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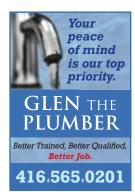
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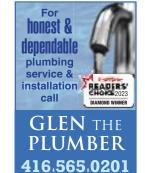
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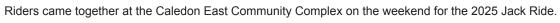


PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

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# **Jack Ride 2025 responds to growing** mental health crisis among youth

BY RILEY MURPHY LOCAL JOURNALISM

More than 700 cyclists, supporters, and volunteers filled the Caledon East Community Complex parking lot this past weekend for Jack Ride 2025, Canada's Ride for Youth Mental Health.

The event aims to raise funds for critical mental health education and prevention programs for young Canadians in every province and ter-

Cyclists rode along routes with distances ranging from 25 km to 100 km.

cating for Youth Mental Health since then.

Jack Ride helps to power the broader program of Jack.org's mission to build communities and systems that support mental health.

Eric Windeler and Sandra Hanington founded "The Jack Project" after the tragic loss of their son Jack, a first-year student at Queen's Univer-

Hanington shared that when the project began, it was just a handful of riders who got together.

"It was the beginning of a community that was forming around us, really trying to understand what was going on with youth mental health and

Jack Ride began in 2010 and has been advotrying to figure out what we could do about it,"

said Hanington. She shared after that first Ride they realized they could make it about community and fund-

"It is so gratifying; this work is hard, we're dealing with young people who are suffering and as parents, family members, and friends we just want to try and help," said Hanington. "For us, having found a way that we can actually help young people with mental health deal with their friends who are struggling is really rewarding."

Continued on Page 17

# Join Us for Our **GRAND OPENING** Saturday, June 14 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM 42 Green St. Orangeville



# Creatives unite at Headwaters Arts' Tapestry of Art and Music

BY RILEY MURPHY LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Headwaters Arts held its third annual "Tapestry of Art and Music," a musically themed art show and sale, and fundraising event, this past weekend at the Alton Mill Arts Centre.

This year's theme was "Wonder and Whimsy, " which was exemplified by a concert performance by Oakville Choir for Children and Youth and the almost 90 6" x 6" canvas creations created by experienced Ontario artists and young and upcoming artists.

This was the first year Headwaters Arts incorporated the Young New Artist of the Year Award, empowering youth to create and engage with the arts.

Continued on Page 6



Attendees looked over paintings as the Oakville Choir for Children and Youth began playing in the background. PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

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Let's talk



# **Spring into Action**

# Event held to raise funds for the Caledon Agricultural **Society Community Centre**

BY RILEY MURPHY LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Although The Caledon Agricultural Society and The Caledon Village Association didn't plan to hold their Spring into Caledon Event during the coldest May in over 50 years, they didn't let it rain on their parade.

The event featured a bonfire, karaoke, multiple food vendors, and more.

The spring affair was held at The Caledon Village Fairgrounds last week to raise funds for the Agricultural Society Community Centre.

They are hoping to reach their goal of three million dollars.

Glenda Simeone from the Caledon Agricultural Society spoke about the centre's progress.

Before starting, they have to raise a certain amount of funds to obtain permits and run

Simeone shared that so far, they have one commitment from TPC Toronto at Osprey and the Humeniuk family for \$250,000 over the next three years, and that they are very much looking forward to partnering with

"We're looking forward to getting this building built because we really believe that this ward in particular, and this whole side of the Town of Caledon needs more facilities. We want to partner with the Town, we want to partner with the community. We're working really hard at trying to raise the funds to get started," Simeone said.

The centre will be quite large and in keeping with the agricultural nature of the society, and also of the area.

They hope to add a full commercial kitchen, a banquet room, and accessible wash-

art gallery space, sports equipment and all Simeone. kinds of things for the community to use. We want to do it at a cost that the community can those looking to support to the Caledon Agactually afford to pay. We want our seniors to ricultural Society can do so through Cananot have to travel out of their neighborhood da Helps. https://www.canadahelps.org/en/ in order to get a little exercise in the winter, dn/104180.



Pre-made smore kits being sold at the event. Pictured here are Sandra, Glenda, and Mustafa.

PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

when they can't walk on the roads because of the ice and snow," said Simeone.

They also hope to use the space as an educational centre for agriculture, keeping with one of their central mandates.

To help raise funds, the Caledon Agricultural Society sold pre-made smores kits to toast at the bonfire.

"This community centre isn't for us. We want to do something for the community. It's part of our mandate. The Caledon Agricultural Society looked around and we said, what do we need? And we think that this is "We want to have things like display space, something that our community needs," said

Although it is not the only way to donate,

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# Traffic safety talks highlight community concerns and **Town commitments**

BY RILEY MURPHY LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Recent spring traffic meetings held by the Town of Caledon, Region of Peel staff and OPP sparked future road safety discussions.

The final two meetings of May were held in the Southfields and Valleywood community.

In the Southfields meeting, they shared traffic improvements and current initiatives underway.

Improvements included Kennedy Road and Snellview Road traffic signals, ASE Camera at Learmount Avenue, and No Parking signs at Old Kennedy Road to enhance sightlines at driveways and intersections.

Initiatives underway include an additional ASE camera on Dougall Avenue scheduled for 2025, a new "No Truck" signage along Kennedy Road, with implementation planned for 2025, and a Road extension on Abbotside Way for enhanced access for local traffic and emergency services and improve safety and reduce congestion on Kennedy

Rose Adom, a resident of the Southfields community, attended the meeting to express her concerns regarding speeding and trucks in her neighbour-

"I have four young kids. It's getting busy. Obviously the dynamic of the area has changed, so there's a lot of traffic going back and forth," shared Adom.

She shared that many are not stopping on the street for children getting on the bus, and roads are not cleared. Therefore, the bus driver is having difficulty stopping appropriately for the kids to get off.

Adom shared that by attending the meeting, she was able to learn, but also voice her concerns.

"I spoke to the city, they took a lot of notes in terms of exactly where my concerns are. Where and what in terms of which area of the street," said Adom. "It's good to see what's coming, what's going, and just to be aware, because like I said, I have four kids here. I love to walk. I want to make sure I'm safe in terms of drivers moving around."

At the Valleywood meeting, Highway 10 short-term improvements were shared with the community, including upgraded two-way left turn lane arrows and signage, the installation of centerline rumble strips to improve safety, and LED retrofit of existing street lighting at five key intersections.

Also at the Valleywood meeting was information regarding the Snelcrest Boulevard Emergency Access Gate.

In the event of an emergency closure on Snelcrest Boulevard and/or the Highway 410 overpass, an access gate would be opened, and on-site emergency services could direct traffic.

At the meeting, many residents voiced their concerns regarding the lack of safety they felt with not only the 410 but the emergency access gate.

Continued on Page 4



# From One Small Business to Another



PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

# NobleToyz helps keep Forster's Book Garden alive

BY RILEY MURPHY LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Derrick Noble, owner of NobleToyz, is no stranger to the ups and downs of running a small business.

He has owned and operated NobleToyz for the past nine years and said that over the past few years, small businesses have been struggling, himself included.

When Noble heard that Forster's was closing, he felt for them.

"We were pretty saddened to hear because they've been in the community for over 20 years, and they're one of those landmark stores you don't want to lose," said Noble.

Noble shared he wanted to keep the name alive, so he talked to Donna Forster, owner of Forster's Book Garden, and shared his idea of bringing in her books on a consignment basis

Noble coined one of his spinning racks, "Forster's Mini Book Garden," accompanied by a "Thank you Donna" sign.

He shared that although they had just brought it into the store, the community feedback had already been very positive.

"We want to keep small businesses alive," shared Noble.

His store is also facing the hardships of being a small business, leaving Noble with some difficult decisions.

"I've expanded the store a few times in our nine-year history, and we'll see how things go over the next few months to decide if we're going to either downsize or move," said Noble. "I prefer to keep everything the same because I think people really love what we have to offer, and I think it's a good thing for the Bolton community."

Noble shared that their store was a little shoebox when they first began, and now it's grown to over 3,000 square feet.

As they've grown, the community has supported them, and Noble shared that's one of the best things about being a small business: your customers become your friends



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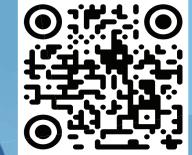


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Caledon Citizen







# Traffic safety talks highlight community concerns and **Town commitments**

Continued from PAGE 2

In a statement to the Citizen, Dan Terzievski, Director of Transportation, Town of Caledon, shared his thoughts.

"We appreciate the thoughtful feedback and input shared during the sessions so far. Staff are actively gathering and reviewing all of the comments and we look forward to hearing more from the community in the meetings to come. "

The Caledon Community Road Safety Association (CCRSA) has been in attendance at all previous Spring Traffic Meetings to engage not only with residents but also with the Town.

The CCRSA shared that they were happy to see another round of Community Traffic Safety Meetings happening this spring.

"Some of the meetings that happened in the Fall of 2024 were quite heated and there was a lot of frustration being expressed by residents. As we know, change with any level of government happens painfully slowly, and it is very frustrating to wait while those

the CCRSA is working every day to make sure those wheels of change keep moving," the CCRSA commented to the Citizen.

