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CELEBRATING SAMUEL

Mayor Annette Groves and Councillor Mario Russo came out on Tuesday to celebrate the retirement of pharmacist Samuel Lai after 38 years of serving the community. For more, see Page 3.

PHOTO BY SHERALYN ROMAN



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Dufferin–Caledon candidates answer questions on key issues ahead of Monday’s federal election

BY SAM ODROWSKI

A record-setting number of Canadians participated in advanced voting ahead of the country’s 45th General Election.

And many millions more will cast a ballot for their preferred party and candidate when the federal election takes place on April 28.

As election day approaches, Canadians are encouraged to set aside some time to become informed on all the major party’s platforms, stances on issues, and objectives, if elected.

To assist residents of Dufferin–Caledon in learning more about their local candidates, the

Citizen asked them several questions about issues relevant to voters.

Responses were received from incumbent Conservative candidate Kyle Seeback, Liberal Party candidate Malalai Halimi, Green Party candidate Ifra Baig, PPC candidate Dymrna Carolan and NDP candidate Viktor Karklins.

Here are the questions and what the candidates had to say in response:

When looking at the Dufferin–Caledon riding, what issues do you see as unique to this area?

Kyle Seeback (Conservative): Housing affordability is an issue across Canada; however,

it is particularly challenging for people in Dufferin-Caledon. For example, as of February 2025, the average price for a home in Dufferin County was \$820,278 and in April 2025, the average price for a home in Caledon was \$1,374,819, making it nearly impossible for young families to buy a home.

Under the Liberals, housing prices doubled, and it now takes 25 years to save up for a down payment. Canada has the worst housing inflation of any country in the G7. Young people are forced to rent, but rent has doubled too.

Since 2015, the Liberal government has put in place costly government programs that build bureaucracy, not homes. As a result, Canada has the second-slowest building permit approval time out of 35 countries, as measured by the OECD, and when compared to the United States, Canada’s approval times are over three times longer.

Conservatives have a real plan to tackle the housing affordability issue for young families and first-time home buyers in Dufferin-Caledon and across Canada. We will axe the sales tax on new homes, saving families up to \$65,000 on the purchase of a home and \$3,000 on yearly mortgage payments while spurring a massive new home-building boom.

We will bring more Boots, not Suits, backing 350,000 positions for trade schools and union halls to train red-seal apprentices to build homes, and we will bring back the \$4,000 apprenticeship grant that the Liberals plan to eliminate. We will work to eliminate red tape and delays in approving housing projects. We will also incentivize municipalities to speed up permits, free up land, and cut housing taxes so homes can be built faster.

Malalai Halimi (Liberal): Dufferin-Caledon is my home. It’s where I live with my three teenage children, where I shop, and where I enjoy some of

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Let’s talk

Local leaders reflect on passing of Pope Francis at 88

BY SAM ODROWSKI AND BROCK WEIR

Catholics and religious people around the world are mourning the death of Pope Francis.

He passed away at 88 years old on Easter Monday, April 21.

A stroke and subsequent heart failure resulted in Pope Francis’s death according to a statement from the Vatican.

Leaders around the world have issued statements or made social media posts reflecting on the legacy, life and loss of Pope Francis.

Locally, several leaders shared comments on the pope’s passing.

“I offer my condolences to the Catholic community of Dufferin-Caledon and all Catholics around the world on Pope Francis’ passing,” said Dufferin-Caledon incumbent Conservative candidate

Kyle Seeback. “The leadership displayed by His Holiness has been an inspiration to millions.

“My prayers are with all Catholics during this difficult time, as we all reflect on his many contributions and legacy, including his historic apology for residential schools in Canada,” Seeback added.

Senior pastor at the Uptown Church in Orangeville, Matthew McLean, noted his surprise regarding the announcement of Pope Francis’s death.

“I was especially shocked to hear of Pope Francis’s passing after seeing him ministering publicly the day before on Easter Sunday (April 20),” said Pastor Matthew McLean.

Continued on Page A2



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Green Ribbon Campaign encourages organ donation, raises awareness

BY PAULA BROWN
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Do you know if you’re an organ donor?

An Orangeville-based initiative dedicated to organ donation advocacy is raising awareness of donor registration in recognition of Organ Donation Awareness Month and National Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Week.

The Green Ribbon Campaign was started in 2017 by Orangeville resident Mike Steele, a heart transplant recipient who wanted to pay forward his gift of life by encouraging others to register for organ donation.

In June of 2018, Steele passed away from his battle with cancer and his daughter, Michelle White, chose to continue the campaign in his memory.

“He wanted to do as much with his second life as he possible could, and I felt like I needed to continue what he started. It was extremely important to my dad to reach out and get as many people as possible registered because he wouldn’t have had as many milestones that happened in his life. Because someone donated their heart, we got him for eight more years,” said White.

Organ Donation Awareness Month and National Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Week (NOTDAW) both look to advocate the critical need for more donors across the country and also encourage Canadians to register their decision.

Canadian Blood Services reports that 90 per cent of Canadians support organ and tissue donation, but only 32 per cent have registered their decision to be a donor.

By registering, one organ donor is able to save the lives of eight people and up to 75 patients can receive a tissue donation from a single donor.

“You can be a donor for both and be a part of something incredible in someone’s life,” said White.

In previous years, the Green Ribbons Campaign has held information booths at community events such as the Orangeville Fall Fair and Home Show, to spread the word about organ and tissue donation.

White said it was during these events that she began to wonder how many people she met would go home to register or check their donor status.

In the hopes of increasing the number of people registered as donors in the community, the

initiative organized a registration drive at Headwaters Health Care Centre on April 15.

“We wound up having over 20 people check their status and we had two people that were not registered and registered on the spot, which was amazing,” said White.

As important as it is to register as a donor, White also wants to highlight the importance of sharing your wishes to be a donor with your family.

“Do you know if they want to be an organ donor is a tough question for a family member to answer in a time of grief,” said White.

Trillium Gift of Life Network is part of Ontario Health and responsible for delivering and coordinating organ and tissue donation or transplantation services across the province.

At the time of print, Trillium Gift of Life Network reports that there are 1,531 people waiting for an organ transplant.

“Think about it not in terms of numbers. Those are people,” said White.

According to Be A Donor, there are a total of 61,767 health card holders in Orangeville, of which only 26,334 are registered donors. Meaning that there is about a 43 per cent registration donor rate.

An easy way to find out if you’re an organ donor is to check your health card. Those interested in becoming a donor or would like to check their registration status can do so by visiting www.beadonor.ca.

To learn more about the local Green Ribbon Campaign, visit the “Green Ribbons 4 Mike” Facebook page.




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“What’s in your child’s lunchbox?” by Mariia Kupriianova, Chief Development Officer, Caledon Community Services



Every morning, I slip a little note into my kids’ lunchboxes along with nutritious food: ‘You’ve got this. You are a rockstar. Have a great day.’ It’s my way of reminding them they’re loved, they’re safe and they’ll be okay.

But what if your child’s lunchbox was... empty?

Right now in Caledon, that’s the heartbreaking reality for too many families. Skyrocketing grocery prices and mounting uncertainty are forcing parents to make impossible choices.

Did you know that one in three clients at Caledon Community Services’ (CCS) Exchange food bank, Caledon’s only full-service food bank, is a child? And when school ends, so do school-based meal programs, leaving too many lunchboxes and fridges bare.

Amid all the noise of the news these days, this is urgent. Families need our help now.

I know what hunger feels like. I grew up in poverty. I remember the nights my mother quietly skipped dinner so we children could eat. The field trips I missed because we simply couldn’t afford them. That kind of emptiness stays with you.

But here’s the thing: you can be the difference. You can fill a child’s lunchbox. You can give a parent peace of mind. And maybe, just maybe, remind someone they’re not alone with a message that says: You’ve got this.

Your gift before June 30 will be doubled thanks to a generous \$25,000 combined match from the Yule-Roth family and Downey’s Farm. That means double the meals, double the support and double the hope.

Your generosity today means healthy food on the table, summer camp spots for kids and urgent help for neighbours facing hardship.

But we have to act now. Together we can make sure no one is left behind. So, if you’re doing okay, please give today. And if you or someone you love needs help - call us. We’re here for you. Visit www.ccs4u.org or call 905-584-2300. Thank you for being a good neighbour who shows up.

Looking for more opportunities to put kindness into action? Drop in to the Exchange (55 Healey Rd., Bolton) on May 3, between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. for a day of community volunteering. All ages are welcome!



How Do You See It?

Tell us how you see it. Mariia Kupriianova, Chief Development Officer, Caledon Community Services at 905-584-2300 ext. 269 or mkupriianova@ccs4u.org

This column is provided free of charge by the Caledon Citizen.

Papal funeral set for Saturday

Continued from FRONT

“Pope Francis death happening at the end of a holiday (Holy Day), one that celebrates the death and resurrection of Christ Jesus is much to take in. To be 88 years of age and fighting to fulfill your ministry right to the end is a challenge for us all.”

Dufferin–Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones noted her sympathy for people impacted by the pope’s death.

“I extend my deepest condolences to all those in Dufferin-Caledon who are mourning the loss of Pope Francis. His unwavering dedication to kindness will always serve as an inspiration, and his global leadership will never be forgotten,” she told the Citizen.

Mayor Annette Groves, in a social media post, said she was “saddened” by the Pontiff’s death and described him as “a spiritual leader with compassion and faith.”

Added the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board: “Pope Francis served as a beacon of compassion, humility, and unwavering faith. His profound commitment to social justice, care

for the poor and marginalized, care for creation and tireless advocacy for peace and reconciliation touched the hearts of millions and inspired countless lives around the globe. His legacy of kindness, inclusivity, and servant leadership will continue to resonate within the Catholic Church and beyond for generations to come.

“In remembrance and as a sign of mourning, all flags at DPCDSB schools and facilities will be flown at half-staff. We offer our prayers for the eternal repose of Pope Francis and for the global Catholic community during this time of mourning. May perpetual light shine upon him and may he rest in eternal peace with our loving and merciful God.”

Pope Francis’s body was held at the chapel of Casa Santa Marta, the Vatican guesthouse where he lived during his papacy before being moved to St. Peter’s Basilica on Wednesday (April 23). His body will be kept at St. Peter’s Basilica for three days, while cardinals and members of the public pay their respect.

Pope Francis’s funeral will be held outdoors on Saturday, April 26, beginning at 10 a.m., in St. Peter’s Square.



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New owners of the pharmacy, Peter Hanna and Marina Aziz, join Lai in cutting the celebratory cake. PHOTO BY SHERALYN ROMAN

Lai celebrated upon retirement after 38 years

BY SHERALYN ROMAN

Dedicated Caledon East pharmacist Samuel Lai is retiring after 38 years serving patients from behind the counter. The momentous occasion was celebrated by co-workers, the many community members he has supported, and by Mayor Annette Groves and Councillor Mario Russo who stopped in to offer their sincerest thanks on behalf of a grateful community. Mr. Lai has been a pharmacist for 40 years in total and has watched the community grow over the course of his 38 years at the “top of the hill” in Caledon East. It was evident how beloved Sam is as a trusted health advisor by the many residents and patients who stopped in with cards, well-wishes and even hugs. Long serving employee Lina Salvatore (who has worked together with Sam for over 30 years) coordinated the beautiful retirement party featuring plenty of food, a fabulous cake with “prescription” jelly beans, coffee and also a ribbon cutting ceremony welcoming new owners Peter Hanna and Marina Aziz.

Asked what has kept Sam motivated throughout his career Mr. Lai explained it was “100% because of the customers and the community.” He shared that serving Caledon East residents has been like being with family and he has enjoyed everything about being a part of this special community. As for retiring now, he talked about the lasting impact of Covid and that he hasn’t really had a break for the past six years so it was just the right time to pass the torch. Both Sam and Lina are ready to assure patients that the transition to pharmacists Peter and Marina will be a continuation of the same small-town, family feeling that has always been at the core of Caledon East Pharmacy and Peter and Marina both reiterated their intent to continue the tradition supporting local. Toward the end of the celebration all staff gathered for a photo with Sam and more well-wishers stepped in for hugs and perhaps a tear or two was shed. Congratulations and happy retirement Samuel Lai and welcome Peter Hanna and Marina Aziz.

