touch. Leave in the tins for 5 minutes, then place on a wire rack to cool completely.

5. For the chocolate topping: Put the cream and chocolate in a pan over a low heat until melted. Remove from the heat and allow to cool and thicken slightly.

6. Spoon onto the cupcakes and leave until almost set.

7. Roll out the white sugarpaste on a surface dusted with icing sugar. Cut out shapes to resemble snow and place on the cakes.

8. Roll out the green sugarpaste on a surface lightly dusted with icing sugar. Cut out 2 holly leaves for each cake with a holly shaped cutter or card template. Brush lightly with water and attach to the white sugarpaste.

9. Roll pieces of red sugarpaste into small balls for the "berries" and place on the cakes, as in the photo, attaching with a little water.







A dessert to satisfy your holiday season sweet tooth

Baking is a popular activity come the holiday season. Families may designate entire weekend afternoons to baking holiday goodies, and those efforts are much appreciated by the beneficiaries of all that time spent in the kitchen elbows deep in flour and confectioners' sugar.

Cookies tend to be a go-to holiday treat, particularly in households with young children who want to leave out something homemade for the jolly old elf on Christmas Eve. But there's also plenty of room to expand your horizons during holiday baking sessions with the family. A finished product like these "Toffee Cheesecake Bars" from "Taste of Home Healthy Cooking Cookbook" (RDA Enthusiast Brands) by the Taste of Home/Reader's Digest Kitchens can delight guests and might even compel the man in the red suit to smile even wider come the night before Christmas.

Toffee Cheesecake Bars

Ingredients:

Makes 21/2 dozen

1 cup all-purpose flour

3/4 cup confectioners' sugar

1/3 cup baking cocoa
1/2 cup cold butter

1 8-ounce package reduced-fat cream cheese

1 14-ounce can sweetened condensed milk

2 eggs, lightly beaten

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

11/4 cups milk chocolate English toffee bits, divided

Directions:

1. In a small bowl, combine the flour, confectioners' sugar, cocoa, and baking soda. Cut in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Press in the bottom of an ungreased 13-inch x 9-inch baking dish. Bake at 350 F for 12 to 15 minutes or until set.

2. In a large bowl, beat cream cheese until fluffy. Add the milk, eggs and vanilla; beat until smooth. Stir in 3/4 cup toffee bits. Pour over crust. Bake 18 to 22 minutes longer or until center is almost set.

3. Cool on a wire rack for 15 minutes. Sprinkle with remaining toffee bits; cool completely. Cover and refrigerate for 8 hours overnight.









Season's Greetings 2025

Offer guests some indulgence this holiday season

Indulgence is a part of the holiday season, particularly when it comes to food. The celebratory atmosphere of the holiday season coupled with large family gatherings that include dinner with loved ones makes it easy to find delicious baked goods each December. Holiday celebrants looking to go the extra mile for themselves and their guests this December can take seasonal indulgence to the next level with this recipe for "Red Velvet Cake" courtesy of Lines+Angles.



Red Velvet Cake

Makes 12 servings

Ingredients:

FOR THE CAKES:

1 cup unsalted butter, at room temperature, plus extra to coat pans

2 cups granulated sugar

3 large eggs, at room temperature

1/4 cup natural unsweetened cocoa powder

2 tablespoons red food coloring

1 1/2 tablespoons water

1 1/2 teaspoons salt

1 1/2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract

1 cup buttermilk

2 3/4 cups sifted cake flour, plus extra for coating the pans

1 1/2 teaspoons baking soda

1 tablespoon distilled white vinegar

FOR THE FROSTING:

5 tablespoons all-purpose flour

1 cup milk

1 cup granulated sugar

1 cup butter, at room temperature

1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract

Directions:

FOR THE CAKE:

1. Preheat oven to 350 F. Coat two 9-inch round cake pans generously with butter, then dust with flour, tapping out any excess flour; set aside.

2. Cream butter and sugar together using an electric beater, until very light and fluffy. Add eggs one at a time and beat well.

3. Make a paste of the cocoa, red food coloring and water; add to creamed mixture.

4. Mix salt, 1 teaspoon vanilla, and buttermilk together. Add the flour to the batter, alternating with the milk mixture, mixing just until incorporated. Mix soda and vinegar together and gently fold into cake batter. Don't beat or stir the batter after this point.