"It's so important for people to come out to these Traffic Safety Meetings. I witnessed one gentleman have a great discussion with a Town of Caledon staff member about a concern he had about Old Kennedy Road in the Southfields community becoming a speedway and asking if some traffic calming measures could be added to ensure that he can walk his dog safely, and kids playing near that dead-end street can play safely. These are the kinds of conversations that need to keep happening and people need to take the time to come out to the meetings and have their concerns heard. It's your chance to have the Town consider improvements that will positively impact your day-to-day life.

"Don't miss this opportunity. Get involved and have your voice heard - the Town of

Caledon is actually listening." The CCRSA aims to promote stronger

enforcement of traffic laws, improve urban

wheels of change grind slowly forward. But planning, and raise the standards for commercial vehicle regulation.

> They shared they are committed to pushing for accountability across all levels of government, ensuring that road safety becomes a priority when decisions are made, as well as continuing to collaborate with municipalities, regions, governments, first responders, road safety experts and residents to improve road safety.

> The CCRSA shared they ensure that residents are no longer kept in the dark through their association. Through CCRSA, the community has a platform to raise their voices and take meaningful action.

> They have actively been working with Council to express their concerns.

"We have been pleasantly surprised by

how receptive the Town of Caledon Council members are to listening to our concerns and participating in conversations to help improve road safety and illegal land use in and around Caledon. We have had many meetings, both formal and informal, with many of the Council members and also with Town of Caledon staff. This kind of open dialogue is key in ensuring that road safety and illegal land use remains top of mind for this Council and that they are aware that we are still pushing for change so residents can feel safe driving on our roads once again," shared CCRSA.

The next spring traffic meetings will be held June 4 at the Caledon Centre for Recreation and Wellness and June 11 at the Alton Legion.

# **IMPAIRED CHARGES**

Officers from the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have charged two individuals with alcohol related charges on Friday.

"On May 23, 2025, at approximately 10:00 p.m., Caledon OPP officers responded to a traffic complaint regarding a vehicle displaying poor driving behaviour," say Police. "Shortly after, officers located the vehicle on Highway 10, near Charleston Sideroad, in the Town of Caledon. Investigating officers conducted a traffic stop upon the vehicle and formed grounds that the driver's ability to operate a motor vehicle was impaired by alcohol."

Following the investigation, Sukhpal Singh, 23, of Brampton, was charged with:

- Operation while impaired alcohol;
- Operation while impaired blood alcohol concentration (80 plus).

The charges have not been proven.

"Just hours later, on the same day, Caledon OPP officers received a report of a single vehicle collision on The Gore Road, near Mayfield Road, in the Town of Caledon. Shortly after 11:45 p.m., officers arrived on scene and subsequently formed grounds that the driver's ability to operate a motor vehicle was impaired by alcohol."

As a result of the investigation, Abhinandan Kumar, 23, of Brampton, was charged with:

- Driving while under suspension;
- Possess more than one licence;

- Operation while impaired alcohol;
- Operation while impaired blood alcohol concentration (80 plus).

The charges have not been proven.

Both accused are scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on June 12, 2025, to answer to their charges. The vehicles were also impounded for a period of seven days, and their driver's licences were suspended for a period of 90 days.

"On Monday, May 19, 2025, at approximately 3:00 a.m., Caledon OPP conducted a traffic stop upon a vehicle who travelled through a RIDE program on Healey Road, near Innis Lake Road, in the Town of Caledon," say police. "Officers investigated and formed grounds that the driver's ability to operate a motor vehicle was impaired by alcohol."

As a result, Hardeep Katri, 27, of Brampton, was charged with:

- Driving while under suspension;
- Drive vehicle with cannabis readily
- Operation while impaired blood alcohol concentration (80 plus).

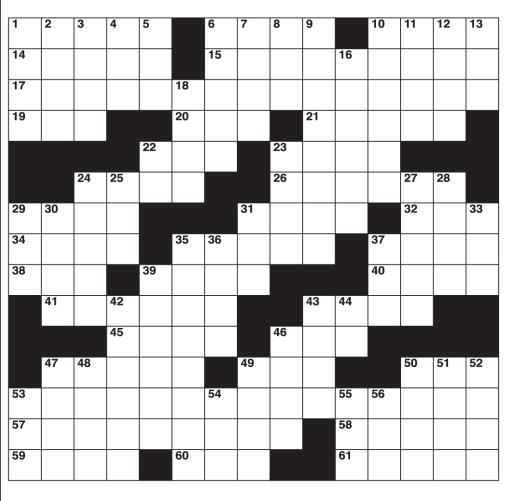
The driver is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on June 12, 2025, to answer to the charges.

The charges have not been proven.

Additionally, the driver's vehicle was impounded for a period of seven days, and their driver's licence suspended for a period of 90 days.

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# The Citizen CROSSWORD



# **CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Marsh plant
- 6. Southern constellation ("The
- Peacock")
- 10. Fogginess
- 14. Home to Fools' Day
- 15. Absence of the sense of pain
- 17. Popular November holiday
- 19. Consume food
- 20. Buddy
- 21. Long-haired goatantelope
- 22. Japanese honorific
- 23. Actor Malek 24. One point south of
- southeast
- 26. Illegal acts
- 29. As fast as can be done
- 31. Prevents harm to
- young
- 32. Exclamation of satisfaction
- 34. African nation 35. Slow-moving

- - 37. Oh, goodness! 38. A team's best
    - pitcher
    - 39. Cleanser
    - 40. Radioactivity units
    - 41. Expectorated matter 43. Cover a wide range
    - 45. The central area of a church
    - 46. California capital
    - (abbr.) 47. Dutch painter
    - Klaver
    - 49.007's creator
    - 50. Impression of
    - dishonesty
    - 53. Northeastern sports rivalry
    - 57. Cloths

    - 58. Stalin's police chief 59. Hostelries
    - 60. Bitterly regret 61. Anwar \_\_\_, Egyptian
    - statesman **CLUES DOWN**
    - 1. Satisfy
    - 2. European health
    - advocate 3. Expression of

- annoyance 4. Strong liquor
- 5. Large red deer
- 6. Holder of less
- common religious
- beliefs
- 7. West Indian shrub
- 8. Family of proteins
- 9. Wealthy, influential
- business leader
- 10. Low spirits
- 11. Approves food 12. Monetary unit of
- Iran and Oman
- 13. Mary \_\_\_, cosmetics 16. Expressed in pithy
- 18. Relaxing spaces
- 22. The NFL's big
- game 23. Proof of payment
- 24. Starchy preparation
- of dried orchid tubers
- 25. Indicates near 27. Minneapolis suburb

30. Pouches

- 28. Herring-like fish 29. Doctors' group

- 31. Bread dipping in sauce 33. Commercials
- 35. A reminder of past
- events
- 36. Affected by injury 37. Geological time
- 39. Stationary part of
- a motor 42. Brings together
- 43. Of sound mind
- 44. Personal computer 46. Without (French)
- 47. A bank might give you one
- 48. Agricultural testing organization
- 49. A small island 50. Type of gene
- 51. Murres
- 52. Card game 53. A measure of
- human health 54. Australian airline
- (abbr.) 55. One point south of
- due west
- 56. Affirmative



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# ARTS & COUNTY OF THE PARTS OF T



# Creatives unite at Headwaters Arts' Tapestry of Art and Music

Continued from FRONT

Attendees could gaze upon the various artworks decorating the walls while listening to multiple compositions from the Oakville Choir for Children and Youth.

Susan Powell, Marketing and Communications Chair for Headwaters Arts, shared that this year they increased the number of works featured, from only 67 artists participating last year.

"We're certainly building momentum, the artists don't get paid for it, but they're supporting an organization that supports them," shared Powell.

Powell also touched on the aspect that the new young artists brought this year.

"Young people are the best, and this gives them the opportunity to create and experience what it's like to have people look at their work," said Powell.

Grace Wheatley was one of the participating young artists this year and shared the excitement and nerves that came with it.

Her art teacher told her she believed in Grace and wanted her to submit a piece.

Wheatley shared that upon hearing that, she knew there was no way she was going to say no.

On her canvas, she showcased something meaningful to her: a teacup. Wheatley's family does high tea every year, and it is something she loves.

Another artist who showcased their work is Sofiya Stevens, who describes herself as an emerging artist.

Stevens' piece was titled "Heart Cats," a colourful oil painting showcasing two cats that made a heart when turned upside down.

Stevens shared that she was trying to play with the idea of an inner child through her work.

"When someone takes those cats home and they look at them and they're feeling really happy afterwards, for me that's such a rewarding feeling that money can't buy," said Stevens.

She is a member of Headwater Arts, and shared she donated a piece to the event because she loves giving back to the community.

"I feel like when you're an artist, it's important to [give back] because I consider it a gift that I'm able to create, and I'm able to bring joy to people," said Stevens.

She shared that it is also the event space that sparks joy and creativity in her.

"I love Alton Mill because it's a beautiful

space. Every time I come here, I come out of it thinking, I want to create more. So, I'm so happy and so fortunate to be able to exhibit here."

It wasn't just paint that adorned the multiple canvases at the event.

Sam Meandro is a woodturner who focuses on handmade, one-of-a-kind functional and decorative pieces using locally sourced, sustainable, and repurposed woods.

