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Vol. 50, No. 15 | Thursday, April 11, 2024

Haldimand's best source for news and local event coverage since 1868

## Eyes on the sky: Haldimand goes dark on path of total eclipse



*HALDIMAND—Thousands of residents were ready and waiting to watch a once-in-a-lifetime phenomenon as Haldimand plunged into darkness from approximately 3:17 to 3:25 p.m. (depending on where you viewed it) on Monday, April 8, 2024. The moment of totality drew cheers from crowds gathered throughout the county at venues including Cayuga's Toronto Motorsports Park, the Dunnville airport, and Hagersville's Haldimand Abilities Centre as spectators looked to the sky (eclipse glasses on, of course) in wonder at a sight that will not grace our local skies again until 2099. For more photos of the eclipse from around Haldimand County, turn to page 12. —Photo courtesy of Ann Culp Photography.*

## Cayuga teen joins Team Canada

**By Sheila Phibbs**  
The Haldimand Press

CAYUGA—While hockey has wrapped up for many, it's a year-round commitment for 14-year-old Xavier Slotuik of Cayuga. This June, ball hockey will see Xavier in Austria as a goalie for Team Canada at the United World Games (UWG).

Xavier has played ice hockey in Cayuga since 2014. By 2016 he was a full-time goalie. He says, "I fell in love with playing goalie."

Four years later he started ball hockey, playing in Brantford with the Ball Hockey International (BHI) organization. BHI runs four seasons through the year: winter season is played indoors in Hamilton with the other seasons played at the Lions Park in Brantford.

Xavier began ball hockey intending to play out front and build his endurance. He explains how that plan changed: "The goalie got sick so I filled in and was asked to stay on."

His goaltending skills have earned him the nickname "X-Save-ier". A teammate in Cayuga first came up with the name, and years later ball hockey parents began using it as well.

Xavier's enthusiasm for ball hockey is clear. He says, "It's such a fast paced sport – that's my favourite part."

It uses similar equipment to ice hockey, except the skates. The addition of plastic sliders on goalie pads help with movement off ice. The skills are transferable between them, with Xavier's dad, Ron, noticing how ball hockey has refined Xavier's glove work on the ice too. His mom, Krystal, adds, "He has a really incredible goalie coach, Ryan Marks, at Cayuga who has been very instrumental and encouraging in fine tuning his skills, both physically and mentally."

Xavier has learned visualization from his ice hockey coach and now uses it for ball hockey as well.

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## A view of the select few: Doris Young looks back at 100 years on this planet

**By Olivia Snyder**  
The Haldimand Press

CALEDONIA—Hockey playoffs are approaching, and lifelong Haldimand citizen Doris Young will be watching the Toronto Maple Leafs with eager anticipation. Unlike many Leafs fans of today, Young can remember the team's heyday in the 1960s.

"We knew they were the best team," grins Young. Her commitment has not wavered since then. While living in a Caledonia apartment building in the early 2000s Young made sure every resident had a snack of popcorn while they watched the game in their private rooms. In 2023 she proudly hung her Leafs jersey on her door during the playoffs ... only to snatch it sadly back inside when they lost to the Florida Panthers in the second round.

Young's favourite player in the 60s was goaltender Johnny Bower. Coincidentally, Bower was born the same year as Young: 1924. The two Canadians lived rather different lives through the Great Depression, Second World War, and whirlwind decades of the late 20th century. Today she joins the ranks of young – and not-so-young – Auston Matthews fans.

Young was raised on a dairy farm near Tyneside, northeast of Caledonia, during "Depression years" when "nobody had any money." The family milked Guernsey cows and "always had a big garden" with "beautiful Spy apples." Young remembers, "Dad always had a few pigs, chickens, and turkeys."

Farming was a neighbourhood endeavor. Families in the area – including the Pattersons, bachelor Fred Moore, and the many Stonemans – routinely traded work.

"We had wonderful neighbours, we really did," smiles Young, "Come threshing time you always changed hands."

"I remember bugging Dad to let me milk. I regret that," laughs Young.

Sharing work was important since "you had to do everything with no conveniences."

Even in school the children worked together to keep the room heated and class fed.

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CALEDONIA—Local centenarian Doris Young with her youngest relative, her great-great-grandchild.

—Submitted photo.

