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Villager

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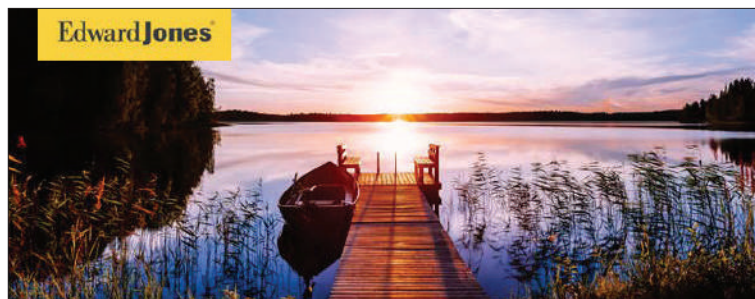
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OPEN LETTER

I'm deeply concerned about the significant property tax increases in Milton over the past four years. Taxes have risen by a record amount, yet there has been little visible benefit. Small businesses are struggling with many already closed or at risk to. Families are feeling the pressure from the rising cost of living and an uncertain job market.

So what is the Town of Milton's response? More warehouses.

I believe Milton has gone too far in this direction. We're seeing an overemphasis on warehouse development, with little focus on space for commercial and retail growth. Small businesses are the backbone of job creation and economic vitality, yet the Town is doing little to support them. People want local options, places to shop, dine, and gather without having to leave town. You don't build a community around warehouses.

This points to a concerns about planning in Milton or the lack of it. We should be building a complete community, with thoughtful zoning that prioritizes a balanced mix of residential, commercial, and recreational spaces.

At the end of the day, people get the government they deserve. With less than 25% of people voting in municipal elections, we end up with a Town Council that is absent and disconnected. If you care about the community you live in, vote.

I care deeply about Milton and its future. I believe need to do better. Support local businesses, be more responsible with tax increases, and make smarter planning decisions.

This October, we have a municipal election. Let's take back control.

Rick Di Lorenzo

Rick Di Lorenzo



PAUL SIMAS - 30 YEARS OF SERVICE



30 year ago a nerdy very young man joined the Canadian Armed Forces as a member of the Royal Canadian Navy. This month that fine and distinguished gentleman

had his 30th Anniversary Retirement party.

The man, the myth, and legend - Paul Simas. His contributions to Milton are many but the largest

has to be related to Milton's Navy Cadet programs where he's helped distinguish himself in serving our youth in Milton and helping shape them into future leaders.



Alvin Yan, Aarnav Sehgal, Graylon Wawrzyniak and Ruhaan Hingorani

CLOSING THE GAP

By Irtiza Zaidi

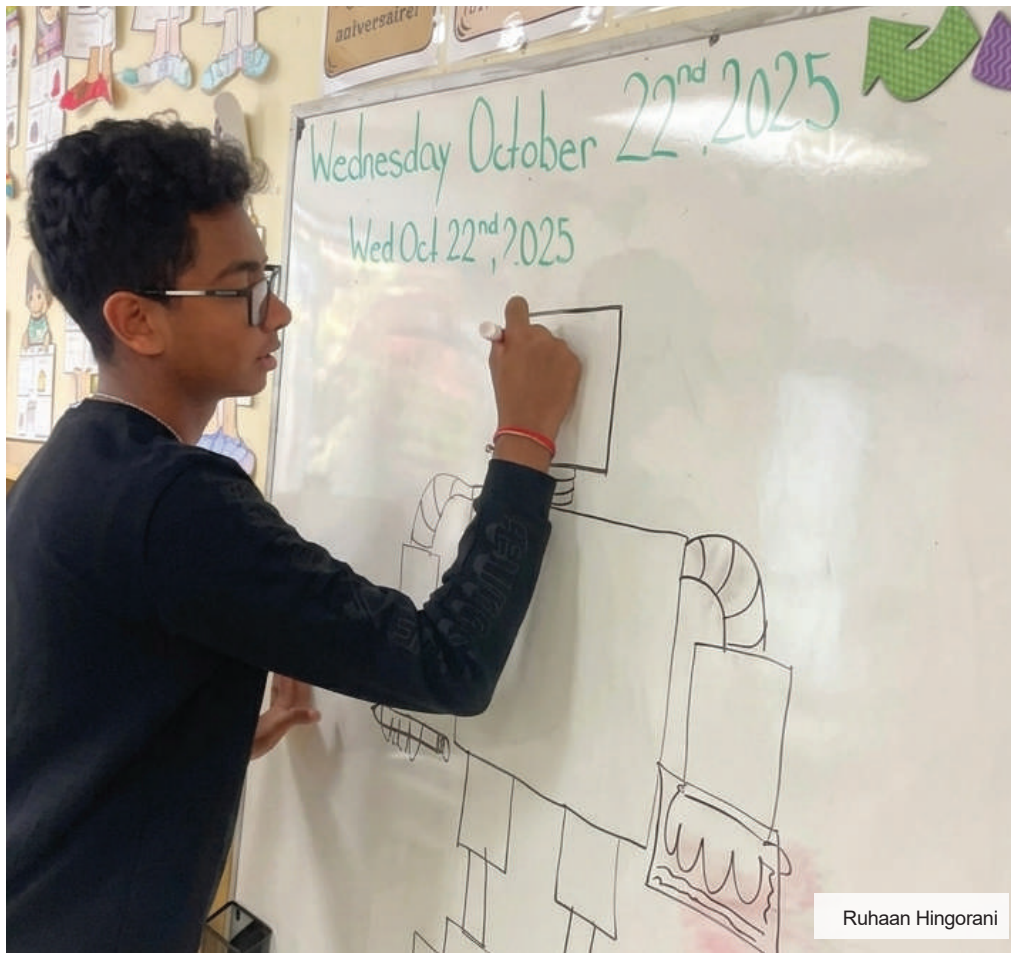
Milton High Schoolers Bring Hands-On STEM to Elementary Students



