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FREEThursday, April 23, 2026Volume 46, Issue 17



Mary Ann Bowman, David Roth, and Dale Cimolai gather together in the hospice.

PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

## The Heart of Bethell Hospice: Volunteers making every moment matter

BY RILEY MURPHY  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

As Bethell Hospice volunteers, staff, and board members prepare for their annual fundraiser, Hike for Bethell Hospice, there are many dedicated volunteers behind the scenes keeping everything running smoothly.

Bethell Hospice is a residential hospice in Caledon that provides specialized end-of-life care for individuals and support for their families, both at no cost.

It's thanks to fundraising, their board, staff, and volunteers, that they have been able to continue

their work for over a decade now.

During National Volunteer Week, and every week, volunteers at Bethell could be seen working hard in the kitchen or with residents around the hospice.

For many, they've been here over a decade, volunteering their time and energy.

Dale Cimolai has been a volunteer at Bethell Hospice for almost 14 years and says it's a labour of love for her.

Thirteen-and-a-half years ago, she was driving down the road in Inglewood and saw the sign directing to the Hospice. She wondered what it might be, and that very night, they were holding a volunteer information session.

"This is meant to be," says Cimolai.

Cimolai currently works in resident support, but she also spends time in the kitchen and at reception, and provides complimentary therapies in the house and in the community, helping out in whatever way she can.

Volunteer David Roth, who has been volunteering for almost 15 years since the beginning, mostly spends his time in the kitchen, but, like Cimolai, he often finds himself helping out in various ways around the hospice, such as with residence support and reception.

He also provides in-community support and therapeutic touch.

Continued on Page B5

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**HITTING THE RUNWAY FOR A GOOD CAUSE** – Models were runway-ready and camera-ready as they participated in Close 2 Home Caledon's inaugural fashion show, Fashion Blooms. For more on the initiative, and the cause, see Page B6. PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

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# Housing Accelerator Fund, Ontario Regulation conversations come forward in Site Alteration By-law discussion

BY RILEY MURPHY  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

A motion put on the floor of the April 21 Planning and Development meeting, sparked conversation regarding the Ontario Government's housing acceleration fund, new rules and regulations, and how the Site Alteration by-law comes into it all.

Previously, the Town of Caledon had been drafting a new site alteration by-law to repeal and replace the Town's current fill by-law.

The by-law aims to regulate the placement/removal of vegetation, topsoil, fill, and/or alterations to grading or drainage on private lands.

After much pushback from the community and vocal concerns, Councillor Lynn Kiernan tabled a motion to keep the exist-

ing Fill By-law in full force and effect.

Many delegates came forward to present their thoughts on the by-law that day, including discussions on Ontario's Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF).

HAF is a billion-dollar federal initiative administered by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation to fast-track the creation of over 380,000 new homes across Canada by 2033.

The Town of Caledon received nearly \$14 million from the Government of Canada's Housing Accelerator Fund HAF in early 2025 to fast-track 2,628 new homes by 2028.

During the planning and development meeting, it was discussed that the Site Alteration By-law is a part of this, helping to speed up the process so housing can occur.

With the money received from HAF for the Town of Caledon, 27 deliverables were identified, 25 of which have been realized;

the remaining two are the Site Alteration By-law and Town-owned lands for affordable housing.

Staff shared if the Site Alteration By-Law was not included in their deliverables, the risk is that they could lose funding, but it is not clear from the federal government on how they distribute the funds; it could be a small reduction, the entire allotment of money, or returning money that has already been received.

"I'm not comfortable with having the federal government give us money and decide what's best for Caledon. I think that should be done here and with the people. I have had hundreds of emails asking that this site alteration by-law be scrapped," said Kiernan, speaking to her motion.

Delegates came forward to the meeting with the same thoughts, hoping to keep the existing by-law with a few amendments that strengthen certain areas.

A large issue raised by many was the enforcement of the current by-law and the need for stronger regulations.

Also, regarding regulations, discussions focused on the current by-law and its alignment with Ontario regulations.

Delegate Diana Mollicone says she supports the intent of the motion, but has concerns with gaps in the current by-law.

"I think it is a Caledon-wide agreement that we all want better oversight, stronger environmental protection, and a system that works for residents and not against them in an active manner. My concern isn't the intent. My concerns are the gaps in the current by-law that I believe we can tighten without the need to broaden the floodgates for large-scale commercial development," said Mollicone.

In her presentation, she showed that Ontario Regulation 406/19 introduced a system-wide approach to excess soil management, including tracking from source to destination and classification, and the current Fill By-law only includes a certification meeting EPA contaminant standards as part of the application.

It also focuses on placement at the site but does not cover all regulatory framework requirements.

"While not mandated to change, Per Section 3.5 of the Planning Act – municipal decisions and by-law need to be consistent with provincial framework," stated the presentation.

Staff voiced agreement, saying that the existing Fill by-law does not comply with the mentioned provincial policies and regulations, adding that it does not align with other regulations, such as the Record of Site Conditions and General Waste Management.

Also, it does not comply with other agencies, such as the Conservation Authority and Peel Region.

"Changes to the Conservation Authorities Act and the Municipal Law Act have shifted responsibility to the municipality that are not reflected in the current Fill by-law," said staff.

Councillor Nick de Boer said "the proposed new fill by-law allows for large-scale fill operations, whereas the previous one did not."

Staff answered that the new by-law intends to provide a framework under which

they could handle large-scale fill operations over 10,000 cubic metres, and moves the Town away from an exemption model, with hopes to move to a regulatory framework that provides a consistent intent and approach across any fill operation, regardless of zoning.

Councillor Christina Early also asked if "anybody be able to fill a pit without the approval of Council," to which Staff answered that any fill operation over 10,000 cubic metres comes before Council for approval.

Amanda Corbett from the Caledon Community Road Safety Advocacy group added that much of their concern is regarding illegal land use.

"The Illegal Land Use Task Force Work Plan was approved by Council in February of 2025. One of the items in the work plan was to review and update the fill by-law, and that was due to be completed by the end of quarter one of calendar 2025," says Corbett. "That's well over a year ago now, and we're still waiting."

Corbett said there should be a way to reach a compromise to incorporate changes that are not contentious, that can help address legitimate concerns and improve the situation, "instead of throwing out the baby with the bathwater."

Concerns also rose to the aspect of the motion stating that no substantially similar Site Alteration By-law be reintroduced for Council's consideration for a minimum period of five years, which was stated to "handcuff" future Councils.

de Boer put forward an amendment to remove this part of the motion.

Councillor Cosimo Napoli brought forward topics to be considered going forward with the by-law, including clear and enforceable limits on the scale of fill activity, transparency, financial protection and security, proactive enforcement, and Council oversight.

"Caledon needs an updated fill by-law, but it must be done right, this by-law must prevent abuse not legitimize it, it must protect residents' rural lands and municipal infrastructure while allowing reasonable and responsible land alterations," he said, ending with his support for a repeal and replacement of the current by-law.

Mayor Annette Groves alluded to a current illegal operation in Caledon, and under the current by-law, there is "nothing we can do to stop this illegal operation that's been going on for years," she said.

Councillor Doug Maskell voiced concerns that, with the passing of this motion, public consultation scheduled for May would be lost, as would the focus group set for this issue.

Staff answered that, with the remaining parts of the motion, it would not affect the upcoming public consultation.

In the end, the motion was carried unanimously.

It was moved that the existing Fill By-law remain in full force and effect and not be repealed or replaced, and that Staff be directed to prioritize enforcement of the existing Fill By-law.

The motion will come forward for final ratification at the April 28 Council meeting.

## 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Hike for Bethell Hospice

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# ecoCaledon celebrates biggest Repair Cafe yet during Earth Month



One of the many fixer stations in action.

PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

BY RILEY MURPHY  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

This past Saturday, neighbours, community members, and tinkerers alike all gathered in the Caledon Centre for Recreation and Wellness for ecoCaledon's biggest Repair Cafe to date. ecoCaledon began hosting repair cafes not only to give household items a second chance, but also to support a circular economy in Caledon.

Attendees can bring in an item for fixing, such as a ripped pillow or a broken toaster, and the team of "fixers" can help bring it back to life, extending its life while keeping it from polluting landfills.

Fixers could be seen sitting at their stations, armed with a sewing machine, glue, or a screwdriver.

This is at no cost, and while an item is being fixed, attendees can browse not only the food and drink offered, but also the numerous other organizations in attendance.

From the many community groups and organizations that attended the April 18 Repair Cafe, it shows the community event the cafe has become.

Organizations such as Caledon OPP, Bike the Creek, Albion Hills Community Farm, Albion Bolton Historical Society, Caledon Community Road Safety Association, Forks of the Credit Preservation group, and more attended

the event, providing information to residents.

The Caledon Public Library was also in attendance, showcasing their 3D printer and various programs.

With the event beginning at 10 a.m., Lucrezia Chiappetta, co-chair of ecoCaledon, said people were already lined up, with items ready to be fixed.

Chiappetta said seeing this many people come out to their tenth repair cafe was surreal. "When we first started, there were maybe a

few people who knew what a repair cafe was and actually came out. But, to see how much it's grown from then until now, it's amazing. It warms my heart to know that there's so many people out there who are willing to fix their items rather than just throwing them into the trash," she said.

Fixers tackled more than 100 items that day, with a 61 per cent repair rate based on tracking that occurred at three of the different stations, says Chiappetta.

Items that couldn't be repaired were taken by local organization, the Little Grey Workhorse, in order to be properly recycled.

In addition, the Little Grey Workhorse collected metal cans and glass bottles, and all proceeds will go back into the community.

Three bags of food were also collected for The Exchange.

What makes Caledon's Repair Cafes unique, Chiappetta said, is that it's about building community, and there's something for everyone.

"You don't have to just have something that needs to be fixed. You can come out and talk to so many different community groups and support the Friends of the Caledon Public Library and our local farms. It's a very inclusive community event with so much happening and just so much for everybody to do."

In attendance that day, she said, were over 22 community groups and vendors.

"Definitely our biggest and it'll only grow from here," said Chiappetta.

Also running that day was a community cleanup.

Caledon Councillors, ecoCaledon members, and various volunteers and community members could be seen grabbing their garbage bags and heading out to collect trash around the area.

"With this being Earth Month and Earth Day coming up this week, it's a celebration for Earth Month as well," said Chiappetta outside the cleanup. "It's not just about reducing items that go to the landfill; this clean-up is just one little part of that."

"The snow has finally melted, and you see a lot of the garbage and litter that's blown out of people's bins or maybe been tossed," she explained. "It's just a great time in spring to clean up and just re-beautify our community."

By the end of the cleanup, Chiappetta said they collected 70 pounds of garbage and 15 pounds of recycling.

For those who missed the Cleanup and are looking to "re-beautify" the community, they can look out for a few other upcoming community cleanups.

On Saturday, April 25, join Councillors Christina Early and Doug Maskell in Caledon East with a Caledon East Community pick up happening from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Caledon East Park.

Also on Saturday will be "Dan the Litter Man's" community cleanup in Bolton, happening at the Albion Bolton Fairgrounds at 9 a.m.

Finally, in Southfields, Humanity Sewa is holding a cleanup in Bonniglen Farm Park on April 26 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.



Community Cleanup team ready to head out.

PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

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## SEXUAL ASSAULT CHARGES

Officers from the Caledon OPP have laid numerous charges following a sexual assault investigation and are asking for any additional victims to come forward.

"In February 2026, Caledon OPP Major Crime Unit (MCU) began investigating a report of a sexual assault which occurred in 2023, involving a young person," say Police.

Following the investigation, Alexander Armitage, 32, of Uxbridge, was charged with:

- Sexual assault;
- Sexual interference;
- Invitation to sexual touching under 16 years of age.

The accused was held for a bail hearing to answer to the charges.

The charges have not been proven.

"At the time of the incident, the accused worked at Teen Ranch and was also an ice-skating instructor," Police continue. "Investigators believe there may be additional victims and are appealing for parents or guardians to speak with their children regarding possible instances of sexual misconduct that may have occurred through these roles."

"The accused is no longer employed with

Teen Ranch and the organization has been cooperative with police throughout this investigation."

Anyone with information regarding this investigation is urged to contact the Caledon OPP at 1-888-310-1122, referencing occurrence number RM26035754. You can also provide information anonymously via Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at [www.peelcrimestoppers.ca](http://www.peelcrimestoppers.ca).

There is no statute of limitations on sexual offences meaning a report can be made to police regardless of how much time has passed. If you do not wish to make a report to police or need more support to make that decision, Caledon-Dufferin Victim Services is available to help by phone at 905-951-3838 or online at [www.cdvs.ca](http://www.cdvs.ca).

## SUSPICIOUS FIRES

Officers from the Caledon OPP are investigating two suspicious fires within Caledon.

"On April 14, 2026, at approximately 1:40 a.m., Caledon OPP responded to a report of two vehicles on fire at a private business in the area of Highway 50 and George Bolton Parkway, in the Town of Caledon," say Police. "Police responded alongside members of Caledon Fire and Emergency Services. The

fire was extinguished and no injuries were reported.