5. Pour batter into prepared pans. Bake until a cake tester or toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean, about 30 minutes. Remove from the oven and let the cakes cool in their pans on a wire rack for 10 minutes. Slide a thin knife around the edges and invert the cakes onto a wire rack to cool completely, at least 1 hour, before frosting.

FOR THE FROSTING:

In a medium saucepan, cook flour and milk over low heat, stirring constantly until thick. Let cool completely. While mixture is cooling, combine sugar, butter, and vanilla, beat until mixture is light and fluffy. Add cooled flour mixture to the sugar and butter mixture; beat for 10 to 20 minutes until frosting is thick and spreadable.

TO ASSEMBLE:

1. Place one of the cake layers, bottom side up, onto a serving plate or cake stand. Spoon 3/4 cup of frosting into the center of the cake layer. Gently work a rubber spatula in a swirling motion and spread the icing from the center toward the edges of the cake. Carefully set the second cake layer on top of the first and ice the second layer, beginning with a dollop in the center and working it out toward the sides. Ice the sides of the cake last. If the sides are crumbly, brush excess crumbs away and place a thin layer of icing on the sides of the cake to seal the crumbs in. Refrigerate for 30 minutes, then apply another, thicker layer of icing over the sides. Sprinkle with decorative sugar.

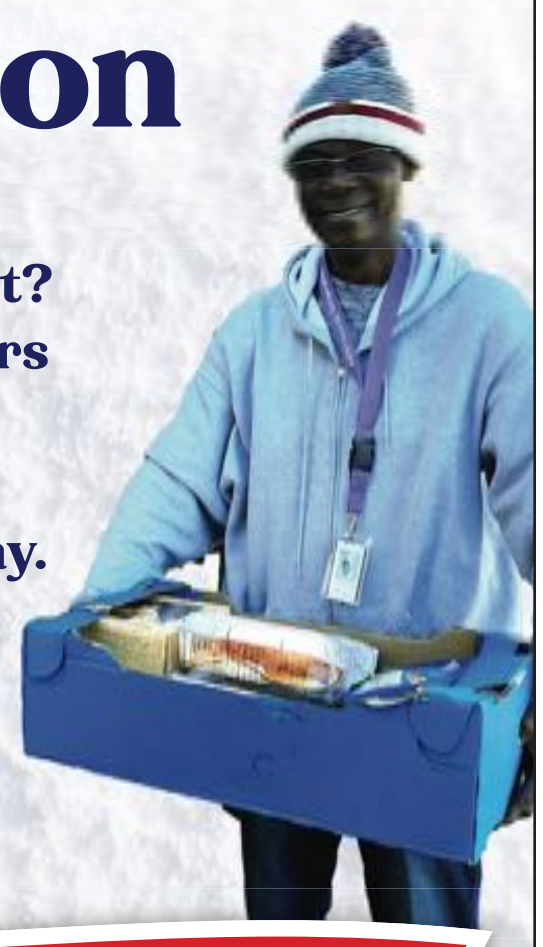
2. Store the cake in the refrigerator for up to 3 days. Remove the cake from the refrigerator at least one hour prior to serving.