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4 PIECES 500 g

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SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOUR

The Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is investigating a suspicious behaviour incident that occurred in the Town of Orangeville and is asking for the public’s assistance in identifying two persons of interest.

“On April 8, 2025, at approximately 3:19 p.m., an older model white Honda Civic with a lone older male occupant and an older model silver Dodge Journey, also with an older male occupant, were seen driving around the area of Blind Line and Hansen Boulevard,” say Police. “The two vehicles appeared to be operating in tandem, approaching underage children walking home from school. The males reportedly asked the children for their phone numbers and Snapchat handles.

“A second, similar incident occurred on April 16, 2025, around the same time of day. While no individuals have reported being approached during this second encounter, community members spotted the same vehicles in the area and promptly reported it to police.”

Both males are described as white, possibly in their late teens or early 20s.

Dufferin OPP is asking anyone who may recognize the vehicles or has information related to these incidents to contact police at 1-888-310-1122. To remain anonymous, contact Crime

Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or submit a tip online at www.crimestopperssdm.com.

PEEL SCHOOLS
VANDALIZED

The 11 Division Criminal Investigation Bureau is seeking the public’s assistance in identifying the suspects responsible for several incidents of mischief at local high schools.

“Between April 10-18, seven high schools across Mississauga were vandalized with hate-motivated graffiti targeting both racialized and 2SLGBTQI+ communities. The incidents are believed to have taken place in the evening and connected to four male suspects,” says Peel Regional Police.

The suspects are described as light skin with thin builds, and wearing the following:

- Dark “Trapstar” hoodie, black jeans, and a grey Louis Vuitton toque with a black balaclava;
- Matte grey jacket, grey sweatpants, and a black balaclava;
- Black hoodie with a white logo on the chest, black jeans, and a black balaclava;
- Black hoodie, black jeans, and a clown face mask.

The investigation is ongoing, including working closely with the school board and can-

vassing CCTV footage. Information that could assist with the investigation and identify the suspects can be submitted to schoolinfo@peel-police.ca or left anonymously by calling Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or by visiting peelcrimestoppers.ca.

ANIMAL CRUELTY
INVESTIGATION

Investigators from the Peel Regional Police 11 Division Criminal Investigation Bureau have charged an individual following a disturbing animal cruelty investigation in Mississauga.

“Between December 2024 and March 2025, Peel Regional Police responded to several incidents in the Dundas/Mavis area of Mississauga in which juvenile dogs between 8-10 weeks old were discarded either deceased or badly mutilated and left for dead,” Police say. “The injuries were not consistent with wildlife and appeared to be intentionally caused. The incidents were linked by investigators who believed this to be the actions of the same individual. Following a complex investigation, police were able to identify a suspect. It is believed that he used various buy and sell platforms, including Kijiji, to purchase young puppies he later abused. He used the alias ‘Joey’ to converse with sellers and arrange purchases.”

On Friday, April 11, 43-year-old Jiong Wang of Mississauga was arrested and held in custody pending a bail hearing at the Ontario Court of Justice in Brampton. He faces the following criminal charges:

- Causing Unnecessary Suffering To Animals (X4);
 - Killing or Injuring Animals (X4);
 - Cruelty to Animals (X4).
- The charges have not been proven.

“Investigators are aware of at least eight dogs but believe there may have been other incidents that are not yet known. To date, only four dogs have been accounted for by police. One of the dogs was located deceased; the others are receiving medical care and are recovering.”

Investigators are appealing to anyone who may have sold puppies online to a buyer advertised as “Joey” or anyone with information to please email the investigative team at projectsentinel@peelpolice.ca.

Anonymous information may also be submitted by calling Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or visiting www.peelcrimestoppers.ca.

STOLEN PROPERTY
INVESTIGATION

As a result of an ongoing police investigation, members of the Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have charged three individuals in relation to a stolen vehicle.

“On April 19, 2025, at 1:00 a.m., Officers were conducting general patrols in the area of 11th Line for an unrelated call for service in Essa Township,” say Police. “Officers conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle determining that the driver was wanted with another police service. Officers searched incident to arrest and observed the VIN number at the front windshield was also reported stolen out of Huronia West OPP Detachment.”

Upon further investigation, all three accused parties were arrested and charged with the following:

Jonathan Garwood, 56, of Barrie was arrested and charged with:

- Possession Property Obtained by Crime;
- Use Plate not authorized for vehicle;
- Fail to surrender permit for motor vehicle;
- Drive with seat belt assembly inoperative;
- Operate unsafe vehicle;
- Operate a motor vehicle without insurance;
- Fail to surrender insurance card.

Robert Mercer, 56, of Barrie was arrested and charged with:

- Possession Property Obtained by Crime

Cameron Manchester, 22, of Severn Township was arrested and charged with:

- Possession Property Obtained by Crime

The charges have not been proven.

The accused parties are to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice at a later date.

Anyone having knowledge of drug or property related investigations is asked to contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122, or by calling Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). You can submit your information 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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CLUES ACROSS

1. Dark blacks

7. Construct a wall to confine

13. Most inappropriate

14. A type of board

16. Sacred Hindu syllable

17. Flatterer

19. The Granite State

20. Tears down

22. China’s Chairman

23. Former Houston footballer

25. Periods of time

26. Expressed pleasure

28. World alliance

29. A Brit’s mother

30. Television network

31. Brother or sister

33. Type of spirit

34. __ Ladd, actor

36. A medium oversees it

38. One time province of British India

40. Wrong

41. The highest parts of something

43. Insect

44. Baseball stat

45. A way to use up

47. Where wrestlers compete

48. It helps elect politicians

51. As fast as can be done

53. Genus of legumes

55. Samoa’s capital

56. Monument in Jakarta

58. Former French coin

59. Exploiters

60. College sports official

61. Uninterrupted in time

64. Stephen King story

65. Marked by no sound

67. Weathers

69. Denouncements

70. More beloved

CLUES DOWN

1. Winged nut

2. It cools a home

3. Kisses (French)

4. Oxford political economist

5. Keyboard key

6. Leaf pores

7. Agrees with publicly

8. Not around

9. Czech city

10. Muscle cell protein

11. Greek letter

12. Movements

13. Ned __, composer

15. Popular series

Game of __

18. Exclamation that denotes disgust

21. Helper

24. Gift

26. Up in the air (abbr.)

27. Treat without respect

30. Trims

32. Slang for lovely

35. City of Angels

hoopster (abbr.)

37. Guitarists’ tool

38. Island nation

39. Delivered in installments

42. A baglike structure

43. Cooking vessel

46. Gets in front of

47. Wounded by scratching

49. More breathable

50. Medical dressings

52. Indiana hoopster

54. Married Marilyn

55. An ancient Assyrian city

57. Congressmen (abbr.)

59. Approves food

62. Ventura’s first name

63. Between northeast and east

66. Atomic #71

68. Email designation

No one has more self-confidence than the person who does a crossword puzzle with a pen.

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From left: Maria Dinn, Reid Janisse and Erin MacKinnon star in the world premiere of “I’m In Love With Your Sister” by Norm Foster. The show opens May 1 and runs to May 18.

Theatre Orangeville presents “I’m In Love With Your Sister”

BY CONSTANCE SCRAFIELD

The cast and crew at Theatre Orangeville are thrilled and excited to be the first to produce and perform the world premiere of “I’m In Love With Your Sister” by Norm Foster.

This brilliant show opens on May 1 and runs until May 18. What adds to the excitement is the cast themselves – Maria Dinn, Reid Janisse and Erin MacKinnon – each of whom has performed in several Foster plays and appeared here at Theatre Orangeville as well.

“I’m In Love With Your Sister,” so we were told collectively in an interview with the cast and the director of the piece, David Nairn, includes much humour, a life-changing and traumatic fork in the road and the unexpected – all comedy’s favourite elements.

“It can take a heartbreak to realize what you are after hanging on to what’s convenient,” was MacKinnon’s comment, in the role of Louise.

Foster enjoys putting odd characters together to see what will happen.

“His plays are more focused on the characters. His plays are character-driven,” said Nairn.

Nairn expressed his opinion humorously that the playwright gleans most of his dialogue from sitting in coffee shops, listening to people talk. Foster allows his highly original characters to show themselves, with Nairn saying, “That’s the key to his success.”

This is true especially of his widely accepted talent for portraying women, getting inside how they really talk to each other has been the praise.

Hopefully we have all loved, and the comedy here is how things can resolve themselves.

Reid Janisse plays Kevin, an ordinary sort of chap, working a mundane sort of job whose

life gets turned upside down when he is faced with a revelation. The three characters live in the same neighbourhood, not in a big city but a place with a small-town life.

Into this comes a broken heart and a burden for the audience to bear.

Any time the audience comes into the theatre, they leave changed was Nairn’s assertion. He insists that even to a small extent the experience in live theatre of being engaged in the stories of the characters is so meaningful that it continues to travel with us.

Maria Dinn’s character, Patsy, was “in love with the wrong person,” as she put it. There is the element of wanting to change or bring out the best of a man. Yet, Patsy wants to celebrate Kevin’s strengths – from that place, one makes the best connection.

I’m In Love With Your Sister is a play very carefully constructed. Foster’s strength is to take those very real moments in our lives and as these thespians admitted, nothing is more truthful than heartbreak while a lot of comedy comes from it too.

The characters are “so real, so true” – there are lessons to be learned in this play, was the assessment, a reflection of who we are.

They are all very happy about doing this play as a world premiere.

Janisse explained the excitement of now a new play can be subject to changes by the author, anything is possible.

Seen as a privilege, it is always special to be the first cast for a play, they agreed. The premiere production of any play goes a long way to defining it for future performances and the responsibility that imposes is thrilling.

While he was writing this show, Norm Foster had a picture in his mind of how each of the characters would look physically. When Foster and Nairn began talking about the actors they

wanted for this production, they considered the list of likely actors and thought of these very three people as exactly right.

“We didn’t even [hold] open auditions,” Nairn told the Citizen. “This is the dream team for this play. These world class actors in this world-class show,” he added, “and with [production manager] Beckie’s creative dream team, is the ideal combination.”

He continued by offering a personal note: I’m In Love With Your Sister is the last play David Nairn will direct as artistic director of Theatre Orangeville.

Associate Artistic Director Jennifer Stewart

moves into Nairn’s position on July 1.

Since he began as artistic director in 1999, Nairn has programmed 25 shows by Norm Foster, three of which were musicals. Nairn directed 20 of those shows and acted in the other five. Eleven of the shows were world premieres.

I’m In Love With Your Sister runs from May 1 to May 18.

For more information and to buy tickets go to www.theatreorangeville.ca or call the Box Office at its new number – 519-938-7584. You can purchase your tickets at Orangeville’s Opera House (87 Broadway).

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Candidates answer questions on key issues ahead of election

Continued from FRONT
my downtime when I’m not working as a business manager. As a resident, I know firsthand the importance of supporting this community to make sure it thrives.

Part of what makes Dufferin-Caledon so special is our natural beauty. Dufferin-Caledon is home to some world-renowned natural wonders, and it is all of our responsibilities to protect them. Throughout my campaign, I’ve had the pleasure of meeting with various environmental organizations who are committed to protecting our local environment.

As your Member of Parliament, I will work to preserve and protect more of Dufferin-Caledon’s nature. And I’ll ensure that your federal representative has a strong voice that stands up for our environment.

But our community also faces our fair share of challenges.

As a mother who wants to ensure her kids own a home in the future, I’m concerned by the lack of housing that exists in our communities. I will work with our federal government to ensure we can build more homes across Dufferin-Caledon. In Caledon, our federal government has committed to building 6,250 homes over the next 10 years – but that’s just a start. I’ll work to ensure that more homes are built in our riding, as part of our Liberal plan to build 4 million homes across Canada.