Meandro's work was titled "Foraging for Wild Mushrooms" and depicted mushrooms physically coming out of the canvas.

In Meandro's artist statement, he shared more about the piece.

"The dramatic beauty of the decaying, also known as spalting, 250 year old sugar maple wood is in itself a design by nature with its palette of colours and striking fungal lines. The bark from the same tree acts as ground cover, where mushrooms thrive. The mushrooms are the only pieces that are woodturned. The naturally occurring red-coloured mushroom adds a bit more drama to the piece derived from the box elder or Manitoba maple tree."

"My woodturning projects are designed by nature and are attributed often to intense environmental conditions and invasive species which eventually become repurposed functional or decorative forms for others to enjoy for a lifetime. The decision about what a piece of wood is to become rests on how it speaks to me."

At the event, Meandro shared he joined Headwaters Arts two years ago and has been wood-turning since 2020.

He explained why he decided to donate a piece to the event.

"I just found it's all about giving back and being part of the arts community. It's important that the arts stay alive. It's important for people of all ages to appreciate art and that you can learn art, and there's so much that you could be creative with different mediums. Mine happened to be wood," said Meandro.

Meandro's work and all others were auctioned off during the event; all proceeds from the sale of artworks support Headwaters Arts.

Attendees could also participate in a draw to win a piece of art donated by Paul Morin.

One thing Powell noted that was helpful this year was that they applied for a grant from the Town of Caledon to help support the costs of the event, and it was approved.



Featured at the bottom right is Meandro's "Foraging for Wild Mushrooms". PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

This grant allowed them to have the choir and purchase all their canvases for the artists from the local shop, Maggiolly Art in Orangeville.

Fundraising events like these help Headwaters Arts continue their overall goal of bringing

together artists and supporters to promote the development, appreciation, and enjoyment of all arts in the Hills of Headwaters Region.

The not-for-profit organization aims to stay resilient and grow its Headwaters Arts Gallery programming/operations/shows year-round.

# Top talent returning to Orangeville Fairgrounds for Ram Rodeo showdown

BY SAM ODROWSKI

Get ready for a rootin' tootin' good time.

The Orangeville Fairgrounds will be filled with high-level competitors during a rodeo next weekend.

The Ram Rodeo Tour is making a stop at the fairgrounds on June 7 and 8, where cowboys and cowgirls from across Canada will be participating in a variety of competitions.

Fans of the rodeo will see barrel racing, saddle bronc, bareback, bull riding, pole bending and other fun events.

"In Orangeville, where it's city meets country, the rodeo is an opportunity for people that maybe aren't as aware of the animals, the agriculture, and so forth, to come out and see it," said Ross Millar, organizer of the Ram Rodeo Tour.

"So many kids like to come out and see the horses and the bulls, and everything."

On Saturday, June 7, the gates open at 1:30 p.m., the Kids Rodeo is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. and the Ram Rodeo performance gets underway at 4 p.m. The grounds will close

On Sunday, June 8, the gates open at 10:30 a.m., the Kids Rodeo with the Canadian Cowgirls is slated for 11:30 a.m., and the Ram Rodeo performance is at 1 p.m. The grounds will close at 5 p.m.

Over \$300,000 in prize money is up for grabs for the competitors who come out on top over the 15 stops of the Ram Rodeo Tour, which travels across Eastern Canada.

Millar said the rodeo will showcase some new bucking horses out of Alberta for the very first time.

Brett Timmermans, who's been the bull riding champion of Ram Rodeo for the past two years, will be looking to retain his title. He had a broken arm over the winter but has recovered and is ready for the competition in Orangeville.

Caitlin Johnson will also be looking to defend her titles as the barrel racing and pole bending champion.

There are also seven kids competing in the rodeo for their second time who recently graduated from the Build a Cowboy School. Competitors range from 13 years old all the way up to 50.

Millar expressed excitement about the Canadian Cowgirls returning to the event to entertain rodeo fans, alongside the free Kids Rodeo.

"They're always first class," Millar enthused.

Individuals interested in attending Ram Rodeo can save \$10 on tickets by purchasing them in advance online. Buying in advance also ensures attendees won't be disappointed at the door if the event sells out, as interest in the community for the event has steadily grown over the past few years. Last year, the event had to add 400 more seats and they were full, according to Millar.

"It just continues to kind of grow, and it's usually a full house," he noted.

Tickets can be purchased in advance online at ticketweb. ca/search?q=ram+rodeo+tour.

# community of the commun

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.

# Velocity Ride for Seniors

Ride Caledon's scenic Hills to support seniors in our lives. Pedal into Caledon Day with a ride for all ages at any speed.

Ride scenic 10, 25, 50 or 100 km routes, check out NEW gravel routes or chart your own path to fuel life-changing services for Caledon seniors. Plus enjoy: lunch, nourishing rest stops, prizes, swag table, event t-shirt and more!

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Albion Bolton Historical Society - Monday, June 9, for a 7:30 PM start, at the Albion Bolton Community Centre, 150 Queen Street, South, Bolton, Meeting room C, 2nd Floor, (elevator available). 'The Grandsons of Eliza Duffy' presented by Alan Duffy. Alan will speak about the Duffy family and their military service in the 1860s. Questions: nhillerphoto@bell.net or 905-584-2801 visit us at boltonhistory.com

CAFFI Housing Inc. - Volunteers Wanted for Spring Yard Cleanup Day at Shiloh House. Volunteers are needed on Saturday, May 31, beginning at 9:00 am until 1:00 pm at Shiloh House which is located at 1 Cedar Mains Drive, Bolton. The entrance is southwest of the intersection of Hwy 50 and Old Church Road. Volunteers can sign up for 1 hour, or

Student volunteer hours can be earned, but all

helpers are welcome. Shiloh House is a fully-renovated historical house in a peaceful rural setting just north of Bolton designed to allow two women with differing abilities to live more independently. We are now planning our annual Caledon Area

Families For Inclusion (CAFFI) Housing Spring Yard Cleanup To volunteer or for more information,

### Caledon Community Services' 2024/2025 Annual General Meeting

please text Janet at 416-457-2948 or email:

Wednesday, June 25, 2025 at 7:00 pm Humber River Centre, 28 Ann St. Bolton, ON

caffihousing@gmail.com

Come and hear Captain (Ret'd) Kevin Junor, a 2025 King Charles III Coronation Medal Honoree speak about community from his lens as a trailblazing leader with almost 40 years of service in the Canadian Arms Forces Reserves. Capt Junor was a Regimental Seargeant Major of the Toronto Scottish Regiment, her later became a commissioned officer in the Queen's Own Rifles. Kevin is an Order of Ontario recipient with demonstrated commitment to community wellbeing, diversity, inclusion, and preserving military history. Light refreshments will be served.

FREE COMMUNITY PANCAKE BREAKFAST Saturday, June 7th from 8:30 am to 10:30 am. Caledon East United Church, 6046 Old Church Rd.

Pancakes, scrambled eggs, chicken sausages, yogurt, fresh and frozen fruit, tea, coffee, juice.

All are welcome!





# **Lloyd Wilson Centennial Park is** getting greener thanks to partnerships

BY RILEY MURPHY LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Village of Inglewood Association has partnered with Credit Valley Conservation to plant 150 native trees and shrubs at Lloyd Wilson Centennial

Nearly 30 volunteers came out Sunday morning to help with the planting. Jeff Theeuwen, a Village of Inglewood Association member, helped get this initiative going.

He had attended a committee meeting where there was talk of securing trees for planting. He went on to submit an application to the Town of Caledon's Climate Action Fund, and they secured 100 per cent funding for this project.

He then approached Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) for a recommendation, and they said not only could they do that, but they wanted to help with the initiative.

CVC helped plan and provide the Village of Inglewood Association with trees, water, and shovels.

Theeuwen shared that looking out fruit that are a food source for our na-

plant these trees was really nice.

"When I see it here now, I'm really proud of the community and being able to secure the money and do this," shared Theeuwen.

"The community doesn't come together without volunteers, so to see as many people come out and volunteer is just amazing. That's what makes a community: people coming together. I really feel fortunate to live in this community. It's a wonderful community."

Pascale Bider, Program Assistant with the Community Outreach Team at CVC, shared why it's exciting to plant these native trees and shrubs in the community.

"Native trees and shrubs do a bunch of awesome things," said Bider. "They store carbon, they have deep root systems so they can store a lot of carbon in the soil, so that's one of our big tools for fighting climate change, and they produce oxygen for us to breathe. They provide us with shade, so it cools down the air, it cools down the neigh-

"They produce a lot of flowers and

and seeing everyone come together to tive insects like bees, as well as native birds. We're replacing an area that was underused turf grass, so now they won't have to mow this portion either, so a little bit less carbon emissions through that as well."

> Bider expanded on the kind of trees they were planting that day.

> One of them is the species Serviceberry tree.

"They actually have berries that we can eat," remarked Bider. "If you beat the birds to them."

Trees were also being planted mid-

way towards the top of the Credit River watershed, which will help shade the river and cool it, bringing positive effects on water quality to Mississauga.

Bider said that Credit Valley has been doing these stewardship activities for many years.