While most high schoolers were spending their Saturday mornings sleeping in, a small group of local teens was busy huddled over a kitchen table, wondering how they can help the community. They weren't just doing a project; they were building a bridge. Today, that table talk has evolved into STEMRoots, a student-led non-profit dedicated to proving that you're never too young to understand the stars and you're never too young to teach them.

Founded by Milton District High School students Graylon Wawrzyniak, Aarnav Sehgal, Alvin Yan, and Ruhaan Hingorani, STEMRoots is a non-profit dedicated to inspiring the next generation. The organization aims to spark curiosity in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) by bringing interactive workshops to elementary students in grades 1–5. Through a blend of educational lessons and hands-on experiments, STEMRoots makes complex subjects accessible and exciting for young learners.

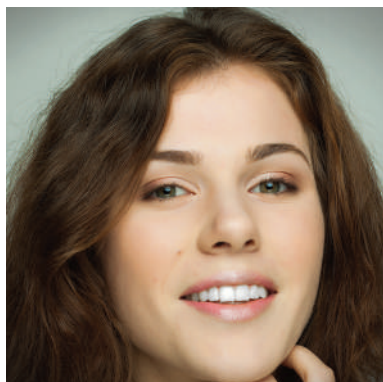
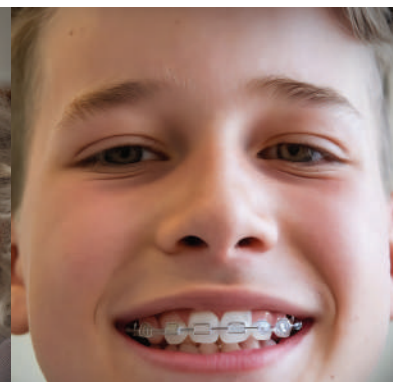
STEMRoots is currently collaborating



Ruhaan Hingorani

with the Montessori School of Milton, a partnership was formed due to it being an old elementary school of one of the founders. What began as a summer camp quickly evolved into a non-profit organization following overwhelming community feedback. The MSM director, Iram Amjad, said “The connection the boys have made during the summer program to the students was so strong due to them being closer in age than the teachers. The students loved the in-class activities and learning from the STEMRoots team”.

Driven by the belief that “curiosity is always there, we are just the catalyst for it,” the founders launched STEMRoots to reignite a passion for hands-on learning in a time dominated by screens and electronics. Following the success of their summer program, the team was invited back by the school to integrate their STEM curriculum into the current year, helping a new generation of students tap into their full potential.

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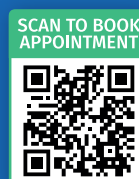
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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY IN MILTON

International Women's Day (IWD) is a day recognizing the social, economic and political achievements of women while calling for action toward gender equality. The Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) of Milton held a March on Main to support the day.

"We carry forward the spirit of collective purpose, advocating for equity, inclusion, and the empowerment of women and girls in every sphere of life" - CFUW Milton & District

"Milton is one of the fastest-growing communities in Canada, and women have played an essential role in shaping that growth. From grassroots leaders advocating for better services, to women around council tables making decisions about housing, infrastructure, and economic development - women are helping design the future of our community" - Sameera Ali (March MC)





Gurmail Singh Saggi, Adv. Amandeep Singh Rehal, Avtar Singh Rehal, Jaswinder Singh Rehal, Aman from Dynamic Haulers Auto, Satnam Singh, Gurmeet Singh, Manjeet Singh Bhullar, Guravtar Singh, Nimmi, Amreek, Rick Di Lorenzo

SIKH GURU NANAK MISSION GROUP

holds food drive at Milton Town Hall

by Rick Di Lorenzo

On April 19th at Milton Town Hall there was a Sikh Heritage Celebration that also served to raise non-perishable food items for Milton's Food Banks.

