

EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS



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# The Voice

of Pelham and Central Niagara

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## Fergus of Fenwick tops Pelham Library reading challenge

BY DON RICKERS  
VOICE CORRESPONDENT

Fergus MacDonald, of Fenwick, has yet to reach his sixth birthday, but he has already achieved a milestone—the first to meet the Pelham Library's reading challenge of a thousand picture books.

Jennifer Bennett, the library's Children and Youth Coordinator, said that the competition is open to kids up to age six, with the goal that all children can be ready to read by Grade 1.

"They can enroll any time, and do not have to read the books independently...a parent can read to them as well," said Bennett.

Fergus' mom, dad, and grandma all read aloud to him.

Fergus' family members have been avid library users for over ten years, according to Bennett, and Fergus just started in the book program in November 2020.

"All of the reading is done at home, and the number of books is logged online through a tracker app called Beanstack," said Bennett.

She noted that Fergus' favourite book is "Sam and Dave Dig a Hole," and that, in addition to reading, he also loves to splash in puddles, climb trees, and ride his bike.

Veronica MacDonald, Fergus' mother, has homeschooled her son this past year, and said that, "To be

honest, he didn't read any more than usual, which is between two and ten books a day. We just started keeping track, and soon realized how it was adding up. We stopped keeping track at a thousand, because Beanstack kind of bumps you off at that point."

Fergus usually reads kids' fiction books, but he's starting to enjoy chapter books that are read aloud to him.

"He's a beginner-level reader, and can do sight words. But he understands everything that you read to him," said his mother. Fergus is the youngest of three, and his older brother and sister are big readers as well.

Fergus is allowed to play video games on weekends, and his mom says he likes to play Skylanders, "a game about a magical dragon. And he loves to play outside, and he loves to swim. He's pretty active. He's got a puppy, too."

Veronica MacDonald had nothing but praise for the Town's librarians.

"Jennifer [Bennett] has always been so supportive of families and children at the library...and all the librarians at the Fonthill and Fenwick branches are great.

Children can enroll in the Thousand Book Challenge through [pelhamlibrary.beanstack.org](http://pelhamlibrary.beanstack.org).



Fergus MacDonald is the first to meet Pelham Library's 1000 picture book milestone. VERONICA MACDONALD

## Column Six

### Father and son to a tee

BY JOHN PICCOLO and SAMUEL PICCOLO  
SPECIAL TO THE VOICE

**THE SON:** On a good many days with my father, he couldn't have looked forward to playing golf with me. The fault was all mine. I so hated playing poorly that if I began a round with a few bad holes I would quickly turn miserable—anywhere from slamming clubs, to cursing as much as I could get away with, to just plain sulking. It became so bad that when we'd leave the house, my mom would take me aside and tell me to try and not to ruin things. But I usually did anyway.

My dad must have known what was happening. I cared about playing well, and I cared even more about showing him that I could play well. When this didn't happen, my frustration spiralled out of control. He would have known what I was doing because he was the exact same way when he was young. Hyper-competitive, ultra-intense, very hard on himself when things weren't going right.

But even if I still hate three-putting in front of him, happily that phase of life is over for both of us. Golf continues to give a lot

See COLUMN SIX back page

## Car wash variance approved

### Hurricane residents still not sold on sound barrier

BY DON RICKERS  
VOICE CORRESPONDENT

A zoning variance for a 160-foot-long, 15-foot-high fence — perhaps better described as a noise barrier — has been approved by Pelham Town Council for 151 Highway 20 East, the site of an automated car wash that

abuts Hurricane Road, which has been a focus of local ire of late owing to what some nearby residents say is its excessive noise.

Fire Chief Bob Lymburner described the steel and concrete structure, planned for the north side of the car wash, as akin to industrial-standard walls typically seen on highways to block

road noise from adjacent housing developments.

"I can't guarantee you that this is going to keep the residents quiet," said Lymburner in a presumably unintended Freudian slip, "but I think that, working with the owners, this measure is going to solve the problem."

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