Every spring and fall, they participate in community tree plantings, garbage cleanups, and invasive species pulls with community groups.

"Really grateful to the folks who've come out to help us, because we couldn't do this without all of our volunteers," said Bider.

# **Alton Mill Arts Centre** receives \$20K grant through Caledon's **6 Villages CIP**

BY RILEY MURPHY LOCAL JOURNALISM

INITIATIVE REPORTER

Last week, Mayor Annette Groves and Acting CAO Eric Lucic and Councillors Early and Sheen presented a \$20,000 cheque to the Alton Mill Arts Centre through the Town's 6 Villages Community Improvement Plan (CIP).

Martin Kouprie, Managing Partner, and Jeremy Grant, Co-Founder of the Alton Mill Arts Centre, were there to receive the cheque.

At the presentation, Mayor Groves shared the importance of supporting local heritage, sustainability, and the arts.

Martin Kouprie shared the money will go towards a number of initiatives, including the key energy-efficient HVAC installation and life safety upgrades at the Mill, aligning with their broader goals of environmental sustainability and heritage preservation.

The HVAC installation helped Alton Mill on numerous fronts.

Kouprie shared that it reduces their greenhouse footprint, helps with cooling in the summertime, and allows them to keep their doors closed, reducing noise for their neigh-

Regarding the live safety upgrades, they were able to install self-closing doors.

Kouprie said that this is vital as it cuts off one-half of the building in the event of a fire. He shared that because they had recently changed their zoning to allow people to sit down and eat, adding that extra layer of fire safety was important.

Knowing the cost of all these improvements, Kouprie applied for the CIP grant.

"Getting twenty thousand dollars really helps because not only does it show us support, it shows us that this is an art center where we're the caretakers. That kind of support goes a long way to tell us that we're doing the right thing and that the community values the Alton Mill Arts Centre as a historical building. The community is investing in it as much as we are, which gives us a lot of moral support in that respect," Kouprie said.

Kouprie shared the grant was accessible and that there are multiple avenues to apply; one way is to improve your business's energy efficiency.

"The Town of Caledon is trying to get down to net zero, and this is just really going far in helping us achieve that," said Kouprie.

He shared that they are always looking at ways to implement green initiatives.

One of those ways is through solar power.

"We're looking at all kinds of different options as far as lowering our carbon footprint goes and making us a little more energy efficient," said Kouprie. "The solution that we're looking for is always the green solution."

Kouprie explained that through these new and future initiatives, they are trying to be environmental stewards and set an example for those around them.

He shared that they want people to know that what they do is an example of what others can implement.

"We want to be the premier destination for arts, but at the same time, we want people to come here and know that we're doing everything we can in order to better the future,"

"I hope that more people come out and enjoy what we do here and recognize the work that we put into this place. We are just stewards; this building is going to be here for generations. And I want them to come here and enjoy the property and enjoy the art."

# **PUBLIC NOTICE**





# **Proposed Official Plan Amendment** and Zoning By-law Amendment

# FILE NUMBERS: POPA 2025-0005 and RZ 2025-0004

This is to inform you that the Town of Caledon has received applications for an Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment, Your input and insight will inform and shape plans that meet the needs of our community.

# APPLICANT:

Glen Schnarr & Associates Inc (Patrick Pearson) on behalf of Nucon Property Developments inc.

# LOCATION:

10795 Highway 9 CON 10 ALB PT E LOT 26 RP 43R1 CALEDON



# PROPOSED CHANGES

The applicant has applied for Official Plan Amendment (POPA 2025-0005) and Zoning By-law Amendment (RZ 2025-0004) applications to recognize the existing Demolition and Excavation Repair Facility. The applicant is proposing to create a site-specific Official Plan designation and Zone to change the land use and permitted uses. The Official Plan Amendment proposes to redesignate the land use on the property from Policy Area 4 to a site-specific Policy Area 4 designation. The Zoning By-law Amendment proposes to rezone the property from Rural - Oak Ridges Moraine (A2-ORM) to a site-specific Rural zone (A2-ORM-XX) and Environmental Policy Area 2 - Oak Ridges Moraine (EPA2-ORM) zone. No new development is being proposed on the subject property at this time.

# **LEAD PLANNER:**

Aleah Clarke, MCIP, RPP Town of Caledon Planning Consultant MHBC Planning 519-576-3650 x 807 aclarke@mhbcplan.com

# **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

For more information about this matter, including information about appeal rights, a copy of the proposed Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment, additional information and material, please visit www.caledon.ca/notices or contact the Lead Planner from Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

# ACCESSIBILITY:

If you require an accessibility accommodation to access any materials related to this item in an alternate format please contact Legislative Services by phone at 905-584-2272 x2366 or via email at accessibility@caledon.ca.

Multi-Tenant Landowners: Please post this notice in a visible location to all residents of

Notice Date: May 29th, 2025



Caledon, ON L7C 1J6 T. 905.584.2272 | 1.888.225.3366 | F. 905.584.4325

6311 Old Church Road



# **Celebrate Seniors** Month in Caledon!

This June, residents aged 55+ can enjoy **FREE** access to Caledon recreation centres and drop-in activities. Whether you love to swim, skate, walk, or simply connect with others — there's something for everyone!

We've also teamed up with community partners to offer even more free programs and events throughout the month.

Visit caledon.ca/seniorsmonth.



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

# **Town of Caledon** reports remarkable 2024 year-end surplus of over \$5.3 million

### **CONTRIBUTED**

The Town of Caledon is proud to report its second consecutive year-end budget surplus of over \$5.3 million for 2024 – more than doubling 2023.

This marks a significant milestone in the Town's continued demonstration of fiscal responsibility and prudent resource management. Achieving back-to-back surpluses underscores Caledon's strong financial stewardship and its dedication to delivering value to residents while maintaining sustainable

"This surplus is the result of exceptional dedication of our entire team. Through a shared commitment to managing taxpayer dollars responsibly, we've achieved results that reinforce Caledon's long-term financial sustainability," said Nathan Hyde, CAO. "I thank our staff for continuing to provide service excellence, and for their unwavering accountability to the community. As we look ahead, we remain focused on strategic investments that will ensure continued growth, resilience, and high-quality services for the people of Caledon."

The surplus is due to a strong financial performance following the budget's approval earlier this year. Higher-than-anticipated revenues combined with lower debt servicing costs contributed to a positive year-end outcome.

"By approving the budget ahead of schedule, we empowered staff to prioritize year-end processes and key financial decisions much earlier than previous years. This level of proactive leadership and disciplined planning is exactly what drives results like these," said Mayor Annette Groves. "It's a clear reflection of our commitment to strong fiscal stewardship and delivering real, lasting value for the people of Caledon.'

In accordance with the Town Surplus: Allocation to Reserves motion, the 2024 surplus is recommended to be allocated to the following reserves:

- Firefighter Post-Retirement Benefits Reserve;
- Tax Stabilization Reserve;
- Tax Funded Capital Contingency Reserve;
- Tax Funded Operating Contingency Reserve.

These allocations are designed to strengthen the Town's ability to manage future financial pressures, respond to unforeseen needs, and continue investing in critical infrastruc-

A full report on the 2024 financial results will be presented to Council and made available to the public through the Town's website.

### **MAYOR ANNETTE GROVES** MAYOR GROVES' COLUMN

# Helping our Community: Annette Groves' Community Gala

In this column, I'm truly delighted to share some heartwarming news about an incredible gift to our community. Thanks to the generosity and spirit of giving shown at the Annette Groves' Community Gala—and with the unwavering support of our sponsors—we were able to raise an astounding \$710,000 to support local Caledon organizations doing meaningful work every day.

This event holds a special place in my heart. It was more than just a fundraiser—it was a beautiful evening that reflected the power of community, connection, and compassion. We came together not only to raise funds, but to celebrate the bonds that unite us and the shared purpose that drives us to uplift one another.

We were honored to be joined by many distinguished guests who helped make the night even more special, including the Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Doug Ford, and several esteemed ministers and local leaders: Deputy Premier, Minister of Health, and MPP for Dufferin-Caledon, the Honourable Sylvia Jones, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Infrastructure, the Honourable Kinga Surma, Minister of Transportation, the Honourable Prabmeet Sarkaria, the

Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General, the Honourable Andrea Khanjin, Minister of Red Tape, Member of Provincial Parliament for Brampton East Hardeep Grewal, Member of Parliament for Brampton Centre Amandeep Sodhi, Mayor of King City Steve Pellegrini, Deputy Mayor of Bradford West Gwillimbury Raj Sandhu and Chair of the Region of Peel Nando Iannicca.

Their presence reminded us of the importance of unity and partnership in building strong, thriving communities. We were also thrilled to welcome Olympic pole vault medalist Alysha

The evening was filled with joy, gratitude, and a shared commitment to giving back. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to every one of our generous sponsors and donors-your support made this magical night possible. Because of your kindness, we can now provide essential funding to many local organizations, helping them continue their incredible work and reach even more people in need. Thank you for standing with us-and for making our community shine a little brighter.