The event was organized by the Halton Guru Nanak Mission. The group

at the event had multiple presenters where they highlighted their service to the community with both a food drive and on-going fundraising for Milton District Hospital Foundation.

Certificate Awards of Appreciation were also given to several members of

the community. Mayor Krantz who was in attendance was turning 89 on April 20th and the group honoured him with a rendition of Happy Birthday as well as a Certificate honouring him as Mayor.



Celebrating 20 Years Serving the Milton Community

For more than 20 years, JDI Cleaning Services has proudly supported businesses right here in the Milton community. For Juan Arboleda and Paola Montoya, this milestone is especially meaningful, not only as business owners, but also as proud Milton residents. After arriving in Canada from Colombia in 2001, Juan and Paola chose Milton as the place to build their future. Over the past two decades, they have lived, worked, and raised their family in the same community they now serve. What started as part-time cleaning work gradually grew into a successful family business built on dedication, hard work, and connections with local clients. Today, their team provides professional commercial cleaning services to a wide range of businesses and facilities throughout Milton and surrounding areas, operating from their office in Milton.

As a family operated business, Juan and Paola take great pride in staying personally involved in the service they deliver. They have built a strong reputation with many respected local organizations and companies that rely on their team to help maintain clean and safe workplaces every day. Their commitment to quality, reliability, and customer satisfaction continues to be the foundation of the work they do for clients throughout the community. Beyond providing cleaning services, they are also passionate about helping others start their own businesses. Through the JDI franchise system, they support new entrepreneurs who want to build a future in commercial cleaning while receiving training, guidance, and ongoing support.

As they celebrate 20 years serving Milton, Juan and Paola remain grateful to the community that has supported their journey and look forward to many more years ahead. If you are

interested in commercial cleaning services or would like to learn more about owning a JDI franchise, you can contact Juan and Paola at (289)-652-1063 or jarboleda@jdicleaning.ca, located at 207-50 Steeles Ave E, Milton, ON.





SAYYIDAH FATEMAH ISLAMIC CENTRE

holds Inter-Faith Iftar Dinner

Syed Soharwardy is a Canadian Islamic scholar and founder of Islamic Supreme Council of Canada, Canadian Council of Mosques & Islamic Centres and Muslims Against Terrorism.

On March 7th at the Interfaith dinner hosted by Sayyidah Fatemah Islamic Centre he spoke about when in 1997 he started making Iftar dinners

interfaith where Christians, Jews, Hindus and all faiths were welcome. This wasn't the norm at that time and some people questioned why non-muslims would be invited. Today we are thankful for him starting the tradition of making them interfaith and welcome to all.

He spoke about how important it is to share Canadian values, and sharing

food, faith and life with all neighbours, coworkers and friends regardless of religion.

Mayor Krantz thanked him for the words he shared and that the Mayor supported the upcoming centre and the good things he's heard and learned about the one in Calgary.





SOUTHSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH

organizes Milton Community Dinner

Southside Community Church in Milton hosted a community dinner on April 9th in Milton. The theme was Brazilian with Feijoada (national dish of Brazil) being the main course.

Feijoada is a rich stew of black beans slow-cooked with a variety of meats. The traditional rice, sautéed collard greens and orange slices were included as part of the meal. Miltonians got to experience authentic Brazilian today cooked by Brazilian members of the congregation.

These are a part of a series of monthly community dinners that occur at Grace Church. The dinners are free and open to all residents with optional donations accepted at the door. The dinners also serve as a venue for community announcements with both the Milton Legion and churches making several announcements.

Anna from Southside highlighted the Community Closet which is a free clothing shop for anyone in need, no questions asked. It's held every Saturday 10am to 2pm in Milton at the church (200 main street east in Downtown Milton)



ZAINAB AZIM

Learn to Lead

Zainab Azim, Milton's Citizen of the Year who started the "Meet Milton" initiative, is a graduate and Teaching Fellow at Harvard University, teaching policy analysis, economics, and organizing people-powered movements.

As an educator and in her organizing work, which involves Leadership Development trainings she is bringing to her hometown of Milton for all ages through Learn to Lead, she understands the power of storytelling, which she is demonstrating through Meet Milton.

"There is a reason that we teach our children lessons about life through stories, and even across faiths, we don't give a list of instructions. Stories allow us to show, not just tell, the values, morals and lessons we aspire to live by," says Zainab.