Viktor Karklins (NDP): When looking at Dufferin-Caledon, I see an amazing region of hard-working people. I see those who have seen success and those who have seen hardships. One thing I firmly believe is that nobody should be left behind, and instead of declaring some as winners and some as losers I believe the government of Canada has a responsibility to weave a strong and free safety net to catch those who fall.

As we’ve seen with the growing issues of homelessness encampments, with seniors being the largest growing demographic of those without homes due to economic hardship, when homes are an asset class for investors rather than a place to live we see only economic winners and losers.

Dufferin-Caledon is no exception to these challenges, and we need to ensure that there are enough homes for everyone by building 3 million new homes by 2030 with a new \$16 billion housing accelerator fund. Let’s ensure that homes are for living in, not just for profiting off of.

If we’re looking specifically for a unique issue in this area, I think there is so much opportunity for the region to be a hub of economic activity.

In order to build 3 million new homes in five years we will need everything from labourers to engineers, and with Dufferin-Caledon being so close to an array of massive cities we are uniquely positioned to take advantage of that.

If our carpenters, architects, and project managers can help accelerate the building of homes everywhere from Toronto to Bolton to Shelburne we can be at the centre of a housing boom.

Ifra Baig (Green): Dufferin–Caledon is such a

special place. You can feel it — the sense of community, the connection to the land — but I also see the challenges people are living with every day.

Affordable housing is slipping out of reach for too many families. Development is happening so fast that a lot of us are worried about losing the small-town feel and the farmland that defines us. There’s also a real need for better healthcare access, and for transit options that actually connect our communities.

If I’m elected, I want to protect what makes Dufferin–Caledon home — by standing up to developers who don’t put the community first, protecting the Greenbelt, and pushing for affordable, sustainable housing. I want to invest in rural healthcare and expand local transit so people aren’t cut off. And I really believe we can be leaders in agriculture, green innovation, and small business — we just need a government that believes in us the way we believe in ourselves.

Dympna Carolan (PPC): One of the main issues affecting Canada, our economy and our housing market is something we actually can solve and that is irresponsible immigration.

Being so close to the GTA, where a large portion of new immigrants settle, Dufferin-Caledon has been enormously negatively affected by immigration policies.

Mass immigration plays a part in our slow economy and stagnant wages and puts enormous pressure on our services.

This strains our citizens, both economically and socially.

For many years we had a strong immigration policy that benefited both Canadian citizens and newcomers to our country. Let’s get back to sound policies.

The People’s Party policy is an immediate moratorium on immigration, to cool down the housing market and reboot our economy. Then get back to responsible immigration for the benefit of all.

What actions will you and your party take to improve the economy, tackle the cost-of-living crisis and increase the number of good-paying jobs across Canada and Dufferin–Caledon?

Viktor Karklins (NDP): If elected, the NDP stands firm on the creation of good, unionized jobs and fair wages. When corporations put profits above people, instead of treating employees like people you reduce them to gig-workers and contractors.

We need to recoup those unfair profits from companies that exploit the opportunity for profit in the midst of crisis, like a wealth tax on companies that overcharge for product of Canada goods at the grocery store to take advantage of those who are looking to fight back against the United States’ unfair tariffs.

Instead, we need to help reduce the cost of basic essentials at the store, ensuring that everyone can afford to eat, not just those who have been the luckiest. One job should put a roof over your head and food in your fridge, you shouldn’t have to stitch together a series of part-time gigs to barely get by.

We also need to ensure that tax cuts help those who need it most, not millionaires. Let’s ensure that the billionaires and the ultra-wealthy pay their fair share in

taxes, just like you and I do. Stop the offshore tax havens and let’s stop giving handouts to mega-corporations, if we even just collected the taxes that are owed by the ultra-wealthy that would pay for more nurses, doctors, and new homes.

Ifra Baig (Green): People are working harder than ever, but life keeps getting more expensive. That’s not right, and it’s not sustainable. The Green Party and I want to rebuild the economy so that it actually supports people and families, not just the big corporations at the top.

We want to create good-paying, future-ready jobs right here by investing in clean energy, sustainable farming, green manufacturing, and local entrepreneurship. In Dufferin–Caledon, that means creating opportunities for farmers, tradespeople, young entrepreneurs — anyone who wants to build a good life close to home.

When it comes to the cost-of-living crisis, we have to be real: inflation isn’t just a number. It’s your grocery bill, your rent, your ability to take your kids to soccer without stressing over gas prices.

We need to build affordable housing, crack down on corporate price gouging, and expand healthcare coverage so you’re not paying out-of-pocket for essentials like dental care. And we need a fairer tax system because the billionaires shouldn’t be paying less (percentage-wise) than the people working two jobs to survive.

This isn’t about temporary fixes. It’s about building an economy that finally puts regular people first.

Malalai Halimi (Liberal): As a single mother of three teenagers, I know firsthand how rising costs have impacted families here in Dufferin-Caledon and across the country. We need strong, experienced leadership to help bring costs down, especially at a time when Donald Trump is threatening our economic stability.

As Mark Carney has said, we cannot control Donald Trump, but we can take measures that ensure life becomes more affordable while building a stronger Canadian economy.

Mark Carney and our Liberal Party have already started doing just that. We’ve cancelled the divisive carbon tax, have committed to delivering a middle-class tax cut saving families up to \$825/year, and pledged to eliminate the GST for first-time homebuyers on homes under \$1 million, saving Canadians up to \$50,000 on the purchase of their first home.

We would also take measures to protect and increase the number of good-paying jobs across the country, with investments like a \$2 billion strategic response fund that would protect Canadian manufacturing jobs and boost Canada’s auto sector competitiveness, launching a new training and upskilling benefit worth up to \$15,000 for workers in the middle of their careers, and ensuring all workers have access to employment insurance.

Pierre Poilievre, Kyle Seeback and the Conservatives have consistently voted against programs like \$10-a-day child care, dental care, pharma care, and the National School Food Program. Why should Canadians trust them now to protect, not cut, programs that make life more affordable for Dufferin-Caledon families?

Mark Carney and I are committed to creating new jobs, cutting taxes for the middle class, and keeping Canada strong.

Kyle Seeback (Conservative): A Conservative government will unleash our industry, cut taxes on our workers, zero capital gains taxes on Canadian reinvestment, and build more homes, LNG plants, pipelines, mines and more to build our own economic fortress here in Canada.

We are going to do this while implementing our plan to build more homes, fixing the budget to keep inflation down, capping immigration so we never again add people faster than we add jobs and remove criminals from our streets.

We’ve promised a massive ‘Bring it Home Income Tax Cut’ to cut income tax by 15 per cent. We will reduce the lowest income tax bracket rate from 15 per cent to 12.75 per cent to save the average family \$1,800 a year and the average worker up to \$900 annually. Our plan means Canadians will keep more of their paycheck and that their hard work will be rewarded.

Everyone who pays income tax will pay less, but because Conservatives will cut the rate on the lowest income bracket, average hardworking Canadians will save the most in percentage terms.

Canada is now spending more on debt interest than on health transfers.

A Conservative government will cap government spending with a dollar-for-dollar rule law that requires we find \$1 of savings for every dollar of spending. We’ll also cut bureaucracy, waste, and consulting contracts so that we can get the budget close or hopefully on balance as soon as possible to bring down interest rates, inflation, and debt.

China and Canada are the only two countries that support formal counter-tariffs against the United States. Do you support counter-tariffs or would you prefer to use other tools to respond, if elected?

Kyle Seeback (Conservative): The imposition of U.S. President Donald Trump’s tariffs has been a wake-up call to all political leaders who are now forced to put the national interest ahead of special interests. Canadians expect all political leaders to do what it takes to make our country more self-reliant and less dependent on the U.S.

Our immediate response should be to impose targeted tariffs that will harm American businesses and have very little impact on Canadian businesses; help affected workers and businesses with tariff revenue; implement a bring it home tax cut on work, investment, energy, and homebuilding; scrapping the Liberal anti-energy law C-69 and greenlight resource projects; removing interprovincial trade barriers; and rebuilding our military and taking back control of our borders.

We will propose accelerated renegotiations to replace the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA), bringing in a new deal on trade and security. We will also propose that both countries pause tariffs while we renegotiate a deal. Canadian businesses and workers need certainty now.

HIKE FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

15th Annual Hike for Bethell Hospice

Sunday, May 4, 2025

Lloyd Wilson Centennial Arena
15551 McLaughlin Road, Inglewood, ON



HELP US RAISE \$255,000



Hike for Bethell Hospice

Join us as we hike together on May 4

Hikers receive a commemorative hike bib, barbeque lunch and a tax receipt for all donations over \$25.

Hikers can also complete their own independent hike anytime, anywhere until the end of May.

To register for FREE, scan the QR Code or visit: hikeforbethellhospice.ca

Charitable Registration # 82636 7948 RR0001



Here when you need us

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.

Kingcrafts Spring Studio Sale 2025

Our members are always busy creating one-of-a-kind handcrafted items. So mark your calendars for our upcoming sale, invite your friends and come shop our seasonal collection of handmade goods while supporting your local community of artisans and crafters! With so many art forms under one roof, you are sure to find something special for someone on your gift list, or for yourself!

Friday, May 2, 2025, Saturday, May 3, 2025 & Sunday May 4, 2025. 10:00am - 4:00pm.

kingcrafts.ca
12936 Keele St, King City
905-833-1897

Do you need support? You are not alone. If someone's drinking or other addictions are affecting YOU, the Bolton Al-Anon Family Group can help! Please join us at our new meeting time, for understanding, support and fellowship, in a safe & welcoming space. We've been where you are. We understand - you don't have to do this alone. Meetings are held every Thursday evening at 8:00 p.m. at Bolton United Church, 8 Nancy Street, Bolton. If you need further information, please contact us at boltonalanon@gmail.com.

CALEDON CHAMBER CONCERTS is pleased to present Ida Pelliccioli

This concert takes place on **Saturday, April 26, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.**

Ms. Pelliccioli will perform works by Scarlatti, Mozart, M. Blasco de Nebra and Schubert. All concerts take place at: St. James Anglican Church – Great Hall 6025 Old Church Road, Caledon East, L7C 1H8

Tickets: Adults \$40; 18 years old and younger are FREE

www.CaledonChamberConcerts.com

For more information call your Legacy Pines neighbour Janice Reed - 905-838-0888

Friday, April 25, 2025 - Monthly Dinner

The Caledon Seniors Centre at Rotary Place in Bolton will be hosting their monthly dinner on Friday, April 25, 2025.

Menu: Fish & Chips, Coleslaw and Lemon Eclair dessert

Cost: \$16

Saturday, April 26, 2025 - Earth Day Repair Cafe

Eco Caledon will be at the Caledon Seniors Centre at Rotary Place on Saturday April 26 to host their Repair Cafe from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Bring your items to be repaired for free including bicycles for tune up. There will be peameal bacon on a bun, vegan chili with a bun, tea, coffee and muffins for sale in support of the Caledon Seniors Centre. No registration is required.

Thursday, May 8, 2025 - Lunch & Learn

The Caledon Seniors Centre at Rotary Place in Bolton will be having a Lunch & Learn on Thursday, May 8 at 11:00 AM. Amica Senior Lifestyles - Credit Mills will be here to do a presentation on the new building, living options and services. A free sandwich and dessert will be served at noon. Pre-registration is required. Call the Centre at 905-951-6114 to register.

Saturday, May 10, 2025 - Fundraising Mother's Day Afternoon Tea

The Caledon Seniors Centre at Rotary Place in Bolton will be hosting their Fundraising Mother's Day Afternoon Tea on Saturday, May 10 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

Enjoy fancy sandwiches, scones, clotted cream and jam, desserts, tea/coffee

Cost: \$30

Call the Centre at 905-951-6114 to purchase your tickets

Monday, May 12, 2025 - Annual General Meeting & Elections

The Caledon Seniors Centre at Rotary Place in Bolton will be holding their Annual General Meeting & Elections on Monday, May 12.

Free sandwich and dessert lunch at 12:00 pm if attending the meeting.