Some of the groups benefiting from this funding include: Bethell Hospice, Bolton Community Crew, Bolton Italian Cultural Centre, Bright Start Caledon,

Caffi Caledon, Caledon Chamber of Commerce, Caledon Meals on Wheels, Cassie's Place, CCRSA, Close 2 Home Caledon, Dufferin Caledon Victim Services, Family Transition Place, Forks of the Credit Preservation Group, GOALS, Humberview Alpha Dogs, Humberview Football Program, Bolton Tennis Club, Caledon Coyotes, Caledon Rotary, Meaghan's Music Room, Motionball, Renewed Hope, St. Michael's Secondary School, Stage Academy Theatre Association and many more.

Each of these organizations brings hope and support to our neighbors, and we're so proud to stand beside them.

A special thank you also goes out to our incredible gala organizing committee. Your dedication, energy, and countless hours of work made everything possible. To every volunteer who lent a helping hand—thank you. Your compassion was felt in every detail of the

This was truly a night to remember-a celebration of generosity, connection, and the belief that together, we can achieve extraordinary things. I look forward to many more moments like this, where we continue to turn hope into action and dreams into reality.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MAYOR'S OFFICE



CONCERTS IN THE PARK - OPERA HOUSE - BROADWAY STAGE - BLUES & BIKES CLASSIC CARS BLUES CRUISE - DOWNTOWN RAMBLE AND STREET MARKET MUSIC IN THE RESTAURANTS AND PUBS - MUSIC WORKSHOPS

EXPERIENCE 3 INCREDIBLE DAYS OF MUSIC & EVENTS INCLUDING:

MAPLE BLUES BAND, KENNY BLUES BOSS WAYNE, RAOUL & THE BIG TIME, LACHY DOLEY, HARRY MANX, JAY DOUGLAS & THE ALL STARS, STEVE STRONGMAN, CANEFIRE and much more!













































# **Bike the Creek returns** to Caledon, Mississauga, and Brampton

BY RILEY MURPHY LOCAL JOURNALISM

INITIATIVE REPORTER

Bike the Creek is back for its 11th year on Saturday, June 7.

Hosted by Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) in partnership with Bike Brampton and the Cities of Brampton, Mississauga, Caledon, and Peel Region, the event celebrates community, sustainability, and active living.

The event urges people of all ages to discover the joys of cycling.

With over 1,000 riders participating yearly, the event has become one of the GTA's largest and most inclusive cycling

Multiple route options, including family-friendly rides and longer trails for experienced cyclists, will be available.

The range of routes will be 6 km Family Ride (30-60 minutes), 15 km Family Ride (1.5–2 hours), 25 km Nature Ride (2.5–3 hours), 65 km Caledon Town Ride (3.5–4.5 hours, shortcut at 50 km) and 70 km Regional Ride (4-4.5 hours, shortcut at 54 km).

New this year, the 2025 routes offer a

closer look at wetland restoration efforts at Loafer's Lake, a joint project between TRCA and the City of Brampton.

Riders will also pass restored trails and infrastructure that reflect TRCA's broader vision to connect communities through safe, green, and active transportation.

The TRCA shared that the event comes at a critical time.

As Peel grows and urbanizes, the event highlights how residents embrace cycling as a cleaner, healthier, and more enjoyable way to move through their neighbour-

Bike the Creek is powered by community support, with more than 50 volunteers helping the day run smoothly.

Participants who register can enjoy a free lunch and access to educational vendor booths.

Riders are urged to tune up their bike before the ride, bring a refillable water bottle, and review the heat illness information for Bike the Creek 2025.

Participation is free, and registration can be done here before June 4 at www. eventbrite.ca/e/bike-the-creek-2025-tickets-1221011952619?.

### A Healthy and Engaged Community



Employment Services · Transportation · Evolve Caledon · Seniors Assisted Living · Transitional Care · Respite Care · Community Care · Newcomer Services · Volunteerism · Food Support · Youth Services · Season of Hope · The Exchange www.ccs4u.org | 905-584-2300

"Riding with Heart: Join us at Velocity 2025!"

by Ian Armstrong



Every time I get on my bike, I think of my mum, Barbara.

She was always involved in her

community and came to live with us in Caledon in her later years.

When Alzheimer's slowly took pieces of her from us. Caledon Community Services (CCS) was there to help hold things together.

CCS' transportation service ensured that she never missed a medical appointment, a grocery run or a visit to the library she loved. It gave her dignity and it gave us peace of mind.

In 2018, I hopped on my bike with a small group of committed local volunteers and a big dream - to give back to the community that helped care for my mum, Barbara.

That first year, I didn't know if many people would show up for Velocity. But they did.

Friends, neighbours and fellow cyclists from the Caledon Cycling Club, all riding with purpose and heart.

This year on **June 14**, I'll be leading a Velocity ride again. It's grown so much and every year I'm reminded of how special our community is.

We ride so that Caledon seniors like my mother can stay connected, independent, and cared for thanks to the critical support offered by CCS. Because no one should face aging alone.

If you've ever loved someone through illness, if you've ever felt the quiet power of community or if you just love a good ride through our beautiful hills, please register and come join us.

I'll be the guy with tears in his eyes and a smile on his face, riding for my mum.

Sign up, donate or find out more at ccsvelocity.ca. Velocity features a variety of trail, road and gravel routes for riders of every age and skill level.

Let's ride with heart Caledon, in support of

critical services for our senior neighbours and loved ones.

We can't do it without you!



**How Do You See It?** 

Tell us how you see it. Carol Petrini, Event and Partnership Lead, Caledon Community Services at 905-584-2300 ext. 236 or cpetrini@ccs4u.org

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

# REMEMBER TO SHOP LOCAL!

# jack ride 2025 | jack.org

Canada's Ride for Youth Mental Health

# **Thank You Caledon!**



On May 24, over 1000 riders, volunteers, and supporters gathered in Caledon and across Canada to champion youth mental health. Together, we clipped in and moved towards the most meaningful finish line of our lifetime: building a better future for young people across Canada.

As a community, we raised an incredible \$1.2 million in support of youth mental health. Thank you Caledon, for welcoming us and sharing your roads and your community spaces.

To learn and how you can support visit jack.org





### **BROCK WEIR BROCK'S BANTER**

# Deploying the Crown

place.

"Surrounded in this historic Chamber by the symbols and records of generations of Canadian legislators, I am very conscious of what Parliament has achieved by transforming these visions and ideals of a great country into the enduring law of the land."

Ahead of this week's blink-and-you'llmiss-it Royal Visit to Ottawa, a quick 24-hours that apparently has quite a lot riding on it, I wanted to do a bit of a deeper dive into what one might expect at Tuesday's Speech from the Throne, which will be formally carried out by the Canadian monarch for the first time in nearly 50 years.

Because this is anything but a typical Throne Speech.

I'm writing this on Sunday evening as the final details of King Charles and Queen Camilla's trip are announced. The above excerpt was from the Throne Speech made by Queen Elizabeth II in 1977, an event planned to coincide with her Silver Jubilee – or the 25th anniversary of her ascension to the throne.

Forty-eight years on, the themes so many Canadian politicos expect the King to deliver this week are remarkably similar to the broad times. strokes in the last speech delivered by the big

It's widely expected that the King, acting on the advice of his Canadian ministers, particularly Prime Minister Mark Carney in the first throne speech of his fledgling government, will emphasize Canada's role as a strong, independent, sovereign nation.

When the late Queen delivered the speech to mark her quarter-century milestone, she marvelled "a generation of Canadians has been born and grown to maturity during my reign. I know you will understand when I say that I have a special interest in these young men and women, contemporaries of my own children.

"They are made strong by the achievements of their parents and grandparents, but not imprisoned by the prejudices of the past; in that sensitivity towards other people, an essence of justice, the generosity and goodwill lie not only in lessons for us all, but the best and surest hope for unity and understanding among Canadians everywhere."

By her death in 2022, in her Platinum Jubilee year, marking a whopping 70 years on the throne, two to three further generations had been born and grown to maturity during her reign. I'm not sure how we fared on the unity and understanding front, but many of the contemporaries of her own children referred to in 1977 are eyeing retirement or even enjoying it as I write, the eldest is now in the role and preparing for a speech which, by the time you read this, could have been a reign-defining moment in his so-called "Maple Kingdom."

But, who is the intended audience for the

Speeches from the Throne, regardless of whether it is delivered by the Monarch in person, or by the Governor General, their dayto-day representative in the country, are not generally events that are all that exciting or chock full of surprises to those who actively follow politics.

Most Canadians, prior to Carney's invitation to the King to deliver his government's agenda, probably haven't lost a whole lot of of many, and that the King has many official sleep over whose mouth the words ultimately come from.

Minister invited the King to open parliament ployed this week.

"I feel thankful Canadians have been so for the first time in his reign in a bid to send successful in establishing a vigorous democ- a message to the United States President, who racy, well-suited to a proud and free people," has been rattling his sabres on annexing the said the monarch from the Senate throne, Great White North, to underscore Canada's which so rarely has its intended occupant in sovereignty by having the actual sovereign in

> The Prime Minister's words following the announcement the King would be doing just that, didn't exactly throw cold water on this

> "This historic honour matches the weight of our times," he said. "Canada has a steadfast defender in our sovereign."

Indeed.