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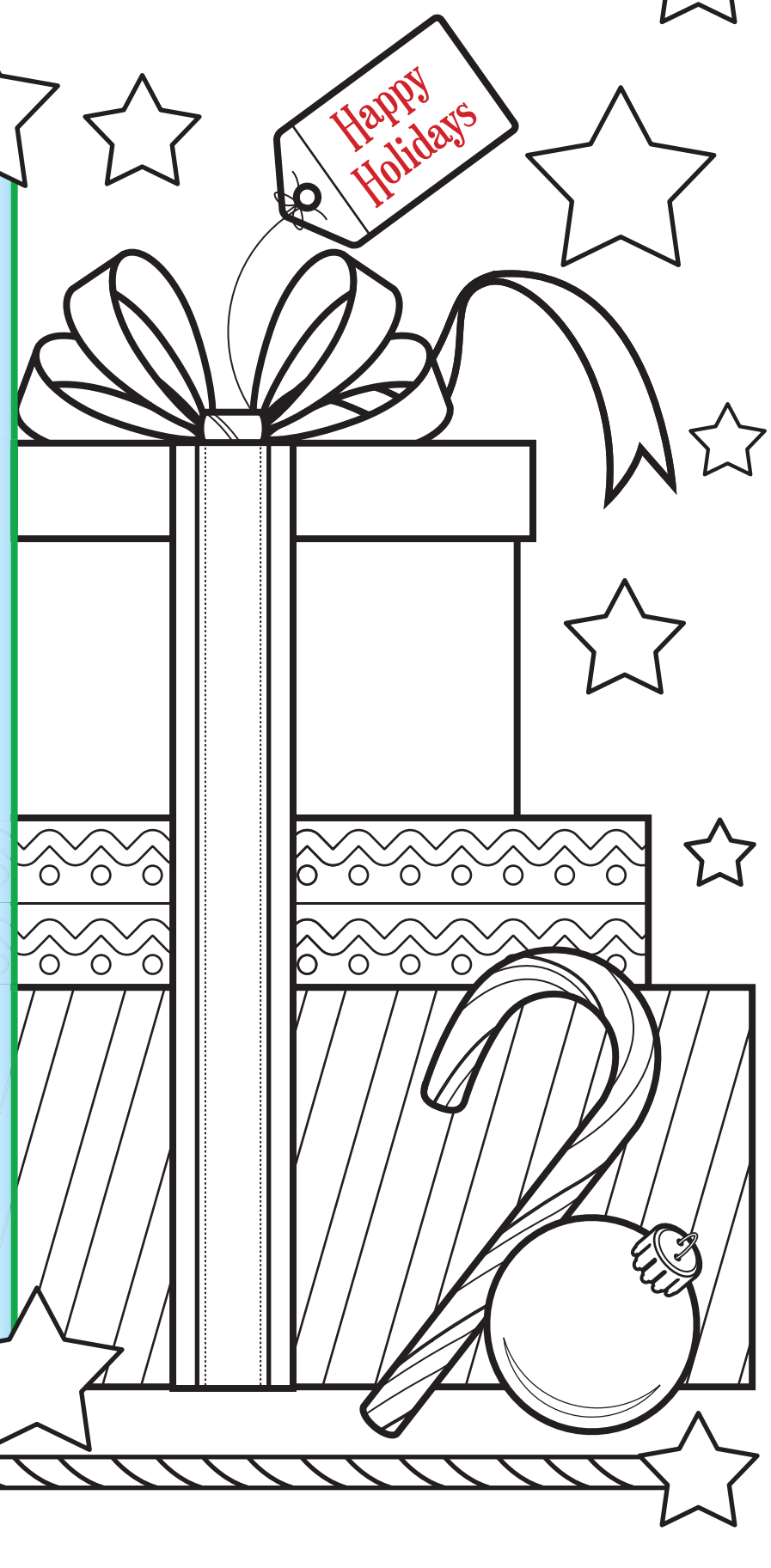
Season's Greetings 2025

HOLIDAY Word Search

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MARIA BRITTO

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Maria*

maria@mariabritto.com www.mariabritto.com

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Peanut Butter Reindeer Cookies

Makes 48 cookies

Ingredients:

1/2 cup unsalted butter, softened

3/4 cup peanut butter

1/3 cup granulated sugar

1/3 cup packed light brown sugar

1 large egg

1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract

1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour

1 teaspoon baking soda

1/2 teaspoon salt

48 large red M&M candies

96 mini semisweet chocolate chips

Pretzels, broken into 96 1-inch pieces



Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 F. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper.

2. In a large bowl, beat together butter, peanut butter, sugar, and brown sugar on medium speed until light and fluffy, about 2 minutes. Add egg and vanilla extract and mix until combined.

3. In a small bowl, whisk together flour, baking soda, and salt. Add the dry ingredients to the wet ingredients and stir until just combined. Roll the dough into 1-inch balls, and place at least 1 inch apart on cookie sheet. Bake only 10 to 12 cookies at a time. Refrigerate the bowl of dough in between batches. Bake for 7 to 9 minutes, until the cookies are just set.

4. Immediately place one M&M in the center of each cookie for a nose (press down a bit if your cookies aren't flat enough), 2 mini chocolate chips for the eyes, and 2 pretzel pieces at the top for antlers. Carefully transfer the cookies to a wire rack to cool completely.

– Recipe Lines+Angles

Ginger cookies fit right in during holiday baking sessions

Holiday baking sessions are a beloved tradition in many households. A family baking day during the holiday season is a great activity that appeals to loved ones of all ages, making a day spent in the kitchen an ideal way to bring multiple generations together under one roof.