AGM starts at 1:00 PM

Call the Centre to register at 905-951-6114 for catering purposes

During the negotiations, we will protect our border, our resources, our farmers, including our supply-managed farmers, our fresh water, and our automotive workers.

Ifra Baig (Green): I'm always going to stand up for Canadian workers and industries, no question about that. But when it comes to counter-tariffs, I think we have to be strategic.

Tariffs can sometimes protect our industries in the short term, but they can also drive up prices for Canadian families, and that's not something I take lightly. I believe we need to prioritize strong diplomacy, smart negotiations, and building real partnerships internationally.

Counter-tariffs should be a last resort — not our first move. Long-term, the best thing we can do is invest in making Canada more self-sufficient. That way we aren't constantly vulnerable to the decisions of other countries. We should be making things here, growing things here, and supporting Canadian workers here.

Dympna Carolan (PPC): Counter tariffs are simply a tax Canadians consumers pay; we would lose a trade war against the US and the Canadian economy would be further decimated.

Let's act rationally and not reactionary. We should negotiate with our largest trading partner, long-time ally and closest neighbour.

Let's face it, if our country was economically sound, Trump's tariffs would not have been so disturbing. Rather than address the security issues the U.S. raised or take responsibility for our weakened economy, we blame Trump. Trump is not the problem; our lack of self-responsibility is the problem.

Malalai Halimi (Liberal): I stand with Mark Carney and our federal government's recent actions to protect our economy, including the implementation of counter-tariffs. Canada will never be the 51st state, and it is vital that we take measures now to protect our sovereignty and economy for future generations.

I am particularly pleased to support a plan that will see every dollar raised from the counter-tariffs go towards supporting Canadian businesses and workers affected by Donald Trump's unjustified decisions.

Mark Carney and I will work to unite our economy and unleash free trade in Canada by Canada Day. We will reduce internal trade costs by up to 15 per cent, expand our economy by up to \$200 billion, and unlock projects that grow our Canadian economy.

Viktor Karlkins (NDP): Tariff and counter-tariff games are incredibly complex and challenging, but regardless of what happens, we need to ensure that any counter-tariff is targeted and narrow, ensuring it will cause the most harm to the USA and the least to Canada.

We also need to make sure that we have a solid EI safety net in place and that workers are as protected as possible. While we do that, we need to continue to build new trading relationships around the world and here at home.

Inter-provincial trade barriers need to drop, and those working hard to shift their sales away from the USA need to be able to seamlessly move it to Canadian soil. If we can make sure that people can sell their goods to other Canadians, that will help us weather this storm.

What are your plans going forward ahead of the federal election on April 28th?

Ifra Baig (Green): No matter what happens on April 28, my work for Dufferin-Caledon is just getting started. I'm committed to staying deeply connected to this community, including listening, learning, and fighting for the issues that matter most to you.

If elected, my first priority will be making sure Dufferin-Caledon's voice is heard loud and clear in Parliament. I'll start pushing for real action on affordable housing, protecting our environment, expanding healthcare, and building a stronger local economy. I want to bring the energy of this campaign — the hope, the heart, the honesty — into every room I walk into in Ottawa.

And if I'm not elected, I'm not disappearing. I'll stay active, keep organizing, and keep building momentum for a better future. For me, this isn't just an election, it's a lifelong commitment to standing up for people, for justice, and for the planet.

Viktor Karlkins (NDP): My plans are to continue to be a voice for those who don't have one in Dufferin-Caledon. As long as Dufferin-Caledon has been a riding, it has been ruled by one of two conservative Members of Parliament.

We need to stop with the coronations and instead call for change. If you want to see change here at home, you need to start by changing your vote. If we continue to do the same thing every four years, we will see only more of the same. Let's demand better.

Kyle Seeback (Conservative): I want to see the promise of Canada restored after 10 years of corruption, waste, debt, and division. Too many young people are feeling disillusioned and hopeless.

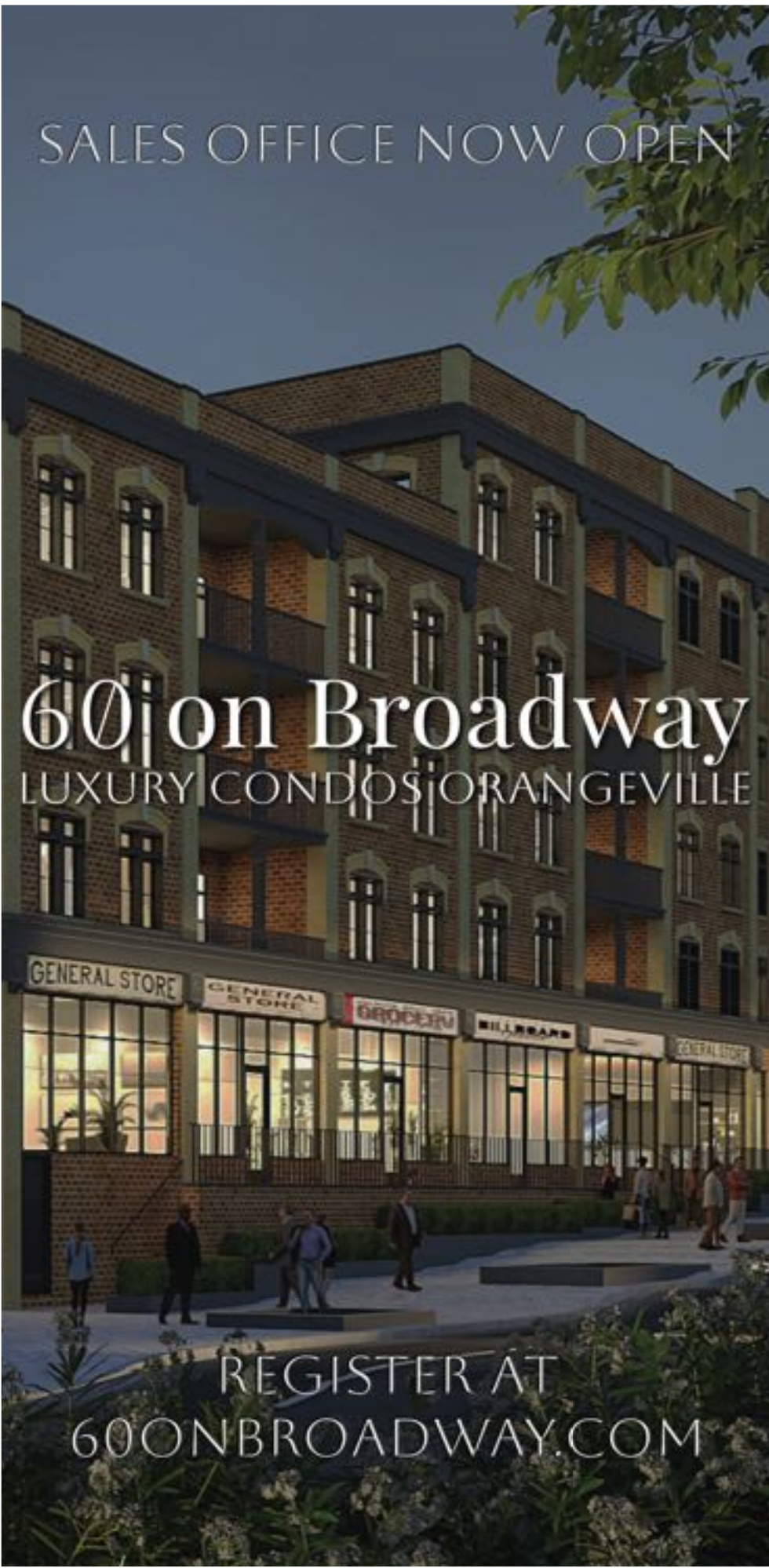
I, along with all Conservatives, are committed to restoring hope and opportunity to everyone, especially young people.

I also want to see life become more affordable again. Too many Canadians are struggling with the cost-of-living crisis with two million Canadians visiting food banks in one month just to survive after ten years of the Liberals. A Conservative government will turn that hurt into hope by axing the tax and fixing the budget to bring home lower prices for Canadians to make life affordable again.

Malalai Halimi (Liberal): This election has given me the opportunity to meet so many incredible residents from across Dufferin-Caledon. And one thing's for certain — our community is strong, not "broken." That's why I look forward to continuing to visit communities across the ridings, meeting residents at the doors to hear their stories and answer questions, attending community events, sitting down with community groups, and using my voice to fight for families in our community here in Dufferin-Caledon.

Dympna Carolan (PPC): Canadians have everything needed to be a strong powerful country, where families thrive and people come to enjoy our shared values of democracy and freedom and rights for all.

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Monday, April 28**

**Malalai Halimi
For Dufferin-Caledon MP**

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Public meeting to be held on planned Bolton arts pavilion

BY MATTHEW STRADER

Caledon will host a public meeting to bring an arts pavilion project to the community.

And it’s about time, say some members of the community.

“Residents on Sackville and surround(ing) streets never heard or knew about this ‘till we received the letter from the city two days prior to construction,” said Chris Terz. “We were all surprised.”

Terz approached the Caledon Citizen in regard to an article announcing the construction of an Arts Pavillion in Dick’s Dam Park, because he said the image used with it was misleading as it impressed the construction would happen in a different part of a large park.

“The location proposed is in front of the homes on Sackville Street. The structure will be built in a very close proximity to homes,” Terz said.

However, the residents concerned with the project have more problems with notification.

Tanya Milan said she received the letter on April 9 and was surprised. She and other residents did some research and found an old newspaper article from 2022 in which the town was seeking public input on a Rotary Bandshell for RJA Potts Memorial Park, but could not find anything in regard to the project for Dick’s Dam Park.

“Never were the residents of Sackville ever given any information about this project potentially being built literally in our front yards,” she said.

Terz said they believe the project was supposed to be built at RJA Potts Memorial Park in 2021. “There is a complete on-line package from the city stating sound, occupancy of 500 to 1,000 people, being able to rent the structure online for private use, etc. Pretty much all the concerns we have were expressed. We found online

town hall meeting dates and information and eventually this was stopped and never constructed, I believe due to residents’ concerns.”

Now, he said, it appears Caledon is trying to build the same in a smaller space right in front of homes without anyone in the surrounding area knowing what is happening until now. They are wondering how that is possible with so much online info available for the RJA Potts based project.

“Can we expect 500 to 1,000 people out front of our house every weekend for the summer? Will people be renting it out and cranking music and parties out front of our houses all summer? There was no information and as we speak we still don’t have any info from the city.”

Milan said they’ve now been told there will be a community meeting on April 30 at the Humber River Centre from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., but the online ads they’ve seen advertising the meeting say that it is for information sharing. So, residents are wondering if this meeting is to address concerns, or simply to announce and explain the project.

Milan said residents are concerned about parking, the lack of sidewalks in the area, extra traffic in a quiet neighbourhood, proper lighting, sound levels, drug and alcohol use, litter, the resale value of their homes due to this, and more.

“The neighbours are not happy about this and we have started a petition and have had many residents in the area sign against this being built,” Milan said. “We are not against a Pavilion/bandshell, just not so close to homes in our neighbourhood. I’m sure the Town and TRCA can find a better location for this. Why not the soccer fields off Glasgow which already has bathrooms, lighting and there are no homes directly around that soccer field?”

The town was sent questions for this story, but did not respond by press time.

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Council debates, and supports look at attendance registry

BY MATTHEW STRADER

In a Governance Committee meeting, it was determined that Caledon Council should support the adoption of an attendance registry.

However, Councillor Christina Early decided to hold the minutes from the committee meeting prior to their approval and initiated a debate on whether Caledon Council should have an attendance registry at all.

Because they already do, she argued. “To have to write something to the clerk two days after (an absence or virtual attendance), I didn’t attend and attended virtually because of x, just seems like we’re in grade school,” Early said.

The Councillor said she struggled with the idea once she saw it during the Committee meeting, as she argued that it isn’t an issue at Caledon Council. She believed any Caledon Councillor had maybe one or two absences total.

She expressed frustration with doing work on something that she didn’t feel was needed, as well as the idea of attendance at Council being a potential judge of a Councillors’ dedication.