As a long-time admirer of the King through the initiatives and causes he promoted prior to his ascension, and as one who sees the value of an institution such as the monarchy in Canadian life, I'm thrilled that the current government is taking advantage of the resources we have in the Crown and putting it to good use. After all, as the saying goes, if you don't use it, you lose it - and if the government of the day doesn't utilize the monarchy to either of its advantage, the latter will wither in ap-

I never quite expected the Crown to be used as a middle finger to our southern neighbours, though - but, as we're constantly reminded, we do live in perpetually unprecedented

A May 24 piece by Benjamin Lopez Steven for the CBC quotes royal writer Patricia Treble with a particularly apt metaphor.

"King Charles is 'not a foreign king. When he comes to Canada, he is the Canadian king. He's invited by the government in Ottawa.' Treble described the Canadian Crown as a fire extinguisher that gets dusty and is only used in an emergency. 'It has been tested and it's coming down off the wall,' Treble said. 'And we are going to see it on Monday and Tuesday."

The article offers another insight from Professor Philippe Lagassé: "We should also remember our institutions - whether we like them or not, whether or not we want to change them – for now, this is what they are and they are quite significant at this moment."

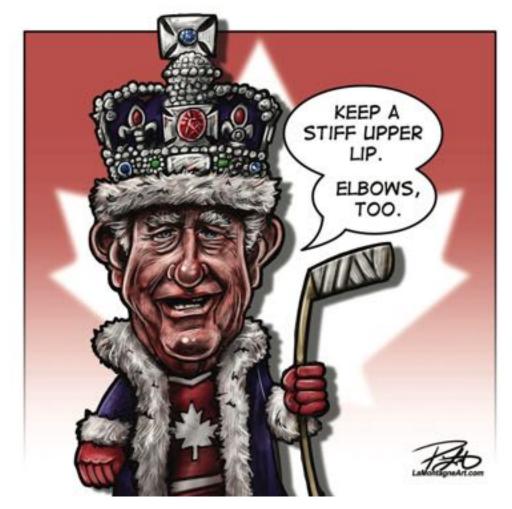
But we should not simply think this event is being hosted for an audience of one. In this, his first significant act as King of Canada, it will also be an important milestone in the relationship between the monarch and the people, re-stablishing a relationship he honed as heir to the throne, but now in a very different constitutional lens and level of service.

"In ten visits together to Canada, spread over a quarter of a century, seven in the last decade alone, Prince Philip and I have met many thousands of Canadians in all walks of life, of all ages, in every province and territory," said our monarch of 48-years-ago and three-years-ago. "My happiest memories of our travels throughout Canada have been these individual contacts, which have revealed the enormous strength and astonishing diversity of this nation.

"I have always been full of admiration for what Canada is. The new generation fill me with confidence for what Canada can be-

I'm not sure what she would make of our present situation, but, by my estimation the enormous strength and astonishing diversity of this nation endures and supports one another. Let's hope this week's visit is the first opportunities ahead to forge these bonds that strengthen the very institution within the The consensus of most pundits is the Prime country in which it will be dusted off and de-





# Humans and bananas, a few chromosomes apart!



We like to think we're one of a kind, unique

We are different, but we do share similarities with our counterparts, from all walks of life around the globe.

makeup is almost identical to a host of other biological, living things on Earth.

I find that quite amazing, and there must be some cosmic reason for it all.

Humans and other creatures share similar DNA because all living organisms evolved from a common ancestor – the Last Universal Common An- cer is not a product of diet or lifestyle, but rather cestor (LUCA). This means that many genes that a breakdown in my genes. were essential for life in LUCA have been conserved throughout evolution and are present in a Maybe some nasty chimp in my family tree! variety of species. The closer two species are on the evolutionary tree, the more similar their DNA nipulate it in unborn children. Not sure how far

Chimpanzees and bonobos share roughly 98.65% of our DNA. That's only a 1.4% difference between commuters and those who throw their poo at one another. Okay, bad example!

do share a common ancestor who lived between 6 and 8 million years ago. Both of us evolved along different trajectories from this ancestor.

found in plants. We even share about 99% of our to almost every living thing on this planet. Why DNA with lettuce! Yes, lettuce. What?

Most of the genes that plants share with us turn sugars and proteins into energy. Cacti have mi- cooled, and the conditions were perfect for life to tochondria just like humans, and rely on them to make energy when it gets too hot or too dry for photosynthesis.

similarly even though they're not actually related to each other. Some plants have a protein called leghemoglobin, which acts the same way as our we are also deeply connected to the rest of the hemoglobin molecules do in binding oxygen.

We have more in common with most mushrooms and zebrafish than most veggies, gene-

The big difference between us and cacti is that we don't "flower."

Our floral counterparts are also quite ingenious. Plants duplicate their entire set of DNA. We don't know why, but what we know is they have more chromosomes than we do, and thus they can create many more offshoot varieties.

88 chromosomes in total. Instead of pairs, it has eight copies of each of 11 unique chromosomes.

Extra copies of such things can be redundant, if fauna that grace this planet of ours.

# by Mark Pavilons

they're not being used for something well, cool.

Cacti, apparently, developed a new way to make sugars from sunlight and air by making them at night, when it's cooler. Most cacti will get half-way through photosynthesis throughout the day and finish the rest at night.

Sounds pretty neat to me. And efficient.

Imagine if we "copied ourselves" and put those extra chromosomes to work. Maybe UV-resistant skins; the ability to breathe under water, or growing an extra set of arms!

As species diverged and evolved on this planet, the DNA changed, but the fundamental building blocks of life remain the same.

That's quite interesting, at least for an armchair science buff like me.

Our genes are more than a complex combination of cells and acids.

Genes are responsible for basic life processes, such as cellular respiration, DNA replication, and Not only do we share human traits, our internal protein synthesis, which are essential for all living organisms.

In fact, they keep us alive.

And for some, an error, fault or damage to our DNA can lead to abnormalities, and even, in my case, to a susceptibility to cancer.

I was told by my oncologist that prostate can-

I'm not sure who to blame this one on, LOL. We are starting to fiddle with DNA and even mamodern biology wants to take this before we're on the verge of God-like creation.

I'm totally on board with us removing life-altering illnesses, diseases and conditions that cut our lives short. And yes, while we're in there This doesn't mean that we're related, but we monkeying around with things, perhaps we can find a way to make us live longer.

But I won't hold my breath.

What I find almost unbelievable is that despite Roughly 20% to 60% of our genes can also be our perch atop the food chain, we are "related" is that?

Yes, I realize all life began when the earth emerge from the bubbling pool of ooze so many billions of years ago. Okay, that moment – when it all happened - would have been wondrous to Plants and humans have genes that behave witness. The icky parts essential to life hung on for all these millennia.

> The point is, while we are undeniably unique, animal kingdom through a shared evolutionary history. Understanding these connections not only enriches our knowledge of biology but also fosters a deeper appreciation for the interconnectedness of all living things.

> We make fun of vegans and those people who wouldn't hurt a fly. If you look at some of the genetic info I've presented, maybe we'll think again about squishing that spider, or pulling out that

It's all very interesting to think about, but evo-A person usually has 23 pairs of chromosomes, lution is a very slow process. Until dogs can talk for 46 in total. But the prickly pear cactus has and monkeys can give me the middle finger, I

think I'll enjoy my place in the food chain. But I will have more respect for the flora and

Distributed throughout the Town of Caledon, the Citizen is published

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# Whether trucks or pits, it's all "the pits"

to see if there was an actual definition for "slippery slope."

course of action which will lead to something about to get a whole lot worse.

come, various proposals before Council include travelling at 80km/hr." using an expired pit for infill, and using prime agricultural lands for truck parking lots. The history on highway #10 to know the additional first matter has already been discussed during a vocal and heated Council meeting that saw some Councillors asking hard questions, and a number of community delegates seeking honest answers. At the heart of the matter is a proposal that a former pit, located at 0 Shaws Creek Rd., be allowed to serve as a dump site for a "prominent developer." Said developer has a number of properties throughout the GTA, and is building homes in Caledon, too. They are looking to offload fill materials from these various sites. tude was added to the agenda at the last minute Understandably, a number of concerns have and without consultation." Councillor Kiernan, been raised by residents of Ward One who will attempting to express her concerns during one be directly impacted, and by some members of vehement exchange, reminded all present that Council acting on their behalf. That this matter Council has "to answer to the public and to do may have originally passed without any oppor- what's right for the Town of Caledon and for the tunity for public consultation was one of the residents of Ward One." many concerns expressed by delegates, and by Councillor Dave Sheen, who called the situa- staff for a full report leaving many residents of tion "not acceptable."

itself has already "naturally" rehabilitated itself and dangerous roads, is "under siege." and is 80% water. It's already home to wildlife, flora and fauna, and therefore any attempt at another ongoing issue of concern continues to infill potentially runs the risk of contaminating rear its ugly head. With illegal truck yards poplocal groundwater. This is already a concern in ping up literally all over the place, an applicant some parts of Ward One particularly with yet (yet another developer) is seeking to rezone another pit (blasting quarry) proposed to begin prime agricultural lands for use as a legal truck operations nearby. Concerns about whether the parking lot for the next three years. This matter

be monitoring it were also shared. As well, it's anticipated that truck traffic will increase expo-According to that search (and the Oxford dic- nentially on already overloaded roads including tionary) indeed there is. Caledon, we are on one Charleston Sideroad and Highway 10 with one heck of a slippery slope. Defined as "an idea or delegate suggesting, conservatively, area residents could expect as many as 12 additional unacceptable, wrong, or disastrous," one has trucks per day, 24 hours a day over a period of only to drive around our once green and beauti- the next five years. These would be full loaded ful town to see that trucks and pits have turned dump trucks, often of the type that are paid by Caledon itself into "the pits." Potentially, it's the load, and – should they be rushing as a result - these are the types of trucks that "on average In the past several weeks, and in the weeks to take the length of two football fields to stop...if

> One has only to look at recent traffic accident risks such potential truck traffic poses on already dangerous roads.