"By sharing the stories of our neighbors who are trying to make this world a bit of a better place, not only are we able to show what makes Milton home - the people - but also bring others into the conversation so that they may see themselves in each other. They may not be sitting right there in our signature green chairs with us, but by inviting others into a public conversation, we hope to show our common humanity, our collective hopes, cares, and dreams, that we have more in common than we do apart when we sit down and build a real human relationship. Relationships based on values, not transactions, are the foundation of people-power in organizing. Stories enable us to build relationships across time and space by understanding each others shared values."

Why does this matter? "At a time that requires unity and community rather



than division and despair, the lesson we are trying to show is that the hope we seek in this world where there is so much hurt and harm happening, it does not live somewhere out there. Hope is built right here - starting at home, in ourselves, with our neighbors, in this town. Because hope, organizing and people-power first and foremost start with: Who are our People? Not with some consultants or 'experts' in suits

strategizing in a boardroom, but with everyday people in the streets having conversations with their neighbors."

Her hope? "That this moves people to meet with their own neighbors and build real relationships based on values not just through a screen, to create hope not as something we feel but as something we do, something we build, something we practice, together."

More about Zainab:

Having most recently been on the Zohran Mamdani campaign in New York, her experience spans academia in developmental Neuroscience, government through the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance's Office of Canada, the United Nations Space4Women in STEM program, and nonprofits like the Urban Alliance for Race Relations and the National Education Policy Centre.

She is a published researcher and author of three books on education, including an upcoming book with her team at the Harvard Kennedy School on people-based politics in the

Mamdani campaign. Zainab was raised in Milton by her grandmother, a fellow educator, where she was recognized as Milton's Citizen of the Year. She first learned the power of organizing at her local Montessori school and playing for Milton United's soccer team.

She is committed to building people's collective capacity and leadership to create change in their communities through Learn to Lead - offering workshops based on the Harvard pedagogy and learnings from the field, starting in her hometown of Milton to give forward.



ST. GEORGE AND ST. ABANOUB CHURCH

in Milton starts Construction

March 8th was the historic Laying of the Cornerstone and Groundbreaking Ceremony of the new St. George & St. Abanoub Church (SGSA) being constructed at 555 Steeles Ave E.

“Let us come prepared in spirit, united in love, and ready to witness what God is building in our community” was in the invitation the Church made open to all residents. Well over 800 people attended the historical event to witness the time capsule placed in the cornerstone and take part in the ceremonies

The Coptic Orthodox Church is one of the earliest Christian churches founded in Alexandria, Egypt, by Saint Mark in 42 AD. It is the largest Christian community in the Middle East and in Milton there are over 600

families that actively participate in the Church.

SGSA Cornerstone & Groundbreaking ceremonies were both presided by His Grace Bishop Mina, Fr. Kyrillos Attia, and Fr. Abraam Moawad.

Father Kyrillos quoted Ecclesiastes in saying “To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven” when referring to today’s groundbreaking of the new church.





ROCK SOLID

Covid, Cancer, Chaos

**New book Launch by
Miltonian Julie Rock**

Julie Rock is who for many years was the owner of a prominent photographer studio in Milton, released her new book on April 18th “Rock Solid - Covid, Cancer, Chaos”

The book details navigating cancer, financial struggles, and housing uncertainty.

“Since 2020, my journey with cancer has taught me that while we can’t control the ups and downs life brings, we can choose how we meet them. These years have unfolded alongside parenting, ongoing treatment and the deep realization that life is both fragile and extraordinary” - Julie Rock

You can order the book or learn more about her as an inspirational speaker where she shares stories shaped by resilience, perspective, and the belief that how we respond to life’s challenges matters at rocktheperspective.ca





MILTON ARMY CADETS

holds Field Training Exercises in Milton

The Milton Army Cadets (2990 Lorne Scots Royal Canadian Army Cadets Corps (Milton Company)) held field training exercises in Milton at Camp Manitou in the end of February. They conducted simulated search and rescue missions and other field exercises. The cadets were tasked with overcoming obstacles while surviving in cold weather and providing simulated first aid to wounded members.

The level of leadership skills that Milton Army Cadets pick up as well how they work up through the ranks with the senior cadets doing continuous leadership building exercises to the lower ranks was inspiring. Milton Youth between 12 and 18 years of age are accepted into the Cadets and it's a great vehicle to build both leadership and self-confidence.



Tish Tarachandra Commanding Officer and Kres Smintich Deputy Commanding Officer





MILTON



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***We will begin at Milton Community Park at
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Rick Di Lorenzo

Caring for the Community