There's no shortage of options when baking together as a family, but no treat embodies this season of baking more than cookies. Whether you're baking cookies for Santa Claus, bringing them along to a holiday party or simply whipping them up for some extra energy when decorating the tree, these "Ginger Cookies" from Lines+Angles are sure to please this December.

★ Ginger Cookies ★

Makes 48 cookies

Ingredients:

1 cup packed brown sugar

3/4/cup shortening

1/4 cup molasses

1 large egg

2 1/4 cups unbleached all-purpose flour

1/2/teaspoon ground cloves

1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

1 teaspoon ginger

2 teaspoons baking soda

1/4/teaspoon salt

Granulated sugar, for rolling

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 375 F. Lightly grease baking sheet with non-stick cooking spray.

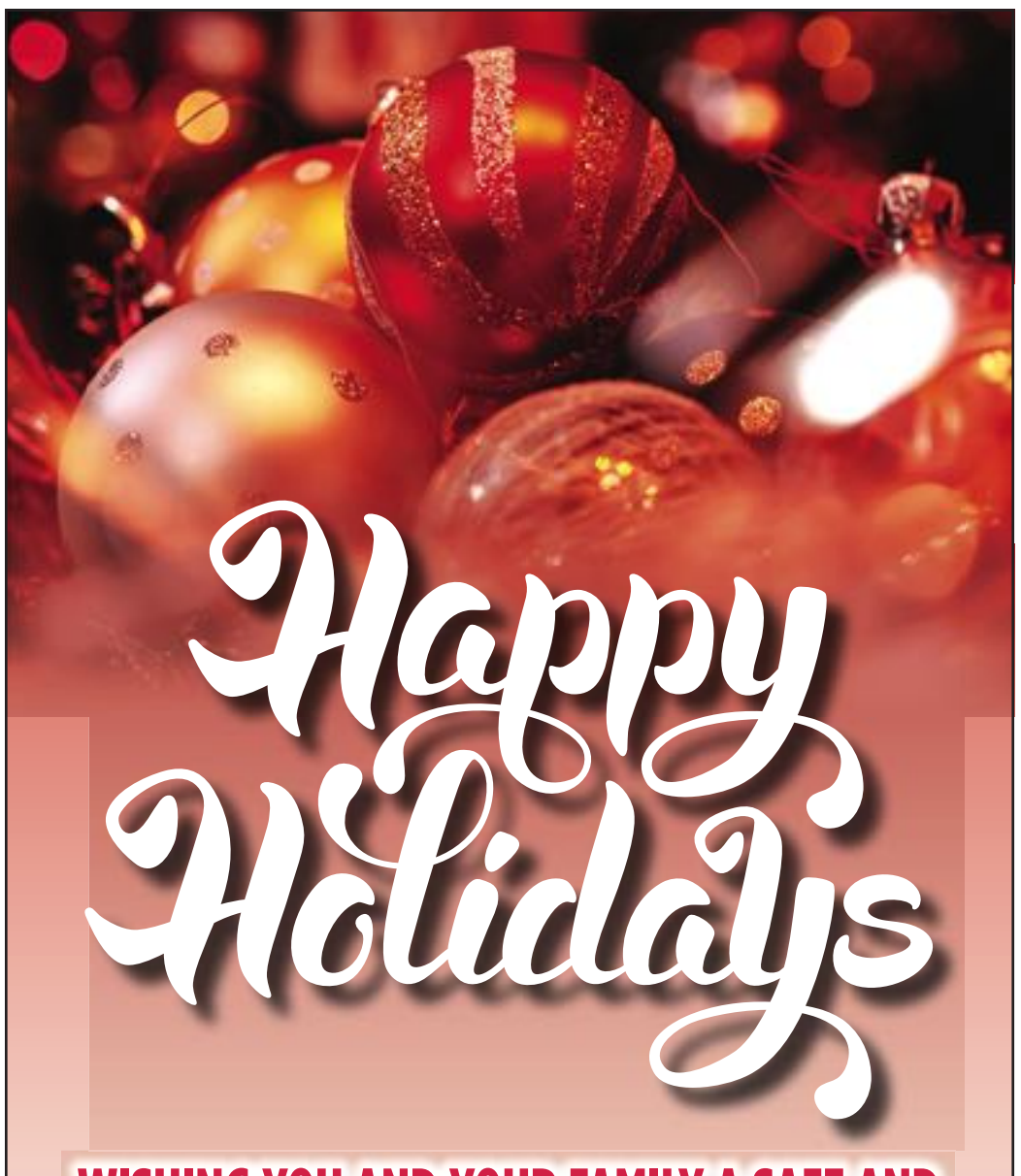
2. In a large bowl, using an electric mixer on medium speed, beat brown sugar, shortening, molasses, and egg together until light and fluffy. Stir in all remaining ingredients, except granulated sugar.