> Also frustrating, both Councillors Kiernan and Early, who represent Ward One, were not made aware of the coming potential change in zoning that would allow the pit to begin "accepting infill." They expressed serious concerns about the process, with Councillor Early calling how the matter came before Council a "slippery slope, that something of such magni-

The matter has now been referred back to Ward One to comment that they feel their com-Other concerns expressed include that the pit munity, between pits, infill, blasting quarries

Meanwhile, on the opposite side of Town,

# SHERALYN ROMAN TALK CALEDON

Ever curious, I recently did a Google search fill would be "clean" and how, or who, would comes before Council on June 17. The land in question is not only "prime agricultural," but also has a stream running through it, potentially resulting in a similar situation to that faced in Ward One, running the risk of contaminating groundwater (not to mention the potential for other significant types of environmental fall

> Meanwhile, this same developer has also applied to Vaughan Council for a similar ruling regarding lands located at Nashville Rd. and Highway 50.

> The area is already a traffic nightmare and it's a location zoned as future residential. I'm left wondering: one, if we are in desperate need of housing (ideally affordable housing) why aren't we building homes NOW on land that is already zoned as residential and two, is Caledon Council (locked into a number of battles against illegal trucking yards) being asked to set a blueprint for the future by "approving" trucking yards by way of rezoning applica-

> By the way, in an earlier letter to Caledon Council, the same developer referenced above has suggested they are interested in Caledon

lands for several reasons. Citing first, "given the lands location along Airport Road and the proximity to the new pro-

posed Hwy 413," and next, that "Caledon is part of Ontario's largest logistics network due to its proximity to Canada's commercial airport (along with) multimodal railway networks combined with easy access to major road networks and its location at the centre of the GTA

..." making us I guess, in their opinion, an ideal place for "a number of new businesses [which] have started to emerge such as trucking depots, support activities for transportation and warehousing and storage."

So, it would seem that perhaps the writing is on the wall for Caledon and our once greenest town is indeed on a slippery slope, headed straight downhill towards a "bright" future as a freight village, dump zone and series of big rig parking lots, legal or otherwise. It's "unacceptable, wrong, [and] disastrous."

Welcome to Caledon, it's "the pits."

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# Author to sign copies of new book at Past Glories of Toad Hollow

**BY PAULA BROWN** 

Fans of Ian Flemings' James Bond and Tom Clancy's Jack Ryan may want to look at diving into the work of Inspector William Fox.

Loretto-based author Peter Thomas Pontsa will be hosting a book launch and signing of his latest work, "Sanctity of Freedom," on June 8 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Past Glories of Toads Hollow in

During the event, Pontsa will read from Sanctity of Freedom followed by an author interview led by former CBC Radio One host and past Theatre Orangeville general manager Bernadette Hardaker.

Sanctity of Freedom is the second book in Pontsa's Inspector William Fox series, which follows an RCMP officer as he becomes embroiled in different international geo-political cases.

Sanctity of Freedom jumps off from the ending of Pontsa's first novel, Outfoxed, and sees RCMP Inspector Fox and FBI Special Agent Patrick Reilly investigating the savage assassination of a Canadian diplomat and two Australian intelligence

"It has the, of course, international politics, but it also touches on human rights, personal sacrifice and family reunion," said Pontsa about Sanctity of Freedom.

In each of his books, Ponsta makes a point of drawing on international political topics such as human rights and environmental disasters.

"Bringing social issues into your book is another way of creating something that's fresh and new, and also brings something that the public can associate with," said Pontsa.

Pontsa began writing the Inspector William Fox series in 2019 and officially published the first book, Outfoxed, in February of 2023. While writing the book Pontsa took inspiration from other authors, such as Tom Clancy, Daniel Silva, Lee Child and Ian Fleming.

"I was reading these types of books and people say, if you're going to write, write what you like,"

Pontsa also draws many aspects from his own life into his writing, including his enthusiasm for British sports cars and taekwondo, as a second-degree black belt.

Before becoming a published author, Pontsa spent a number of years in the dental industry, during which he authored many techno-clinical articles for various dental journals and served as an associate publisher for a denturist magazine. After his retirement, he decided to hone his creative side and took a course on Advanced Fiction Writing at the University of Waterloo.

He is a member of the Wordsmiths, a writers' group based in Alliston, ON, and a member of the Crime Writers of Canada.

Pontsa is in the midst of writing his third book in the Inspector William Fox series, which has been slated for publishing in early 2026.

Those interested in attending the June 8 book launch of Sanctity of Freedom can register for the event at www.peterthomaspontsa.com.

Copies of Sanctity of Freedom will be available for purchase at the book signing.

Pontsa told the Citizen he is hoping to use a portion of the sales to donate to an organization called

Crossing Borders, which helps individuals who have defected from North Korea.

Pontsa's Inspector William Fox series is available for purchase online through Amazon and locally through Booklore.



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# **Caledon Cardinals join the Bolton Brewers in the** expanded 12-team NDBL Senior Division

New cross-town rivals prep for spirited May 29 tilt at North Hill Park

**BY JIM STEWART** 

There's a new North Dufferin Baseball League team in town and they're looking to make an immediate impression as an expansion squad in 2025.

The Caledon Cardinals gained admission to the NDBL in the Spring, joining the Barrie Angels, Bolton Brewers, Clarksburg Blues, Creemore Padres, Ivy Rangers, Lisle Astros, Mansfield Cubs, Midland Mariners, New Lowell Knights, Orillia Majors, and the reigning champion Owen Sound Baysox in the revamped 12-team Senior Division.

Cardinals Head Coach Dalton Cooke expressed cautious optimism about his expansion team's goals in 2025.

"We're looking to get our foot in the door in our first season and get in the playoffs."

Coach Cooke was encouraged by both the Cardinals' promising start to their inaugural season and the youthful Owen Sound Baysox winning the venerable 95-year old league in

"After our first three games, we're 1-2. We played some tough teams-Barrie, Ivy, and Creemore. Ivy was really good the night we played them. Our oldest player is 26—that's me, and I'm the old man of the group—and the rest of the players are mostly 21- and 22year olds. We have three players that are still junior eligible for the upcoming season. A good test for us will be a doubleheader in





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Owen Sound against the Baysox. That'll be interesting to see how our team does against the league champions."

Another good and more immediate test for the Cardinals will be a May 29 tilt versus the perennial powerhouse Bolton Brewers at North Hill Park.

First pitch on Thursday will be 7:30 p.m. between the crosstown rivals. Coach Cooke noted the importance of the early season con-

"It's circled on the calendar. All 20 guys on the roster are coming to the game."

Coach Cooke discussed the connections between the Cardinals and Brewers rosters: "We did take five Brewers from last year's roster to build the new team."

"There are lots of talented players in Bolton who want to play competitive baseball. Our team was also built on rostering three junior players from the Barrie Angels and four Mansfield Junior Cubs. Our players have lots of NDBL experience."

The bench boss of the Cardinals also out-

lined his connection to long-time Brewers' Head Coach and Caledon Nationals rep Head Coach Mike Wallace.

"This is my second year coaching the 13U Caledon Nationals with Mike. We have a fantastic group of kids. They're all baseball kids—they don't have second sports, so it's been fun to watch them grow as ballplayers. We've already played 30 games this year. Mike arranges all kinds of exhibition games for us and we've been in three tournaments before the end of May. The parents are allin, so it's a great baseball community. They supported our team's winter training program where we were in the gym three days a week."

Coach Cooke will shift his focus from the 13U YSBA Nationals to the NDBL Cardinals when his Senior club takes on the Barrie Angels on Friday, May 30 at Dana Field in Midhurst. The Cardinals' next home game will be Sunday, June 8, versus the Lisle Astros.

First pitch will be 4 p.m. at North Hill Park in Bolton.

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# Mayfield Mavericks' unbeaten lacrosse team is "Lights Out" in 12-6 victory over Mustangs

**BY JIM STEWART** 

The Mayfield Mavericks defeated the Milton District High School Mustangs 12-6 in an exhibition lacrosse game in Caledon amid drizzly, cool conditions on Friday night.

Dubbed "Friday Night Lights", the contest was played in front of 500 fans who braved the elements and celebrating an evening of lacrosse and community.

A trio of Ethans paced the Mavericks' offensive attack versus Milton. Ethan Brassard led Mayfield with four goals while Ethan Vivieros and Ethan Czata added three goals each. Czata just wrapped up his OHL season with the Niagara Ice Dogs and is ranked 54th in the upcoming NHL draft.