“This is the small part of the job,” she said about Council meetings, explaining that the majority of her Council work was with community members and at community meetings, and not at the Council table.

Councillor Lynn Kiernan said she was a little taken aback too when she saw the decision at committee. She said Councillor Early was right, that 90 per cent of the job was not sitting at the table, it’s in the

community. “Nobody has ever had a problem with my attendance, and nobody in Ward One is shy. They would tell me.”

Kiernan also questioned whether the move would be infringing on privacy rights or possibly compromising the safety of the Councillors. If the reasons for absences are made public, she explained, then members of the public could learn when Councillors are away, and that their homes are empty.

“If I was to go on vacation and then my vehicle was burgled, I would bring that back here.”

Councillor Nick de Boer called it an unnecessary overreach.

He asked if Councillors can just categorically say their absence is personal. The Town Clerk explained that Councillors are offered three reasons for absences in health and safety, business and personal, and further explanation is not needed.

Regional Councillor Mario Russo said attendance was not really an issue at the Caledon Council table, but it was at the Regional one, and he believed Caledon shouldn’t wait for the issue to arise.

“If you leave the chamber right now, it’s recorded in the minutes,” he said. “If you have a cough and don’t want to share it with the rest of Council, then that’s why. If someone from the community calls me and asks me why I attended virtually, I would tell them the same, so I don’t see an issue with this. I think it’s good policy.”

Council voted in support of the adoption of the minutes, and the committee recommendation.

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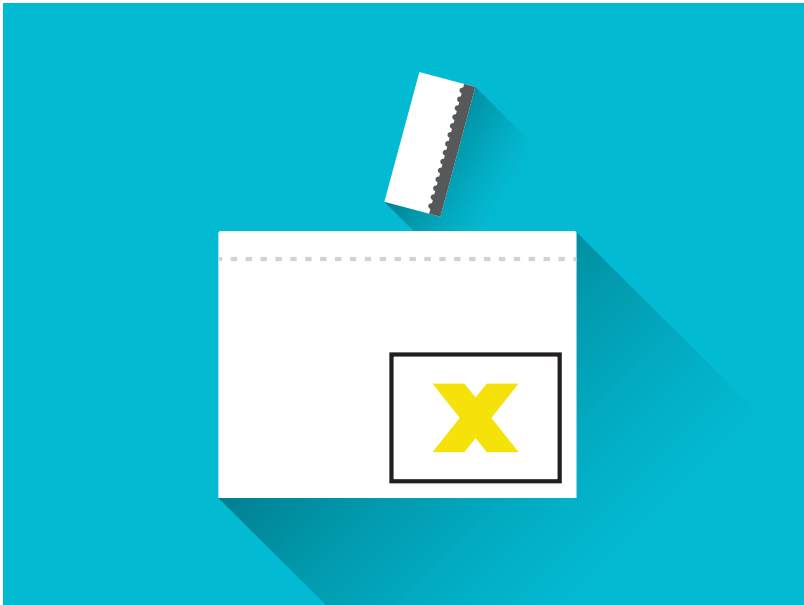
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BROCK WEIR
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Change is in the air

Change is in the air – whether you like it or not.

So, where do you fall?
Are you one who adheres to the philosophy that a change is as good as a rest? Or, might you be the type who bristles at the very thought of change, possibly with a splash of anxiety thrown in, just to spice things up?

I have to say, in all honesty, that while I naturally veer close to the latter camp, I find a change of scenery to sometimes be a pretty decent tonic.

Well, perhaps not in the case of this election.

My trepidation this time around didn't stem necessarily from the people or parties on the ballot – in short, the “who-to-vote-for” – but rather the “where-to-vote-for.”

While I have never missed an opportunity to exercise my democratic rights, for the last decade-and-a-half I've cast my Federal vote not only in a riding in which I live (I'm a stickler for the rules here) but also the riding in which I work and, by extension, cover for readers.

This time, however, the latter part of the equation was not a factor, and I have to admit I did feel a little bit of a disconnect.

The beauty of this job is you get to know candidates vying for Council, Mayor, Member of Parliament and Member of Provincial Parliament reasonably well. Above and beyond the platform planks announced by their respective party's leaders, should that be applicable, you get some insight into what makes each candidate tick as a person and which local issues they they're particularly passionate.

This time, I had a bit more homework to do before casting my vote. Well, I had something of a small head start being neighbours with the area's incumbent Member of Parliament who is seeking re-election, but there were four others also vying for my vote, so I did my due diligence.

I wasn't, however, sure what to expect going to my polling place on Easter Sunday.

Social media posts in other jurisdictions made it seem like advance polls were not only extremely busy for a Federal election, but in certain pockets of the country, a magnet for partisan nonsense on all sides.

Some polling stations were seeing questions raised about the security of their vote based on the mistaken notion that one can only mark their ballot paper with a pencil rather than a pen – not true, as Elections Canada had to announce a number of times over the weekend – and myriad other made-up problems.

I anticipated quite a wait before getting my ballot and taking the pencil – both options were available in my cardboard cubicle, for the record – in hand, but it couldn't have been smoother and the whole process was done in 10 minutes.

Looking over the ballot, confident in my choice, I flexed my democratic muscles and did my duty as a Canadian. As I started to place my ballot into the box, however, I was momentarily distracted by chatter one polling station over.

There was a bit of a minor brouhaha going on as someone attempted to take a photo in the gymnasium.

“There's no photography allowed in here,” said the volunteer with a boom that seemed more of a reflection of the actual timbre of his voice rather than any specific urgency in shutting the photo op down.

Instead of putting her phone down, the woman trying to take the photo explained she wanted to take a snap of her companion placing her ballot into the slot because this

was her very first election as a new Canadian citizen.

The other cheek was ultimately turned and, to the camera, this first-time voter gave a big, bright grin and a thumbs-up as she gently tapped in the ballot, which is now waiting for its turn to get counted in what promises to be one of the most consequential elections in decades.

We don't yet, of course, know the story that these collective ballots will tell on Monday night, but what unfolded before me was, in a nutshell, the quintessential Canadian story.

Next Monday will bring us change in one way or another, but this past Monday, April 21, brought seismic change for many members of the community upon the death of Pope Francis at the age of 88, just hours after presiding over Easter services at The Vatican.

It was a remarkable testament to the seriousness he took his role and the dedication he had for his flock that he worked until the very end.

“Pope Francis was a symbol of hope and compassion, spreading messages of peace, love, and understanding throughout the world. His legacy of humility, social justice, and environmental responsibility has profoundly impacted humanity,” said Governor General Mary Simon in a statement Monday morning.

“Whit and I met with Pope Francis during his 2022 visit to Canada, during which he apologized for the grave abuses inflicted by members of the Catholic Church on Indigenous children in residential schools. This gesture demonstrated his commitment to intercultural and interfaith respect, dialogue, and collaboration – values he has held dear throughout his pontificate.”

Time will be the ultimate decider on the ultimate value of his gesture to our First Nations – reviews were mixed from those who lived it – but his final message to the people will remain powerful not only as Cardinals meet in the coming weeks to appoint his successor and determine the church's direction forward, but as a summation of his life's work and legacy.

“On this day, I would like all of us to hope anew and to revive our trust in others, including those who are different than ourselves, or who come from distant lands, bringing unfamiliar customs, ways of life and ideas! For all of us are children of God!” he said. “I would like us to renew our hope that peace is possible! From the Holy Sepulchre, the Church of the Resurrection, where this year Easter is being celebrated by Catholics and Orthodox on the same day, may the light of peace radiate throughout the Holy Land and the entire world. I express my closeness to the sufferings of Christians in Palestine and Israel, and to all the Israeli people and the Palestinian people. The growing climate of anti-Semitism throughout the world is worrisome. Yet at the same time, I think of the people of Gaza, and its Christian community in particular, where the terrible conflict continues to cause death and destruction and to create a dramatic and deplorable humanitarian situation. I appeal to the warring parties: call a ceasefire, release the hostages and come to the aid of a starving people that aspires to a future of peace!

“I appeal to all those in positions of political responsibility in our world not to yield to the logic of fear which only leads to isolation from others, but rather to use the resources available to help the needy, to fight hunger and to encourage initiatives that promote development. These are the ‘weapons’ of peace: weapons that build the future, instead of sowing seeds of death!”



Maybe the young ones are paying attention

by Mark Pavilons



We wise adults often remark how the younger generation has a short attention span, blaming “electronic-everything.” But maybe it's not the length of their attention, but rather providing something worth focusing on.

Sure, there's no shortage of issues these days – more than ample opportunity to raise eyebrows. But the world landscape, even for seasoned pro like parents, is a lot to absorb. It's almost too much.

And maybe that's why some of us – perhaps an entire generation – has tuned out a bit. There's only so much conflict, tragedy and injustice we can handle.

My son gets worked up almost daily, when confronted by something horrible on the news. I am left trying to explain things to him, without souring his outlook on the world. It's not easy these days.

While I prefer to just be grumpy and mind by own business, his young mind needs food. And I am bound to offer up the bounty.

I can go into political history with him, explaining how borders and countries came to be. I can even discuss ethnic animosity to a degree. But I can't fully explain human greed, hatred and the lust for power.

Besides, he's well aware of these things from his observations. He asked me recently whether our fellow men and women are just out to screw us, for their own self-interests. Well, hasn't it been that way since we established societies?

Even to Liam, a political neophyte, “executive orders” south of the border are agenda-driven and are curtailing human rights. He sees them for what they are, but is confused as to why it's happening.

Join the club, buddy.
He's come to the realization that almost every sector of society has its own agenda, or motives.

He pointed out how federal party leaders have “copied” one another's approach to top issues.

He also questioned whether they will stick to their promises. He wonders whether their intentions are to say in power, or actually help average citizens.

Oh, boy, politicians and promises. My son has much to learn.

Some online 20-somethings claim they're more self-aware and in touch than us Boomers.

Really? Connected, sure. But self-aware? I dunno.

Again, I think it all depends on their focus. If they spend their free time trying to find the latest fashion trends or footwear, then their “focus” is quite limited. If they stream headline news and actually listen and analyze what comes out of the mouths of politicians, then they're right on track.

But can we expect them to herald a new age of awareness, based on “woke” concepts? How do we guide them in their quest to expand their horizons and make sense of the world?

Those are likely questions that parents have been asking themselves for hundreds of years. And I'm not sure just how far we've progressed on that front.

Some say Gen Z is rewriting the rules of society, challenging norms and standing up against injustice. I think every generation does that to a degree. While I wasn't part of “flower power” or the 1960s peace movement, those young people certainly challenged the norms. And I believe that every generation – including Zs – have that “free spirit” inside them. That's what makes youth so intriguing.

I wouldn't want to be in my 20s today, but I'd sure step through a magic door, back to the 1980s, when times were much simpler. Anyone up for a time-travelling road trip? I'll bring the beer!

Studies have shown the new “iGen” – those who had smart phones before losing all their teeth – are growing up more slowly. They seem a bit unprepared for adulthood, preferring to hunker down in the safety of their bedrooms.

When I think of how parents prepare their young, the cartoon version of The Grinch pops into my head. The Grinch lies to Cindy-Lou Who, gives her a glass of water, pats her on the head and sends her on her way. I hope we can do better today.

My son has harnessed his new-found frustration with the “new world order” by becoming aware of issues. He's encouraging everyone to vote in the upcoming election.

That, in itself, is encouraging, given the historically low voter turnout in elections.

Some say the younger generation is raising activism to new levels. Yes, they have access to much more information than we did, making them informed individuals. They're not jaded like we are. That makes them pretty good judges of character and political motivation. It allows them to clearly see the injustices in the world.

Being aware is one thing, being motivated into action is quite another. We're all guilty of apathy and commenting from the sidelines. Some of us get involved front and centre, while others support causes from behind the scenes.

I was still eager to get in the race and stir some muck until a few years ago when my age caught up with me.

Sure, I can still discuss and debate with the best of them, and offer my own unique insights.

But the drive, the chutzpah to throw caution to the wind, pick up placards and protest is long gone.