"On April 15, 2026, at approximately 2:45 a.m., Caledon OPP responded to a report of a vehicle fire at a private residence in the area of Old Church Road and Henry Wilson Drive, in the Town of Caledon. Police responded alongside members of Caledon Fire and Emergency Services. The fire was extinguished and no injuries were reported.

"During the April 15 incident, two masked suspects were observed setting fire to a vehicle and leaving the area in a white Honda sports utility vehicle. (See Image Below) At this time, the fires have been deemed suspicious and are being investigated as instances of arson."

These investigations are ongoing.

Anyone who may have information regarding these incidents is asked to contact Caledon OPP at 1-888-310-1122.



OPP PHOTO

You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at [www.peelcrimestoppers.ca](http://www.peelcrimestoppers.ca).

When you contact Crime Stoppers you stay anonymous, and you never have to testify.

## FATAL COLLISION

Members of the Dufferin OPP, alongside Dufferin County Paramedic Services and local fire departments, responded to a fatal two-vehicle collision in the Township of Mulmur.

"On April 19, 2026, at approximately 1:30 p.m., emergency crews were dispatched to the intersection of County Road 17 and County Road 19 following reports of a serious two-vehicle collision," say Police. "The collision involved a passenger vehicle carrying six occupants and a pickup truck with a lone driver."

As a result of the collision, a six-year-old male was transported to a local hospital, where he was later pronounced deceased.

A 30-year-old male, and a two-year-old child were airlifted to a Toronto area trauma centre with life-threatening injuries.

The lone driver of the pick-up truck and additional passengers from the passenger vehicle were all transported to a local hospital with unknown injuries.

If you had witnessed the collision and wish to speak to victim services, Caledon/Dufferin Victim Services can be reached at 905-951-3838.

The investigation remains ongoing. Anyone with information or dashcam footage of the incident is asked to contact the Dufferin OPP at 1-888-310-1122, or report anonymously through Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or online at [ontariocrimestoppers.ca](http://ontariocrimestoppers.ca).

## More than 100 residents seek reimbursement after water main break

BY RILEY MURPHY  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

On April 15, a contractor drilling for a Peel Region road project hit a water main serving the Harvest Moon subdivision; up to 1,000 homes and a school were left without water.

Homes that were affected were located on Coleraine Drive in the Harvest Moon Drive and King Street West area of Caledon.

Many took it upon themselves to learn what had happened.

Resident Susana Ferrer told The Citizen that she went to the accident site herself that evening to see the workers repairing the damage.

"It definitely wasn't a good day, but accidents happen," says Ferrer. "The important thing, in my opinion, is that it was resolved in less than 24 hours."

After approximately 18 hours, water was restored, but prior to that, many residents were left to purchase their own water for use.

Residents who purchased bottled water and were affected will be reimbursed up to a maximum amount of \$15 per household.

To be reimbursed, residents affected must email [zzgwaterwtechs@peelregion.ca](mailto:zzgwaterwtechs@peelregion.ca) with a copy of the receipt dated April 15 or 16, along with their name, address, and phone number. The reimbursement deadline is May 8.

Elaine Gilliland, Director of Water and Wastewater Operations with Peel Region, says that "there have been 122 requests for reimbursement so far."

Gilliland added that a few requests are pending on providing information.

She also stated that regarding the investigation, the team is still going "through the data."

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## The Citizen CROSSWORD

Puzzle No.										Solution in the classifieds.									
1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	<b>CLUES ACROSS</b>	33. Defunct supercomputer developer	<b>CLUES DOWN</b>	34. Green vegetable				
11			12		13				14			1. Egyptian bull-god	38. Promotional materials	1. Bridge building degree	35. Pacific Standard Time				
15					16				17			5. Romanian monetary unit	41. A forgetful state	2. Expression of sorrow or pity	36. Capital of Brazilian city				
	18			19	20				21			8. Will Ferrell holiday film	43. One who beheads	3. Large, stocky lizard	37. Paddle				
				22	23				24			11. "It Ain't Half Hot Mum" actor	45. Photographers	4. Romanian river	39. Cause to become insane				
25	26	27	28	29								13. Error-related negativity	48. Small, rich sponge cake	5. Communication	40. Drier and flakier				
30							31					14. Volcanic crater	49. Clergy's vestment	6. Stoats	41. Mimic				
32									33	34	35	36	37	15. Boston Herald columnist Margery	50. Expressed pleasure	7. Showcases	42. ESPN personality		
				38	39	40		41	42					16. True market value	55. Abba __, Israeli politician	8. Bird of prey	44. One who moves slowly		
				43			44							17. Italian term for exchange rate	56. Zero	9. King of Thebes	45. Secret political clique		
	45	46	47											18. Informal loan clubs	57. Ancient Greek word for "earless"	10. Cleaving tool	46. Behind the stern of a ship		
48				49				50	51	52	53	54		20. Men's fashion accessory	59. Nigerian governmental area	12. Large African antelope	47. Supernatural force		
55				56					57				58	21. Children's craft supply	60. Mild expression of surprise	14. Three are particularly notable	48. Sanctuary		
59				60					61					22. Extra benefits	61. Places to hang things	8. Bird of prey	51. Swiss river		
62				63					64					25. In an early way	62. Keyboard key	9. King of Thebes	52. Grayish white		
														30. A judge has one	63. Make a mistake	10. Cleaving tool	53. Engrave by coating the Greek alphabet		
														31. Soviet Socialist Republic	64. One-time president of Republic of Korea	12. Large African antelope	54. North Carolina university		
														32. Tractor unit		14. Three are particularly notable	58. Midway between south and southeast		

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

# Future takes shape for historic Alton Schoolhouse as Council greenlights plan

BY RILEY MURPHY  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Historic Alton School House has stood empty for numerous years, waiting for its next venture, and now Caledon Council has approved the next steps.

At the April 21 Planning and Development Meeting, it was unanimously approved that the Town undertake a plan based on a broad vision and purpose for the School House to be reused as a recreation and culture centre with a heritage museum component.

It was moved that Council direct staff to negotiate a nominal lease-to-own agreement, transfer for one dollar, with the Peel District School Board or the Province of Ontario, if applicable, for a minimum of ten years, with options to extend.

A Staff Report first stated that once the updated costing of the estimated renovation costs was completed, Staff would return with a report. However, following delegations from the community and Council discussion, a motion was brought forward by Councillor Lynn Kiernan to expedite one of the presented options.

Steve Hertzberg, a member of the Historic Alton School House Committee, was one of the residents to delegate,

He said the schoolhouse has deep roots in the community, and that it should be repurposed for the community to use.

Hertzberg took Council and those sitting in that gallery that day on a walk down memory lane, showcasing the school it once was, but also the future of what the schoolhouse could be.

Their vision is to see the schoolhouse as a meeting space for all to thrive through a variety of quality programs and services, also with a heritage museum component.

“Concerns are rising about the lack of Town recreation and culture programming in West Caledon, and many residents are becoming aware of the mission to renovate the landmark building,” said Hertzberg. “As a result, there is a Save Our Schoolhouse campaign that has started to build awareness of the potential for the schoolhouse.”

But this isn’t the first time the community has gotten involved in the initiative.

In July of 2023, a motion to Council, following a presentation by a community group, was made directing Staff to explore the development of a lease arrangement with the school board.

He added they were disappointed to see the report come forward that day with yet another delay, and touched on numerous reasons for Caledon to expedite the process.

“The delays from this recommendation could result in missing the application window for the federal funding program,” he explained. “Further, positive attitudes at the Peel Board for land transfer may change if we wait too long, and impacts of PAMA’s demise on Caledon’s history preservation add an urgency to move forward now.”

Numerous members of the public also delegated that with Peel Art Gallery Museum and Archives (PAMA) soon to be taken over by Brampton, this serves as the perfect opportunity for there to be a museum specifically dedicated to Caledon.

With the land transfer also comes the issue of the septic system. In the report it was stated that if the Town were to pursue the transfer of the School House, then the Town could investigate if only a new septic system for the School House would be required, and that additional Town lands would be required to accommodate the new separate septic system for the School House.

“A complication to the land transfer was, and still is, that the board needs to be the overall landowner to deal with two buildings using one septic system. Once they are on separate septic systems, the land transfer can take place,” Hertzberg said, adding that they urged Council to expedite the resolution of the septic system by 2027.

Sarah Bohan, President of the Belfountain Heritage Society, touched on their restoration of the historic Melville White Church.

“Once restored, the Melville White Church has become a hub for community activity. So, I submit that the same would happen to the historic Alton Schoolhouse,” says Bohan.

In discussion, Councillors expressed their support for celebrating culture and heritage within the community, noting that Ward 1 in the official plan is identified for enhanced tourism, making this a fitting opportunity.

With the approved motion Staff will report back to Council within three months, or sooner, with updated costs, funding opportunities, and recommended next steps for the historic schoolhouse.

The motion will come forward for final ratification at the April 28 Town Council meeting.



Steve Hertzberg delegates to Council with a presentation.  
PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL TO EXPROPRIATE LAND Form 2 Expropriations Act, R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 302

IN THE MATTER OF an application by The Corporation of the Town of Caledon for approval to expropriate lands in the Town of Caledon being:

#### All Right, Title, and Interest (Fee Simple)

Part of PIN 14350-0079 (LT) legally described as PT LT 1 CON E ALBION AS IN R0768473; ST AL18934; TOWN OF CALEDON, designated as Part 1 on the enclosed draft reference plan dated March 13, 2026 compiled by J.D. Barnes Limited, comprised of Part 5 on Plan 43R-39439 and Parts 8 and 15 on Plan 43R-39988, Town of Caledon, Regional Municipality of Peel

for the municipal purposes of extending Simpson Road and required ancillary infrastructure requirements, including a naturalized stream channel.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that application has been made for approval to expropriate the interests herein described in the lands herein described.

Any owner of and in respect of which notice is given who desires a hearing into whether the taking of such land is fair, sound, and reasonably necessary in the achievement of the objectives of the expropriating authority shall so notify the approving authority in writing:

- (a) in the case of a registered owner, served personally or by registered mail within thirty days after the registered owner is served with the notice, or, when the registered owner is served by publication, within thirty days after the first publication of the notice;
- (b) in the case of an owner who is not a registered owner, within thirty days after the first publication of the notice.

The approving authority is:  
The Council of The Corporation of the Town of Caledon  
6311 Old Church Road  
Caledon, ON L7C 1J6

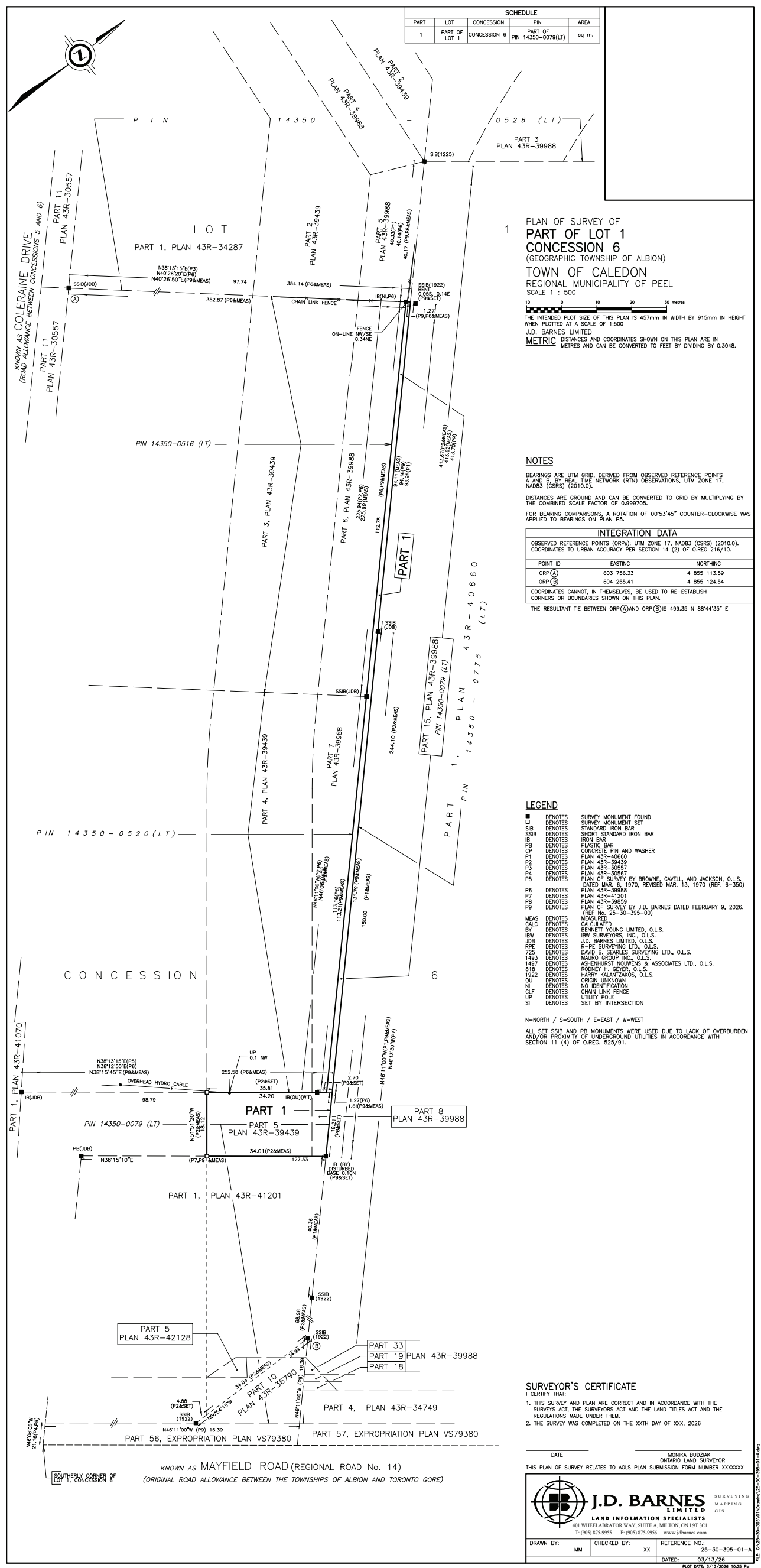
The expropriating authority is:  
The Corporation of the Town of Caledon  
6311 Old Church Road  
Caledon, ON L7C 1J6

