

North Peel Community Church has parking lot

By Bill Rea

It took a long time, but North Peel Community Church in Sandhill finally has its parking lot.

There was a festive mood in the air Saturday, as members of the congregation and representatives from the town gathered to celebrate.

'It's a special event for us,' remarked Kevin Junor, who was MC for the ceremony. 'Celebrate with us something that is very special.'

Bishop Ronald Kelly called it a 'historic milestone.'

'It's a ground-breaking event for North Peel Community Church,' he added. 'It's a dream that came true.'

He reflected there's been a lot of growth in the church over more than 30 years, and that growth represented the challenge of finding adequate parking. He added safety was a concern, as people going to the church had to park on the shoulders of the road for many years. Winter and rainy weather presented additional challenges.

Kelly said he was grateful for the support of neighbours and friends in making the event possible.

'Our faith journey often involves patience,' Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones observed, reflecting on how long it took to get the lot in place. 'Good things come to those who wait, and ask and ask and ask.'

'We packed a lot of patience,' Junor added.

Mayor Allan Thompson commented it was a dream that became a reality through a shared vision and neighbours who came to help.

'We have something to celebrate,' he declared, adding the challenge was to keep everything in focus and never give up.

'I think the name for your parking lot is patience,' he said, reflecting that it was fortunate there were no injuries while waiting for the lot to become reality



Those on hand for the cutting of the ribbon to officially open the parking lot at North Peel Community Church included Bishop Evon Nunes, Audriana Cowell, Councillor Nick deBoer, Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones, Bishop Ronald Kelly, Claudette Kelly, Mayor Allan Thompson, Councillor Jennifer Innis, Bishop Alvin McKenzi and Lori Cook.



The new parking lot was officially broken in when Bishop Ronald Kelly drove in. MPP Sylvia Jones was sitting next to him.