There was a time, not that long ago, when conflicts the ones in Ukraine and Gaza, would have been over in weeks, once calmer heads prevailed. That's no longer the case.

Everyone is so critical of everything and everyone's actions and intentions, it bogs down any rational process. Our system is too caught up in appearances, optics and sensitivity that it stumbles into inaction and malaise.

Unless of course you're Donald Trump, who's going gangbusters to rewrite the modern world order into his own reality.

Yes, this too, will pass. But until then, who's up for a tailgate party at the nearest drive-in?

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TALK CALEDON



The lesson of listening

While today’s musings were originally spurred by the passing of Pope Francis; in our increasingly volatile election cycle, I believe it’s a timely reminder that there are lessons to be learned from faith leaders and lay people alike, if only we are willing to listen. Too many of us are “locked in” to a position whether it concerns politics, or religion, or even about matters like access to education, attitudes towards those experiencing homelessness, or whether public or private health care is best. There are so many things about which we can potentially (or even actively choose to) disagree. Instead, I can’t help but wonder if only we took the time to really listen to one another, what a different world we might be living in. There’s a lesson in listening.

When I taught communications classes, one of the topics discussed was the concept of active listening. As the name implies, taking an active role in listening is a skill. It involves focussing your complete attention on the speaker, making a conscious effort to both hear, and understand, their words. Crucially, you’re listening to learn from, not just to respond to. In other words, giving the speaker your undivided attention and not mentally preparing your own response in defense of your position. An active listener might ask open-ended questions seeking clarification, might look for, and listen, to both the verbal and non-verbal cues of the speaker, and might pause and reflect before jumping into the conversation with their own thoughts and opinions. They might repeat the words of the speaker back to them to help ensure understanding. It goes without saying an active listener is not also looking at their phone, something we are all guilty of and which I believe to be the single, largest distraction to most conversations in our modern world.

Why did the passing of Pope Francis prompt this train of thought? Because of the words he spoke over the course of his papacy and how well (or not) the world listened. This Pope was more accepting than some of his predecessors. For a church that typically moves at a glacial pace, he welcomed the 2SLGBTQ+ community by asking, “who am I to judge,” and later, by approving the blessing by Catholic priests of same-sex marriages. It was at the very least a step in the right direction. If only more people actively listened to his words, practised empathy and understanding, and then put those words into action, perhaps at minimum, a pride flag would fly at local Catholic schools.

As well, in what was to be his final Easter address, the Pope ruminated about conflicts raging throughout the world saying, “there can be no peace without freedom of religion, freedom of thought, freedom of expression and respect for the views of others.” He recognized that with freedom of language and expression also comes the responsibility to listen, to learn

and to respect the views of others. Listen. Learn. Respect. Arguably, these three principles should form, at least in part, the very foundation of our daily interactions with one another.

The theme of listening also surfaced for me at a Council meeting I attended recently. Many delegates from the community arrived to have their voices heard on several matters before Council. I’ve watched this process happen before, from the gallery and online, but it was the first time I took an active role in delegating. I commend the Mayor and Councillors for truly listening to resident concerns. I believe a good percentage of the delegates that night felt their concerns were actively listened to and that questions seeking clarification were asked. Even delegations that may not have directly pertained to matters before the Council that night were listened to with respect, even when the meeting went on well past midnight! How we are listened to, respectfully or dismissively, is just as important as the words being spoken.

I’m reminded of a colleague I once volunteered with on a local non-profit board. They were unequivocal in stating the following, which I’ll paraphrase: “We don’t have to share the same opinions to be able to work together, politically or otherwise. We just need to be able to listen to one another and respect our different opinions enough to be able to find common ground.” It doesn’t matter what political party or religion we follow, just that we DO follow the idea of respectful engagement with a view to working together to solve our common problems.

Finally, I acknowledge that for some, even the fact I am quoting Pope Francis might draw the ire of certain readers, who will rightly point out the Catholic Church has much to atone for. We can choose to focus on the past, and divisive words, or we can choose to try and come together, united in the shared hope for a better world. I choose to focus on hope. As an example, in that same Easter address to the faithful (and the world) Pope Francis expressed his “closeness to the sufferings” of both the Israeli and Palestinian people, exhorting the world to “Call a ceasefire, release the hostages and come to the aid of a starving people that aspires to a future of peace.”

This could be interpreted as a call to the world to listen, to learn, to recognize our common humanity and that when pressed, acknowledge that all humans want to exist in a state of peace. If only we’d actively listen to the words people speak to find our commonalities, to learn from one another while respecting our differences, and then act accordingly by focussing on actions that unite, not divide us. What a different world we might be living in.

PUBLIC NOTICE



Notice of Application Proposed Draft Plan of Subdivision

FILE NUMBER: 21T-24009C

This is to inform you that the Town of Caledon has received an application for Draft Plan of Subdivision. Your input and insight will inform and shape plans that meet the needs of our community.

APPLICANT:

Design Plan Services (c/o David Igelman) on behalf of 2818963 Ontario Inc.

LOCATION:

15441 Mount Pleasant Road,
Part 1 of Lot 18, Concession 9 (Albion)
Ward 4

PROPOSAL:

The applicant has submitted a Draft Plan of Subdivision application to facilitate the development of five (5) estate residential lots with two (2) roads and naturalized areas and located at 15441 Mount Pleasant Road in the Palgrave Estate Residential Community.



**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:

Cristina Aquino
Community Planner, Development
Planning and Development Department
905-584-2272 ext. 4064
Cristina.aquino@caledon.ca

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

For more information about this matter, including appeal rights, a copy of the proposed Draft Plan, or to review supporting material submitted with the application, please visit 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 the ability to appeal the decision of the Council of the Town of Caledon but does not make oral submissions at a public meeting, if one is held, or make written submissions to

the Clerk of the Town of Caledon in respect of the proposed plan of subdivision before the approval authority gives or refuses to give approval to the draft plan of subdivision, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision to the Ontario Land Tribunal.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting, if one is held, or make written submissions to the Clerk of the Town of Caledon in respect of the proposed plan of subdivision before the approval authority gives or refuses to give approval to the draft plan of subdivision, 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 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: April 24, 2025



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



NEWS

Subscribe to the Town's email newsletter
at: caledon.ca/enews

DAY OF MOURNING

National Day of Mourning

**Monday, April 28, 2025
12:45 p.m.
Town Hall, Caledon East**

You are invited to join the Town of Caledon Council and staff for the National Day of Mourning flag raising ceremony.

This ceremony honours workers whose lives have been lost to, or forever changed by, a workplace injury or illness.

Flags are lowered to half-mast to pay respect to and remember those workers, their families and friends affected by these incidents.

Interim Property Taxes are Due

Property tax due date is
Thursday, May 1, 2025.
Regular late payment fees apply.
For payment options visit:
caledon.ca/tax.



Age-Friendly Caledon Information Sessions

Join us at an Age-Friendly Caledon Information Session to learn how we're building a community where older adults can live well and age in place.

Connect with our Age-Friendly Advisory Committee, share your feedback, and enjoy light refreshments.



**MAY 8
HUMBER RIVER CENTRE
6:30 - 8:30 P.M.**

**MAY 12
CALEDON EAST COMMUNITY
COMPLEX
BANQUET HALL A
6:30 - 8:30 P.M.**



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To obtain this page in an alternative format please contact x.2366 or legislative@caledon.ca

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3⁹⁹
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2⁹⁹
/LB

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Antibiotics Whole
Chicken
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2 FOR \$5



2 FOR \$5

Longo's Fresh Mini Seedless Cucumbers
Product of Ontario • 6 pack or
Longo's Seriously Sweet Grape Tomatoes
Product of Ontario • 255g pkg

1⁴⁹
/LB



1⁴⁹
/LB

Fresh Hothouse
Beefsteak Tomatoes
Product of Ontario
3.29/kg

SAVE
\$2/LB



8⁹⁹
/LB

Fresh Wild
Canadian Pacific
Snapper Fillet or
Value Pack Fresh
Tilapia Fillet
19.82/kg

50%
OFF



50%
OFF

Monsieur Gustav
Canadian
Havarti Cheese
Creamy or
Jalapeño
2.00/100g

SAVE
AT LEAST
\$2.50



5⁴⁹

Kellogg's Family
Size Cereal
480-650g pkg
selected varieties

ORGANIC



4⁹⁹

Fresh Organic
Strawberries
Product of U.S.A. or Mexico
454g pkg

1⁹⁹
/LB



1⁹⁹
/LB

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Product of U.S.A.
4.39/kg

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FREE
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568-700g pkg
selected varieties

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UP TO
\$1.80



2⁹⁹

Astro Yogourt
650-750g tub
selected varieties

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\$2.98
ON 2



2⁹⁸ \$5

Garofalo Pasta
500g pkg or
Plum Tomatoes
798mL can
Individual \$2.99
selected varieties

SAVE
\$3.00



15⁹⁹

Kimbo Espresso
Crema Intensa Beans
1kg pkg

SAVE
\$2.00



14⁹⁹

Longo's Frozen Cooked
Pacific White Shrimp Ring
425g pkg
JUMBO

2⁹⁸ \$6



2⁹⁸ \$6

Harvest Fresh
Cello Spinach or
Chopped Kale
226g pkg
Individual \$3.99
selected varieties

ORGANIC



3⁹⁹

Fresh Organic Cauliflower
Product of U.S.A. or Mexico

3⁹⁹



3⁹⁹

Fresh Blueberries
Product of U.S.A.
6oz pkg

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10⁹⁹

Yorkshire Valley
Farms Organic
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UP TO
\$2.50



4⁴⁹

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Ristorante or
Casa di Mama
Frozen Pizza
320-400g pkg
selected varieties

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\$7.00



12⁹⁹

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Double Roll
24=48,
Cashmere
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selected varieties

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ON 2



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Longo's
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PRICE
LOCKDOWN



3⁹⁹

Gray Ridge Large
White Eggs
12 pack

5⁹⁹



5⁹⁹

Longo's Essentials
Country Churned Butter
454g pkg

1⁹⁹



1⁹⁹

Longo's
Essentials Bread
675g pkg

6¹⁹



6¹⁹

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2%, 1% or skim
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NATIONAL
VOLUNTEER
WEEK 2025



Volunteer
Bénévoles
Canada

APRIL 27 - MAY 3

volunteer.ca/nvw #NVW2025



National Volunteer Week
April 27-May 3, 2025

volunteer.ca/nvw
#NVW2025



Caledon Mayor & Council

Community participation bolsters strength in the face of uncertainty: Volunteer Canada

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and present, who have
given so generously of
themselves to make a
difference in the lives
of others.

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Volunteerism highlights the power of an individual to make a difference, but collectively, it can bring strength to a country facing change and uncertainty.

BY BROCK WEIR



So says Volunteer Canada, a national body providing leadership and expertise on volunteerism, for more than 45 years, ahead of National Volunteer week, which begins this Sunday, April 27.

With the 2025 National Volunteer Week theme centred on “Volunteers Make Waves,” the organization says the week is “a time to thank, recognize, and honour all the ways volunteers make waves from coast to coast to coast.”

“Canada has long prided itself as a country of people who volunteer, serve and participate, building on the waves of each generation. However, the tide is shifting and trends in volunteerism and participation have been declining, especially post-pandemic,” says Volunteer Canada. “With service usage at an all-time high, more than half (57 per cent) of Canadian charities are unable to meet current levels of demand, according to the Canada Helps Giving Report 2024. In its current state, the charitable sector can’t support the weight of our current and future crises.

“At the same time, only 20 per cent of Canadians report a very strong sense of community belonging. Yet, those with close friends are more likely to contribute in pro-social ways, including volunteering and advocating for causes they care about. As well, they are more likely to express trust in leadership – across government, media, business, and especially the non-profit sector. In this regenerative cycle, individuals benefit from volunteering with improved well-being and a stronger sense of connection and belonging. Their actions ripple out to broader community benefits, like increased community integration, social cohesion, and enhanced resilience.”

As an organization, Volunteer Canada is working on finding new ways to “revitalize”

community participation and remove barriers to getting involved.