The Corporation of the Town of Caledon

Per: *[Signature]*  
Annette Groves  
Mayor

Per: *[Signature]*  
Kevin Klingsberg  
Municipal Clerk

Dated at Caledon, Ontario, this 2nd day of April 2026



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**BROCK WEIR  
BROCK'S BANTER**

# A story still being written

I don't know what it says about me that one of the most exciting days of my life took place when I was just 11 years old, but it's a fact I can't deny.

As a youngster with a budding interest in the monarchy, Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh's 1997 trip to Toronto, was a chance not to be missed.

After my mom agreed to take me into Toronto to see them at St. James' Cathedral as they attended Sunday services, I devised a game plan. Wanting to stand out from the crowd, I donned a near-neon tie-dyed Tasmanian Devil t-shirt and picked out flowers of a relatively unusual colour – a pinky peach somewhat incongruously labelled as "Oceana" – in the hopes of leaving an impression. Okay, that sartorial choice, which I still have nearly 30 years later, is one I might regret just a little bit, but you can't argue with results!

The excitement in the air was palpable when the couple arrived at the church around 11 a.m. The Queen was the first to emerge from the car, with Prince Philip following just a few steps behind. After greeting members of the clergy, they made their way towards the entrance of the cathedral, smiling at the hundreds who were waiting to catch a glimpse.

Unaware of the proper protocols, I reached out as far as I could over the crowd barrier to give the bouquet to our Head of State. She glanced over in my direction and made what I felt was eye contact before turning back to the path and entering the church.

My chance had passed. It was the first time I felt truly deflated.

But the feeling was only temporary. Moments later, a member of Her Majesty's entourage came back out of the church, made a bee-line for me and said in hushed tones that the Queen had asked him to come out to assure me she had seen me and promised she would come my way after the service after meeting members of the choir.

I guess the deflation showed on my face, but any such feelings evaporated instantly and was replaced with a nearly unbearable excitement.

The Queen emerged once again about an hour later to the toll of bells. The entourage-member was standing beside the monarch as he gestured with his arm for she and Prince Philip to walk through the line of choristers and then conduct a walkabout.

Without saying a word, I could see The Queen frown ever so slightly and firmly shake her head. The walkabout was to begin immediately and she walked directly over to my side of the barricades.

The excitement was too much by the time she got to me and I have no recollection of any exchange we might have had – but the feeling was unforgettable, and I think it's a testament to her character that she made the time to make one little kid in the crowd feel just a little bit special that day.

Over the subsequent years, I was fortunate enough to meet The Queen on three more occasions, each time unique and special, but that very first time stands above the others. And, as they did in September 2022 when the second so-called Elizabethan Age came to an end with her death at the age of 96, they did so again at the start of this week when her memory was celebrated across the Commonwealth in a variety of ways to mark the 100th anniversary of her birth.

Much was said about Queen Elizabeth II during her lifetime, and much more has been said in the years immediately following her

passing and the seamless succession of King Charles III.

As I wrote in this space the week of the succession, Elizabeth II never struck me as a public servant who was in it for herself or her own personal glory.

Many of her closest friends and acquaintances underscored the point that she much rather would have spent her life quietly on a farm with her beloved horses and dogs, far away from the pomp and circumstance that defined her life. But fate had other plans.

She had a destiny to fulfil and that destiny was a role she felt duty bound to take anything but lightly. She was conscious of her role as monarch, yes, and took the role extremely seriously, but there was also the fact that she was, above and beyond being Queen, a custodian of the Crown and a representation of something much larger than herself: a public servant like no other.

The subsequent three-and-a-half years since her death have left plenty of time for reflection and, in that time, a fuller picture of the woman continues to emerge as more people within her circle feel more respectfully sharing their perspective.

Historian Anna Keay has been tasked by the King in penning his mother's official biography, it was announced last week. As is the case with official biographies of any public leader, the author will have access to a trove of private papers, diaries, and more to get further beneath the surface than any writer has before. Especially interesting to me is the chosen author is a person who can view one of the most remarkable female leaders of our time through anything but a male lens. A generation or two removed from the monarch's more prominent female biographers, she will undoubtedly have very different questions than her predecessors had in searching for answers and a different view on which key moments of her life are in need of greater evaluation.

"I said to a Private Secretary, 'I've spent some time with the Queen. She seems not quite the conservative do-as-you've-done-it-before restrained person she always appears to be in public. She seems quite radical at times,'" said another biographer, Gyles Brandreth, a personal friend of the Queen and Duke, who also served as a Conservative MP in the 1990s. "He said, 'That's deliberate.' I said, 'What do you mean that's deliberate?' 'She feels she ought to be conservative with a small C because her philosophy is that she should only go at the pace of the slowest person in the kingdom so that nobody in the kingdom should ever feel left behind.'"

Evidently it was a winning formula, but what other factors were part of that equation? Perhaps it's a question on the mind of another woman wearing a crown.

"It must have been so difficult being surrounded by much older men," said Queen Camilla in a BBC documentary that aired Sunday night, watching newsreel footage of her young mother-in-law returning from Kenya as monarch aged just 25. "There weren't women prime ministers or women presidents. She was the only one, so I think she carved her own role."

Queen Elizabeth II's role as a female trailblazer is not one often explored, perhaps because the trail she blazed was the only one that was laid out before her, and perhaps because she did not view herself in those terms, but what an exciting facet to explore and help add to a remarkable chapter in a remarkable woman's story.



## Do we really know what time it is in our lives?

by Mark Pavilons



The Chinese remind us to enjoy ourselves, because "it's later than we think."

Yes, the future does have a nasty habit of arriving all too quickly, hiding just out of sight and then running right into our path.

We don't pay much attention because we have so much to concentrate on during our action-packed and stressed-out days.

Our lives have transformed us, nudged us into self-centred indifference. But time doesn't care.

Chicago's 1969 hit came to mind as I was driving home one day. The lyrics were clear:

"(I don't) does anybody really know what time it is?"

"(Care about time) does anybody really care?"

"If so, I can't imagine why  
(Oh no, no) we've all got time enough to cry."

The singer mentions being "pushed and shoved by people trying to beat the clock ..."

Some say life is short, but if you think about it, we average North Americans can enjoy some decent lifespans. Most recent estimates put males at 76-80 and females at 81-84.

That's 8,760 hours per year, or a little over 100,000 hours during your life. Okay, many of us may not make it to 80, but still, that gives up plenty of minutes, days and months to enjoy, learn, explore, create, cherish, achieve and experience.

And yet, if you ask someone on the street, would they know exactly what time it is?

By that I mean, do they realize at what stage they're at; what they have accomplished and what they still have on their to-do list? How full are their plates? When was the last time we sat back, relaxed and took stock?

We know the future is waiting around the next corner, so perhaps we all need to be better prepared. We don't know if the next intersection we cross while buried in our smart phones will be the last.

Most of us aren't preppers, or doomsday planners. We live for the moment, even if we fritter away a few here and there every hour.

Are we merely rushing around, willy-nilly, in hopes of beating the clock before time is up?

Those of us who've been genetically unlucky enough to get a dose or two of a life-threatening disease know a bit about time. Just a bit.

I have some first-hand knowledge and let me tell you, it's a tough thing to shake. It's a hell of a burden to carry, even though my shoulders are strong.

Alas, this is my fork in the road. I will follow it until the end.

In between the tests and scans, waiting for "next steps," there's a bit of a calm. I feel safe, like that warm cuddly feeling curled up on the sofa with my favourite blanket or fluffy pillow. At home, at rest, surrounded by familiarity, I'm okay.

And then reality sets in. This is a struggle, not a fight because the opponents are not equal. It's more

like a David & Goliath scenario and while the little guy may be triumphant in tale, more often than not the evil giant wins.

When the campaign is long and drawn out over the span of years, you get tired mustering the troops. You become weary with the repetition and successive reports, projections and options.

You don't want "options," you want action. You want, just for once, success. You want to win and be rid of it all.

But despite medical advancements, "cures" remain elusive. Sure, battles are being won on several fronts and yet numbers of cancer victims and patients keep growing.

The stats – representing people's lives – are reduced to numbers. These become part of the data pool and make up the odds. But few of these are sure bets. The odds are still long.

For some cancers, like mine, it has been a journey of treatments, protocols, monitoring, trials and more. Traditional treatments like chemo and radiation are go-to tools. All in the name of extending, prolonging lives, but not necessarily saving them. I suppose salvation and miracles are not within a doctor's abilities.

It takes a large team of specialists – technicians, nurses, researchers, blood experts, cutting edge treatments and young oncologists ready to leap into the unknown. It's a great concoction and all the ingredients are there for certain amount of success, or at least headway.

I've seen many ads promoting products and services, promising miracles.

Workshops, "thriving and surviving," a host of supplements, frequency therapy, even "pyramid power." A crazy amount of Facebook ads on new cures, strategies and amazing from-the-brink tales flash before me.

And then reality. Chemo round two. Maybe some new trial drugs down the road. It's a wait and see game.

I really hope I live long enough to see a major breakthrough, not just for me, but all who follow.

I was reminded about the best memories of a person's life, like the birth of a child.

Time is fluid and we look ahead almost as much as we look back.

While I recall faint details, a lot of it is a blur. Of course, my wife remembers each one, down to the last intricate detail, like it was yesterday. Moms. God did go overboard in giving them some amazing qualities.

I used to be a crazy time-checker, always glancing at my watch or phone frequently to see what time it is.

I've lessened that habit a bit, mostly because I want the minutes and hours to move more slowly now, and have a bit more meaning.

There are nuggets to be found wrapped up in the seconds and hours and days. When the sun shines, I smile, close my eyes and tilt my head up, trying to catch some Vitamin D from the sun.

When I have a good day, I just embrace it, and not question why. The bad days are always waiting.

There was a time when all was well. Our family was growing, maturing, laughing, and playing. I feel I've put a bit of a damper on things, and for that I am truly sorry.

Just as the minutes and hours are fleeting, a hug, smile and shared family time can add precious moments to my hourglass.

### Our Readers Write

## Better Regional Governance?

A recent editorial by SHERALYN ROMAN and an April 9 report by RILEY MURPHY should have sounded major alarm bells for Caledon citizens.

Both have to do with a projected loss of democratic governance in Ontario. The thought that a "Strong Chair" of Peel Region can be appointed by the Provincial Minister of Municipal Affairs is frightening. Imagine that the appointed one is able to exercise the same kind of power over the entire Region that our Strong Mayor has in Caledon.

Couple that with the concerns expressed by

the Auditor General over the rise of corruption in municipal politics. There is a municipal election coming this year. The new Council will need to be prepared to deal with a Region of Peel Strong Chair handpicked by Premier Ford and Minister Flack.

If I were a gambling man, I'd lay money on their top choice, and it won't be good for democracy.

**SKID CREASE  
BOLTON**

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**SHERALYN ROMAN**  
TALK CALEDON



## A Different “Few Good People”

Never more so than now, we need an informed, engaged and questioning electorate. A few weeks ago, I talked about Margaret Mead and the role of the individual in society in making change. Two weeks ago, I wrote about the need for a “few good people” to take such action one step further by considering politics as the means to make such a change. Today, in a follow-up to both columns, and after some interesting conversations I have been having with people from across Caledon, I have a different exhortation.

This is directed at the majority of us: the people who have no intention of ever delegating at Council, or protesting on the side of the road. You don’t have to, but you can still make a difference. How? We need a few good people (preferably far more) to vote responsibly.