3. Shape dough by rounded teaspoonfuls into balls. Dip tops into granulated sugar and place balls, sugar side up, on prepared baking sheet, about 3 inches apart.

4. Bake 10 to 12 minutes or until just set. Remove from cookie sheet immediately to wire rack to cool. Serve.

TIP: Before measuring molasses, spray the measuring cup with cooking spray; the molasses won't stick to the sides of the cup.





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Craft a cocktail with some seasonal staples

HOLIDAY SEASON parties are particularly festive affairs. The jovial spirt of the season lends itself to fun gatherings with family and friends. When welcoming loved ones at home this holiday season, hosts can consider some seasonal staples and craft a unique cocktail guests won't soon forget. Pumpkin might be more synonymous with fall than winter, but cinnamon certainly has a place on holiday season dinner tables. This recipe for a "Pumpkin Martini Cocktail With Cinnamon" from Lines+Angles combines staple flavors of fall and winter into a delicious drink holiday celebrants will love.

★Pumpkin Martini Cocktail★ With Cinnamon

Serves 2

Ingredients:

2 tablespoons maple syrup

1/4 cup graham cracker crumbs

5 ounces pumpkin spice liqueur

2 ounces Baileys Irish Cream

2 ounces vodka

1/2teaspoon vanilla extract

2 cinnamon sticks

Directions:

1. Pour the maple syrup in a saucer and put the graham cracker crumbs in a separate saucer. Dip the rims of 2 chilled martini glasses first into the simple syrup, then into the graham cracker crumbs.

2. Fill a shaker with ice and add the pumpkin spice liqueur, Baileys, vodka, and vanilla extract. Shake for 15 seconds and strain between the prepared glasses. Garnish each with a cinnamon stick.





THE HOLIDAY SEASON IS A FESTIVE TIME of year, and alcohol tends to feature prominently in the festivities. While it's perfectly alright for adults to enjoy a drink come the holiday season, some might want to abstain from alcohol, particularly if they're getting behind the wheel after a party. Hosts can keep in mind that some guests may not want to drink alcohol during a party. But that doesn't mean they won't appreciate a unique and flavorful drink. In such instances, hosts can mix up this non-alcoholic "Redcurrant Cocktail" from Lines+Angles.

Redcurrant Cocktail

Makes 2 servings

Ingredients:

8 sprigs red currant

3 tablespoons ginger syrup

2 tablespoons lemon juice

2 gold leaves

Directions:

1. Reserve two sprigs of redcurrants for the garnish and put the rest in a sieve. Press down firmly with the back of a spoon to collect the juice then pour it into a cocktail shaker.

2. Add the ginger syrup and lemon juice to the shaker and add a handful of ice. Shake for 2 minutes until chilled and diluted.

3. Strain the cocktail into two small martini glasses and garnish each one with a sprig of redcurrants and a piece of gold leaf.

TOAST TO A NEW YEAR with this strawberry champagne cocktail

`Tis the season for toasting. New Year's Eve celebrations tend to be raucous, and it's not uncommon to hoist a glass in the air when ushering in a new year at the stroke of midnight.

Revelers looking to add a little extra flavor to their New Year's toast can consider this recipe for a "Strawberry Champagne Cocktail" courtesy of Lines+Angles.

Strawberry Champagne Cocktail

Makes 1 serving

Ingredients:

1 strawberry

1 wooden skewer

1 small egg white

1 3/4 ounces gin

1/2 ounce strawberry liqueur

1 teaspoon fresh lemon juice

1 teaspoon simple syrup

Chilled champagne or sparkling wine

Directions:

1. Remove top from strawberry with a paring knife. Thread strawberry onto a wooden skewer.

2. Combine egg white, gin, strawberry liqueur, lemon juice, and simple syrup in a cocktail shaker. Cover and shake vigorously until outside of shaker is frosty, about 30 seconds.

3. Fine-strain into a chilled champagne coupe and top up with chilled champagne. Garnish with prepared strawberry skewer across rim of glass.



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