

## Province to invest half a million in transportation services in Caledon



Written By JOSHUA SANTOS

Ontario's government will invest half a million dollars for transportation services in Caledon.

Funds will be distributed through the community transportation grant program to help support services within and between neighbouring communities, according to a news release.

'This investment will improve the quality of life for many residents in our communities who currently do not have access to other transit options,' said Sylvia Jones, MPP Dufferin-Caledon. 'Having the ability to get residents who need a ride to the services and programs that they need, is as important as the services themselves.'

The Province will provide municipalities with \$30 million over five years to support local transit programs and intercommunity bus service in areas with little or no public transit.

Caledon Community Services provide the town's only transit service. They enjoyed the announcement.

'We are delighted with our provincial government's support of Caledon through this transportation grant,' said Monty Laskin, CEO Caledon Community Services. 'This support increases Caledon residents' abilities to access community services, attend training and pursue employment opportunities. This five-year grant is an important step forward as our municipality creates its own master plan for public transportation.'

The government said the program will make it more convenient for Ontarians, including seniors, students, youths and persons with disabilities to access essential services in their communities, connect with other transportation services, and travel between cities and towns.

Caledon Council approved \$320,000 in the 2019 budget to phrase in a transportation service for the community. Staff are reviewing how that money will be allocated with details scheduled to come to council later this spring.

'The Town is completing the Transit Feasibility Study and staff will report findings and recommendations to Council in the first quarter of 2019,' said Fuwing Wong, general manager of finance and infrastructure services and chief financial officer.

'In the 2019 budget, staff is recommending \$320,000 be allocated to implement expanded public transit services in 2019. Specifics

related to public transit services will be outlined in an implementation plan in the Transit Feasibility Study report in 2019.?

Through the provincial grant, municipalities will partner with community organizations, health agencies, transit agencies, and school-bus and private transportation operators, to coordinate local transportation services and run intercommunity routes.

The initiative builds on a pilot program that provided nearly \$3 million in funding to 22 municipalities since 2015.

In the first year of the pilot, more than 28,000 people used the new services to make more than 105,000 trips.

At this time, GO Transit operates three routes, both with GO train connections. Route 37, Orangeville to Brampton via Highway 10 runs on peak hours, route 38, Bolton to Malton runs all day and route 38A Bolton to North York runs during peak times.

Brampton Transit operates four buses in town and one in Caledon. 30 Airport Rd. to Tullamore runs all day, 7 Kennedy operates all day, 24 Van Kirk runs during