No doubt Caledon residents are feeling jaded right now and frankly, rightly so. It feels as though we are being handed over to the province, developers, and freight and logistics firms on a silver platter. You want more land? Here’s an MZO. You want to build a highway smack dab through the middle of Caledon? Here’s some prime agriculture acreage, oh and don’t worry about the environmental impact. I could go on, and often have, but you get the idea.

On the flip side. I’ve spoken with people who aren’t jaded, but it’s because they have no real idea of what’s happening in our community at all. Some aren’t even sure who makes the various government-level decisions impacting our future. Everyone knows traffic and trucking are a nightmare, but while it seems hard to believe; quarries, groundwater contamination, threats to our environment, and the financial impacts of provincial downloading of responsibilities to municipalities, aren’t on the radar for many Caledon residents. They should be. That’s what I mean when I say we need “a different, few good people.” You might not be interested in running for office, but we need in-

formed and engaged residents running to the polls in October to vote.

We don’t yet know who is on the ballot, but that time is rapidly approaching. As early as May 1 we will have some idea of who is in the race. If it’s an incumbent, you need to ask them hard questions about positions they have taken in the past, how they have voted on contentious issues and whether their values align with the interests of the community they were elected to serve or to other outside influences. For new candidates, it’s harder to gauge, but you might ask about their past record of service in the community, volunteering, or advocating for Caledon on specific issues, or what they feel gives them the skills, knowledge and tools necessary to be a Councillor. To do any of this however, you first have to know what municipal government is responsible for and what the issues facing Caledon are.

Get informed! Caledon is on the cusp of even greater change. Look to your local branch of the Caledon Public Library, or online for groups like Democracy Caledon, to provide information on who is responsible for what services. It is important you understand who manages roads, waste or snow removal, parks and recreation, and fire and police services. Where do your tax dollars actually go, and what level of government is actually responsible for most of what impacts your day-to-day living? It’s the municipal government that makes many of the decisions directly impacting our community and that means as citizens, we have a responsibility to get to know the local issues, AND the candidates who are willing to run. Caledon might be feeling the pressures of the provincial government right now, but that’s all the more reason we need strong municipal candidates who are willing to stand up for us. It also means we need good people to make informed choices at the ballot box.

# Caledon Council calls on Government of Ontario to amend Bill 100

**BY RILEY MURPHY**  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

A motion introduced by Councillor Dave Sheen at the April 21 Planning and Development meeting called for Caledon Council to call on the Government of Ontario to amend Bill 100, otherwise known as the Better Regional Governance Act, 2026.

The Better Regional Governance Act, 2026 was introduced by the Ontario Government, which would allow the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing the power to appoint upper-tier Council Chairs in Regions such as Peel, and give these upper-tier Council members “Strong Chair” powers, which mirror “Strong Mayor” powers.

In Sheen’s motion, he states that Caledon “already operates under a Strong Mayor framework that is expressly tied to advancing prescribed provincial priorities, and Bill 100 would extend a similar provincially aligned model to the regional level above Caledon.”

The motion also states that with planning and roads responsibilities downloaded to the Town, “key structural levers that influence Caledon’s long-term growth, including a provincially appointed regional chair, provincially regulated water and wastewater servicing, and a provincially approved Official Plan, remain outside the direct control of future Caledon Councils.”

At the meeting, Sheen said instead of concentrating powers in the hands of those functionally aligned with the Province, “we should be working harder to align provincial and local priorities

through normal democratic processes.”

He added that “Strong Mayor” and “Strong Chair” powers are small steps that normalize concentrating power into fewer hands, and move decisions further away from the people they affect.

Councillor Mario Russo added that as Regional Councillor, he’s seen the “absolutely great work” that Regional Staff does at that level, and that he’s happy to support the motion as it shows staff at the Region they are supportive of them, both at the Town and Regional table.

With the passing of the motion, Council will state its opposition to Bill 100 in its current form and call upon the Government of Ontario to amend Bill 100 to “protect municipal and regional autonomy, maintain the authority of locally elected councils over their own governance structures, and safeguard a non-partisan municipal public service.”

Also, the motion urges the Government of Ontario to reconsider the model of provincially appointed “Strong Regional Chairs” with “Strong Mayor-style powers”, and “instead ensure that regional leadership remains selected by and accountable to their councils.”

The motion also urges the Government of Ontario to “undertake meaningful consultation” with municipalities and residents, including through the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and with affected municipalities such as the Town of Caledon and the Region of Peel, before “implementing changes to municipal governance and related servicing structures.”



**NEWS**

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## Interim Property Taxes are Due

Property taxes are due by **Thursday, May 7, 2026.**

Regular late payment fees apply. For payment options visit: [caledon.ca/tax](http://caledon.ca/tax).



P R E P A R E D T O G E T H E R

## Emergency Preparedness Week Open Houses

- Meet your Caledon Fire and Emergency Services firefighters
- Connect with community safety partners, including the OPP
- Enter a draw for a 72-hour kit

**Saturday, May 2 | 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

Fire Stations:

- Station 301: 19630 Main St., Alton
- Station 302: 14002 Highway 50, Bolton
- Station 307: 2 Snelcrest Dr., Caledon
- Station 308: 6000 Highway 9, Mono Mills

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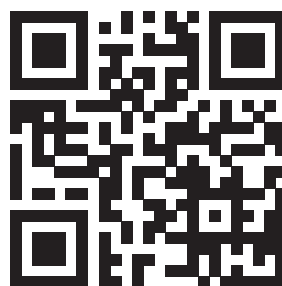
## Join the Caledon Sport Hall of Fame Committee

The Town of Caledon is looking to recruit residents to be part of the Caledon Sport Hall of Fame Committee. The Committee consists of five community volunteers with experience supporting the sports community within Caledon, and will be responsible for recommending Inductees to Council for the Caledon Sport Hall of Fame.

The Town of Caledon is looking for residents to join the Caledon Sport Hall of Fame Committee.

**Interested? Apply by Sunday, May 10, 2026!**

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# ARTS & CULTURE



**2025-26 SEASON**



**THE WEDDING PARTY**



**A MADCAP COMEDY**  
by *Kristen Thomson*  
**APRIL 16<sup>th</sup> to MAY 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
**CALL 519.942.3423 OR WWW.THEATREORANGEVILLE.CA**



Watching two families go head-to-head over a wedding is traditionally an unpleasant experience, but Theatre Orangeville has made it a comedic spectacle. With plenty of laughs, heartfelt moments and chaos, *The Wedding Party* will strike close to home for some, and is a must-watch for the spring season. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

## Theatre Orangeville's *The Wedding Party* is hilariously dysfunctional comedy

BY JOSHUA DRAKES

Weddings, family gatherings – they hold the potential to reunite distant relatives, old friends, share memories, and make new ones.

They also have the ability to remind you as to why you don't speak to or see certain relatives anymore, for better or for worse.

The *Wedding Party*, Theatre Orangeville's most recent production, sought to put that on full display and bring some laughs to some potentially unpleasant memories, and it works in all the right ways.

The plot follows a marriage and joining of families from two very different social classes. On one side, you have the affluent family of the groom, who live and breathe money and privilege, and spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on this wedding to make it exactly how they wanted it. On the other hand, the bride's family is not wealthy; they are average, working-class people who have never seen this much money on display. On the surface, it's friendly banter and smiles all around – initially, anyway.

Things quickly devolve as both families clash over how the wedding's finer details will be executed. They start to assert their own views on how the wedding should be carried

out, according to their own visions of marriage and love.

The snide remarks, indirect sarcasm and insults start off extremely subtle, sometimes even flying beneath notice, and feel all too painfully relatable for those of us who have lived through similar situations.

Things continue to escalate as the play progresses, and the families begin acting against each other outright for influence and take cheap shots to satisfy their egos.

No one character is morally right, which makes it all the more immersive to see relatable, flawed human beings clash over a wedding that is not theirs because they feel inadequate or believe their way is right.

Despite the venom that you can feel coming off the stage, it's all done with great taste, as humour is close behind or layered in to make sure serious moments don't take away from the absurdity of the wedding. The story is funny, heartfelt and sometimes tough to watch, but it feels real, potentially a little too real.

What really sells the production is the extremely talented cast, who brought these characters to life in a way that sometimes you forget they are characters.

Continued on Page B11

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## FOCUS ON **WOMEN IN BUSINESS**

**Wishing all of the volunteers in our community a happy National Volunteer Week!**  
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**APRIL 19-25**  
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## Province's second-highest honour bestowed on 20 remarkable volunteers

Ontario has awarded 20 of the province's most exceptional civic leaders with the 2024 and 2025 Queen Elizabeth II Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship.



**R**enamed in tribute to the late monarch, this medal is the province's second highest civilian honour and recognizes those whose leadership and exceptional volunteer service have left a lasting impact on their communities and helped build a stronger Ontario and Canada.

The Honourable Edith Dumont, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, honoured recipients during a ceremony held last week at the Lieutenant Governor's Suite at Queen's Park in Toronto.

"Service to others lies at the heart of our communities," said Dumont. "Through the Queen Elizabeth II Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship, I am delighted to honour exceptional individuals and recognize their remarkable contributions across our

province."

Since 1973, remarkable individuals have been awarded the Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship for their lifelong dedication to noble causes, including protecting Ontario's natural heritage, promoting the arts, culture, and sports, and helping create safer communities.

"It is always a privilege to recognize those who have selflessly given back to their communities," said Graham McGregor, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism. "Their hard work, dedication and generosity are deeply valued and reflect the very best of Ontario."

The 2024 recipients of the Queen Elizabeth II Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship are:

- Margaret Ayres, OMC
- Lt Adam J.D. Carter, KStJ, OMC
- Adam Cox, OMC
- Donna Dubie, OMC
- Debbie Kirwin, OMC
- Carole Madsen, OMC
- Joseph Maloney, MSC, OMC
- Justin Morin-Carpentier, OMC
- David Mousavi, OMC
- Stacey Robert-Tobin, OMC

The 2025 recipients of the Queen Elizabeth II Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship are:

- Jason Balgopal, OMC
- Shawn Bennett, CD, OMC
- Larry K. Dicks, OMC
- Mike Duhacek, OMC

- Aloysius (Al) Hung, OMC
- Dean Paul La Bute, OMC
- HLCol Harold Latner, OMC
- Sandev Singh Purewal, OMC
- Patricia Scrivens, OMC
- Sam Sinjari, OMC

Established in 1973 during the Queen's Royal Visit to Ontario, the medal has since been awarded to over 600 remarkable individuals.

In September 2024, the Queen Elizabeth II Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship (QEIIOMGC) was renamed to honour Queen Elizabeth II.

The QEIIOMGC nomination deadline is November 15 annually, with eligibility details available at [www.ontario.ca/page/honours-and-awards](http://www.ontario.ca/page/honours-and-awards).



# Celebrating Volunteers!

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A year long, nation building CELEBRATION!

Volunteer Bénévoles Canada

# Walking the Sweetgrass Road: ReconcilAction is a verb!

BY KIM WHEATLEY  
 TRADITIONAL ANISHINAABE GRANDMOTHER  
 OPINION

**National Volunteer Week**  
 April 19-25, 2026

"Volunteerism is the voice of the people put into action. These actions shape and mould the present into a future of which we can all be proud."  
 ~ Helen Dyer

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Bethell Hospice

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Their dedication supports every part of our community – from in-home visiting and resident care to kitchen help, maintenance, reception, and community programs. Volunteers also create and maintain our outdoor spaces, offering peaceful retreats for families.

Through every task they take on, our volunteers bring warmth, dignity, and comfort to those we serve.

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 or call 905-838-3534

Bethell Hospice

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Volunteer Bénévoles Canada

Here we are four months into 2026 with chaos happening around the world! I am deeply disturbed by the worldwide politics and lack of solutions. Violence is never the answer to me and there are belief systems rooted in Indigenous teachings that warns of irreparable harms from weak choices like violence.

The greater good of the people never benefit from the selfishness of violence. The losses are heartbreaking but also decimating to the world of purpose that each human is born into this word with.

We are taught as Indigenous People that creation makes no mistakes. We are all born with gifts and purpose that are meant to support “mino bimaadziwin”, the Good Life! It is a truth that each human belongs in the circle of humanity and the equality of that circle reminds us that it is not complete without YOU.

The traditional teaching shared by ancestral knowledge keepers reminds us EACH one of us holds a unique gift that other parts of creation do not have. This gift gives us power and must always be used wisely. It is called free will. This power can change history when exerted, to delve into the realms of good and bad for sure, but also it impacts all of creation, not just humans. Wise choices for the greater good will always matter. We humans have that power every single moment in our lives.

It is super important to learn lessons from a lifewalk that propels humanity into its highest purpose and potential and in my mind violence is never the best option under any circumstances.

Historically, Indigenous People took relationships and responsibilities so seriously that balance in all areas of life needed to be considered. The pros and cons of any decision big or small, were afforded endless discussion and review by all members of a community.