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# 2024 total solar eclipse as seen across Haldimand



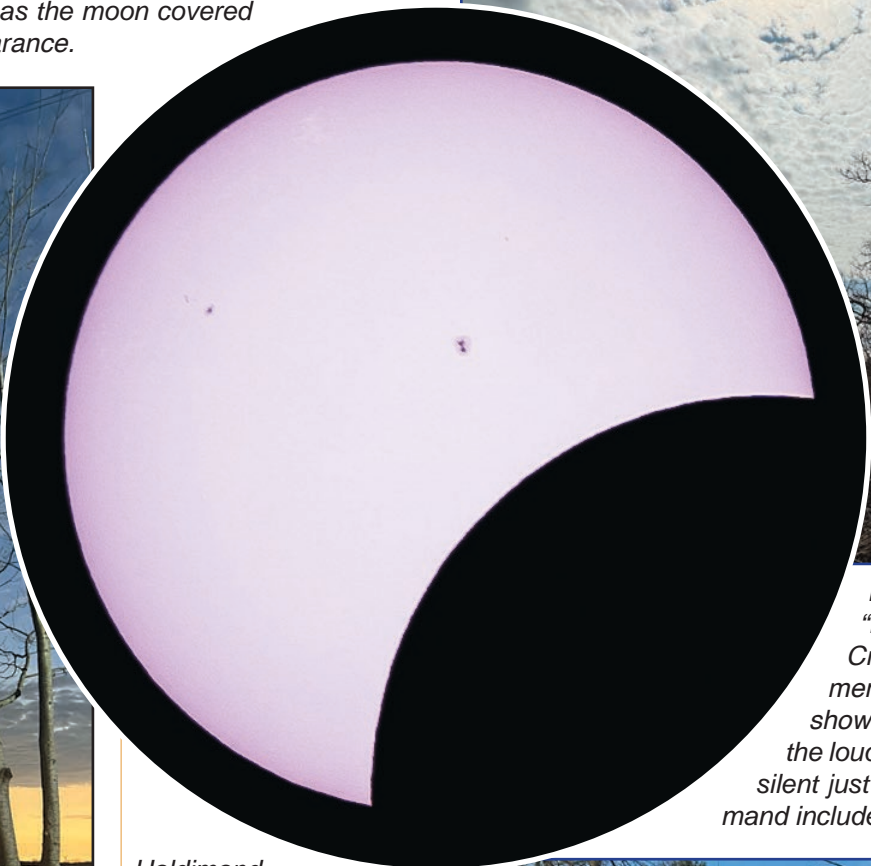
CAYUGA—Cayuga resident and Haldimand Photography Club member Shelley Hamilton captured this wonderfully moody shot of the eclipse as the moon covered the majority of the sun, giving off a crescent moon appearance.



DUNNVILLE—The two photos above depict the view of “History’s Witness”, a historic tree at Dunnville’s Thompson Creek Park, during the eclipse. They were taken just moments apart by Press Co-publisher Kaitlyn Clark. The photos showcase the dramatic effect of the totality, with Clark noting the loud trilling of a nearby group of chorus frogs went completely silent just before totality. Other unfamiliar sights throughout Haldimand included streetlights turning on midday.



DUNNVILLE—Ruby Szabo got this shot as Lake Erie took with colours of sunset, despite the sun remaining high up in the sky.



Haldimand Photography Club member Joel D’Eath caught the moon as it took a bite out of the sun’s side from his viewpoint just outside Blackheath on Highway 56.



HALDIMAND—Haldimand Photography Club member George Popa caught this fiery image during totality.



HAGERSVILLE—Participants at the Haldimand Abilities Centre were given free glasses and eclipse-themed treats to enjoy as part of their eclipse event. “We are so lucky we got clear skies,” said HAC Team Lead Lyndi Doherty. “We try to provide programming for people with low or impaired vision, as well as people with acquired brain injuries.... We wanted to make sure that our clients had a safe opportunity to watch the eclipse.” Participant Elaine McGeachie added, “I think this is just great. It’s so much better watching it with these people than being at home.” —Haldimand Press photo by Mike Renzella.



## RECREATION

# Sign up for summer programs!

Registration opens May 1, 2024.

Online registration begins at 6:00am or in person starting at 8:30am at the Haldimand County Administrative Building.

Explore programs and sign up at [link.haldimandcounty.ca](https://link.haldimandcounty.ca)