“Volunteers, much like water, constantly change everything they touch. Their individual and collective actions have the power to create and sustain the positive changes they want to see in our country,” said Dr. Megan Conway, Volunteer Canada President and CEO. “During National Volunteer Week, we celebrate this powerful force that creates movements and builds momentum. Together, Volunteers Make Waves!”

On Thursday, May 1, Volunteer Canada will host a virtual nation-wide event to discuss the value of volunteerism in Canada, featuring Anishinaabe Indigenous rights advocate and Chief Water Commissioner for the Anishinabek Nation Autumn Peltier in conversation with Dr. Conway. The event will feature a question and answer session with participants as well.

“Together we create ripples of change. As individuals unite, we’re riding a wave of hope and optimism,” said Volunteer Canada Board Chair Lisa Mort-Putland. “Powerful wave or quiet ripple, this National Volunteer Week, we thank and celebrate our volunteers and their collective impact.”

During National Volunteer Week 2025, Volunteer Centres, volunteer-supported organizations, and businesses across the country will celebrate the many ways Volunteers Make Waves from coast to coast to coast. The waves of change they collectively create amplify the interconnection of our relationships, actions and lives.

Everyone is invited to participate in the May 1 event, join the Cross-Canada Wave, and contribute to the Volunteers Make Soundwaves playlist at www.volunteer.ca/national-volunteer-week.



Thank You

FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK IN OUR COMMUNITY!



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We salute all of
our volunteers!

NICK DEBOER

COUNCILLOR WARD 4

RESIDENTS WITH INQUIRIES CAN CONTACT ME AT
nick.deboer@caledon.ca OR PHONE 416.357.3524



We celebrate all of Caledon's
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NATIONAL
VOLUNTEER
WEEK 2025



Volunteer
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APRIL 27 - MAY 3

volunteer.ca/nvw #NVW2025



TOGETHER, WE
CREATE RIPPLES OF
CHANGE



WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

Volunteers are the heartbeat of our organization and indispensable to our events. You will get so much pleasure out of volunteering – it's sociable and fun. Events such as Soul Soup preparation, Haunted Hill Run logistics, Peace Park cleanup, Flower containers planting, Simmons Trail walking, Santa parade walking...you never know what we'll be up to next!



For More Pictures and Information go to:
BOLTONROTARY.CA

Rotary
Bolton



#VolunteersMakeWaves
#NVW2025

BY BROCK WEIR

The theme for National Volunteer Week 2025 is Volunteers Make Waves. It highlights the power, impact and importance of individual and collective volunteer efforts across Canada. Like a wave, volunteering is movement building.

Water is in constant motion, always flowing, shifting, and transforming with every powerful wave or quiet ripple. And so is each volunteer's contribution toward creating impact in our communities.

Each individual volunteer contribution, big or small, creates momentum and has the power to influence and inspire, joining a wave of positive change.

Building on the tides sent out before us, waves swell with each generation of volunteers. Our actions ripple out to broader community benefits, like improved well-being, increased social cohesion, and enhanced resilience in the face of change and uncertainty.

Each wave is unique and brings something vibrant and new to the ecosystem.

During National Volunteer Week 2025, we come together to recognize and celebrate all the ways volunteers make waves from coast to coast to coast. Together we create ripples of change. And through the power of our amplified impact, Volunteers Make Waves.

The sharing of time, skills, empathy, and creativity is vital to the inclusivity, strength, and well-being of our communities. By coming together, committing support, and increasing our collective efforts and impact, volunteers contribute exponentially to the quality of life we all strive for.

National Volunteer Week is a chance to highlight the value of volunteers and their positive impact on society.



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NATIONAL
VOLUNTEER
WEEK 2025



Volunteer
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Canada

APRIL 27 - MAY 3

volunteer.ca/nvw #NVW2025

Nominations now open for Dr. David A. Scott Award

Honour recognizes those who have made a difference in local healthcare

BY BROCK WEIR

Do you know someone who has gone above and beyond to improve health and wellness in the Caledon and Dufferin communities?

Consider putting their names forward for the 25th annual Dr. David Scott Award, an initiative of Headwaters Health Care Centre (HCC).

“Named after surgeon and life-long Orangeville resident the late Dr. David Scott, the annual award recognizes individuals or groups who have gone above and beyond to improve the overall health and wellness of the Dufferin-Caledon community and promote links between the hospital and the community,” says Headwaters.

“The award has been handed out annually since 2000. Previous award recipients have been selected for advocacy in many areas, including performance during the COVID-19 pandemic, improving accessibility, fundraising and volunteer leadership with local organizations, improving long-term care, recruiting physicians, establishing after-hours clinics, and promoting violence prevention.

“The award is in honour of the late Dr. Scott’s many years of dedicated service to his profession and the community. Dr. David Scott was a graduate of medicine from the University of Toronto (1956), with a Fellowship in General Surgery (1962). He



practiced general surgery in Orangeville from 1962 to 1997 and continued his active involvement with Headwaters Health Care Centre for many years after his retirement. He held honorary staff privileges at the hospital and kept up to date on hospital affairs by attending General Medical Staff meetings.

“A life-long resident of Orangeville, he was Chief of the Medical Staff of Dufferin Area Hospital from 1983 to 1989, served as Chair of the Wellington-Dufferin District Health Council, and played a key role in physician recruitment with the former Greater Dufferin Area Physician Search Committee. He also served on several provincial and national health care advisory committees.”

Applications for the 2025 Dr. David A. Scott Award will be accepted until May 2, and nomination forms can be found at headwatershealth.ca/who-we-are/awards.

Past recipients of the award include Dr. Paul Scotton, former Chief of the Emergency Department (2024); Jennifer McCallum, Manager of the TeleCheck Team (2023); Lynn Sinclair-Smith (2017); Lorna Bethell and Elizabeth Birnie (2021); and Dr. Dirk Huyer (2000).

This year’s recipient will be honoured at the HHCC Annual General Meeting set for June 24, 2025.

Thank You!
BETHELL HOSPICE
Volunteers




Bethell Hospice is thankful every day for the amazing group of volunteers who generously donate their time offering wonderful and compassionate care for our residents, clients and family members. Our volunteers’ kindness and dedication bring warmth and comfort to residents, beauty to the garden, and strength to community events.

Thank you for all that you do!

For more information on volunteering at Bethell Hospice, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator at:
volunteer@bethellhospice.org
or call 905-838-3534



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CALEDON SENIORS CENTRE'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY GALA
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28TH • THE ROYAL AMBASSADOR
Join us this fall as we honour our past, celebrate the present, and look ahead to the future of volunteerism and community support. Details to come — but for now, please know how truly appreciated you are.

THANK YOU TO OUR INCREDIBLE VOLUNTEERS!

As we celebrate National Volunteer Week (April 27 – May 3), the Caledon Seniors Centre would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our amazing volunteers. Your time, energy, and compassion are the heart of everything we do — and it's because of your dedication and commitment that we've been able to support seniors in our community for nearly 30 years. A special thank you also goes out to our supporters, service clubs, and local businesses, we couldn't do it without you.

This year is extra special as we prepare to celebrate our 30th Anniversary later in 2025 — a milestone made possible by the incredible people who have given their time and financial support to the Centre over the years.

THANK YOU FOR BEING THE HEART OF THE CALEDON SENIORS CENTRE!



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NATIONAL
VOLUNTEER
WEEK 2025



Volunteer
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Canada

APRIL 27 - MAY 3

volunteer.ca/nvw #NVW2025

Volunteerism can pay dividends for mental health: Scouts study

When it comes to that dreadful feeling of being overwhelmed, every little bit counts when it comes to resting a bit easier – as a recent study from Scouts Canada has illustrated.

BY BROCK WEIR

The youth organization recently ran a national survey “for a nationwide pulse on our current world-weary woes.”

The study found that Canadians are 0.1 per cent less overwhelmed than they were in April of 2024 – that’s the little bit that counts – and some have found an outlet for their stressors through volunteerism.

43.2 per cent of Canadians who responded to the survey said those who “refuse” to volunteer are “missing out on an opportunity to improve their own mental health.”

“Asked if volunteering with youth should be promoted as a way for adults to combat stress, anxiety, and loneliness, 60.9% of Canadians said ‘yes!’ 27.3% said ‘maybe,’” says the report. “With record levels of anxiety and depression, should Canadians be prescribed volunteering as a form of therapy? 37.9% of Canadians said ‘yes,’ and 46.8% said ‘maybe.’”

“In many tangible ways, volunteering with Scouts Canada is a win-win for Scouts AND volunteers. Scouting volunteers benefit from more friends, mental and physical well-being, professional development opportunities, new skills and more. We’re seeing from our survey that Canadians are looking for real ways to connect, collaborate and pay it forward,” said Liam Burns, CEO of Scouts Canada, in a statement.

While the report outlines the benefits of volunteerism, it also identified some barriers in the

way of getting more pairs of hands out to help.

The study found that 61.8 per cent of Canadians would be more likely to volunteer if there were some form of financial incentive to do so, such as tax breaks and employer benefits. 21.7 per cent said they would be “likely.”

A further 67.1 per cent of Canadians said major Canadian corporations should “encourage” their employees to participate in volunteer programs, with an emphasis on youth volunteer programs.


Nearly 60 per cent – 56.8 per cent – of Canadians agreed that “volunteering with youth organizations should be seen as a ‘core part of Canadian identity.’”


There were also some lighthearted findings in the study, including a poll on which Canadian celebrity would make the best Scouts Canada volunteer. Coming out on top with 33.4 per cent of the vote was Keanu Reeves, who came out on top against Ryans Reynolds and Gosling.

“You don’t have to be Keanu Reeves to ‘thrive’ as a volunteer for Scouts Canada”, added Burns. “Whether you give back through philanthropic generosity like Keanu Reeves, bring well-rounded skills to the table like Ryan Reynolds, or just have a passion for youth development and community building, Scouts may be the ‘pay it forward’ match you’ve been looking for.”

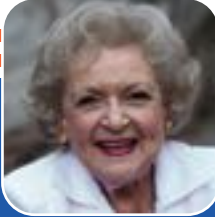


“Abbeyfield Caledon salutes all community volunteers who give generously of their time. Sharing your life experiences and skills enhances the lives of seniors in our community.”





If you would like to volunteer to Abbeyfield Caledon we would love to hear from you. If you are interested please contact:
info@abbeyfieldcaledon.org
or call **905-860-0181** for more details.




Kindness and consideration of somebody besides yourself keeps you feeling young. ~ Betty White

At Caledon Meals on Wheels, we envision a community where everyone can enjoy healthy, independent, and connected living at any age. Through our programs and services that promote nutrition, wellness, and social interaction, we help individuals truly *Thrive!*


This week, we’re celebrating *you*—our incredible volunteers—who make our mission possible every single day. Your kindness, time, and unwavering dedication brighten lives and nourish more than just bodies—you nourish hearts.

Thank you for being the heart of Caledon Meals on Wheels. We are endlessly grateful for the care and compassion you bring to our community.

With heartfelt thanks.



Volunteer



Week

905-857-7651 www.cmow.org

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NATIONAL
VOLUNTEER
WEEK 2025



Volunteer
Bénévoles
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APRIL 27 - MAY 3

volunteer.ca/nvw #NVW2025

Volunteer Canada: How does volunteering fit in to lifecycle transitions and retirement planning?



There are numerous circumstances that you may find yourself in as you move throughout your lifecycle.

Bookstores and information racks are filled with material to help people plan for a range of considerations, including family life, finances, housing, travel, recreation, health, and lifelong learning. Volunteering can play a key role at every stage but it can also serve as a vehicle to help you through these transitions. Volunteering can serve to heighten one’s quality of life today and act as a legacy for the future.

Whether your transition or retirement involves a change in your household, neighbourhood, health situation, employment status, or daily schedule, volunteering can provide extra meaning to your days. It can connect you to your community, help maintain, grow or develop new skills, facilitate your participation in the democratic process, and help you shape and preserve the society you want to live in for yourself and for generations to come.