The impacts, the benefits, the outcomes were never random because the foundation of respect, relationship, responsibility and reciprocity were unwavering guidance principles.

These values seem to be receding in the realms of leadership and politics today worldwide.

So, I wonder, if this is true, how can we as individuals, communities and nations continue to support these roles? I truly believe we need a leadership overhaul. We as the recipients of leadership choices should be able to trust that those elected into power represent the needs of the greater good and not the privileged few.

It is deeply disappointing to me personally to not trust so much of what is released into the world today.

It is disturbing to constantly feel unsafe and attacked. It is wrong to accept violence on any level as normal.

Opinion pieces are something I tend to keep to myself and my inner circle, but I want to nudge readers and community into something new. A form of action coined as reconciliAction. I challenge readers to speak up and speak out...kindly and inclusively. If you don't like what is going on around you what will you do about it. Reconciling is everyone's work. We are all capable of changemaking for the greater good which is not just human relations but relations with creation as well at all levels.

It is shocking to see the desecration of Earth, which impacts every single human not to mention all other aspects of beings in Creation. It is horrifying to witness the

violence committed against our Mother the Earth due to endless war, greed and self-gain.

It is not my role to preach or judge, but I am not blind to the illusion of modern progress that dismisses centuries of balance and harmony.

Every single nation holds stories of truth that committed to ensuring care for

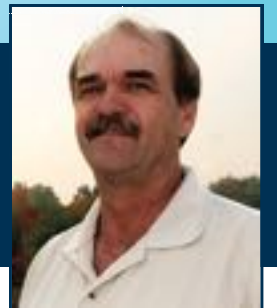
those that would come after us.

I am crossing my fingers that historic amnesia will be wiped away and the urgent need for immediate change will become the norm. It is never too late to make a good decision. It's putting that good decision work into action...not just talking but actually walking the talk as it is said.

**I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS TIME TO SAY THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS.**



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**NICK DEBOER**  
 COUNCILLOR WARD 4

RESIDENTS WITH INQUIRIES CAN CONTACT ME AT [nick.deboer@caledon.ca](mailto:nick.deboer@caledon.ca) OR PHONE 416.357.3524

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**Christina Early**

Regional Councillor  
 Wards 1, 2 & 3



Regional Councillor Christina Early | Phone: 416-576-9366 | Email: [christina.early@caledon.ca](mailto:christina.early@caledon.ca)  
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**NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK 2026**  
**APRIL 19-25**  
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## NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK:

**Caledon Lions Club member of almost 40 Years recognized with volunteer award**

BY RILEY MURPHY  
 LOCAL JOURNALISM  
 INITIATIVE REPORTER



In Canada, National Volunteer Week runs from April 19 – 25, and Caledon often takes the time to honour its own during this time.

At last week's Caledon Lions Club annual appreciation banquet, Caledon Lion Gord McDonald was recognized with a Volunteer Award for all his efforts for almost the past four decades.

McDonald was a Caledon resident for over 30 years, now residing in Dufferin County. Caledon was the home of his business, McDonald Tool and Manufacturing, for decades before it moved back to its present, and original, home in Orangeville.

The summer after moving to Caledon, McDonald joined the Caledon Lions Club; next year will be his 40th year as a member.

He's worn numerous hats, once president and now treasurer, but over the years, his commitment to helping build and organize numerous missions has never changed.

The club brought him to numerous other volunteer ventures, including assisting with the 104th International Plowing Match and Rural Expo and the Caledon Agricultural Society Annual Fair.

Whether he's helping organize 60 volunteers or building floats, he's had his hands full.

With the Lions, McDonald has built all items under the sun, such as floats for the Christmas parade, tractor-trailers, and people movers for fairs.

He also worked on the club's version of the Polar Express, which many may know has now transformed into Thomas the Tank Engine, an attraction the Lions bring to events such as the past Annual Santa Photo Day with the Caledon Village Association, working with a steam engine and horn, all for families to enjoy.

With all his ventures, McDonald says he wouldn't do it if he "wasn't having fun."

At the annual appreciation banquet recently held by the Lions Club, McDonald was in for a shock when he was presented with an Outstanding Volunteer Award by MPP for

Dufferin—Caledon Sylvia Jones.

"I had no idea," he says, adding it was equally as surprising to see his family in attendance, ready to celebrate with him.

"We had no idea that they were coming, and then they started walking in, and it was, 'well, what are you doing here.'"

When McDonald received the award, he was at a bit of a loss for words.

"I didn't say that much," he says. "I got kind of emotional about it."

Knowing that the Lions Club helped push for the award, he says they know how much he appreciates it.

Jones said she was happy to recognize McDonald with a scroll after his family contacted her office to share the impact he has had over many years of volunteer service in Dufferin-Caledon, particularly at the Caledon Lions Club.

Great timing, as it fell right before the start of National Volunteer Week.

"National Volunteer Week is an opportunity to recognize the people who give their time, energy and compassion to support others. In communities like Dufferin-Caledon, clubs, churches and many other organizations rely heavily on volunteers for events and services, and their contributions make our communities stronger, more connected and a better place to live," says Jones.

Looking ahead, McDonald shares he's excited about their upcoming projects for the Caledon Fair as they work to build carts for a big race.

Taking pressure off the community to build their own carts, the Lions are taking it on and off residents' shoulders, hopefully encouraging people to join together in teams and come out to race.

Looking back on his almost 40 years with the club, McDonald says it's been a great time.

"I've had a good time getting involved in all these things. I appreciate everybody that backed me along the way.

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With heartfelt thanks.

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For More Pictures and Information go to:  
**BOLTONROTARY.CA**

**Rotary**  
 Bolton

# Caledon Town Hall Players present their season finale, "Grounded"

BY CONSTANCE SCRAFIELD

Caledon Town Hall Players (CTHP) Director Chris Bailey is very pleased with how well the cast is getting ready for their upcoming production of *Grounded*, a comedy by John Spurway, opening May 2.

"We are in our tech rehearsals now," he said in an interview with the Citizen this week, adding, "we have two weeks of double rehearsals just to put everything in place."

Such fastidiousness is worth the effort, for the Spurway play is demanding, thought-provoking and a fine comedy.

The plot, in brief, is five passengers stuck in an airport terminal, while their plane is grounded by bad weather. Strangers to begin, their confinement-inspired conversations reveal startling truths that make this play so intriguing.

Given the challenges the cast members have overcome so successfully, Bailey wanted to credit each of them first. He prefaced his remarks by noting that this play is very dialogue-driven, with quick back-and-forth exchanges, and that it takes time to perfect the timing and blocking.

Kevin Wrycraft, as Nathan, has performed before on the CTHP stage and is a ready volunteer backstage. He is a dedicated member and encourages newcomers.

Taking on the transition to a big role from her previously minor parts in other plays, Meri Chillelli as Elizabeth had Bailey commenting, "It has been wonderful working with Meri's [decision] to go forward to such a challenge."

Playing the part of Marion, Kim Blacklock is a favourite with CTHP audiences. She brings comic relief – the fun in this show – into the moments of the sad, tender side of Marion. Brilliant.

Then, there is the eloping couple, Kate and Tony, played by Michelle Barnes as Kate and Stuart Davidson as Tony. Barnes is brand new to acting. Caledon-based but never having been on stage, she auditioned and was cast in the role. Barnes was "off book" early.

Coming in as a new person can be hard, but Barnes has jumped in, Bailey reported, and even her husband has come to run the lights. The director loves seeing new people join the company, and the welcome makes them feel comfortable.

*Grounded* is a "cool" play, as he defined it: a comedy for the audience but a drama for the actors.

"There is quite a lot of seriousness," Bailey commented. "The laughs come from the unravelling in the story."

People will enjoy this play for its different types of comedy, and CTHP is well known for presenting comedy on its stage. Audiences have to feel full with the pleasure of the show.

"Word of mouth is the best publicity," as Bailey remarked.

Now in its 62nd year, a community theatre with four plays a year is proof of audience enthusiasm for the productions CTHP offers.

As the director, he says he is delighted to see a group of people who all really embrace this show as a good time for the audience in a character-driven play.

To bring out the best in each character, he did the blocking differently to share that work with the audience, he explained. "When people come to this see this play, they will have a great feeling about this experience."

Once all is ready, the audience is seated, and the play begins, the director's job is done, even this time for Chris Bailey, who usually has something to do backstage, but once *Grounded* opens, he can stand back and simply watch it.

From the point of view of the director, Bailey made the point that this particular play can be interpreted by the director in different ways. He told the story of how his wife, Stephanie Bailey, who is producing *Grounded*, discussed with him how differently she would have directed it. Yet both approaches are valid. Bailey's comment was that what is great about the theatre is the difference in how the play has been produced. Every playwright must be interested to see how your version of the play is presented. This story is about bad weather in New York, keeping these passengers in Toronto from flying out and leaving them stuck with nowhere to go.

With time on their hands and only each other as diversion, the conversation can stray as it will. Certain discoveries might come to light simply because they are there.

"The audience will be on the edge of their seats," Bailey promised. "New audience members are often surprised at the quality of the performances."

Grounded performance dates: May 2, 8 and 9 at 8:15 p.m. and May 2, 3 and 9 at 2:15 p.m.

Tickets are available online at [caledontownhallplayers.com](http://caledontownhallplayers.com) or by calling 519-927-5460.

## 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](mailto:admin@caledoncitizen.com) if you wish to have an announcement published.

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[Kingcrafts.ca](http://Kingcrafts.ca)

**Bolton Kin Toonie Treasure Sale.**  
Saturday, April 25th from 10 am till 1 pm at the President Building Albion Bolton Fairgrounds. Racks and racks of new/gently used apparel for men, women and children all for a toonie! All proceeds help support community needs.

**The Region of Peel Agricultural Society: High Tea & Vendor Market.** Brampton Fairgrounds, 12942 Heart Lake Road, Caledon. Saturday, May 2, 2026. High Tea begins at 11:00 am. Treat yourself to a traditional high tea experience with lucky draws and shopping. Vendor Market: 10:00 am to 3 pm. Shop from a variety of vendors! Swag bag giveaway! \$40 per person. Includes lunch and tea or coffee. Free! Monetary and non-perishable food donations are appreciated. Tickets for the high tea must be purchased in advance by contacting Bonnie Neely at [bonnie@duskteam.com](mailto:bonnie@duskteam.com) or 416-817-6149. For Vendor Market information please contact Stephanie at [bramptonfaircraftshow@gmail.com](mailto:bramptonfaircraftshow@gmail.com) or 647-234-5101.

**Lunch & Learn - Thursday, May 7, 2026.**  
The Caledon Seniors Centre is hosting their monthly Lunch & Learn on Thursday, May 7, 2026 at 11:00 am. Topic: The Importance of Eye Health. Presenter: Dr. Kanica Nanda, Optometrist in conjunction with SpecSavers, Bolton. A sandwich and dessert lunch will be served following the presentation. Cost is \$7. Pre-registration is required. Call the Centre at 905-951-6114 to register.

**Special Lunch - Wed. May 13, 2026**  
Join us for a special lunch at the Caledon Seniors Centre at Rotary Place in Bolton on Wed. May 13, 2026! The menu is Fish & Chips, Coleslaw & Lemon Éclair Dessert. Pick-up at 11:45 am, dine-in served at 12:00 pm and local delivery available for \$2. Cost is \$11. Order your meals by Monday, May 11 at 3:30 pm. For more information, call the Centre at 905-951-6114.

**Men's Lunch - Tuesday, May 19, 2026**  
The Caledon Seniors Centre is hosting their Men's Lunch on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at Rotary Place in Bolton. Lunch menu is fish & chips, coleslaw, & pineapple sunshine cake. Topic is: There Is More Than 1 Way To Shoot A Moose: Wildlife The Way I See It. Presenter Gary Hall, Wildlife Photographer. Cost is \$11. Call the Centre at 905-951-6114 to purchase your tickets by Friday, May 15 at 12 PM.

**Monthly Dinner - Friday, May 29, 2026**  
The Caledon Seniors Centre at Rotary Place in Bolton is having a Monthly Dinner on Friday, May 29, 2026. The menu is Stuffed Chicken Breast, Roasted Potatoes, Kale Salad & Ice-Cream Sandwich Dessert. Cost is \$16. Pick-up at 5:15 pm, dine-in served at 5:30 pm, local delivery available for \$2. Call the Centre at 905-951-6114 by Thurs. May 27 at 3:30 pm to buy your tickets!

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# BUSINESS



YOUR SOURCE FOR BUSINESS IN CALEDON

## Local restaurant Flame House Grill celebrates five years in Bolton

BY RILEY MURPHY  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Walking into Flame House Grill in Bolton, one may notice the remaining COVID stickers lingering on the ground, but for this restaurant, it's not a reminder of hard times, but times they've overcome.

Owners Nelson Da Paz and Cindy Aleixo, despite all odds, decided to open up their very own Portuguese restaurant in the midst of a global pandemic.