The exhibition game victory also served as a warmup for the Mavericks' ROPSSA championship game on Tuesday afternoon versus St. Martin's from Mississauga. The unbeaten Mayfield squad-vying for their third consecutive regional championship - established dominance on Friday night, took a 6-1 lead at half time, and substituted freely in the second

Mavericks' Head Coach Tyler Grant was pleased with both his team's performance and the success of the evening.

"It was the first Friday Night Lights lacrosse game we've hosted. Seeing 500 people come out for the game in challenging conditions was great to see. The halftime show was really good. It was so well performed by 50 cheerleaders. The cheer squad's excellent work is also an expression of the arts at Mayfield since so many are part of the dance program."

Coach Grant knew the caliber of Milton's lacrosse team when he invited the Mustangs to play in the exhibition game on Mayfield's new turf field.

Continued on Page 17



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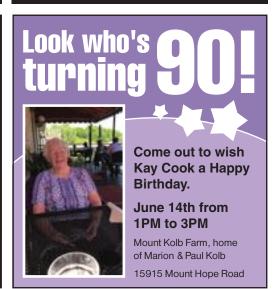
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# OBITUARIES

# **ROSS DAVID BROWN**

Passed away peacefully and very suddenly on May 15, 2025 in Foothills Medical Center,

David was the fourth child born to Ross and Wilhelmine Brown on November 7, 1958, in Orangeville, ON.

David is survived and lovingly remembered by his mom, Grace Brown (nee Matthews), his six siblings Judy (Ken Wilson), Nancy, Ron (Carmin), Leila (Henry Psenicka), Janice

Crane (Randy), and Mary Ellen (Stephen Erochko), and his sister-in-law Deanna Brown. David is predeceased by his parents, Wilhelmine (1967) and Ross (2012), his brother Jim (2014), and his brother-in-law Bill Foulger (2023).

David was raised on the family farm in East Luther, where he developed a strong work ethic and a deep connection to the land. He attended Monticello United Church, participating in Sunday School and youth group activities that shaped his early years.

As a young man, David enjoyed playing house league hockey and working alongside his family on the farm. After high school, he began his career in construction, apprenticing with a local builder and helping to construct custom homes throughout the Grand Valley area.

In 1977, David moved to Alberta, initially working in the oil fields before returning to his passion for building. He partnered with his brother Ron to form D and R Developments, a successful custom home building business in Calgary. David had a gift for craftsmanship and took pride in the homes he helped create. During those years he also loved dancing and spending time with friends – always ready with a warm smile and easy conversation.

In the early 1990's David began to experience the effects of mental illness and was eventually diagnosed with schizophrenia. Though this brought profound challenges and led to the closure of D and R Developments, David faced his illness with quiet strength and dignity.

David will be deeply missed by his family and friends. We take comfort in knowing that he is now at peace, free from struggle and remembered with love for the many ways he touched our lives.

A Celebration for David's Life was held at In Memoriam Funeral Services Inc. (28 Main St N, Grand Valley, ON L9W 5S7) on Tuesday May 27, 2025. Interment has taken place at Grand Valley Union Cemetery (51 Cooper St, Grand Valley, ON).

The family is eternally grateful for the assistance of Randy Mugford and his team at In Memoriam Funeral Services for arranging the transportation to bring David home to Ontario to be buried with his family in Grand Valley.

Online condolences can be made at www.imfunerals.com

In Memoriam Funeral Services Inc. has been given the honour of serving the Brown family.

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Dan xoxo

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# ROOFING





# Jack Ride 2025 responds to growing mental health crisis among youth



Sandra Hanington is pictured speaking at the start of the ride.

PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

### Continued from FRONT

Hanington said their goal is to help people feel comfortable, understanding what they're going through, recognize the signs in themselves and others, and feel empowered to reach out for help for themselves and others.

"We are so grateful to our volunteers and our sponsors who make this happen. It would be just Eric and I if it wasn't for all of them. [Eric] the founding genius, our original CEO, has just done such a fabulous job turning a spark of an idea into a movement," said Hanington.

As the 100km riders set out for their route, Vivien Glencross, the Interim President and CEO of Jack. org and the VP of Development and Marketing, spoke on how this organization drew her in three years ago.

She has two adolescent children of her own, and seeing how COVID affected them, once this opportunity came up, she stated she gravitated towards it.

"It felt like a personal opportunity for me to give back to the community, to help my own kids, and hopefully set the path forward for others in the future to have the support that they need," said Glen-

Glencross shared that growing up herself, there wasn't much talk surrounding mental health.

"I really wish that there was an organization like Jack.org that would have given me the permission, the freedom, the language to describe what I was feeling and help get the support that I needed. It felt

like my way of giving back to my younger self, and certainly to future kids across Canada," said Glencross

She shared that through Jack.org they are seeing young people get help, but there are so many more people to reach.

Tim Sellers is a longtime rider and supporter, and he was there at the very beginning riding almost 16 years ago.

Sellers has known the family for a long time and attended school with Eric Windeler.

He shared that he immediately jumped on board because he was so close to the family when the event began.

"I've raised \$150,000 over the years, and I think the thing that I've really noticed is that the awareness about mental health related to young people, and everyone for that matter, has grown. People are willing to jump in and make financial contributions because they understand that it is something that needs to be addressed," said Sellers. "Governments and other people just aren't addressing it as much as they need to. The fact that Jack.org is a different kind of organization with this peer-to-peer help, and with the Jack chapters, and the Jack talks, it's pretty remarkable."

Sellers noted the bittersweetness of the crowd gathered around him that day.

"It's amazing that it has grown to the extent that it has. But, it's also because the need is so great," said it's all ab Sellers. "On the one hand, it's wonderful to see it building grow. But on the flip side, it's sad that it needs to be Canada."

so large and needs to grow even more."

Dzhafar Kabidenov, a current Ontario network representative at Jack.org, got involved with the program through their Be There Certificate (BTC).

BTC is an online training program that breaks down mental health into relatable, practical lessons. It's been a year-and-a-half since he first joined the program, and this was his first Jack Ride.

"I'm really excited to feel the energy of this place and see all people who are united by the same cause of supporting youth mental health," shared Kabidenov.

Kabidenov shared that over the 15 years of existence, Jack Ride has raised over 11 million dollars, and more than 11,000 riders have participated.

But, the great volunteer efforts weren't the only reason Kabidenov joined.

As an international student, he shared that he felt quite isolated from his familial support systems and mechanisms that he was used to back home, on top of trying to study in a second language surrounded by completely new people.

Kabidenov started to face a mental health struggle, and it was his residence assistant who approached him, shared what he had noticed, and referred him to mental health resources.

"After that, I have been feeling this sense of wanting to give back to my community, and that's how I originally joined Jack.org, and through participating in Jack.org events, I started developing this passion of loving how Jack.org creates reciprocal communities of reciprocal mental health care," shared Kabidenov.

"It was the community that helped me go through my struggle, and through that process I started feeling even more a part of this community. And now, this kind of willingness to give back is only rising, and I feel like I entered a cycle of giving back to my community, and my community supporting me when I need it."

Glencross also had a message for the community that showed up and showed out for Jack Ride this weekend.

"You are making a difference. Every person here who has shown up at 6.30 in the morning, has raised any amount of money. You are making a difference. You're not only raising money for our organization, but you are putting your voice to our cause, and saying that it is important that you see young people, that we're in a mental health crisis, and you support and stand by us. It's all about community, it's all about supporting one another, and it's really building a brighter future for young people across Canada"

# Mayfield Mavericks' unbeaten lacrosse team is "Lights Out" in 12-6 victory

Continued from Page 12

"We have a history of playing Milton at the provincials. Last year, we finished fifth at OFSSAA and Milton finished sixth. Friday's game was close in the first quarter and both teams played with lots of energy. We got up 3-2 but it could have easily been 2-2 or 3-3 before we pulled ahead late in the second quarter. We put in our backup goalie and ran our lines evenly in the third and fourth quarters to get ready for the regional championship game."

The Mayfield Mavericks have been a lacrosse force to be reckoned with in Peel Region and have produced both university and NLL players.

Coach Grant pointed to two Mayfield grads playing professionally as well as recent alumni suiting up for CIS squads.

"Cameron Dunkerley, Goaltender for the Ottawa Black Bears, and Devon Dunkerley, Defenseman for the Toronto Rock, are both playing in the NLL. Brandon Orr with the University of Guelph Gryphons and Liam McPolin with Carleton University Ravens are playing Canadian university lacrosse."

Coach Grant, who attended May-field between 2012 to 2016, returned to his alma mater upon graduating from Teachers' College and has coached both lacrosse and varsity hockey. However, he has a single focus going into Tuesday's regional championship game after a great warmup game on Friday.

"We haven't lost a game in Peel Region for three years. Knock wood—we hope to secure our third straight regional championship on Tuesday so we can compete at OFSSAA in Owen Sound starting on June 3."

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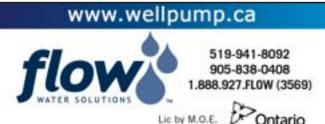
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