FINANCIAL PLANNING

Greater numbers of people are looking for ways to contribute to the community by giving both time and money to the causes they care about. For those who are considering charitable donations and bequests to non-profit organizations as part of their financial planning, what better way to really know an organization than through volunteering? This can give people the insider’s view of the organization’s values, culture, programs, and leadership. It will also give you an opportunity to maximize your impact.

TRAVEL

Volunteering, combining volunteering and touring is a very appealing option for many people in transition or retirement. Many international development organizations offer opportunities to volunteer anywhere from 2 weeks to 2 years to work on projects such as mentoring small businesses, providing technical support for emerging industries, setting up schools, rebuilding housing, providing health and social services to refugees, staffing clinics, teaching English, as well as many other projects.

RECREATION

Whether your pleasure is swimming, soft-

ball, playing chess, or riding horses, you can combine this with important volunteer roles in the community. Being a swimming buddy with someone with a physical disability, being a coach for a little league team, playing chess with youth in a drop-in centre, or grooming ponies in a therapeutic riding program, your time will be very well spent.

Volunteering can also open up new recreational avenues that you have not considered before, such as playing cribbage, winter camping, being part of the chorus in a musical, or building a haunted house.

FAMILY TIME

If your time with family is important to you, consider family volunteering.

Helping with activities in a nursing home, sorting donations in a food bank, or making decorations around your kitchen table for a special event; there are many volunteer activities that can be done by people of all ages and abilities.

If you are looking for more time with family, there may also be volunteer opportunities in your grandchildren’s school, the nursing home where your aunt is living or the drop-in centre where your partner gets support dealing with his or her illness.

LIFE-LONG LEARNING

Volunteering is a way to transfer skills whether you want to contribute the skills you have gained or you wish to learn new skills, volunteering can help you prepare for a new career or feed your hunger for learning new things. Volunteer to research social policy issues and learn more about the root causes of homelessness, get trained on desk-top publishing programs as a volunteer editor of an organization’s newsletter, or find out more about fossils during orientation as a tour guide in the museum of nature.

HOUSING

If you are approaching a transition that includes moving, volunteering in your neighbourhood is a great way to get more connected to your new surroundings.

Whether you volunteer to serve on the social committee of your condo association or housing co-operative, take a shift at the information booth at the community centre, or join a team of door-to-door canvassers, volun-

teering will help you meet your neighbours. If your move means that you no longer have the garden you have always loved, volunteering in a community garden can help fill the gap.

HOBBIES

You have always had a great eye for a good picture or you can spend hours working on your family scrap book. You like to keep your hands busy while you watch the evening news or you are an avid stamp collector. Volunteering to take photos at an organization’s anniversary gala, creating an archive album for the local service, knitting layettes for young single parents, or leading a stamp club at the local high school can link your hobby to important community programs. This is the ideal approach if you want to volunteer in areas that are totally different from your work life and can also be done with groups of friends, as a project of your social club, or with your bowling team.

HEALTH

Many studies have shown the health benefits of volunteering such as reduced stress-related illnesses, an enhanced sense of self-worth, and the prevention of social isolation.

There are also times in your lives when your health situation does not permit you to be as active as usual. You may want to volunteer for an organization that is directly connected to the health issue that you or your family is dealing with. Virtual volunteering (off-site and online) or micro-volunteering (moments of helpfulness) have become part of the volunteering landscape. With a wide spectrum of volunteering opportunities available, you can find something that needs your experience, time, and skills that suit your particular situation.

As seen on Volunteer Canada’s website: volunteer.ca/engaging-volunteers/

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Caledon Citizen’s Student Athlete of the Week

Mayfield Mavericks’ Michael Wei races to ROPSSA-best time of 1:07 in 100-metre freestyle

BY JIM STEWART

Mayfield Secondary School student-athlete Michael Wei is dedicated to his life in the classroom and in the pool.

One could say that Wei is fully immersed in the rich co-curricular life at Mayfield as a key member of the Varsity Swim Team and as an active member of the Mathematics Club and the Technology Club.

In addition to his contributions to his school community, Wei has demonstrated his skills in the pool with Caledon’s local swim club by competing for the Dorado Stars for several years.

Mavericks Swim Coach Vivian Myre nominated Wei as our Student-Athlete of the Week due to his determination and selflessness: “Michael works extremely hard in training, but also dedicates a lot of his time and energy to training and coaching his teammates.”

Coach Myre also praised the Grade 11 Honor Roll student for his consistently strong academic performance.

“Michael wins awards for his academics.”

Coach Myre’s penchant for understatement was evident in that Wei’s average in his Grade 10 courses was closing in on the century mark—an impressive accomplishment by a Varsity athlete.

In addition to his award-winning work in the classroom and in the pool, Coach Myre is most impressed with Wei’s cheerful countenance and team-building skills.

“Michael always has a smile and is willing to work for the betterment of the overall team.”

She pointed to Wei’s provincial-calibre talents in the pool when Wei burst on to the swimming scene at Mayfield Secondary School: “He swam in OFSAA in 2023.”

Michael Wei took time from his studies and conquests in the pool to answer our interview

questions:

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

Michael Wei: “Throughout the season, I have been committed to both my own training, and helping others in the pool. I have taken responsibility to follow the sets at practices with my best effort, and I have taken leadership this year by helping the coach and monitoring practices.”

Caledon Citizen: What were your key statistics and performance moments from the 2024-25 season that you are most proud of?

Michael Wei: “From this year, I am most proud of my performance in the 100-metre freestyle race, as I have consistently reduced my times throughout the season. I believe this was my best race, as I finished in the finals at ROPSSAA for the race, with a final time of 1:07. I also feel accomplished with my training as my commitment has resulted in improved performance.”



MICHAEL WEI
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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

Michael Wei: “While I do not currently swim for a team/club outside of school, I swam with the Dorado Stars Swim Team for several years prior to joining the school team. Until recently, I swam at the open level.”

Caledon Citizen: How would you describe yourself as a student at Mayfield? To which sports teams and clubs do you belong? Honor Roll?

Michael Wei: “As a student at Mayfield, my priorities have revolved around balancing athletics and academics consistently. As such, I have participated in the swim team each year since Grade 9, while I have joined other clubs related to mathematics and technology. I have also put the same effort in maintaining my grades, which has allowed me to achieve the school’s Honor Roll.”

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

Michael Wei: “In post-secondary, I hope to pursue studies in the medical/health sciences

field. I wish to also maintain my fitness through recreational swimming and personal training.”

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

Michael Wei: “To me, my brother is my role model. Though he is already working, his hard work in school and university inspires my efforts to achieve the same success. He has also shown me many skills, including introducing me to gym workouts, which I am grateful for.”

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

Michael Wei: “Hearing about this nomination, I am both surprised and proud of my efforts. Having my achievements recognized is a sign of my hard work, and also pushes me to continue committing myself to both school and extracurricular sports.”

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No clear winners determined in Schmalz Cup playoffs

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

It’s too early in the provincial Junior C Hockey Schmalz Cup playoffs semi-final round to see any clear winners emerging.

Two best-of-seven series to decide what teams will go onto the championship round began on April 17.

The North Conference champion Hanover Barons are up against the Napanee Raiders who won the East Conference championship.

Hanover defeated the Orillia Terriers in the Conference championships. The Raiders arrived after winning over the Clarington Eagles in their Conference championship.

In the current series, Napanee took Game One with a 3-1 win on April 17.

Hanover responded in Game Two of the series with a 5-2 win on April 18.

The Raiders took a lead in the series when they had home-ice advantage in Game Three and left the ice with a 2-1 win in front of a hometown crowd. That game was played to a 1-1 tie, and the teams returned for an overtime period to decide the winner.

It was over when Napanee scored at 11:15 into the overtime period

Game Four of that series is slated to get underway on Friday, April 25, in Hanover.

In the other series, the West Conference champion Essex 73s are up against the New Hamburg Firebirds who won the South Conference.

New Hamburg took an early lead in that series after winning Game One by a score of 2-1.

The first game was played to a 1-1 time, forcing the teams to return for overtime.

Napanee scored at 50 seconds into the overtime period for the win.

Game two of the series took place on New Hamburg home ice on Monday, April 21.


Essex was leading the game 2-1 at the end of the second period.

Neither team could score in the third period and the 73s took the 2-1 win to even the series at one game apiece.

Game Three of the series was scheduled for Wednesday, April 23, in Essex.

The results of that game were not available at press time.

The winners of the two series will go on to play in the final best-of-seven championship final for the provincial Junior C Schmalz Cup.



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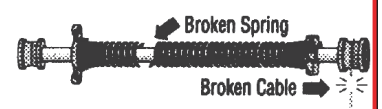


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RBC Canadian Open, and Golf Canada, coming to Caledon – with 125,000 visitors expected

Public meeting set for Monday

BY MATTHEW STRADER

The RBC Canadian Open is coming to Caledon.

And to ensure an event that is expecting 125,000 spectators goes off without a hitch, Caledon Council is exempting the organizing group from some local bylaws, while a special events bylaw is drafted and approved.

It is anticipated that the future bylaw will develop rules for insurance, traffic management, noise mitigation, fire and life safety requirements, as well as other matters relating to future events.

According to a report at Caledon council, the 2025 RBC Canadian Open is scheduled to take place at TPC Toronto Osprey in Alton from June 4 to 8. On site operations for the event will take place from May 26 to June 11.

Council will exempt the event from the noise bylaw, nuisance bylaw, site plan control bylaw and zoning bylaw. The report directed staff to prepare a future report on a special events bylaw.

Ryan Paul of Golf Canada, said the community can attend an information session of Monday, April 28 at Osprey Valley to meet Golf Canada staff directly, and learn about road closures and parking restrictions implemented for the tournament.

“It’s so much more than a golf tournament,” Paul said. “It’s an outdoor festival and event.”

Paul said the food and music and other entertainment are going to surprise people. The Canadian Open will not just be for golf lovers, he said, but all of Caledon. And Golf Canada being a not-for-profit, proceeds from the event go back into golf in the country and grassroots programs that grow the game.

Paul said their very proud of their support of youth. One of the ways they do encourage young people to come out and enjoy golf is by providing free entry to the Canadian Open for anyone under 12.

Paul explained in his presentation to Council that Golf Canada is also moving their home office to Caledon, in an exciting 26,000 square foot facility. For the golf lovers, it will include a community putting course. The putting course will include a 72-foot putt, as a tribute to Nick Taylor, the first Canadian to win the Canadian Open.

“The question I always get asked is who’s coming,” Paul said, digging into the exciting part of the event for those wondering which stars of the golf world will visit Caledon. Paul said more than 120 golfers are expected, including Rory McIlroy, Nick Taylor, Corey Connors and many other top players.

An exciting part, he said, is that the Canadian Open has a number of spots they can allocate to players in the field who may not qualify for an event like this, but are high performing amateurs looking to move their career forward.

Paul said last year’s host, Hamilton, experienced an \$86 million economic impact.

Councillor Nick de Boer said he had heard the 2024 Hamilton event was the most environmentally friendly.

“How did you accomplish that?” he asked. “And what are you bringing to Caledon?”

Golf Canada staff explained that Hamilton saw them work with a new sustainability partner who they will be continue to work with. This partner operates the Pheonix Open, one of the largest sporting events in the United States.

They said they have acquired battery powered generators to supplement a necessary use of diesel generators. In Hamilton, they reduced plastic bottle usage by 90,000 bottles and want to push that fur-

ther. And they worked with a company out of Barrie to see all mesh wrapping from the event used to make putting greens, outdoor furniture and other products. Their goal is to reach 70 percent waste diversion and eventually host a zero-waste event in the future.

Regional Councillor Mario Russo wondered if they were confident in the moves made to try and supply enough accommodation opportunities.

Paul said everyone coming in for the event, including media, staff and players have expressed positives about some of the unique initiatives done in Caledon.

“Allowing home owners to rent out their houses, we’ve seen a high uptick from players, that has been great,” he said. “We have hotel blocks in north Brampton that worked for some players that wanted to be closer to the airport, and Hockley Valley in Orangeville has been a great hot spot.”

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