Despite both growing up in Canada, they were raised with Portuguese traditions and beliefs their entire lives and wanted to bring them to the Caledon community.

Their vision was to bring to life a menu of authentic and new-inspired Portuguese dishes, complete with a friendly atmosphere and a flair for Portuguese ambience and culture.

Their dream turns five this year.

It's not lost on the two that this is truly a milestone, remarking that they've watched many restaurants and small businesses close down over the years.

For Da Paz and Aleixo, it's a testament not only to their care for the community, but also to the community's care for them.

Going back five years, choosing a location for their restaurant, they say, was never a question.

"We said when we open a business it's going to be here, and we love it," says Da Paz. "We love Bolton and it's a great place and we don't regret coming here."



Members of Caledon Council and Caledon Chamber of Commerce join Nelson Da Paz and Cindy Aleixo in the celebration.

PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

Looking back on their opening, the two laugh that it certainly had its challenges, whether it was coordinating the times of contractors and plumbers so they didn't overlap or the ongoing restrictions.

But come opening day, it made it all worth it.

They remembered a line stretching out the door and even into the parking lot before they were able to direct it back to the sidewalk.

Aleixo adds that it was such an overwhelming feeling, and now they look back with zero regrets.

When they opened in the community, the two wanted to ensure not just that their business was part of Caledon, but that they were as well.

They joined local clubs and organizations and sought out partnerships and collaborations.

"One of the main reasons I want to open a business is being part of the community. It's not just to serve the food," says Da Paz. "It's really important for us to get out, meet different groups of people... whoever it is and do what we can to be part of it and get our word out there."

"It's more than just making food and serving it for us. It's the whole families, the communities, that vibe that we love," says Aleixo. "It's us."

Watching their business grow over the years has brought many changes; their catering has ramped up, and now they look ahead to exciting new opportunities as they hope to soon grow their business.

When asked their favourite parts looking back, they say it's the people.

"People coming in, telling their stories and sharing things, regulars coming in, it means a lot," says Aleixo.

Da Paz adds they love seeing their regulars time and time again, getting to learn

about their lives or just ask how their day was.

"It's not just, 'Here's your food,'" says Aleixo. "There's more to it than that."

And it's not just their customers they love; Aleixo and Da Paz say they can't do what they do without their staff.

Adding it's a testament to the type of people here in the community, "it's something to be told about the parents, and about the upbringing in Bolton," says Da Paz.

Each item on the menu has passed through Aleixo's hands and been approved by her before it reaches the kitchen. Always cooking for her family, she adds that she's always loved cooking.

Da Paz says Aleixo knew that he wanted to open a Portuguese restaurant since he was 21, and they made it happen together.

"Finally, with COVID, I said, you know what? This is our opportunity. I know it's a crazy time, but it's also time that we're home. We get to reflect on life and where we are in life and our jobs and all this and all that. And I said, I want to do this," Da Paz says, reflecting on their decision to open.

They hope to keep the greatness growing for years to come and, more importantly, share it with the Caledon community the way they know best: with food.

For their anniversary, they are offering a \$5 walk-in special through April 24 that includes a mini Piri Piri Chicken Sandwich, a mini Portuguese Custard Tart, and a bottle of water.

### PUBLIC NOTICE



## Notice of Application Proposed Official Plan Amendment, Zoning By-law Amendment and Draft Plan of Subdivision Applications

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

**APPLICANT:**  
Humphries Planning Group Inc. (Rosemarie Humphries) on behalf of Queensgate (Mosaik) Inc.

**LOCATION:**  
12944 Albion Vaughan Road  
Part Lot 5, Concession 7; Plan 43M-1281 (Albion)  
Ward 5

**PROPOSED CHANGES:**  
The applicant has applied for Official Plan Amendment, Zoning By-law Amendment and Draft Plan of Subdivision applications to facilitate the development of forty-nine (49) common element townhouse units on a private road consisting of 30 back-to-back townhouses and 19 townhouses with 2 parking spaces per unit. Twelve additional visitor parking spaces are also proposed.



\*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:**  
Alex Mior  
Senior Planner, Planning Services & Zoning  
Planning & Development  
Department  
905-584-2272 ext. 4528  
alex.mior@caledon.ca

**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](http://www.caledon.ca/notices) or contact the Lead Planner from Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**HOW TO STAY INFORMED:**  
If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Town of Caledon on the proposed Official Plan Amendment or Zoning By-law Amendment, you must make a written request to the Planning Department of the Town of

Caledon, 6311 Old Church Road, Caledon, ON, L7C 1J6.

**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](mailto:accessibility@caledon.ca).

**Notice Date: April 23rd, 2026**



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# New Season, New Spirit: Spirit Tree Estate Cidery debuts elegant new era



BY RILEY MURPHY  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Spirit Tree Estate Cidery has reopened for the season with a new logo, a new feel, and a brand-new look, and they invite the community to check it out.

After more than a decade, the business has taken a step forward into the future of their brand and their future in the community.

Spirit Tree Estate Cidery, owned and operated by Thomas Wilson and Nicole Judge, first opened its doors in September 2009, but the idea, much like the rebrand, had been in the works for years.

It started with the planting of 2,500 apple trees and the purchase of a property on Boston Mills Road.

But due to their location, their planned opening was postponed from 2006 to 2009 after they had to wait for approval from numerous organizations, and they were finally able to open their doors.

Now, Wilson says they can finally introduce themselves to the community as they

had originally planned.

“Rules are there for a reason,” he says. “But, it starts to distract you from bringing your vision to the market.”

Wilson says that with the numerous regulations they had to worry about, between their land positioning and Ontario’s taxes on cideries, they couldn’t bring their full vision to fruition.

“We were kind of forced to push things through a bit, and this has allowed us to finally bring that full circle.”

And it all began with a brand new face, or logo, of the business.

Wilson says they began to notice their logo and brand weren’t “checking all the boxes” anymore.

“It’s hard to carve out a lot of time running a small business to figure out your new brand,” he says, explaining they began looking to make a change three years ago.

After much back-and-forth, Wilson says they had finally agreed on a logo but wanted to see what their community thought.

And so, they threw the logo they designed and a few other options into a survey for their customers.

The new logo you see today is a true culmination of their ideas and those of their supporters.

Wilson says the logo tells the story of Spirit Tree.

When they first started out back in 2006, they had a vision of a classic winery, but pulled away as they didn’t want to be too classic.

Designing this new logo, Wilson says, really brought them back to their original ideas and dreams.

In the new logo, it appears all the elements from over the years truly come together.

A crest surrounds their tree, complete with a star inside that represents true power and spirit.

“We ended up with this more elaborate starburst coming out of the tree to just make it look a little more refined, and then introduced an apple as part of the top of the frame,” explains Wilson. “Those components started to come together to speak to us, when you’re like, ‘this is really starting to hit me emotionally and visually,’ you get

excited.”

With their new logo finally decided, they could focus on bringing the feel and new look back to their business.

They’ve decided to push back into the elegant image they had always envisioned, bringing it to life with a new redesign in-side with styling to match their new logo.

“This has allowed us to really dig into some more deep, dark, regal colors and, and really embody that winery concept,” says Wilson.

Although they have officially reopened for the season, their new changes will begin rolling out over the next few weeks, with a big open house for the community on June 6 to celebrate their major rebrand.

“A strong brand tells a story and we want people to really embrace that and feel that when they come in here and they see the look,” says Wilson. “We’ve always had good customers that respect [us] and want

to support who we are and what we embody and envision.”

Their mission statement is about inspiring people to enjoy life’s daily indulgences, explains Wilson, and that’s the kind of place they want to create for their community.

“I think the new look and everything will do that from the minute they walk in, they’re going to be really amazed and delighted with their experience here.”

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# AUTO MAINTENANCE



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## New changes in Ontario car insurance provide options for drivers

If you drive, you need to have proper insurance coverage to be on the road in Ontario.

**Y**our insurance will have you covered for damage to your vehicle, liability, and needed medical and related services if an accident occurs.

There will be a fundamental shift to the Statutory Accident Benefits schedule, and in the event of a motor vehicle collision, there will be changes that reshape how accident victims are able to access support.

For these benefits to be part of your policy, they must be specifically selected and purchased. This means that the new insurance system requires you to opt-in, rather than opt out.

Pedestrians, cyclists, and passengers without their own insurance policies are already at risk on the roads. With the new amendments, they will face an even greater risk as they may not have access to support through the Statutory Accident Benefits Schedule.

The Government of Ontario is enacting changes to some currently mandatory coverage in order to allow insurance companies to offer cheaper coverage to consumers.

Currently, all automobile insurance policies in Ontario include a standard package of accident benefits covering everything from income replacement and caregiving to funeral expenses.

If you choose to opt out of certain benefits in order to save money, you may be placing yourself in a bad situation if an accident does occur.

Before the changes to insurance take place on July 1, you should review your current automobile insurance policy to know what is covered, and what is not covered.

As a driver, you should be aware of the changes in mandatory coverage and what it could mean for you if you opt for a policy with fewer benefits.

The new rules will allow consumers to opt out of some coverage. The list of mandatory benefits that will change includes medical, rehabilitation and attendant care, caregiver benefits, non-earner and income replacement benefits, housekeeping and home maintenance expenses, and death and funeral benefits.

If you are ever involved in a motor vehicle collision and are seriously injured, you may be unable to work, take care of yourself, and maintain the upkeep of your property. Optional benefits such as income replacement or housekeeping will no longer be included in your policy unless they are expressly selected.

Speak to your insurance broker or insurer to learn about the addition of optional benefits to match your needs and the needs of your family.

A cheaper rate of insurance may sound like a good way to save a few dollars, however, if you do have an accident, your reduced coverage may leave you with significant costs related to post-accident recovery.

Beginning in 2026, only medical, rehabilitation, and attendant care benefits will remain mandatory. Everything else will become optional.

It should be noted that the 'catastrophic' designation in policies will no longer be required. This means the person injured will more easily be able to access benefits – as long as the optional coverage was purchased.

By being an informed consumer, you can find the right insurance coverage and make sure you won't pay a higher price later after trying to save a few dollars on your insurance coverage.

WRITTEN BY Brian Lockhart

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# AUTO MAINTENANCE



## Warning signs that brakes are faltering

Automotive problems are often best left to professionals. Though seasoned car enthusiasts may be capable of diagnosing and fixing car troubles without the assistance of a trusted mechanic, most drivers are better off letting the pros address issues under the hood.

But drivers can still play a vital role in vehicle maintenance. Learning to recognize warning signs of various problems that can affect cars can prevent breakdowns and potentially costly repairs. And in certain instances, such as when the brake system is not working properly, knowing how to spot problems before they escalate into something larger can make drivers and their passengers safer and potentially prevent accidents.

• **NOISES:** Much like a knocking sound typically indicates a problem with a vehicle's air-fuel ration mixture, certain noises also suggest there are problems with the brakes. The most noticeable such sign is a high-pitched squeal that occurs when drivers apply the brakes. But grinding sounds and noises like scratching and scraping also warrant a visit to a brake specialist.

• **INCREASE IN STOPPING DISTANCE:** An increase in the distance a vehicle travels before it stops after the brakes are applied indicates that there's an issue with the brakes. This issue may or may not require a brake replacement. In fact, it's sometimes indicative that brake fluid levels are low, which can be remedied quickly and easily. However, an increase in stopping distance is significant enough that it should be brought to the attention of a brake specialist immediately.

• **PULLING UPON STOPPING:** Another warning sign of brake problems is when the vehicle noticeably pulls to one side as it comes to a stop. This indicates that one side of the brakes is malfunctioning while the other is working properly. Like other issues with brakes, this one requires immediate attention from an automotive professional.

Brake systems should be inspected during routine maintenance visits. But issues with brakes can arise even after such inspections, which underscores how important it is that drivers learn to recognize the warning signs of brake problems.



## 4 signs it's time to replace your tires

Inflation has been a hot topic for several years, as the cost of everything from groceries to gas to housing has increased considerably since 2019.

Cars are no exception to that phenomenon, and anyone who has purchased a new car over the last half decade likely experienced some sticker shock when they started their search for a new vehicle. Data from Kelley Blue Book indicates the average cost of a new car was \$37,590 in 2019. By 2023, the average cost had risen to \$47,899. That marks an increase of more than 27 percent in a four-year period.

Cars are indeed a significant investment, which underscores the importance of vehicle maintenance. Maintenance is more than just tending to what's under the hood. Tires also require drivers' attention, as aging, damaged tires pose a safety risk that also compromise vehicle performance. Tires are easily overlooked, but the following are four signs tires

need to be replaced.

### 1. WORN TREAD

The automotive experts at AutoZone® note that tread depth is the most prevalent indicator that a tire needs to be replaced. AutoZone® notes that tread depth should always be at least 2/32 of an inch throughout the tire. Depth should be measured across the tread and around the circumference. If the tread is at or below 2/32 of an inch, the tire should be replaced.

### 2. BULGES, GOUGES OR CRACKS

Geico® notes that a deflated tire bulges at the sides, and that can compromise the safety of everyone in the vehicle. AutoZone® says bulges occur when air gets between the inner liner and outer rubber layers, which can happen after hitting a curb or driving over a sizable pothole. A gouge or cut that is deeper than the outer layer of the tire also necessitates replacement.

### 3. POOR GRIP

Drivers may be able to feel certain tire problems, including poor grip, while driving. In such instances, tires may feel as though they are slipping. The tire

experts at Firestone note that low tread can reduce tire traction and cause wheels to slip, which may be more noticeable when accelerating from a stop or driving on wet roads. Drivers who feel their tires are slipping can test the tread and replace tires that are low.

### 4. VIBRATION

Vibration is another issue drivers may feel rather than see. And identifying the cause requires noting where the vibrations are felt. Geico® notes that a feeling of vibration or thumping that feels like it's coming from under the seats may indicate the tires are not balanced. A suspension issue could be to blame if the steering wheel feels like it's vibrating. Either feeling should be brought to the attention of a mechanic immediately.

Tire issues affect vehicle performance and compromise the safety of drivers, their passengers and fellow motorists. When vehicles are not performing at peak capacity, drivers should not overlook various tire issues as a potential cause of such troubles.



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# AUTOMOTIVE MAINTENANCE



## HOW TO PROTECT YOUR VEHICLE'S PAINT JOB

Drivers go to great lengths to ensure what's under the hood of their vehicles is well taken care of. But it's equally beneficial to tend to the exterior of a vehicle, including its paint job.

According to Popular Mechanics, oxidation can adversely affect iron-based metals. That can put vehicles in jeopardy and take significant time off their life expectancy. The good news is that rust and other issues that can affect a vehicle's paint job and appearance are typically avoidable. That should be music to the ears of new vehicle owners, who likely need no reminder of the sizable financial investment required to drive off the lot with a fresh set of

wheels. Drivers who want their cars and trucks to maintain their looks over the long haul can consider these simple strategies to protect their paint jobs.

• **MAKE CAR WASHES PART OF YOUR VEHICLE MAINTENANCE ROUTINE.**

Seasoned drivers are undoubtedly familiar with the conventional wisdom surrounding oil change intervals, but those same motorists may not recognize the importance of routine car washes. Over time, contaminants such as pollen, dust and pollution can settle on a vehicle's exterior, potentially jeopardizing the paint job. Routine car washes can prevent such damage and help a car look like it was just driven off the lot.

• **WAX THE EXTERIOR OF THE VEHICLE.**

The automotive experts at Carfax® report that waxing is a significant and simple way to protect vehicle paint. Carfax® notes that certain paste waxes contain mild

abrasives that help remove fine scratches from painted surfaces. Wax also can protect paint jobs from fading related to exposure to ultraviolet rays. That's especially noteworthy for drivers who do not routinely park their cars in a garage.

• **USE A CAR COVER.**

Car covers may or may not be practical for cars drivers use every day, but they are an effective way to protect a paint job from the elements. Drivers who have a spare car they rarely drive or even those who do not drive their primary vehicle a lot each day can purchase a universal-fit car cover or a premium cover designed specifically for their vehicles. Car covers protect paint jobs from ultraviolet rays and the elements and may reduce the need for more frequent trips to the car wash.

• **PARK IN THE SHADE, BUT CHOOSE SPOTS WISELY.**

Parking in the shade may protect vehicles from the ultraviolet rays of the sun, but it's important that drivers pick the right shady spot to park their cars and trucks. A shade tree might seem like a great ally to vehicle owners, but if birds nest or rest in the tree, drivers could be exposing their cars to bird droppings. That's no small threat, as bird droppings are high in uric acid, which quickly damage a vehicle's exterior. Parking directly beneath a tree also might expose the paint job to sap or fallen leaves or berries, each of which can adversely affect vehicle exteriors. If you plan to park in the shade to protect the paint job, ideally choose a spot that is not directly beneath the tree.

A well-maintained paint job can improve the appearance and life expectancy of a vehicle, which is something drivers should keep in mind as they hope to get the most out of their automotive investment.



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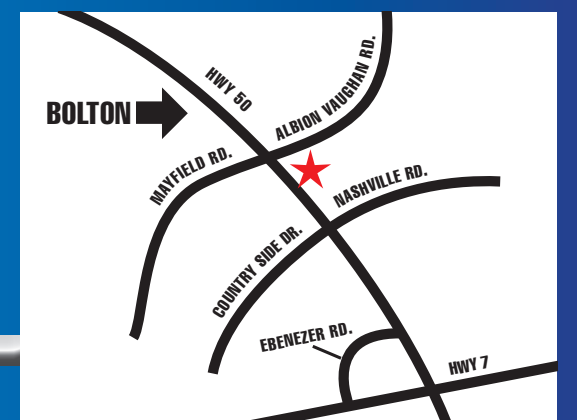
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# Bike Ride to Bus Rides: How CCS' Velocity Ride 2026 is powering transportation in Caledon

BY RILEY MURPHY  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Caledon Community Services (CCS) is "gearing" up for their annual community cycling fundraiser, Velocity, and proceeds from this year's event will support in part the purchase of a brand-new accessible bus.

Velocity is CCS's annual bike ride in support of seniors across Caledon. The event is for all ages and brings the community together to experience Caledon's roads and

trails while raising funds for CCS.

The event was originally inspired by a group of volunteers back in 2018 to provide vital support for seniors.

Last year, more than 170 riders raised \$55,000, and this year they're hoping to hit the same target.

Mariia Kupriianova, Chief Development Officer at CCS, says they are already at 48 per cent of their total goal thanks to the community and their sponsors.

"I'm so grateful for our sponsors, donors, volunteers and of course our amazing riders



Riders took on Velocity in 2025.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

really pulling together," says Kupriianova. Their goal for this year's event covers only part of the purchase of a brand-new accessible bus for CCS, about a third of the total.

By 2027, six aging vehicles in the CCS fleet must be replaced.

"The CCS transportation program offers more than 28,500 rides every year, and in our community, where public transit options may be limited, this service is vital for so many seniors, for so many adults with special needs, to stay connected to the community we love," says Kupriianova.

She explains that there are not many options available and, due to Caledon's vast geography, their fleet is aging quickly.

"You can imagine the pressure that it puts on the community, on the people we serve because thousands and thousands of rides will go missed, and won't be accommodated every year because of that pressure," says Kupriianova. "That's why we're so proud and so grateful for our community stepping up once again to help fill that critical need for the seniors that we love. We all have seniors in our lives, and the clock stops for no one."

This year's Velocity, she says, is more critical than ever.

Kupriianova adds in these thousands of trips they make, they make life-saving trips to medical appointments, get those to their grocery shopping, to health and wellness classes, and bring seniors to their community connections.

Without these buses, there would be a huge impact, she says.

"When you can't get out of the house, the isolation, the disconnection, I'm not even talking about the critical medical needs that go unmet, you can only imagine the knock-on effect on the community," says Kupriianova.

She adds that, with seniors being the fastest-growing demographic in Caledon, the need for these accessible vehicles will only grow.

"Proceeds from Velocity support in part the purchase of a brand new accessible bus that will once again help Caledon seniors

lead healthy, active, independent and most importantly, very connected lives in the community that we love," says Kupriianova.

This year, the community will be able to enjoy routes of 10, 25, and 50 kilometres, plus a new 25-kilometre gravel route introduced just last year.

It's fun for all ages, says Kupriianova, as they've even watched some of their riders go from training wheels to their very own two-wheeler.

Many beloved teams will be returning yet again this year, such as Ted's Terra Cotta Trail Blazers, and Silcotech, the 2026 Grand Tour Sponsor.

"Caledon Community Services is at the heart of our Caledon community and supporting Velocity has been incredibly meaningful for all of us at Silcotech," said Isolde Boettger, Vice President and Co-Founder of Silcotech. "We've seen firsthand the difference CCS makes in people's lives, especially for seniors and we're proud to stand behind that work. Being part of Velocity isn't just about sponsorship, it's about showing up for our community and supporting something that matters."

It's not just teams returning this year, individual riders will also be making their mark, such as Brian Gilchrist, who says he's a senior riding for seniors.

He first joined Velocity as a rider last year and will be participating again this year. He says the cause is what's bringing him back.

"In many cases, seniors don't get the support they need because people forget about them," says Gilchrist. "It's a good way to assist people that don't want to go into homes, and want to be able to stay at home. They just need some support, and I think it's a good cause."

This year's event will be held on June 20, and kick off at Caledon East Park.

"There will be music, there will be games, there will be community fun, and there will be our community coming together for a purpose once again," says Kupriianova. "We are looking to turn bike rides into bus rides for our seniors, and I think that's something really worth riding for."

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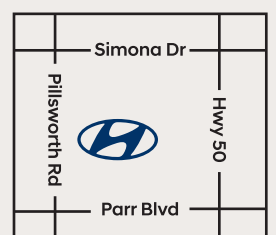
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# The Heart of Bethell Hospice: Volunteers making every moment matter

Continued from Page A1

Thinking about the nearly 15 years he's spent there, he says he feels "very lucky" to have been at Bethell for that long a period of time.

Mary Ann Bowman has been at the hospice as a volunteer for about five years and was inspired to get involved after losing both her parents within a very short period of time.

"As a family, we experienced some of the frustrations of trying to advocate for my parents as well as we could, whether it be through the medical system or getting services," says Bowman. "Afterwards I thought there's got to be a better way, and then that's where I became aware of hospices."

An amazing experience it has been, she says, adding that the longer you volunteer, the more things you try.

Bowman began in the kitchen, then moved to resident support, and, similar to her co-volunteers, now works in complementary therapies and also art therapy.

But for these volunteers, they're not chalking up their hours or counting down the days of volunteering; they say that volunteering at Bethell Hospice is a "gift."

"I can't put into words how fulfilling it is to help them make that journey easier for the resident and the family members. I'm supposed to be giving them a gift, but it's very reciprocal," says Cimolai.

Thinking back on special moments he's been able to experience, Roth says he's received more than he's given.

"For me, it's me being selfish, I get a lot," he says. "I get so much more out than I think I give. The families we meet, the residents here, it's just absolutely amazing."

"That's the magic of volunteering, period," says Bowman. "You're supposed to be giving, but you're actually getting a whole bunch back."

Because, how fun is it to be able to give someone ice cream with sprinkles for breakfast, Bowman recalls.

Roth says he is always amazed, in meet-



PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

ing their residents and their families, how positive they can be going through this experience. He feels honoured to be able to help even in the smallest of ways.

"It's so rewarding. Sometimes when the families arrive, they've been managing a lot," says Bowman. "They're tired, and it's just so nice to say to them, we're taking over now. We'll look after everything. You can go back to being a family member and you can just see them relax."

She recalls her own experience of once being the person trying to manage everything, not being able to get the services you may have needed beforehand.

"They're tired and they've been working hard to be everything for that person in their life," adds Cimolai.

"The love and compassion within this house is unbelievable," says Roth.

The three share that this is not a job for them, and they're always happy to do whatever residents and their families need.

Although their day-to-day may look completely different from one day to the next, they say it's the camaraderie among volunteers, staff, and even families and residents.

Often, these volunteers find themselves just sitting by their residents' bedsides.

Whether it's reading or just sitting in silence, they say it makes all the difference just being there.

"I love to just sit in the room, read all the cards that are there, talk aloud as if I'm talking to them about the pictures I see, and sing to them," says Cimolai.

"There's other days you may have three or four incredibly powerful discussions and really intimate conversations and you go, 'okay, that's why we're here,'" says Bowman. "They're spontaneous and they're organic and they just happen. But we're so glad we're there for them when that happens."

Roth says volunteering is a type of call-

ing, where they have so much to offer families and residents.

"People are here because of a passion," says Bowman, adding that oftentimes, people get stuck in their own lives and in their own routines.

"It adds another dimension to my life that helps me have a better balance and a better perspective on life," says Bowman.

"Volunteering here puts so much of the rest of my life in perspective. 'Gosh, am I lucky,' Roth adds in agreement. "Everything that I have around me, everyone and everything, because you take a look at what people are going through here in the house and if we have a problem, it's so minute by comparison."

This year's National Volunteer Week theme is "Ignite Volunteerism," a focus on passion, action, and the impact of community service, which is exactly what these volunteers embody in their day-to-day lives in Bethell Hospice.

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# Close 2 Home Caledon steps into style at inaugural fundraising event



Ruth Hunt and Paulette Tomassini show off their spring colours.

PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

**BY RILEY MURPHY**  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

After recently obtaining charitable status, Close 2 Home Caledon held its first-ever fundraiser, and it turned out to be runway-ready.

Their event, Fashion Blooms, was an afternoon of fashion, shopping, cocktails, and canapes, featuring a runway show, various vendors and entertainment, a silent auction, and more.

The day was set to be a fundraising spring garden fashion experience celebrating women, fashion, sisterhood, and belonging, with a fun, floral, bright theme.

Close 2 Home Caledon is a nonprofit raising funds to build community-based supportive housing for adults with diverse needs in Caledon. It was founded by three women, Liana Cancian, Elena Rosati, and Blanca Polanco, who have all experienced the challenge

of limited housing options in Caledon and insufficient government funding and support.

This fundraiser was not only a way for them to begin raising funds for their dream of building a fully supported home, but also to share their story with the Caledon community.

As hundreds of floral and spring-dressed attendees took their seats next to the brightly lit runway, Cancian, Rosati, and Polanco addressed the crowd.

“Today is more than just fashion,” began Cancian. “It’s about a purpose.”

Cancian is a mother to her 19-year-old daughter, Olivia, who has special needs.

“Like many parents, the time after high school feels daunting, filled with uncertainty about what comes next and how to ensure our children continue to live a life of dignity and support. She is part of what led me here,” says Cancian, looking out at the room.

“But this isn’t just my story, it belongs to many other families in Caledon who share

the same hopes and challenges. Across Caledon and the Peel Region, there is a critical shortage of supportive housing.”

Cancian explains that with certain waitlists exceeding 15 years, aging parents are still full-time caregivers because there are limited options.

“In our own community, families are quietly carrying all the weight. Families are doing everything they can to bridge that gap, often with very limited support,” says Cancian. “This is where it becomes deeply personal for so many in our community.”

Many, like her two co-founders, Rosati and Polanco.

Rosati’s son Luca has multiple disabilities and requires 24-hour care. He currently lives in Paris, ON, and Rosati and her family travel two hours just to spend time with him.

“The distance may not seem like much, but it means missed moments, fewer visits, and the painful reality that he can’t be a part of our everyday life in the way that he should

be. No family should have to feel that distance,” she says.

“Many of you have a sister, brother, friend, or neighbor who has been caring for a child with challenges and disabilities. That continuous love and care is consuming, yet deeply rewarding. But eventually there comes a time when you start to think about where your child will end up,” Rosati continues.

“You wonder if there will be housing nearby, if the quality of care will meet your expectations, and whether your child will live a life of dignity in their own community, close enough that you can remain a part of their everyday life. For my family, this is a reality.”

It all speaks to the name of their organization, Close 2 Home Caledon, with the goal of keeping these individuals close to their families and close to home.

Polanco shares that as a child and youth worker and a correctional officer, she’s supported individuals with special needs and complex challenges, and she’s seen firsthand the difference a safe, supportive environment makes.

“That’s why the work matters. That’s why we are here today,” she says, adding that the funds raised that day will help create a sustainable residential home where four to five individuals can live together in harmony and dignity.

“Right here in Caledon. Right here in our community. Close to their families. Close to the people who love them,” says Polanco. “A place where they are not just cared for, but truly at home. Today is about building that future. And the future doesn’t happen by chance. It happens because of rooms like this, and people like you all.”

Geraldine Aguiar, CEO of Caledon Community Services, was one of the many in attendance that day.

Looking out at the many gathered around that day, Aguiar noted, “Caledon always steps up for Caledon.”

The rest of the day was spent in celebration, with a fashion show showcasing various styles, and lots of shopping still to be done.

The money raised from the event will support Close 2 Home Caledon’s mission as they begin their fundraising journey toward an inclusive community in Caledon where young adults with developmental challenges and diverse abilities can live independently in supportive, community-based housing.

## OBITUARIES

### ROBERT “VIC” YOUNTZ OCTOBER 15, 1944 – APRIL 17, 2026



Robert “Vic” Yountz, born in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, passed away on April 17, 2026, at the age of 81. Born on October 15, 1944, Vic was a devoted husband and friend who will be deeply missed by all who knew him.



Vic passed away suddenly after a brief but difficult battle with pneumonia, following a longer and courageous 8 year fight with ALS. Despite the challenges the illness brought, Vic faced each day with strength. Even as his condition progressed, he showed resilience with his quiet courage. In his final days, he was surrounded by support with his beloved wife by his side. Vic went to the lord at 4:45 am on April 17th while holding his wife Pam’s hand. He is now finally at peace and in a better place.

Vic is survived by his wife of 55 years Pam. Loving brother and brother in law to Bernie and Doris Yountz and Margaret Goodwin. Uncle to Michael Yountz and Christine Winchester (Jeremy).

Vic was predeceased by his parents Gerry and Vic Yountz, as well as many aunts, uncles and cousins.

Vic will always be lovingly remembered by his family and friends.

The family will receive their friends at the Egan Funeral Home, 203 Queen St. S., Bolton (905-857-2213) on Thursday, April 23rd from one o’clock until time of funeral service in the chapel at 2 o’clock.

If desired, memorial donations to the ALS Society would be appreciated.

Condolences for the family may be offered at [www.EganFuneralHome.com](http://www.EganFuneralHome.com)

### Erich Klein

On Friday, March 20, 2026, at Joseph Brant Hospital, Erich passed away unexpectedly in his 91st year. Beloved husband of Helene for 70 years, he was a devoted father to Michael and to Susan (Brent), and an extremely proud Opa to Dylan and Jessica. He will be fondly remembered by his extended family in Germany.

Erich will also be deeply missed by his many neighbours and friends. A longtime resident of Waterdown, he was a familiar and friendly presence in the community for his warm nature and love of conversation—always ready to share a friendly chat. From the grocer to the bank and the neighbourhood variety store, he will be deeply missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Private cremation has taken place.

Please feel free to sign the Tribute Wall at [kitchingsteepeandludwig.com](http://kitchingsteepeandludwig.com).

### MICHAEL KLEIN

Suddenly and unexpectedly on Tuesday, March 24, 2026, Michael passed away in his 61st year. Beloved son of Helene and Erich (predeceased March 20, 2026), and a dear brother to Susan (Brent). He will be lovingly remembered as a proud uncle to Dylan and Jessica.

Michael was a familiar and friendly presence in the community, and he truly enjoyed his conversations with neighbours and those he met along the way. He will be fondly remembered for his warmth and the ease with which he connected with others.

Private cremation has taken place. Please sign the Tribute Wall at [kitchingsteepeandludwig.com](http://kitchingsteepeandludwig.com).

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### In Loving Memory of GLENDA QUIGLEY

Passed away at Headwaters Health Care Centre on Saturday, April 18, 2026, at the age of 52. Predeceased by her loving parents, Jean and Gilbert, and her brother Albert Colin Robert. Glenda was deeply involved in her church community and a dedicated employee of Air Canada for 29 years. Glenda will be deeply missed by the McLean family (who considered her part of their family), her church family, her extended family and friends, and as well as her many friends and colleagues at Air Canada.



A Funeral Service will follow at Jehovah Jireh Christian Ministries, 20554 Hurontario Street, Caledon, on Saturday, April 25, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. Visitation to begin at 10:00 a.m. Interment will take place at later date.

Memorial donations to Jehovah Jireh Christian Ministries would be appreciated by the family.

A tree will be planted in memory of Glenda in the Dods & McNair Memorial Forest at Island Lake Conservation Area, Orangeville.

Condolences may be offered to the family at [www.dodsandmcnair.com](http://www.dodsandmcnair.com)

### PATRICIA ANNE STAMP

With saddened hearts we share our loss. Peacefully, surrounded by family, our mother, Patricia Anne Stamp, was reunited with her husband and soul mate, Rick.

Pat leaves behind her beloved children Wayne (Sharon), Pam (Terry) and Lisa (Wayne) and cherished grandchildren Jacob, Mikyla (Kyle), Rebecca, Landen, Taylor & Cody.

Mom will be deeply missed by her nieces, nephews, her extended family and friends, especially by her “Qtip” besties Judy and Sheila.

Mom will be forever missed and held deeply in our hearts.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Matthews House Hospice or the Ontario SPCA Humane Society Orangeville and District Animal Centre would be greatly appreciated.

A celebration of Pat’s life will be held on Friday, April 24th, 2026 from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the Dods & McNair Funeral Home, Chapel & Reception Centre, 21 First St., Orangeville.

A tree will be planted in memory of Pat in the Dods & McNair Memorial Forest at the Island Lake Conservation Area, Orangeville.

Condolences may be offered to the family at [www.dodsandmcnair.com](http://www.dodsandmcnair.com)

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# Land for unauthorized temple on Mayfield Road rezoned

BY RILEY MURPHY  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

In 2022, the lands at 6600 Mayfield Road were converted into a place of worship, a Sikh temple, with ancillary uses, without obtaining the required approval from the Town, including an Official Plan and Zoning By-law amendment.

The applicant, KLM Planning, Inc., representing owner Amarjit Singh Sandhu, came forward in 2025 seeking a Temporary Use Zoning By-law Amendment application.

The applicant seeks to amend the Town's Zoning By-law to permit a place of worship and a place of assembly for a temporary period of three years, and to support other uses, including a community kitchen, classes in scripture, mar-

tial arts and music, and outdoor activities.

A staff report brought forward at the April 21 Planning and Development meeting came forward recommending that no further notice is required to be provided on the proposed Zoning By-law amending, and that a By-law be enacted to amend the Town's Zoning By-Law to rezone the lands, permitting the use for a place of worship and assembly with ancillary uses for a period of three years.

This report followed a public consultation in November of 2025, during which residents were able to voice concerns and ask questions.

Another issue was that the site's lands contain a valley corridor, a watercourse feature, a regulatory floodplain hazard, and an unevaluated wetland feature within a regulated area of the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA).

The site had been altered with unauthorized fill, but it has since been restored by the landowner, and the TRCA issued the appropriate permit to address these works.

Amrit Kaur delegated to the staff report that day, saying that the lands had once been part of William English Wilson's farm, an individual active in the Church of England.

"In our discussions with Heritage Staff, we talked about the passing of the torch from one faith group to another and carrying on the legacy of the church work, and the religious work that's been going on in that particular area for hundreds of years," says Kaur.

Kaur also added that they do intend to set permanent roots in the area, and "continue on that good work."

Amanda Corbett from the Caledon Community Road Safety Advocacy group also del-

egated that evening, voicing concerns about the overall act of the Town granting approvals where land is being used illegally, with a fear of it encouraging further illegal land use.

Staff also said through the site plan approval process they will now assess how the site operates and incorporate all necessary improvements to "make it look better and function safely and properly."

The motion was carried, and it will go forward to the April 28 Council meeting for final ratification.

## Theatre Orangeville's The Wedding Party is hilariously dysfunctional comedy

Continued from Page A8

In particular, David Leyshon had a difficult role to play in portraying twins Jack Sr., the father of the groom, and Tony, the uncle. Both characters are radically different from each other: one is the rich, snobby brother, and the other is more rational and down-to-earth.

Leyshon did a phenomenal job giving these characters unique personalities, from Jack Sr's more uptight, arrogant demeanour to Tony's more grounded, casual attitude. Even when wearing the same clothing, Leyshon adjusted his posture, facial queues and voice where it was possible to almost immediately identify who was who at most points of the production.

These are characters you probably know in your own family, and despite it all, you can sympathize with both and understand their positions, flawed or not.

Another particular shoutout goes to Glynnis Ranney and her portrayal of the mother of the bride, Maddy.

Maddy is a very flawed character, and egotistical in her own way, to challenge Jack Sr. But the one thing that prevails over everything is that she is a mother who believes she hasn't done enough for her daughter, and you can see it in everything she does.

While she fights over and over to have a role in the wedding, we notice it becomes increasingly about what she thinks is right for her daughter, not what her daughter wants or needs. As she becomes more intoxicated, Jack Sr's original decision to exclude her becomes more understand-

able by her antics, continually drinking and making foul remarks at the reception. Maddy is not the protagonist fighting for the right to speak as she first appeared at the start of the movie. Jack Sr, by consequence, isn't entirely unsympathetic, as his choices are based on logic, though flawed.

Ranney delivers a very nuanced mother desperate to make the night go right, but her desperation only sours things further as she spirals and escalates.

Of course, the rest of the cast deserves equal praise for bringing these larger-than-life characters together, but with over a dozen characters coming across the stage, my word count couldn't sustain it. The cast, Emma Grabinsky, David Leyshon, Glynnis Ranney, Tyrone Savage, Evelyn Wiebe and Kristi Woods delivered a completely immersive experience that brought with it plenty of laughs and some very believable faces.

I would be remiss if I didn't also complement the outstanding work of the set design for the production.

The production was visually stunning and looked like a perfectly recreated wedding reception. The detail was impressive, with each table furnished and set, and the room looked bigger than it was, thanks to perspective. The actors made fantastic use of the space; the room grew messier as drama unfolded and events progressed throughout the night.

Overall, The Wedding Party was a stunning wedding production that elegantly ran off the rails, reminding potentially more than a few of us about family events

we'd rather forget, but at the same time, reminding us that family is precious, and that we would benefit from listening to them a little bit more.

It's funny, stressful, endearing and frustrating, and absolutely worth a viewing.

The Wedding Party is showing from April 16 to May 3 at Theatre Orangeville.

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